

EggNotes

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Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
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Business Manager: Kari Buijs
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Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka
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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

Closed October 14 - Thanksgiving

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: October 25, 2019

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



Board Update

The Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors and management team recently completed their annual strategic planning session. The Board reviewed and reconfirmed our corporate values, as well as EFA's vision and mission statements. The collaborative discussion covered a range of vitally important topics for EFA and the provincial egg industry. The session highlighted the Board and staff's ultimate shared goal of acting in the long-term best interests of Alberta egg farmers.

The group conducted an extensive SWOT analysis and reviewed the priority key result areas that have been identified for the next year. The Board has provided the EFA staff with a clear strategic direction, which the staff will now use to build a comprehensive operational plan for 2020.

The Board would like to thank the entire EFA staff for its passion and dedication, as well as Jim Brown from STRIVE!, for his highly effective facilitation of this year's strategic planning session. Cultivating a sustainable egg industry and doing right by Alberta's egg farmers is truly a team effort!

Calling Egg Ambassadors to become CAP Volunteers

EFA is a proud member and supporter of the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP), which has been helping to teach grade-4 students about agriculture since 1985. CAP is a fantastic opportunity for Egg Ambassadors to talk to kids about farming, and to help explain where their food comes from and what it takes to provide fresh, local food.

To learn more about CAP, please visit: www.classroomagriculture.com

If you want to register as a CAP volunteer, please visit: <https://classroomagriculture.com/Portal/Project/classroomagricultureprogram/pages/VolunteerRegistration.html>

EFA has created a CAP Volunteer Toolkit that provides additional information about CAP classroom presentations and ideas for engaging the students. Please contact David Webb at the EFA office (x126) to request a CAP Volunteer Toolkit, to help plan your presentation, or to help you prepare for your school visit as a CAP volunteer. Once you've registered as a CAP volunteer, a CAP Zone Coordinator will contact you and is also an invaluable resource as you prepare.



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

EFC Quota Credit Policy Amendment

The Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) Quota Credit Policy was recently amended, to allow farmers to apply for quota credits on a partial flock when transitioning from conventional housing to enriched, free-run, aviary, or free-range. This is only applicable once per flock. The revised policy can be found on the producer website.

Quota Leasing Pool Update

The 2020 Quota Leasing Pool (QLP), which runs from February 15, 2020 to August 15, 2020 was finalized in August 2019. This pool had the lowest fill rate of quota requested at 48%. For all the stats from the last pools, please visit our producer website.

As there was some disappointment in the amount of quota received from the pool, EFA would like to remind producers of the intent of the Quota Leasing Pool. The pool was first launched in 2016 and was a new program for EFA. The pool allows for producers to lease from the pool, providing that they have the capacity, or are increasing capacity within the dates of the leasing pool. The Board administered program was developed to help ensure that all producers had access to leasing birds on a more equitable basis. The QLP was developed as an interim measure to allow producers at capacity time to lease out for a maximum period of 10 years. This allows those producers time to plan, and to produce the quota that was allotted to them. It was never intended to be used as a solution to provide vast amounts of quota to fill existing barns. The goal is to ensure that quota is operated by the producer the quota is issued to.



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Healthy Farms



Farm Safety Statistics Composting

The Workers Compensation Board has released a synopsis of worker related injuries in the poultry industry from January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Lost time claims were related to the following activities:

- Contact with objects and equipment (2)
- Falls (2)
- Struck against object (1)

This included 2 head injuries, 1 injury to the torso, one back injury, and one injury to fingers.

The type of injuries can be further classified as:

- Open Wound (1)
- Fracture/Dislocation/Nerve Damage (1)
- Sprains/Strain (1)
- Intracranial Injuries (1)
- Superficial Wounds (1)

We know that long hours during harvest season are an unavoidable part of farming. We also know most farmers are under a significant amount of stress during this period and are thinking about the impact the long hours of harvest will have on their farm and workers. As the busy season is upon us, we would like to remind producers that AgSafe Alberta has tools available to help you manage safety risks on your farm, including the risk of fatigue.



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Healthy Eggs

SC-SC® Corrective Action Timelines for Minor Elements

While Alberta egg farmers are typically proactive in managing their Corrective Actions well in advance of deadlines, we would like to remind producers about the change in timeline for Minor Elements.

In August of 2018 the elements in the SC-SC® layer program were categorized into 4 different types:

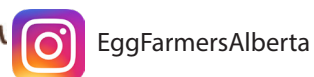
- Critical Control Elements – If full points for critical control elements are not received, there is an immediate 7-day hold of the SC-SC® part 1 and 2 evaluation. A CAR will be issued with a 7-day deadline to complete. If the CAR is not corrected within 7 days, the result is an immediate failure of the SC-SC® program.
- Major Elements – Corrective actions have a 30-day timeline to complete.
- Minor Elements – Corrective actions have a 3-month timeline to complete.
- General Elements – Corrective actions will have up to a 12-month timeline to complete.

With respect to Minor Elements, there was transition period. Until August 15, 2019 Corrective Actions for Minor Elements had a 6-month timeline to complete. As of August 15, 2019, corrective actions for minor elements have a 3- month timeline to complete.

Pullets Raised in Facilities Dedicated to the Regulated Egg Industry

EFA would like to remind producers that by January 1, 2020, registered egg farmers in Alberta must ensure that they are purchasing pullets that have been raised in facilities dedicated to the regulated egg industry. As of January 2020, Pullet Flock History Certificates must include verification that the pullets are grown in a dedicated facility or, if you are a self-grower, you must provide a signed declaration to this effect.

Any registered producers who fail to purchase their pullets from growers who use a facility dedicated to the regulated egg industry by the January 1, 2020 deadline will be subject to non-compliance penalties.



Healthy Birds



Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in Backyard Flocks

Please be advised that over the past month Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) have identified three case of Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in backyard flocks near Spruce Grove, Blackie, and Stettler, Alberta. There are nine commercial quota holding farms within those notification zones.

While this is typical during the summer reminders, we wish to remind producer of the importance of proper biosecurity (i.e. changing footwear when moving over the transition line, only allowing authorized personnel in the barn, etc.) as ILT is prevalent and a common occurrence in backyard flocks. A copy of the AAF Fact Sheet on ILT can be obtained by contacting our office.

All table egg producers, leghorn breeders, pullet growers, research bird egg producers, hatching egg producers, and turkey producers who are in the AAF's database within a 20 km radius of the infected flock have been notified by AAF by fax or phone.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like more information on ILT, please contact Erin Johnston at (403) 250-1197, extension 127.

Planning For Longer Flock Cycles

Egg Farmers of Alberta has worked with the Production Management Committee to produce a resource on planning for longer flock cycles. The purpose of this resource is to assist producers in determining if extending their flock cycle on farm is appropriate and provide a checklist to ensure success for those who decide to extend their flock cycle. The resource, Planning For Longer Flock Cycles can be found at <http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/healthy-eggs/egg-production/>.



Fact Sheet on the Impact of Infrared Beak Treatment

Egg Farmers of Alberta has been supporting the research project, Understanding how infrared beak treatment affects the beak tissue and the healing process of brown and white feathered layer pullets led by Dr. Schwean-Lardner and her research team at the University of Saskatchewan. This project explored how infrared beak treatment impacts both beak length and the healing process in the early life stage of layer pullets.



As part of Egg Farmers of Alberta's initiative to connect current research projects with Alberta producers, a fact sheet crafted by Dr. Schwean-Lardner's research team outlines key highlights from this study and has been posted to the producer website at <http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/information-center/EFA-Research/>

Overall the study revealed the infrared beak treatment is successful at reducing beak length and growth after treatment and does not cause formation of neuromas known to cause chronic pain for the hens.

Examining Higher Value Uses for End-of-Lay Hens

Egg farmers of Alberta has had numerous requests to conduct research into viable alternative markets for end-of-lay hens which otherwise become a waste product of the egg industry.

In 2018, Serecon was contracted to complete the study, "Examining Higher Value Uses for End-of-Lay Hens." The primary purpose of this project was to attempt to identify a viable business proposal for the use of end-of-lay hens that could be pursued either by the Egg Farmers of Alberta or another entity.

The summary report highlights the research that has been done to find alternative uses for end-of-cycle hens.



It included two overarching markets for end-of-lay hens:

- Human consumption
- Pet food production



Consideration was given for:

- Transportation to slaughter
- On-farm processing by hand (product delivered to ethnicity markets, individuals looking to make stew or soup, or restaurants and retailers)
- Retailers (chicken products, dry flavouring mix for instant noodles)
- Exports
- Mobile Processing unit (ex. Chickpulp)

Unfortunately, while there are currently individuals generating revenue from end-of-use hens, we were unable to identify a venture that would hold any significant promise of generating sufficient margin to offset the risk and capital expenditures, as current revenues appear to offset variable costs at best.

We furthered examined the possibility of using end-of-lay hens for pet food products, as this would be the most likely next highest-value use for these birds. Unfortunately, we were not able to find individuals interested in pursuing this possibility further in a space where the regulations and practicality of the production and sale of pet food products manufactured using spent layers are unclear.

For more information and details on the potential alternative markets and research that has been conducted for the use of end-of-lay hens visit the Examining Higher Value Uses for End-of-Lay Hens-A Final Feasibility Report on the producer website.

Upcoming Events

- October 14** – Thanksgiving – Office closed.
- October 22** – Research Committee Meeting
- October 29** – Flock Talk Meeting – **Lethbridge**
- October 30** – Colony Elders Meeting – **EFA Office Calgary**
- October 31** – Board of Directors Meeting – **EFA Office Calgary**
- November 5** – Flock Talk Meeting – **Edmonton**
- November 6** – Flock Talk Meeting – **Airdrie**



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Hen Housing Update

You may recall that in the spring EFA conducted a hen housing survey so that we could estimate our future capacities in Alberta. We have maintained this data as we receive new information from producers. Below you will see that our capacity in 2019 is higher than our provincial allocation of 2,789,167 birds.



System Type	2019 Capacity	Estimated Dec 2020 Capacity	Percent Change
Conventional	1,767,384	1,644,046	-6.98%
Enriched	553,795	1,078,769	94.80%
Organic	170,557	171,057	0.29%
Free Run	422,903	431,884	2.12%
Total	2,914,639	3,325,756	14.111%

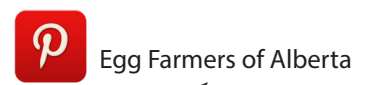
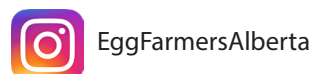
Some notes:

- It has been assumed that free run & free range that are currently not meeting January 1, 2020 requirements will renovate to meet requirements and therefore, show relatively no change in capacity.
- Producers may not have known the exact capacity they were building for when they completed the survey.
- When a producer indicated they are planning to decommission their conventional system after building, this has not been included in capacity.
- Capacity is expected to increase again in 2021.

Selling Live End of Lay Hens

During the June regional meetings, Egg Farmers of Alberta facilitated a discussion on the pros and cons of selling live end of lay hens as well as alternative solutions that minimize the risk to hens, producers, and the industry. A new resource is available on the producer website for producers interested in selling their hens at the end of their lay cycle.

This resource is a quick guideline that can be used to evaluate the condition of your hens and determine if it is appropriate to sell them. The resource, "Selling Live End of Lay Hens" can be found at http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/healthy-birds/humane_endings/.



Healthy Communities

Egg Ambassador Recap



With harvest in full swing and kids going back to school, it's a reminder that another summer event season has come to a close. Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to extend a profound thank-you to all our Egg Ambassadors – contractors and egg farmers alike – for such a tremendous year. Aggie Days Calgary, Aggie Days Lethbridge, Amazing Agriculture in Edmonton, and the Calgary Stampede were all hugely successful thanks to your passion and your enthusiasm!

Many Egg Ambassadors have also hosted farm tours or appeared in Save-on Foods stores across the province, to engage consumers and influencers in meaningful conversation about everything to do with eggs and egg farming. We thank you for volunteering your time and opening your barns to help support EFA and the Alberta egg industry!

As a reminder to all egg farmers, be sure to check out the Egg Ambassador page in the Healthy Communities section on the producer website, to find a wide variety of useful and informative resources. Several new resources have been added over the past few months, including:

- Grassroots Public Relations toolkit and funding application form (presented at the June regional meetings)
- Farm Tour Tips toolkit for hosting a successful tour on your farm (per a request received from a farmer at the June regional meetings)
- Canadian 2019 federal election toolkit



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