

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
October 12 - Thanksgiving, Office Closed

EFA Staff

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Dave Lastiwka
Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

Murray Minchin
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: October 23, 2020

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



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P: 403-250-1197 Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 F: 403-291-9216
Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- ▶ Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to remind our fellow producers about the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on both the table market and processor demand. Thanks in large part to the uniquely Canadian system of supply management, our industry has been able to collaborate effectively and act decisively, as we navigate the challenging supply issues.

Due to a sudden shift in processor demand, which has recently returned to higher than pre-COVID-19 levels, Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) has decided to put the Early Fowl Removal (EFR) program on hold. The objective is to create more balance between supply and demand over the next 6 weeks. EFR targets for phase-2 are also being re-evaluated, understanding the volatile nature of demand. Eggs continue to perform strongly at retail in Alberta, showing a 6.4% increase over the last 52 weeks and a 2.2% increase for the last 4 weeks, as of August 8th, 2020.

EFA staff continue to work both in the office and remotely, implementing a variety of health and safety protocols while in the office. The Board has made use of technology to meet virtually throughout the pandemic and is looking forward to their first in-person Board meeting on September 15th. We are committed to providing Albertans with fresh, local eggs, while ensuring that Alberta egg farmers, as well as the EFA Board and staff, remain safe and healthy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 23 & 24**, EFC Board Meeting (via Zoom)
- September 24**, Production Management Committee Meeting (Part 1)
- September 30**, EFA Strategic Planning
- October 5**, Production Management Committee Meeting (Part 2)
- October 12**, Thanksgiving - Office Closed
- October 14**, Farm Safety Committee Meeting
- October 20**, Uniform Levy Project Team (Location TBD)
- October 21**, Grader Appeal Hearing (Via web ex)



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Healthy Birds



➤ EFA Calcium Appetite Study Research Video Release

EFA is pleased to present the release of Calcium Appetite Study research videos on the producer website under Information Centre (EFA Research). The first video captures a brief overview presentation of the researchers work, followed by a second video featuring a question and answer (Q&A) period between the researcher and members of the research committee. Above the Q&A video you can also find a PDF

version of the second video's content. The goal of these videos is to provide producers with science-based information to make continual improvements in management and production practices. For example, did you know that if open access is left to calcium particles in your feed lines, the birds will only consume what they require?!

➤ Third Quarter Research Report Update

The third quarter research report is available on the producer website and contains updated information on research funded by EFA. Did you know: Pullets reared in an open-concept housing system with multiple perches and platforms, and white-feathered strains, spend more time flying and perform the highest rate of flights and jumps. This increased rate of flights and jumps may impact the breaking strength of the bird's leg bones, as these pullets also have demonstrated proportionally stronger femurs and tibiae than pullets reared in simple cages with minimal perches and brown-feathered strains. This and more information can be found by visiting the producer website at Information Centre (EFA Research).

➤ Daily Feed Consumption Record Calculations - Reminder

As of August 20, 2020, daily feed consumption records are required for the Animal Care Program and Start Clean – Stay Clean® Program. Some barn/computer loggers may record and calculate this data for you. Some producers have been looking into installing a feed timer to monitor how long their feed auger runs in a **24-hour** period. This can be used to calculate daily feed consumption as follows:

- Run your auger for 1 minute, and then weigh how much feed has gone into a bin (i.e: 20 kg).
- Take your daily run time of your auger (i.e: 35 minutes) and multiply the time by the kg/minute volume (i.e: 20kg/minute X 35 minutes = 700 kg).
- You can then record either 35 minutes or 700 kg in your Record Keeping Calendar.

If you are purchasing a feed timer from B&E Electric in Calgary (403-243-7211) or Bagshaw Electric in Stettler (403-742-2707), please make sure to reference this part number or they may not know what you are looking for:

#E5-224-C0458



➤ **REMINDER - Increased Risk of Avian Influenza During Fall Wild Bird Migration**

There is an increased risk of Avian Influenza (AI) during the Fall wild bird migration.

Fall is a season with increased Avian Influenza risk

- Wild migratory waterfowl are known to carry AI viruses
- These viruses often do not cause illness in waterfowl, however certain strains can cause severe illness and death in domestic poultry.
- Massive movement of wild birds during migration increases the risk of AI transmission to poultry farms.
- AI viruses can be transmitted to domestic flocks through direct contact with wild birds **or their droppings**, or through contaminated water supplies.

