

EggNotes

Board of Directors

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Vice Chair: Bernadette Vandeborn 780-349-6311
EFC Director: Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297
EFC Alternate: Peter Waldner 403-795-8621
Director: Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501
Director: Elie Hofer 780-691-8512

▶ 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
November 11 - Remembrance Day, Office Closed

EFA Staff

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Fields Services Coordinator

Egg Price Update Effective August 9, 2020

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.370	↑
A	Large	2.370	↑
A	Medium	2.080	↓
A	Small	1.750	-
A	Nest Run	2.227	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.280	-
B		0.770	-
C		0.160	-

Note: From the minimum paying price, graders can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Effective December 29/19, rates were set for each zone in Alberta and reflect the maximum rate that can be deducted from producer's weekly cheque. For further information, please refer to OPP #13.3 on the producer website.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:

info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: November 20, 2020

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website or EFA's producer website



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Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors recently met with EFA management to conduct our annual strategic planning session. It was great working towards our common goal of setting direction for the coming year. We identified trends and challenges in the egg industry and prioritized to focus the work to be done in the coming year. Our responsibility as a Board is to direct staff, who then build and implement the Operational Plan. This collaborative approach helps ensure the EFA Board and staff have a shared commitment to, and ownership of, the Operational Plan that covers our 4 key result areas: healthy birds, healthy eggs, healthy farms and healthy communities.

EFA also continues to work closely with Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) and other provincial boards to manage the ongoing supply issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While EFC and the national egg industry have implemented a variety of measures to mitigate the supply issues created by a severely diminished foodservice industry, they are not well suited for the long term. EFC has established the COVID Long-Term Production Project (CLTP) to develop strategies and contingencies to help prepare for future disruptions in the market, including extending downtimes by depopulating flocks early, allowing the industry to more effectively manage potential long-term demand shortages and excess IP.

- **Quota Exchange**

QE4-2020 Update – Green Notification

EFA is pleased to report that 2 eligible applications to sell 2,606 layers of quota has been received, so applications to purchase will now be accepted. The deadline for EFA to receive applications to purchase layer quota is **November 12, 2020**.

- **Website Safe List-General**

The year 2020 has turned our world upside down, and now more than ever various organizations and industries are embracing technology! To assist producers, an updated list of approved colony safe websites has been made available on the left-hand side of the producer website home page. Please share this list as needed to gain access to these websites and communication platforms on your colonies, which are important for the daily functioning of your egg facility.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 27, Colony Elders Meeting

October 28, EFA Board Meeting

November 3 & 4, EFC Meetings (via Zoom)

November 11, Office Closed - Remembrance Day



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



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Healthy Birds



➤ **Animal Care Program and Start Clean – Stay Clean® Program Approved Changes**

The Animal Care Program (ACP) and Start Clean – Stay Clean® (SC-SC™) Program are continuously evolving using science-based research to aid in the identification of areas for improvement. To assist producers in keeping track of the evolution of these programs, EFA has provided “Summary of Changes” documents on the producer website under Farm Programs (Animal Care Program and SC-SC™ Layers) which outline the most recent changes.

For example: As of January 1, 2021, a minor element, outlining no spillage of feed around the bins, valued at 2 points will be added to the SC-SC™ Program. As of February 20, 2020 the ACP details that providing feed and water to loose hens is not acceptable and they must be caught and returned to the housing system within 24 hours. For the complete summary of changes, please visit the producer website or contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca.

➤ **Canadian Poultry Research Council - Poultry Cluster Projects**

The Canadian Poultry Research Council, a research partner to EFC, has released four new articles that feature updates to the previously funded Poultry Science Cluster projects. These four articles feature information on ammonia, hen locomotion, bacteriophage viruses, and salmonella.

Did you know that there has been traction in developing a Salmonella Enteritidis vaccine for layers and breeding hens? For this, and more information visit the producer website at Information Center (Research).

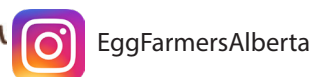
➤ **Third Quarter Biosecurity Assessment Update with 2020 Additions**

Currently EFA field staff have completed 168 biosecurity assessments for 2020 and there are only a few farms that are remaining.

The 2020 additions to the biosecurity assessment have focused on signage at farm and barn entrances, defining restricted and unrestricted areas, controlled movement of equipment, personnel, and visitors, as well as procedures for changing boots and outerwear.

EFA has seen some great results and identified some areas for improvement based on the statistics from the third quarter:

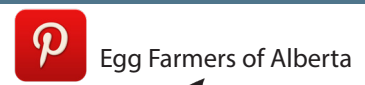
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Areas that are doing well	Areas for improvement
<p style="text-align: center;">Biosecurity Transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93% of farm employees adhere to biosecurity transitions (i.e: changing into clean boots/barn wear and washing hands). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Signage at Primary Entrance Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators that the area beyond the sign is biosecure (only 15% of producers). • Contact information (13% of producers). • Be Seen, Be Safe signage (2% of producers). • Trespassing/Private Property sign (15% of producers).
<p style="text-align: center;">Animal Contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99% of farm employees are aware of the risks associated with encountering off-farm birds (i.e: pet, wild, captive, other farms). • 94% of producers question visitors on recent animal contact prior to allowing entrance into controlled access zones. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Signage at Secondary Entrance Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators that the area beyond the sign is biosecure (only 6% of producers). • Directs visitors to the primary entrance (1% of producers). • Directs visitors to visitor parking (no producers currently has a sign like this). • Trespassing/Private Property sign (8% of producers).
<p style="text-align: center;">Sharing Equipment/Tools/Machinery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86% of producers are not sharing equipment/tools/machinery off their property. • 80% of producers are not sharing equipment/tools/machinery between barns. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Primary Entrance Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 5% of producers have a barrier. • Only 3% of producers lock their barrier.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Secondary Entrance Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 3% of producers have a secondary barrier. • Only 1% of producers lock their secondary barrier.

While signage remains an area for improvement, some farmers have implemented these as a result of COVID, which may be helpful on an ongoing basis.

For more details on the statistics from the 2020 Biosecurity Assessment visit the producer website at [Biosecurity Assessment \(Farm Programs\)](#).



► Updated on EFA CO2 Monitor Availability

Effective immediately, EFA will no longer be loaning CO2 monitors to producers. While we recognize many producers valued this service, it unfortunately became increasingly difficult to ensure the monitors were functioning as they should before being loaned to a farm. EFA does not have a testing environment to identify the need for tune-ups outside of regularly scheduled maintenance and calibration. CO2 monitors are sensitive instruments that can be impacted by something as simple as dropping the monitor.

As a reminder, the use of CO2 monitors for whole barn gassing, MAC carts, and sea container gassing is outlined in vet approved SOPs for these methods. These methods require specific concentrations of gas for animal welfare.

Monitors can be purchased online (ie. CO2meter.com) and at gas supply stores (ie. Air Liquide, Praxair). You will want a monitor that can measure from 0-100%. Some producers have invested in shared monitors and/or may be willing to loan out their monitors to other producers.

For whole barn gassing, producers may also want to consider the use of a portable/personal CO2 monitor for re-entry. This is a small device which can easily be worn by someone to monitor their immediate breathing zone for unsafe levels of CO2. The use of a personal monitor can mitigate the risk of any pockets of CO2 away from the sampling site of a point source monitor. CO2 is heavier than air so the lower the device, the greater the warning time. Many users will attach it to the waist on a belt or clip it to a pocket.

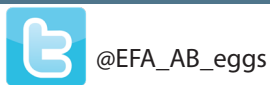
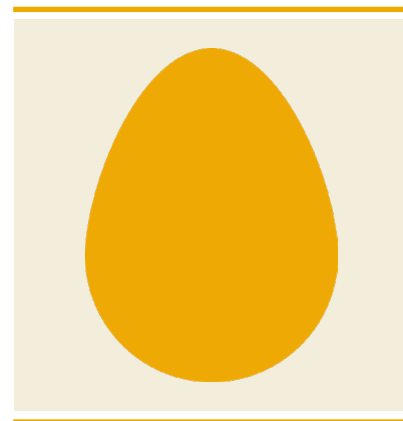
Portable monitors can be purchased at safety supply stores (ie. Acklands Granger). If you have welding on your farm a welder may already have such a device.

We apologize for inconveniences and costs caused by this change. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jenna Griffin at jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca or ext. 129.

Healthy Eggs

► Standard Operating Procedure for Feed Mills

In the June issue of EggNotes, EFA mentioned that as part of the Start Clean – Stay Clean® Program audit, producers who manage their own feed mill are required to provide a written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which includes elements such as cleaning and sanitation, pest control, biosecurity, equipment (scales and metering devices), and medicated feed. The approved updates to the SC-SC™ program for 2021 includes the addition of a procedure for handling contaminated feed to the SOP for feed mills. To assist producers in fulfilling this requirement an updated generic SOP for feed mills template has been added to the producer website either under Feed Letter Template (Forms) or SC-SC™ Layers and/or Pullets (Farm Programs).



► Changes to SE Testing Protocol

EFC has a National SE Protocol for Layers and Pullets. It outlines the minimum protocols that provincial egg boards must follow including sampling protocol, SE post-positive guidelines, and procedures for testing interconnected laying facilities or pullet barns. The protocols were developed in consultation with Health Canada.

EFC has recently approved revisions to the Protocol (the original protocols were developed in 2011). Effective January 1, 2021 the following changes will be implemented:

1. New or **fully** renovated laying facilities or pullet facilities are to be tested for Salmonella once the barn build or renovation is complete and the laying facility or pullet facility has been cleaned and disinfected. It is recommended but not required that producers allow time for a negative test result to be received prior to flock placement (i.e. 2-4 weeks).
2. Nest box swabs will no longer be limited to the ceiling (i.e. nest box curtains and floors may be included).
3. In some cases, field coordinators may collect samples of rodents or pest droppings

With respect to the testing of new facilities, this was implemented because across Canada brand new facilities were testing positive for SE on their first Layer 1 test. We recognize that it is not always possible to have several weeks between completion of equipment installation and placement of your first flock. Producers will need to weigh the risks of having the test result come back positive after the flock has been placed versus the benefit of just in time completion of installation. It is important to keep in mind that you will also need to allow time for an official EFC measurement of your system after installation is complete. Ideally, EFA's Field Coordinators can complete a facility measurement and Salmonella test during the same visit. Early completion of installation also allows time should verified measurements reveal you need to make changes to your system to place the desired number of birds.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenna Griffin at jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 ext. 129.

Healthy Farms

► Supply Management Research Study

A newly released research study conducted by EFC research chairs Dr. Maurice Doyon and Dr. Bruce Muirhead surveyed 1,000 Canadians to assess Canadian price perceptions of Canadian and U.S. prices for supply-managed and non-supply managed consumer goods, including food. The study found that in general, Canadians believe prices in the U.S. to be significantly lower for all consumer goods, not just supply-managed.

To read more from this summary, visit the producer website at Information Center (Research).



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➤ **Net-0 Barn Life Cycle Analysis Complete**

As with other ag and food sectors, the egg industry is facing increasing consumer expectations with respect to sustainability. Recently, Dr. Nathan Pelletier (EFC Chair, Sustainability) and his team completed a building life cycle analysis on the Brant Colony Net-0 barn.

Performing a building Life Cycle Analysis is currently the most reliable way to evaluate the sustainability of a building from production of the materials to eventual decommissioning of the facility and disposal of materials. Building Life Cycle Assessment is a scientific methodology that can support efforts to design and construct more sustainable buildings.

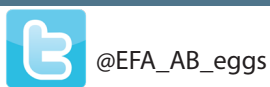
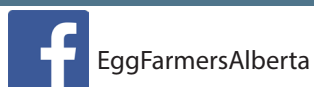
The study concluded that while the infrastructure of the Net-0 barn had a higher overall footprint than a standard barn (largely due to the impact of producing solar panels) the energy savings of the facility still resulted in a lower net environmental footprint. In other words, the increased environmental cost of building and disposing of the facility is more than offset by the decrease in environmental impact from the energy savings over the life of the facility.


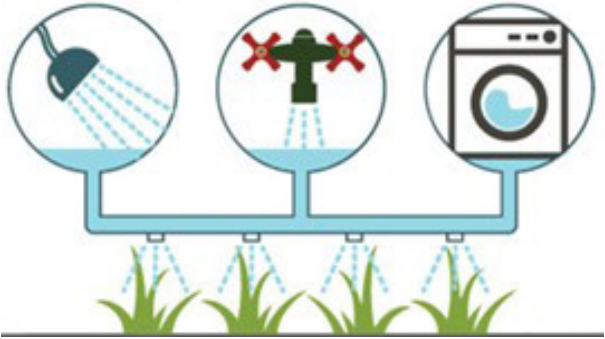
It is understood that more detail on economics and the specific situation of each individual farm (ie. geographical location, size of facility, etc.) is required to provide detailed decision-making support for egg farmers. Dr. Pelletier's team is working on a 'NEST' tool, such as a calculator that will show environmental and economic implications of using specific technologies as well as various management practices on-farm. Stay tuned for more information on the NEST tool!

➤ **Rainwater and Grey Water Resource**

Producers want to know more about water in poultry production, so EFA has completed an investigation on a couple of sustainability methods that can be used to capture the best value out of one of the most precious resources – water! Did you know that there are two different ways that water can be recycled? These two methods are called rainwater collection and grey water which can be re-purposed.

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Rain Water	Grey Water
 <p data-bbox="159 646 750 718">Rainwater is water that has fallen or been obtained from the rain, snow, and ice.</p>	 <p data-bbox="831 646 1523 835">Grey water is a classification between drinking water and wastewater. It can come from baths, sinks, washing machines, and other kitchen appliances. In the poultry industry, grey water is produced when washing your production facility.</p>

To learn more about how you can maximize your water usage and reduce your environmental footprint visit the producer website at [Water \(Healthy Farms\)](#).

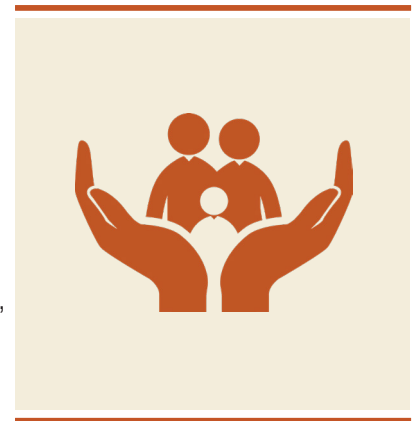
Healthy Communities

► Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to September 5th, 2020, and indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.1 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 0.3% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending August 8), and a 2.2% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2019.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 6.2% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 43.6 million dozen eggs. Regular white and brown eggs have seen the largest sales growth; a 7.4% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 37.0 million dozen eggs (84.9% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

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



► Communications Update

We believe in two-way communication between our consumers and us, and we want you to stay informed, be active and engaged about our social media happenings. Each month we'll include a communications update of a piece of work that we are proud to show you! We would also love your opinion on what you want to see, so if you have suggestions feel free to send them to adelina.gashi@eggs.ab.ca or call 587-391-6122.

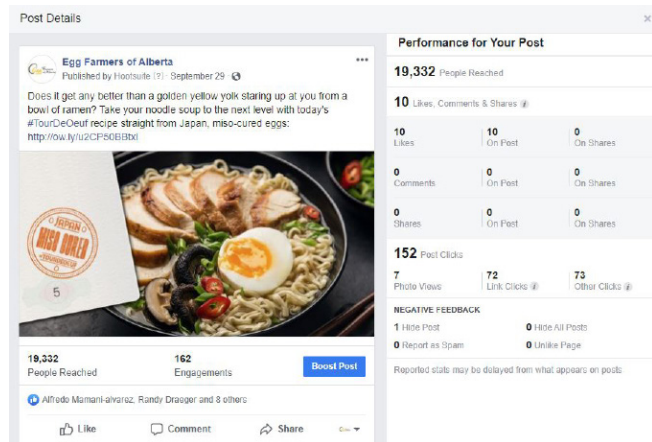
► Radio Chicken Contest

XL 103.1 FM is running a radio chicken contest sponsored by EFA from October 5th through November 27th! The contest includes 2 contestants who will listen to a cash jackpot, if the chicken clucks at any point, both lose. The catch is that if either of the contestants yell "chicken" at any time to pause the game, the second contestant has to split the cash 50/50 with the player who chickens out or to continue on their own, leaving the other penniless. You can listen to contestants play twice a day, 8:15 am and 3:15 pm PLUS EFA will be mentioned throughout the day!

► Social Media Update

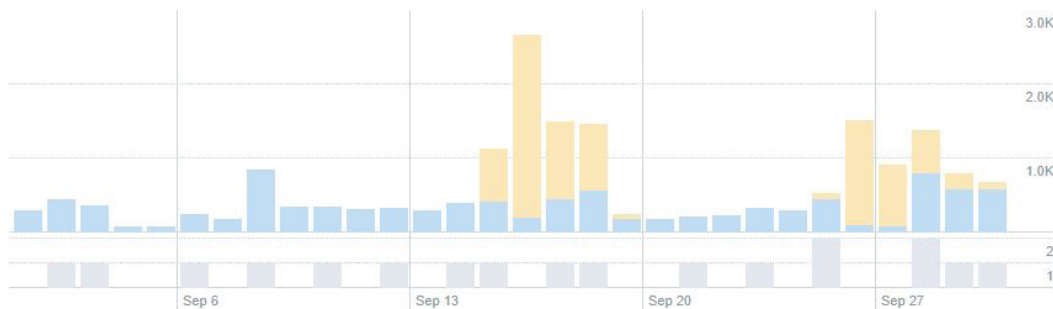
Analytics are important in tracking how effective our work and message is to our consumers. Our best performing Facebook post for the month of September reached over 19,300 people. During the course of a 30-day period, we received 18,800 impressions on Twitter which is the total number of times our tweets were seen in September.

Facebook post



Twitter Impressions

Your Tweets earned **18.8K impressions** over this 30 day period



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