

EggNotes

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Marketing Specialist: Angie Lang
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Manager, Programs & Research: Jenna Griffin
Ext: 129
Office Manager: Laurel Martin
ext: 121
Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
ext: 101
Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
ext: 127
Business Manager: Kari Buijs
ext: 132
Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka
ext: 128
Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin

EFA Vision Statement

Healthy Food, Healthy Farms,
Healthy Families

EFA Mission Statement

Cultivating a sustainable egg industry
together with farmers, consumers & other
stakeholders

EFA Office Hours

Regular office hours

Egg Price Update

Effective September 8, 2019

| Canada Grade | Size | Price Per Dozen | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---|
| A | Extra Large | 2.360 | ↑ |
| A | Large | 2.360 | ↑ |
| A | Medium | 2.130 | ↑ |
| A | Small | 1.750 | ↑ |
| A | Nest Run | 2.225 | ↑ |
| A | Pee Wee | 0.280 | - |
| B | | 0.770 | - |
| C | | 0.160 | - |

Note: From the minimum paying price, processors can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Farm-gate pickup rates were set in August 2010, and no increase in individual freight rates have been approved since that time.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of
Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:
info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: November 22, 2019

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website (full issue PDF) or EFA's producer website



Board Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors was paying close attention to the recent Canadian federal election, which was held on Monday, October 22nd. The Liberals were re-elected with a minority government, winning 157 seats. While no Liberals won seats here in Alberta, EFA will work closely with our SM5 partners and through Egg Farmers of Canada to build relationships with the new government. The egg industry will lobby for fulfillment of the Liberal commitments related to protecting supply management and mitigation related to the various trade agreements that granted additional access to the Canadian egg market.

During the campaign, the Liberal platform promised that that party would “make sure that farmers in supply managed sectors get the help they need to succeed.” With regards to mitigation for the poultry and egg industry, their platform stated that a Liberal government would “move forward to finish this work for all supply managed sectors, including processors, so they receive full and fair support.”

EFA will continue to explore every opportunity to build relationships and work collaboratively with government partners at both the federal and provincial level, to help cultivate a sustainable egg industry in Alberta and across Canada.

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to September 14th, 2019, and indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.1 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 4.7% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending August 17th), and a 0.1% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2018.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 0.5% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 40.96 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3) have seen the largest sales growth; a 3.0% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 4.6 million dozen eggs (11.2% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

As a reminder, additional Nielsen trend data that is updated approximately every 4 weeks is available on the producer website.



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Over Base to Base Quota

On September 25, 2019, producers were notified that our Marketing Regulation Amendments have been filed and effective September 18, 2019, registered egg producers will only be allotted one type of quota. All base quota and over base quota will simply be referred to as quota. Please refer to Policy 9.33 on the producer website for details.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Johnston at 403 250-1197 (x127) or by emailing her at erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca

Quota Exchange Launch

On September 25, 2019, producers were notified that our Marketing Regulation Amendments have been filed, which allows for the establishment of a Quota Exchange. The Quota Exchange will be used for almost all quota transfers with the exception of family transfers, colony splits, or transfers that include production facilities.

Plans are gearing up to hold our first exchange in January 2020. The official launch will be December 10, 2019 when the first notice will go out to all registered producers. Producers are able to view the policy, schedule, and the application forms on the producer website at Quota/Quota Exchange.

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Healthy Farms

Elite Services

EFA is aware that some Alberta egg farmers have challenges finding qualified labour. This was raised again when West Coast Reduction communicated that they would no longer be offering MAC Cart depopulation services.



We would like to make farmers aware that Elite Services (a poultry labour company) offers the following services to Alberta egg farmers:

- Vaccinations
- Pullet moving
- Fowl removal
- Barn cleaning and disinfection

While Elite has been operating in Alberta since 2014, they have recently focused on expanding their labour pool in the province.

Farmers looking for more information or to book services can call 1-833-363-5483 or email schedule@eliteservices.ca

Enriched, Free Run and Free Range, EFA Conventional Measurement Protocols

On August 13, 2019 the Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) Board of Directors approved the updated version of the EFC measuring protocols for enriched colony housing and free run/free range housing systems. The updated versions assisted in clarifying and strengthening the protocols. A copy of the measurements can be found on the producer website, in the Farm Programs/ Animal Care Program section.

