NEWSLETTER OF THE EGG FARMERS OF ALBERTA AUGUST 2013

EggNOtes

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CHAIRMAN & EFC DIRECTOR Ben Waldner 403-579-2180		
Vice Chairman Joe Kleinsasser	403-653-	4480
EFC ALTERNATE Amin Valji	780-699-	4011
Director Levi Hofer	403-892-	1877
Director Muneer Gilani	403-567-	8343
Director Susan Schafers	780-963-	3249
<u>STAFF</u>		
General Manager Susan Gal		ext. 124
Marketing & Communications Manager David Webb ext. 126		
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INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Jenna Griffin ext. 129		ext. 129
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FIELD SERVICES COORDINATOR Murray Minchin ext. 131		
Field Services Admin Dave Lastiwka	ISTRATOR/C	oordinator ext. 132

Board of Directors Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board is excited to announce that the Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) Board of Directors recently passed a motion to begin the phase out of conventional cages for egg laying hens in Canada. This national statement on hen housing is strategically aligned with the motion passed at the EFA AGM this past February. Your EFA Board supports EFC's national statement on hen housing and is eager to continue working with EFC and the other provinces to develop a national standard.

The EFC motion calls for no new conventional cages to be installed in Canada after December 31, 2014. Canadian egg farmers would be free to choose between a number of alternative hen housing systems, including furnished housing (enriched cages), aviary, free run and free range housing systems. Your EFA Board recognizes the needs of the marketplace in moving away from conventional cages, but also understands that this change needs to be incorporated as part of producers' natural progression, to ensure an orderly transition of the egg industry over time. If you are building a new barn or refurbishing an existing barn, your Board encourages you to consult with the EFA office and refer to EFA's Hen Housing Guide.

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ADDRESS: #101, 90 Freeport Blvd. NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 5J9 PHONE: 403-250-1197 TOLL FREE: 1-877-302-2344 FAX: 403-291-9216 EMAIL: info@eggs.ab.ca WEBSITE: www.eggs.ab.ca PRODUCER WEBSITE: www.albertaeggproducers.ca OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



PURPOSE OF THE EFA

EFA exists so there will be an environment in which Alberta egg producers can thrive within the Canadian industry, at a cost that demonstrates good stewardship of resources.

EFA OFFICE HOURS

The EFA office will be **closed on Monday, September 2nd, for Labour Day** and **Monday, October 14**th, **for Thanksgiving**. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective: from **October 14th, 2012**

Grade A

X Large	\$2.130	\uparrow
Large	\$2.130	\uparrow
Medium	\$1.910	\uparrow
Small	\$1.530	\uparrow
Nest Run	\$2.007	\uparrow
Pee Wee	\$0.270	
Grade B	\$0.750	
Grade C	\$0.150	

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.

Run for the Cure

EFA Board and staff would like to thank all our producers who attended the June Regional Meetings and donated to our *Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure* campaign. Together we raised an *egg-citing* total of just over \$1,470!

EFA is the official provincial Nutritional Partner for the event and EFA is once again entering a team at the Calgary event location. We encourage you to support this worthy cause by joining our team, donating to our team or entering a team of your own at one of the other locations across Alberta. The event takes place on Sunday, October 6th. To learn more, visit the official *Run for the Cure* website at **www.cbcf.org**.

EFA will be hosting a fundraising BBQ on Thursday, August 29^{th} , from 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm, outside the EFA office.

Please be sure to check out the EFA website or call the EFA office, if you'd like to get more information about *Run for the Cure*, entering/joining a team or donating to the EFA team! With your support, EFA hopes to achieve our fundraising goal, to help ensure that the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation will continue funding breast cancer research, education and health promotion initiatives across the country, making a difference from coast to coast!

Field Statistics Update

This is how our farmers have done with their Start Clean – Stay Clean (SC-SC) and Animal Care Program (ACP) evaluations, so far in 2013.

- > 75 SC-SC layer evaluations have been completed in 2013
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.6%
 - ✓ 33 Alberta farmers scored a perfect 100% rating
- > 75 ACP evaluations have been completed in 2013
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 99.4%
 - ✓ 53 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- > 65 SC-SC pullet evaluations have been completed in 2013
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 96.6%
 - ✓ 28 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating

EFA would like to thank all our farmers for their dedication and hard work every day, ensuring that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely!





EFA PRODUCER WEBSITE

For the latest news, information and announcements, check the EFA producer website! We are working to keep the home page filled with current information and resources, including Growing Forward 2 funding, recovering from a flood and pictures of EFA staff member volunteering in High River.

EFA's producer website is a great place to visit for information about your industry, including best production practices, emergency preparedness, hen housing and more!

If there is any information that you would like to see provided on the EFA producer website, let us know! Please contact Christina Robinson by phone (Ext.125) or email (christina.robinson@eggs.ab.ca).

Visit EFA's producer website at: www.albertaeggproducers.ca

For a username and password, please call the EFA office.

EGGNOTES SUBSCRIPTION INFO

Do you know someone who wants to subscribe to *EggNotes*? Simply have them send their name, company or organization, fax number and email address to: **info@eggs.ab.ca**

CEIRA Coverage – Important Notices

EFA would like to remind all pullet growers that as of October 1, 2013, the minimum score on the SC-SC Pullet program for 100% CEIRA coverage increases from 80% to 90%. If you would like to submit completed corrective actions to improve your score to above 90%, please contact Dave Lastiwka (Ext. 132).

CEIRA has issued a statement of clarification regarding coverage that may impact producers. The notification states: "Subscribers should fully understand that a loss from an SE positive environment is not covered if the production facility is used for any purpose other than for conducting business for the regulated egg industry. As an example, if a pullet flock is raised in a production facility that is also used for raising broiler chickens, the pullet flock is not eligible for SE insurance coverage under the CEIRA Policy. If the multi-species production facility environment continues to test negative for SE, and the mature pullet flock is transferred to a layer facility that has only housed layers for the regulated egg industry, the layer flock is eligible for SE insurance coverage under the CEIRA Policy."

If you currently use your pullet or layer barn for **any other purpose**, please contact the EFA office right away, to discuss options for moving forward and ensuring you are covered in the event of a positive SE result on your farm.

EFC's Risk Management Fund

EFC's Risk Management Fund (RMF) program works to address the financial impact of diseases on egg producers. These measures are designed to complement, rather than duplicate, existing government disease compensation programs. The RMF addresses gaps in federal and provincial programs, so as to better protect egg producers, while promoting egg quality and safety. Currently, the RMF is funded by a levy of 0.1¢ per dozen, equating to approximately \$500,000 in annual revenue.

Earlier this year, EFC finalized the RMF policy, which is currently in Phase 1. Industry risks addressed in Phase 1 are Salmonella Enteriditis (SE) and Avian Influenza (AI). Currently, SE coverage is provided through SE reciprocal insurance exchanges (CEIRA for producers in Alberta) and AI coverage is provided through the Health of Animals Act. The RMF will cover the gap between SE and AI coverage.

Continued on Page 4...



Egg Notes

EGG FARMING BEST PRACTICE

Please keep all windows, doors and vents screened at all times. This will prevent wild birds from getting into the layer or pullet facility and will stop wild birds from nesting in the vents. Taking these steps will help to reduce the risk of disease in your flock.

BIO-SECURITY TIP

Provide a designated parking area for visitors and employees at least 30 meters away from the production area(s).

SPECIAL PROGRAM LEASE

EFA introduced a new incentive program available to producers at the June Regional Meetings. This program uses quota that was set aside by the EFA Board of Directors for special programs, to encourage Alberta producers to adopt best management practices. Currently, the program is available to any producers who:

- Have 5,000 layers or less of issued quota in production as multi-age flocks and are moving to an 'all in – all out' cycle
- Are currently placing flocks in November or December and move to a January placement

Producers who meet either of these requirements qualify for a 3-year, 2% special programs lease from EFA. Please contact the EFA office to learn more about the program.

EFC's Risk Management Fund, Continued from Page 3

For example, if you had a flock ordered destroyed due to AI, the RMF would top-up the compensation provided by the Health of Animals Act, so that it would be equivalent to CEIRA insurance coverage for SE. As part of the policy, it has been established that should an incident occur where compensation needs from the RMF are higher than the fund balance, compensation payments will be pro-rated and there is no obligation to provide funds from other sources.

In order to qualify for compensation under the RMF, producers have the following obligations and responsibilities:

- 1) Have a minimum rating of 90% in the SC-SC program (for ratings less than 90%, compensation is issued pro-rated to the rating score)
- 2) Be in good standing with their egg board
- 3) Observe a 7-day downtime between the disposal and repopulation of each flock
- 4) Ensure their egg board is notified immediately upon suspicion of disease
- 5) Participate in an SE reciprocal insurance exchange (ie: CEIRA)

It is recommended, but not required, that producers maintain property, general liability and business continuity insurance.

Any individual or entity is eligible for Phase 1 compensation if they:

- 1) Have been ordered to destroy their laying flock by the federal government and/or agency
- 2) Have had their laying flock destroyed due to AI
- 3) Have had a flock placement delay due to AI
- 4) Are eligible to receive AI compensation as determined by the federal government and/or agency
- 5) Comply with all procedures related to depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, downtime, disposal and repopulation
- 6) Comply with egg board enhanced biosecurity protocols

Future phases of the RMF may cover other industry risks and will be determined by the EFC Board of Directors.





UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

August 28 PMC Meeting EFA Office, Calgary

August 29 EFA Run for the Cure Fundraiser EFA Office, Calgary

August 30 AFAC Board Meeting Airdrie

September 11-12 EFC Meetings Ottawa

October 1-3 Poultry Services Industry Workshop Banff

October 6 Run for the Cure Calgary (across Alberta/Canada)

October 7 Poultry Health Centre of Excellence Meeting *Edmonton*

October 7-11 UEP Conference Asheville, NC

October 9-10 National Farm Animal Care Conference *Ottawa*

All In – All Out Production

Every time poultry is moved on or off of the farm or between barns there is a risk of introducing or spreading bacteria and infectious diseases. All in - all out placement of single age poultry is the best practice to decrease your risk and is where there is one, single age flock in your production facility at any given time. An all in – all out production cycle contributes to better farm biosecurity, which helps to improve your flock health, and profitability.

In Alberta, there are many multi-age layer barns, with two or more flocks of different ages in the same building. Even with good biosecurity it is very difficult to have complete separation or bio-containment between two flocks in this type of barn. If one flock has been exposed to disease or bacteria, your risk is very high that your other flock will also be impacted. This is why, in our salmonella testing program, we typically sample and treat multi-age flocks as one. It is important to note that even healthy looking birds can carry disease.

Moving from a multi-age production cycle to all in – all out can have many benefits including:

- Helps to control disease problems by reducing bird to bird spread.
- Allows for proper cleaning and disinfection of the production facility.
- Makes your downtime more effective. By completely emptying your barn for at least 7 days, you make it much harder for bacteria such as salmonella to survive. This helps break the cycle of infection.
- Can improve overall production as flock management is focused on one age of birds. Lighting, feed programs and records are all focused on optimizing production for one flock. Many producers who have made the switch have reported that their egg production is better and they are more profitable since adopting all in – all out cycles.
- Less work! With one age flock, you don't have to maintain biosecurity between the two age flocks. There is no longer the need to clean and disinfect equipment or change outerwear between flocks in the barn.

The Quota Credit Program and Special Programs for Production Efficiencies are available for producers looking at moving to all in – all out production to help reduce the impact of switching your cycle. Any producers completing major renovations to their barn should strongly consider moving to all in - all out production. If you are interested in moving to all in – all out production, please contact our office to discuss transition options.





ABOUT EGGNOTES



EggNotes is the official newsletter of the Egg Farmers of Alberta.

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

Submission deadline for the next issue of *EggNotes*: **September 27th, 2013**

Next issue of *EggNotes*: **October 11**th, **2013**

"YOKES" OF THE MONTH



Guaranteed to crack you up!

Q: Where do you find information about eggs?

A: In the hen-cyclopedia!

Q: Why do chickens lay eggs?

A: If they dropped them, they would break!

Research Update

Earlier this year, the Poultry Research Centre (PRC) launched an "Adopt a Heritage Chicken" program in an effort to preserve five heritage chicken breeds. The University of Alberta's PRC is selling eggs from the five breeds to the general public. For a fee of \$75, consumers can adopt a heritage chicken and, in turn, receive a dozen eggs every other week from the PRC.

The rare breeds and random bred strains currently housed at the PRC were obtained from Agriculture Canada Research Station in Ontario and Dr. Crawford's experimental flocks at the University of Saskatchewan. These breeds include the Light Sussex, Barred Plymouth Rock, White leghorns, New Hampshire, Brown leghorn and three random bred lines (1957 random bred, 1977 male line, and 1977 female line).

It's important to preserve the genetic material of the heritage breeds, as they are the basis for today's commercial poultry. Poultry experts have expressed concern that these antique birds should be conserved in case they are required in the future. For example, the heritage breeds are more likely to have genes for a stronger innate immune response, so if an emerging disease came along that wiped out a commercial line, we would have the genes conserved that could be used to re-generate new commercial lines. The program is helping the PRC maintain the birds by making them more economically self-sufficient. It costs the centre \$75,000 each year to care for the 1,500 birds.

EFA is supporting the PRC's "Adopt a Heritage Chicken" program by continuing to offer the PRC a research exemption for these flocks. The PRC is being audited under the Start Clean – Stay Clean (SC-SC) program and is undergoing regular Salmonella testing.

The program has seen great success, having quickly sold out and operating a lengthy waiting list. A variety of positive news stories have appeared in the Edmonton Journal and on CBC News.

Smart Phones Help Beat Bird Stress!

There is now a smart phone app to help farmers figure out how heat-stressed their animals are. The Heat Stress in Livestock and Poultry App helps calculate the level of heat stress and recommends actions to reduce it. This app was developed by the University of Guelph and the Ontario Government. It can be downloaded for free from Google Play or Blackberry Marketplace. For more information check out: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/heat-app.htm





GROWING FORWARD 2: BIOSECURITY

Growing Forward 2 recently launched the Biosecurity Producer program, which is now open and accepting applications. This program helps producers assess improve their and on farm biosecurity practices. Funding for biosecurity is available from a minimum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$30,000 per year, on a 50/50 cost sharing basis. Under this program, many different types of projects to improve biosecurity qualify for funding:

- Purchase of equipment that enhances biosecurity
- Computer equipment and software to improve biosecurity monitoring
- Costs for labour to implement biosecurity projects

There is limited funding available and completed applications will be considered for approval on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to new applicants.

When you apply, a risk assessment will be required. At this time, Alberta egg farmers must submit a copy of their most recent SC-SC evaluation, as their risk assessment.

GF2 Website: www.growingforward.alberta.ca

Phone: 310-FARM

Fatty Liver Hemorrhagic Syndrome

- by Poultry Health Services veterinary team, with the honour of assistance from Dr. Maurice Smith from Ontario, who shared his knowledge and experience about this topic

Fatty Liver Hemorrhagic Syndrome (FLHS) is almost universally confined to caged hens fed high energy diets and is most often seen in summer months. However, the summer in Alberta has been anything but hot this year. Producers must be wondering if they will have increased mortality in their flocks, even when everything else has been going so well.

The answer lies in what causes FLHS in the first place! How much energy is the bird consuming compared to how much energy the hen requires for egg production and body maintenance? Positive energy balance means there is excessive calories available to the bird and this excess energy will be stored as fat which, over time accumulates in the liver.

Since birds eat to meet their energy requirements and this requirement is higher in cooler weather, this can be the reason that birds doing well now are exceeding their energy needs in some flocks. Checking the average weight and variability of pullets at the beginning of lay and on a regular basis will give a good indication of the risk and/or degree of FLHS in your flock. Checking and comparing weights is important because it helps you to see the 'big picture' for your flock. It could be counter-productive to undertake extreme measures to deal with 5% of the hens being overweight, at the expense of the 95% of the flock that is normal!

Feeding experiments have shown that FLHS is caused by a surplus of energy, rather than an excess or shortage of any particular nutrient or feed ingredient. Monitoring and management of bird weight is key to prevention of FLHS. When FLHS is present in a flock, which can be identified by bird weights and mortality, consult your nutritionist to discuss possible remedial action, through the use of lower energy diets and/or changes in how birds are fed.







ALBERTA EGG MARKET UPDATE

The Nielson preliminary retail sales data is available up to June 29th, 2013 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.6 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 4.6% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending June 1st) and a 4.9% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2012.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 2.4% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 33.7 million dozen eggs! Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 17.6% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 1.9 million dozen eggs (5.6% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

EFA ONLINE!