Take steps to protect your flocks

- Discuss biosecurity and the current AI threat with your staff and family members.
- Keep the doors to your barns locked to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Ensure that **everyone** entering the restricted area of your poultry barn adheres to strict biosecurity protocols each and **every time** they enter.
- Best practice: only use clean, barn-specific footwear when entering the barn.
- Deter wild birds from the areas around your barns.
- When practical, deter wild birds away from your water source.
- Appropriate water treatment reduces the risk of disease transmission from wild birds.
- If you have a free-range flock with access to the outdoors, you need to manage your risk as you let your birds outside.
- Review your biosecurity protocols, update them to address any gaps.

Early detection of Avian Influenza is critical

Know and recognize signs of disease:

- o High mortality – greater than 0.5% for 2 days in a row
- o Drop in egg production of more than 5% over 2 days.

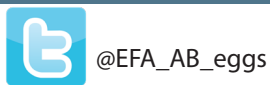
Take action:

- o Call your vet
- o Initiate a self-quarantine
- o Arrange to have birds submitted to the lab.

If you find dead wild birds on your farm

- If possible, do not handle the bird
- If handling can't be avoided
 - o Wear disposable gloves, or
 - o Place a plastic bag over your hand before picking up the dead bird
 - o Dispose of the bird appropriately, following provincial and municipal regulations
 - o Wash your hands with soap and water
 - o Disinfect any surfaces that came into contact with the wild bird using alcohol, diluted bleach or a commercial disinfectant.

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- If you find a cluster of unusual mortality such as a group of dead waterfowl, gulls, or raptors (hawks, owls, etc.), contact Fish and Wildlife at 310-0000. Alberta uses these birds for Avian Influenza surveillance.



Graphic Credit: Ontario Animal Health Network

Healthy Farms

► Farm Safety Assessments Update

Early in 2020 EFA Field Coordinators began to deliver EFA's Farm Safety Assessment. Farmers have been provided with a copy of a Farm Safety Producer Manual and assessed relative to a 7- question checklist. The farm safety assessment is intended to help support farmers in implementing more comprehensive farm safety procedures related to incident management, emergency response planning, working alone, workplace hazardous materials and information system, equipment and machinery, and contractors. Farmers who score 60% and above are provided with a Farm Safety Certificate of Achievement. Here is an update on how it has been going so far:

- 155 assessments have been completed to date
- The average score is 66%



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- 134 (86%) of farmers who completed an assessment achieved a score of 60% or greater and earned their Farm Safety Certificate – Well done!

The areas of best performance were:

- All continuous-feed machinery has controls to stop the feeder mechanism separately from the processing function or, for legacy equipment, other safety procedures are put in place (i.e. pull cord, motor kill, etc.) (99% Yes).
- I ensure all my workers recognize the hazards of working alone (98% Yes).
- I have a plan in place in case an accident occurs (97% Yes).
- All mechanical tools are used in accordance with manufacturer’s specs (i.e. no alarm systems disabled) (99% Yes).
- I ensure hazards of loose clothing, long hair, or facial hair are controlled when working around moving parts (99% Yes).
- Implemented methods to control hazards (95% Yes).
- All workers are trained on potential hazards related to working in proximity to any controlled/hazardous products (96% Yes).

The most common areas for improvement were as follows:

- When a Near Miss Report is received, we do a Root Cause Analysis to evaluate the reasons for the near miss and to set up corrective actions to ensure it does not happen again (90% No).
- When Corrective Actions are completed, we sign an investigation form to document actions that have been implemented (92% No).
- Workers have been involved in the development of the Emergency Response Plan and are trained in the Emergency Response Procedures (72% No).
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are readily available (77% No).
- Completion of a contractor checklist that outlines responsibilities with respect to safety (94% No).

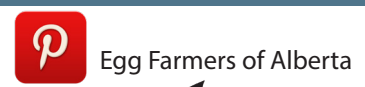
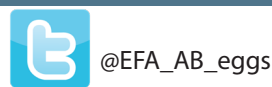
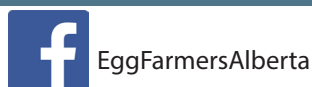
EFA hopes that farmers will find the resources provided in the Farm Safety Manual helpful to implement some of these best practices. Contractor Checklist and Incident Investigation forms are just some of the available documents.

➤ **On Farm Program Statistics Update**

An update on how Alberta’s egg farmers are doing with your on-farm programs so far this year:

- 98 SC-SC™ Layer evaluations were completed in 2020
 - Alberta’s average score: 99.62%
 - 70 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 97 Animal Care Program evaluations were completed in 2020
 - Alberta’s average score: 99.77%
 - 94 facilities have received a rating of 100%
- 53 SC-SC™ Pullet evaluations were completed in 2020
 - Alberta’s average score: 99.33%
 - 38 Alberta Pullet Growers have scored a perfect 100% rating

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The following are some of the most common correction actions for each of the programs:

- Animal Care:
 - For on farm flock depopulation, the producer must have an SOP that describes the method of depopulation, who is responsible, and who is trained.
 - The Employee Code of Conduct must be signed annually by personnel who work within the production unit on the farm.
- Start Clean – Stay Clean®:
 - A gravel or asphalt splash pad should be in place around the production unit.
 - A pest barrier of at least 4.5 meters should be in placed around the production facility, this area should be free of vegetation.

In addition to the SC-SC™ and ACP audits, EFC continues to deliver Interim Housing Standard (IHS) audits. As a reminder, IHS audits are for educational purposes only to help prepare producers for the launch of the new Animal Care Program. A total of 87 audits have been completed in 2020. While the majority of the Corrective Actions for the IHS CARs have been for feeder and water space requirements, we have recently seen IHS CARs related to nest requirements. Of note, the code states that the floor of the nest area must be covered with a surface the promotes nesting and prevents injury (i.e. a nest pad).

EFA would like to thank farmers for their commitment and hard work each and every day, to ensure that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely.

➤ **Canadian Food Inspection Agency Feed Mill Pilot Project**

To support risk informed decision making the CFIA, in collaboration with academia and industry, has been working to develop a Risk Assessment Model to assess animal health and food safety risks associated with on-farm feed mills. The recently developed model evaluates the risk that an establishment represents based on three risk factors:

- Existing risk factors
- Steps to reduce existing risk factors
- Compliance with CFIA regulation factors

This model will help CFIA in identifying higher risk feed mills, assist in future design of programs, and prioritize inspection activities and resources.

CFIA is looking to randomly test their model on 30 on-farm feed mills and may be contacting producers. Participation in the test phase will allow producers the opportunity to provide feedback and share their knowledge, as well as get insights into the implementation of the future inspection tool. Producers selected to participate will be contacted in mid-September and will be asked to complete a questionnaire based on the information provided about the Risk Assessment model. The CFIA targeted end date for the on-farm data collection is October 31, 2020.

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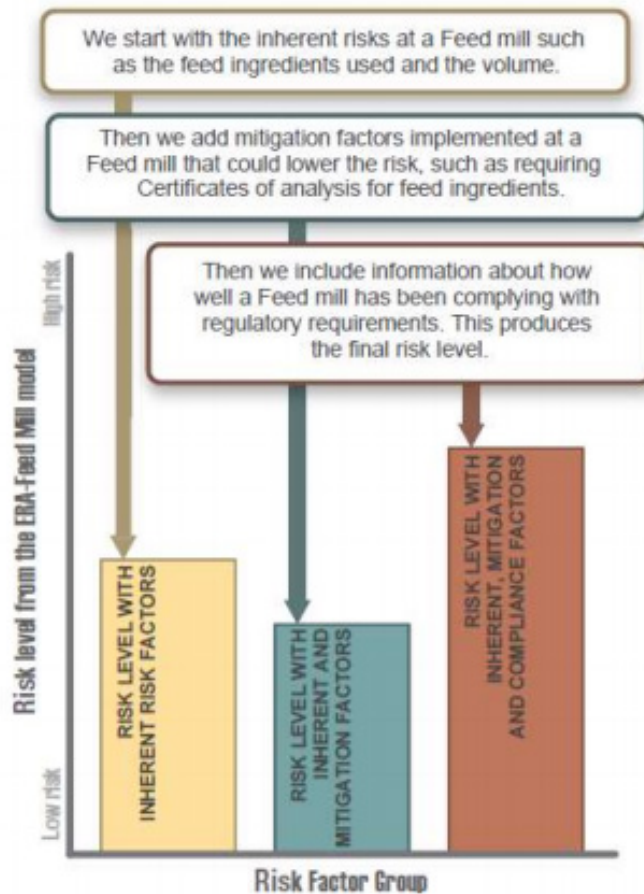
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Example: how the ERA-Feed Mill model assigns a feed mill a feed safety risk level



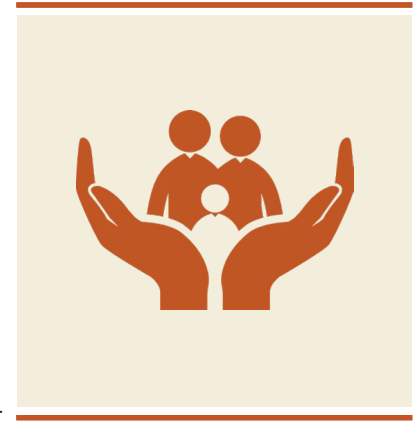
➤ QE3-2020 Update

QE3-20 Quota Exchange Summary Results:

Number of Sellers	1
Number of Purchasers	12
Total Number of Bird Quota Offered for Sale	13,384
Total Number of Birds of Quota Purchase Bids	15,335
Market Clearing Price (MCP)	\$488.12
Number of Birds of Quota Transferred	0
Number of Successful Sellers	0
Number of Successful Purchasers	0

If you are interested in participating in the next Quota Exchange, the launch date was set for September 8, 2020. The Quota Exchange Policy 9.34 can be found on the producer website.

Healthy Communities



➤ **ABVMA Raised with Care Stewardship Sessions**

This fall the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is hosting a series of interactive live-streaming conversations with Alberta livestock owners, aimed at promoting antimicrobial stewardship strategies and animal welfare. The program called Raised with Care Stewardship Sessions will provide producers with the opportunity to engage directly with industry experts, ask questions about best practices, and share their own stores in an interactive forum, which will be streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube Live.

The poultry episode will be airing on Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 pm. For more information about the ABVMA's Raised with Care Stewardship Sessions, please visit their website at www.raisedwithcare.ca/stewardship-sessions.

➤ **Grassroots PR & SR Program**

EFA launched the Grassroots Public Relations (PR) & Social Responsibility (SR) Program last year, in the hopes of encouraging Alberta egg farmers to get involved in and engaged with their local community. The program toolkit, which is available on the Egg Ambassador page (Healthy Communities) found on the producer website, provides details about how egg farmers can participate in the program and apply for funding from EFA.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, is it understandable that many common methods for engaging your local communities – hosting a farm tour or open house, participating in a local community event, etc... – are not possible this year. However, there is an increased need for fresh, nutritious food at food banks across the province.

For 2020, EFA is expanding the program to include egg donation matching! For example, if your farm or colony donates \$200 worth of graded egg product (either eggs graded on your farm or purchased from a local grocery store) to a local food bank or charity, EFA will match your donation up to a maximum of \$500 per application.

If you are interested in participating in EFA's Grassroots PR & SR Program, please submit a completed application form to David Webb at the EFA office.

➤ Parts for Sale ◀

Need a used or new techno pullet cage equipment? Please call Eli at (587) 341-7558.



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► 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.

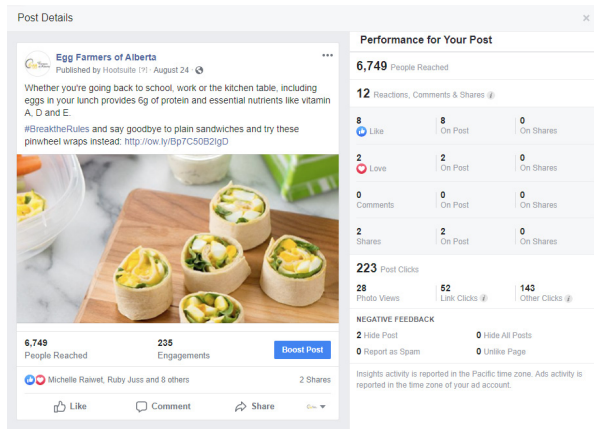
Back-to-School Campaign

The focus for the month of August was preparing families for back-to-school season! We worked with AdFarm Agency and Influencer, Meg Tucker to create a campaign for EFA to provide parents and educators with resources, school-friendly lunch ideas, as well as quick and easy to prepare ahead of time breakfast recipes. If you are interested in engaging with our back-to-school campaign, follow our socials or visit the recipes section of our website.

► 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 June reached over 6,700 people. During the course of a 31-day period, we received 11,500 impressions on Twitter which is the total number of times our tweets were seen in June.

Facebook post



Twitter Impressions

Your Tweets earned 11.5K impressions over this 31 day period