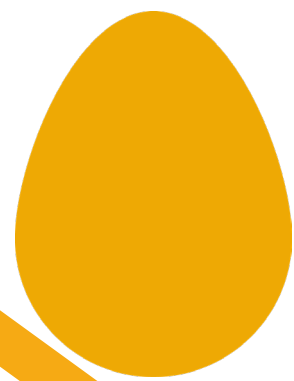


Healthy Eggs

Reminder: Letter of Assurance and SE Statement

During the Start Clean-Stay Clean® (SC-SC) Layer audits, Egg Farmers of Canada and/or the third-party auditors will request to see your Letter of Assurance from your feed supplier. The Letter of Assurance indicates that the feed supplier has implemented suitable good management practices that reduce, prevent, or eliminate known biological and chemical hazards. The letter must also confirm that feed supplied is not knowingly contaminated with Salmonella Enteritidis or with pharmaceutical residues.

Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of letters that do not include the necessary Salmonella Enteritidis statement. When you receive your letter, please confirm this statement is included in order to be prepared for your SC-SC audit.



Upcoming Events

- October 28** – Production Management Committee
- October 29** – Flock Talk Meeting – **Lethbridge**
- October 30** – Colony Elders Meeting – **EFA Office Calgary**
- October 31** – Board of Directors Meeting – **EFA Office Calgary**
- CANCELLED - November 5** – Flock Talk Meeting – **Edmonton**
- November 6** – Flock Talk Meeting - **Airdrie**
- November 7** – EFC Meeting – **Ottawa**
- November 19** – Media Training – **Calgary**



Healthy Birds



Pullet Flock History Certificates

As of January 2020, Pullet Flock History Certificates must include verification that pullets have been raised in facilities dedicated solely to the regulated egg industry. For those producers who raise their own pullets, a signed declaration will need to be provided for farm audits that will be included in the new Start Clean- Stay Clean® pullet calendars provided at the January regional meetings. To assist Alberta producers who purchase pullets from a pullet grower an updated Pullet Flock History Certificate Form has been put on the producer website at under the Farm Programs/ SC-SC® section.

Managing Flocks in Loose Housing System

Egg Farmers of Alberta strives to provide Alberta producers with the most up to date and current findings and research. As a result, a new version of the Managing Flocks in a Loose Housing System Guide has been updated on the producer website and includes new tips and tricks for combating floor eggs, lighting techniques, and prevention of crowding/piling. Visit the producer website under Healthy Birds/ Hen Housing.



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FAQ from Dr. Volker Gerdts

In April 2019 EFA's Research Committee completed a webinar with Dr. Volker Gerdts, the Director and CEO of VIDO-InterVac. He provided the committee with a question and answer period for frequently asked vaccination questions and the commentary from this discussion has been made available on the producer website under Healthy Birds/ Poultry Health.



California Newcastle Disease Update

Virulent Newcastle Disease is one of the most serious poultry diseases. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks. Virulent Newcastle Disease can infect and cause death even in vaccinated poultry.

Virulent Newcastle Disease spreads when healthy birds come in direct contact with bodily fluids from sick birds. The disease affects almost all birds and poultry, even vaccinated poultry. The virus can travel on manure, egg flats, crates, other farming materials or equipment, and people who have picked up the virus on their clothing, shoes, or hands.

The Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (APIMET) and the Government of Alberta (GoA) have been monitoring an outbreak of Virulent Newcastle Disease in California since 2018. While the situation was quiet in June and July of this year, new cases were reported in August and September.

As of October 4, 2019, the USDA has confirmed 451 premises in California as infected with vND. The USDA has also confirmed 1 infected premise in Utah County, Utah and 1 infected premises in Coconino County, Arizona.

If you see any of the following signs in your birds, they could be sick and should be checked out:

- Sudden death and increased death loss in flock;
- Sneezing, gasping for air, nasal discharge, coughing;

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- Greenish, watery diarrhea;
- Decreased activity, tremors, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck, circling, complete stiffness; and
- Swelling around the eyes and neck.



As a reminder, if your birds are sick or dying, report it right away! Early detection and testing of possible cases of virulent Newcastle Disease is critical to preventing a large-scale outbreak. If you have any suspicions, call your veterinarian and provide a complete description of the problem including time of onset, duration, symptoms etc. and then call EFA.

Feed and Water Amendment to the Current Animal Care Program

On October 16, 2019 the EFC Executive Committee implemented an amendment to the Animal Care Program to address the gap between the on-farm program and federal and provincial/territorial laws pertaining to feed and water criteria. Previously, feed and water were minimally outlined in the on-farm program because it was considered a necessary staple.

However, this approach meant that the on-farm program may tolerate circumstances that violated federal and provincial/territorial laws. Therefore, these differences have led to an amendment to the Feed and Water section which outlines that hens must always be provided access to feed and water. Upon observation of non-compliance, producers will be given 24 hours to resolve the issue before being subjected to an immediate failure position and risk of being reported to federal/provincial/territorial authorities.



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