Remember to tell everyone you meet about the EFA website, where you can find lots of eggcellent information about being an egg farmer, how an egg a day can be part of an active, nutritious lifestyle and a wide variety of delicious recipes! *Get Cracking* to eggs.ab.ca



Marketing Update

Government Relations (GR) Update

EFA has been very busy this summer, with staff, Directors and members of the *Supply Management Champions* producer team all actively involved with GR activities, both for EFA and as part of the Alberta SM5:

July 6: Prime Minister's Stampede BBQ – the AB SM5 group sponsored producers to attend the event, in order to network with MPs and MLAs, to build relationships and promote the benefits of Canada's unique system of supply management

July 7: Premier's Stampede Breakfast – the AB SM5 group provided the food for the event (eggs, chicken/turkey sausages and milk) and producers networked with Alberta MLAs to build relationships and promote supply management

July 16: Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development Breakfast – the AB SM5 group hosted a breakfast for ARD staff, with producers cooking breakfast as a 'thank you' for all the work and support ARD provides our industry

July 18: Premier's Klondike Days Breakfast – the AB SM5 group provided the food for the event (eggs, chicken/turkey sausages and milk) and producers networked with Alberta MLAs to build relationships and promote supply management

MLA Breakfasts (Steve Young – July 20, Dave Hancock – July 25) – the AB SM5 group sponsored the event and producers networked with Alberta MLAs to build relationships and promote supply management

Upcoming Events

Come visit the EFA booth at these *EGG*cellent events:

- Canfit Pro
 - Calgary (University of Calgary), October 17-19th
- Edmonton Women's Show Edmonton (Northlands, Expo Centre, Hall A), October 19th & 20th

EFA 2013 Highlights

- Total # of events attended: 24
- Total # of events sponsored: 85
- Total # of school/health presentations: 60
- Total # of resources distributed: 90,650
- Total # of promotional items distributed: 49,202





GROWING FORWARD 2: SUCCESSION PLANNING

Growing Forward 2 has added a new activity under the Business Opportunity Program (BOP), to provide assistance to producers interested in advice or help with their succession planning. Funding for succession planning is available from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$30,000 per activity, on a 50/50 cost sharing basis.

BOP activities include:

- Early stage business assessments
- Feasibility studies for new opportunities
- Business expansion plans
- Marketing plans
- Market research
- Business plans
- Pricing models
- Value chain development
- Expansion plans
- Business structure development
- Business management coaching or mentoring sessions
- Succession plans

Succession planning is the creation of a written plan and process that explains how an existing business will implement a transition from its current owners/managers to a future owner/manager.

GF2 Website: www.growingforward.alberta.ca

Phone: 310-FARM

Feature Recipe: BLUEBERRY CLAFOUTI



This French dessert, made by baking fruit in a pancake-style batter, traditionally features cherries, but almost any fruit can be used. Enjoy it warm or at room temperature, with a sprinkling of icing sugar.

Makes: 6 servings • Preparation: 20 minutes • Cooking: 35 minutes

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups (500 mL) blueberries
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) melted butter, cooled
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 mL) salt
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla
- Icing sugar

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Spray bottom and side of 9 or 10 inch (23 or 25 cm) deep dish pie plate, quiche pan or cake pan, with cooking spray.
- 2) Spread blueberries in pan. Set aside.
- 3) Combine eggs, sugar and butter in medium bowl; whisk until blended.
- 4) Add flour and salt; whisk until blended and smooth.
- 5) Add milk and vanilla; whisk until smooth. Batter will be thin.
- 6) Pour batter over blueberries.
- 7) Bake in preheated oven at 375°F (190°C), until set and golden brown (approximately 35 minutes).
- 8) Remove from oven and let cool for 20 minutes. The clafouti will deflate a little as it cools.
- 9) Sprinkle with icing sugar and cut into wedges to serve.





Pledge Form

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

Donor Information (please print)

Name				
Billing address				
City, Province, PC				
Phone 1 Phone 2				
Fax Email				
Pledge Information				
I (we) pledge a total of \$ to be paid	d			
I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of: \Box cash \Box check \Box credit card \Box other.				
Credit card type Exp. date				
Credit card number				
CVV #				
Authorized signature				
Acknowledgement Information				
Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:				
\Box I (we) wish to have our gift remain anonymous.				
Signature(s)	Date			
Please make checks payable to:	Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation			