

# EggNotes

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<b>EFC Director:</b> Beatrice Visser	780-674-6297
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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

Due to COVID-19, EFA office is closed. Staff are  
working from home and are available during regular  
business hours by phone and email.

**May 24 - Victoria Day, Office Closed**

### Egg Price Update Effective February 21, 2021

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.510	↑
A	Large	2.510	↑
A	Medium	2.220	↑
A	Small	1.890	↑
A	Nest Run	2.360	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.270	↓
B		0.760	↓
C		0.150	↓

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: May 14, 2021

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

## ► Farm-Gate Pickup

The Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors is pleased to report that we are in active communication with Alberta egg graders about the issue of farm-gate pickup. Both sides are engaged in a respectful and productive manner and are hopeful that a resolution will be reached soon. The graders have assured EFA that they will be picking up eggs and no eggs will be left on the farm.

EFA will continue to keep Alberta egg farmers updated as the discussion about farm-gate pickup progresses.

## ► Retail Council of Canada

EFA was thrilled by the Retail Council of Canada's (RCC) recent announcement that they will no longer pursue their voluntary 2016 commitments to source only cage-free eggs by the end of 2025. Instead, the RCC has shifted their focus to the advancement of animal welfare in Canada through the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) and their Codes of Practice. It will, however, remain up to individual RCC members to make independent decisions about their sourcing practices.

The RCC's full March 25, 2021 news release can be read here:

<https://www.retailcouncil.org/animal-welfare/rcc-renewing-focus-on-animal-welfare-through-the-national-farm-animal-care-councils-multilateral-approach/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 20,** Egg Farmers of Quebec Annual General Meeting

**April 27,** EFA Research Committee Meeting

**May 4,** EFA Board Meeting

**May 13,** Uniform Levy Project Team (ULPT) via Zoom Meeting

**May 13,** Purchase Deadline for Quota Exchange

**May 24,** Victoria Day - Office Closed



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# Healthy Birds

## ► Biosecurity Assessments 2021 - Quarter One Update

From January to March 2021 EFA's Field Coordinators have been able to conduct 111 biosecurity assessments. Alberta egg producers have been working hard to improve their primary property signage. Currently, there is an increase in the number of signs with the following information: biosecurity, contact information, and trespassing/private property.



Egg-cellent work! To view the updated biosecurity statistics, visit the producer website at Biosecurity Assessment (Farm Programs).

EFA is also encouraging producers to hang signs that indicate where their transition line to the restricted zone is. To assist, EFA field coordinators are distributing posters to those producers without a sign currently. If you are interested in a transition zone poster, please contact your Field Coordinator.

### **RESTRICTED BIOSECURITY ZONE**

**Change of footwear  
required past this point**



## ► New Research Journal Publication

Did you know that both bird strains and housing systems can impact pullet's development and movement?

Learn more by reading the new research journal publication on the Effects of Rearing Aviary Style and Genetic Strain on the Locomotion and Musculoskeletal Characteristics of Layer Pullets posted on the producer website under the heading Healthy Birds on the Research page (Information Center).



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## ► Poultry Diagnostics Update

The Alberta Poultry Industry (API) comprised of Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Turkey Producers, and Egg Farmers of Alberta has reached an agreement in principle with the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) as the industry's new partner for poultry diagnostics in Alberta. We are excited about this new era of strategic partnership in poultry diagnostics, which is the culmination of more than two years of effort by the joint poultry diagnostics committee.

We extend our thanks to Poultry Health Services (PHS) for their years of excellent diagnostic services for the poultry industry. We recognize the contributions their team has made over many years and wish them continued success.

We believe that diagnostics at the UCVM will provide tremendous value for the Alberta poultry industry. Diagnostic services are the priority for this partnership, however collaborating with a world class university will also offer unique opportunities for teaching the next generation of poultry practitioners and diagnosticians, as well as research opportunities for improving poultry health.

We recognize and respect each producer's ability to select their own poultry practitioner. We sincerely hope that the UCVM's DSU will become your choice for poultry diagnostics.

The UCVM currently has pathologists on staff with poultry experience, and they will also be recruiting a boarded poultry pathologist in the near future.

### **The contact information is as follows:**

Diagnostic Services Unit at the Clinical Skills Building  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Calgary  
Spy Hill Campus  
11877 85th Street NW Calgary  
403-220-2806  
dsu@ucalgary.ca

Receiving hours are currently 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

If you have questions, please contact Jenna at: [jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca) or 403-250-1197 x 129.



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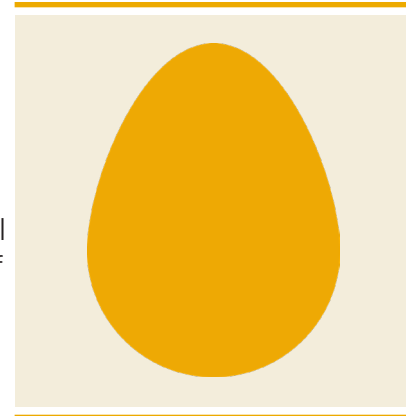
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# Healthy Eggs

## ► Update on SE Recall Mitigation Strategy

The Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) National Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) Protocol sets the minimum standards for the sampling process and the management of SE positive environments in all regulated layer and pullets farms in Canada. This protocol, which has been in place since 1997, draws on a preventative approach to ensure eggs sourced from an SE positive environment do not reach the table market. While this national and proactive approach to managing SE in the egg farming sector has successfully negated recalls for over two decades, the CFIA has recently stated that a positive environmental SE test will result in an egg recall back to the date of the test.



Given these circumstances, and with the goal of minimizing the risk of product recalls and the accompanying financial burden and reputational issues, Egg Farmers of Canada has identified a number of strategies to advocate for the sector and work towards an industry-wide solution. **This approach was developed in consultation with all provinces and the graders via the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council (CPEPC).**

A key component of the strategy is a national task force and ongoing outreach to the CFIA and Health Canada. Additionally, provinces across Canada are working to implement a system whereby Salmonella test results are received prior to the producer's next scheduled egg pick-up. This is a significant undertaking.

EFA has implemented an overnight sample shipment process and revamped testing schedules to align with egg pickup dates. We thank farmers for their flexibility and understanding as the farm visit now needs to happen on a very specific day. These actions shorten the time from swab at the farm to arrival at the lab and increase the amount of time available to receive results.

EFA is working closely with the Government of Alberta to revise protocols to reduce the time from receipt at the lab to release of results, but the situation is complex. We are actively monitoring turnaround times and will be working on continuous improvement in the coming weeks as we start to see if we are meeting our target.

If you do not have test results back before your next scheduled egg pick up date, please communicate with your grader on next steps. It is our understanding that in some cases the eggs may be left on farm (with additional supplies provided) and in other situations eggs may be shipped to the grading station and held. The Purchase and Sale of Eggs and Egg Product Regulation governed by the Province requires graders to provide a copy of the grade-out to the producer within 14 days of receiving the producer's eggs.

We understand this is a frustrating situation for farmers. We continue to work collaboratively and nationally to come up with a better solution. In the meantime, we appreciate your support and efforts as we do our best to avoid costly and damaging recalls.



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# Healthy Farms

## ► Movement Tracing Engagement Webinar

Thanks to all those who participated in EFA's Movement Tracing Webinar on March 18th.

The zoom meeting was attended by over 40 registered producers as well as EFA staff and representatives from hatcheries and grading stations. Dr. Sandra Stephens of the CFIA also attended to present and participate.



A summary of the meeting is available in a 'What was Heard' report that has been posted on the producer website at Healthy Farms (Movement Tracing). The edited video recording of the webinar will be posted in the same location in the coming weeks. Key learnings included:

- To stop the spread of highly contagious diseases, we must stop movement until we know where it went and how. There is a tradeoff: The more we do upfront to ensure our ability to trace quickly and accurately, the less movement controls we will have and the shorter they will be.
- While many farmers believe the status quo (paper logbooks) are the best solution, there is also an understanding about the limitations of such a system.
- There is support for electronic options, but privacy concerns must be addressed, and the risks must be properly mitigated.
- For options which may move forward EFA needs to investigate, and clearly articulate, how it would work for those without a smart phone.

In a follow-up survey, participants communicated that the webinar provided good background on what EFA is trying to achieve (average rating of 4.4/5) and provided good opportunity for input (average rating of 4.4/5).

EFA's next Engagement Webinar will be on Outcomes Based Animal Care Programs: Preparing for the Future. Stay tuned for your invitation!

## ► Safety Minute from AgSafe Alberta

Congratulations for getting started with safety on your farm. Your efforts make a difference even though you may not always see it.

Did you know in the Alberta poultry industry falls are the most frequent injury? The injuries from these falls take an average of 17 days to recover. The body parts most injured are the head and the trunk.

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While it is possible that these are from heights, it may be more likely that they are on the same level. Do you take time to ensure that items get put away? Is there a place in your barn where levels change that could be fixed or identified better to reduce the chance of a fall? Take some time to identify areas on your farm where falls could happen and what can be done to reduce the chance that a fall happens. Make sure you communicate this to everyone who works in the area as well, they may also help identify areas where falls can happen when you include them in the process.

For more information on falls check out <https://take11.ca/>. There you can also learn more about life saving opportunities on farms and ranches. AgSafe Alberta is available to support you in safety. If there are safety questions you would like answered in the next newsletter, please send them to [info@agsafeab.ca](mailto:info@agsafeab.ca).

## Healthy Communities

### ► Quarter One Research Report Update

The quarter one research report is available on the producer website and highlights a couple newly funded research projects from the Egg Farmers of Alberta 2020 Call for Proposals. The two new studies,

- Surveillance of Egg Yolk Peritonitis (EYP) and Causative Escherichia Coli in Alberta Egg Farms
- Effect of LED Flickers on Pullet Welfare, Health, and Production and Further Impacts on Hen Performance, Egg Production, and Egg Quality

These studies align with EFA's research priorities. We are so excited to learn more about these topics! Find the report by visiting the producer website at Research (Information Center).

### ► EFA's Use of Space by Pullets in Commercial Rearing Aviaries Research Video Release

EFA is pleased to present the release of Use of Space by Pullets in Commercial Rearing Aviaries research video on the producer website under Information Centre (Research). Did you know that pullets in open concept aviary systems with multiple perches and platforms and white strains of birds spend more time flying and jumping which result in stronger leg bones than pullets reared in simple cages with a couple perches and brown bird strains?

Learn more about the findings of this study by visiting the producer website (Information Centre > Research > Scroll down to the bottom of the videos).



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## ► New Documents on the Research Page

Several new research documents have been added to the producer website under Information Center (Research):

- An Egg Farmers of Canada fact sheet on the “Impacts of Eggs on Blood Sugar Levels for People with Type 2 Diabetes”
- An opposition editorial page from Egg Farmers of Canada’s Dr. Muirhead called “How Wrong Can He get?” Regarding some misconceptions with supply management prices.
- A new Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) Poultry Science Cluster article on “Getting a Handle on the Growing Presence of IBV Variants”

There are tons of great information in these new additions. For example, did you know that consuming two eggs as a bedtime snack lowers fasting blood sugar and improves insulin sensitivity better than a low-fat yogurt?

The CPRC has also recently launched their new website which contains research summaries for projects funded through the Poultry Science Cluster. These summaries go back to 2010 and the link has been provided on the research page of the producer website or visit <https://poultrysciencecluster.ca/en/home>

## ► Western Poultry Conference Highlights

The annual Western Poultry Conference went virtual this year with attendees tuning in from across the four different poultry commodities. This year’s presentation topics included:

- Common misconceptions about minimum ventilation
- An environmental talk on rethinking methane and why livestock are not the problem
- Infectious Bursal Disease
- Student research
- Success of a virtual student internship program
- Avian Reovirus
- Water talks
- Promotion of In The Know a mental health literacy training program for Canadian agriculture



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### ► **Talk, Ask, Listen Workbook**

Did you know that 21 hours without sleep is equivalent to a blood alcohol level of 0.08? Sleep is so important for a healthy mind!

The Do More Agriculture Foundation has put together a Talk, Ask, Listen workbook designed to assist producers in working through some of the stressors that contribute to their mental health.

Visit the producer website at Mental Health (Healthy Communities) for a copy of this workbook and learn more about how you can improve your mental health.

### ► **Call for Participation in a National Survey on Farmer Mental Health in Canada**

The Ontario Veterinary College is conducting their second online national survey on farmer mental health in Canada. This survey investigates stress, depression, anxiety, burnout, suicide ideation, substance use, resilience, and coping in farmers across Canada. The findings from this survey will be compared with previous data from the Farmer Stress and Resilience Study in 2015/2016. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and enters producers in a draw to win \$200.

Complete the survey at [https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dgmMRnTsAYoChEN](https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dgmMRnTsAYoChEN). All surveys must be completed by May 7, 2021.

### ► **CPTPP Mitigation Update**

As a follow-up to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Mitigation updates shared in the February 2021 and December 2020 issues of EggNotes, EFA is thrilled to announce the launch of the Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP). This announcement comes after several months of negotiations between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the national SM4 (Egg Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, and Turkey Farmers of Canada).

The Government of Canada announced \$691 million of mitigation funding for the egg and poultry sector on November 28, 2020, to offset the impact of market losses caused by the CPTPP. The PEFIP was developed to ensure the funding goes directly back to Canadian farmers. The PEFIP has allotted the \$691 million across the supply managed egg and poultry industries as follows: Eggs (\$134.00 million), Chicken (\$347.28 million), Hatching Eggs (\$88.57 million), Turkey (\$59.61 million).

More details about the PEFIP and how Alberta egg farmers can access it can be found on the producer website.



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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](mailto:adelina.gashi@eggs.ab.ca) or call 587-391-6122.

## ► Healthy Eating Campaign for April

As part of our 2021 marketing strategy, we've developed a themed monthly campaign as an engaging and creative way to share all the wonderful information about eggs. For the month of April, we will be focusing on the theme of 'Eggs on Everything' by sharing ways for people to think about and use eggs. The goal of this month's campaign is to share recipes of eggs on burgers, pastas, salads and bowls as a way to inspire people to steer away from traditionally preparing eggs for breakfast and baking. You can check out our page dedicated to breaking the rules (<https://eggs.ab.ca/break-the-rules/>). Here's what you can expect to see on our social media channels this month:

