

# EggNotes



## Board of Directors

**Chair:** Peter Waldner 403-795-8621  
**Vice Chair:** Conrad Vanessen 403-635-7998  
**EFC Director:** Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297  
**EFC Alternate:** Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501  
**Director:** Elie Hofer 780-691-8512  
**Director:** John Hofer 403-363-0393  
**Director in Training:** Vacant

**EFA Vision Statement**  
 Healthy Food, Healthy Farms,  
 Healthy Families



**EFA Mission Statement**  
 Cultivating a sustainable egg industry  
 together with farmers, consumers & other  
 stakeholders

## EFA Staff

**Stephen Scott**

- General Manager, 587-391-6124 / ext.124

**David Webb**

- Marketing & Comm. Manager, 587-391-6126 / ext.126

**Tate O'Dwyer**

- Marketing & Comm. Coordinator, 587-391-6122/ ext.122

**Jenna Griffin**

- Manager Programs & Research, 587-391-6129 / ext.129

**Carley Frerichs**

- Farm Programs Coordinator, 587-391-6125 / ext.125

**Laurel Martin**

- Office Manager, 403-250-1197 / ext.105

**Andrea Bieganek**

- Admin Support Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.101

**Brandy Addai**

- Emergency Preparedness & Response Coordinator,  
587-391-6128 / ext.128

**Reshma Kurian**

- Financial Coordinator, 587-391-6121 / ext.121

**Erin Johnston**

- Farm Services Administrator, 587-391-6127 / ext.127

**Kari Buijs**

- Business Manager, 587-391-6123 / ext.123

**Dave Lastiwka**

- Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

**Murray Minchin**

- Fields Services Coordinator, 403-830-3447

## EFA Office Hours

Monday to Friday - 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

## Egg Price Update Effective November 5, 2023

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	3.030	↑
A	Large	3.030	↑
A	Medium	2.730	↑
A	Small	2.370	↑
A	Nest Run	2.853	↑
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 portal.

EggNotes is the official monthly newsletter of Egg Farmers of Alberta. Submissions should be sent to:  
[tate.odwyer@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:tate.odwyer@eggs.ab.ca)

**Next Issue: January 19, 2024**

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



#101, 90 Freeport Blvd NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 5J9  
 P: 403-250-1197 | Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 | F: 403-291-9216  
**After Hours Response Line: 368-996-3447**  
 Website: [eggs.ab.ca](http://eggs.ab.ca) | Producer Portal: [portal.eggs.ab.ca](http://portal.eggs.ab.ca)  
 Email: [info@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca) | Office hours: M-F: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

# Board Update



Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to thank our fellow farmers and the EFA staff for another amazing year. Despite the return of Avian Influenza (AI) to the province, our passion and shared dedication to building a sustainable egg industry shone through. On behalf of the entire Board, please enjoy a happy holiday season, and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2024!

## Levy Changes

There are 2 levy changes planned for next year, effective December 31, 2023 (week 01/24) and February 25, 2024 (week 09/24). The two changes to the service charge are a result of changes being made to the Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) levy:

- December 31, 2023
  - \$15.146 per hen/per year for registered producers
  - \$0.5707/dozen for unregistered producers
- February 25, 2024
  - \$14.881 per hen/per year for registered producers, and
  - \$0.5607/dozen for unregistered producers

## CEIRA Insurance

As the result of a large increase in Avian Influenza (AI) claims made through CEIRA in 2023; CEIRA is reporting that premiums will be adjusted in 2024 to account for the increase in claims. It is important to note that increases in CEIRA premiums are recoverable through your COP and CEIRA AI insurance has served to help producers rebound from AI infections.

## UPCOMING KEY DATES

**December 25-26** | Office closed for Christmas and Boxing Day

**January 1** | Office closed for New Years Day

**January 4** | QE1 2024 Sales Deadline

**January 11** | QE1 2024 Red/Green Date

**January 12** | Confirm birds to the pool

**January 16** | Calgary Regional Meeting (with Zoom option)

**January 17** | Lethbridge Regional Meeting

**January 18** | Edmonton Regional Meeting



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# Healthy Farms

## *Planning Your Ideal Pullet Facility*

Are you planning on building a new pullet barn?

Egg Farmers of Alberta has developed this handy guide on things you may want to consider when building your new pullet facility. To review the document visit the Learning and Education page on the producer portal.

## *Farm Security Reminder*

With the holidays upon us, as a time to enjoy the company of family and friends, and reflect on the past year, EFA wants to thank all Alberta egg farmers for their continued commitment to farm security. Whether the risk is Avian Influenza or animal activism, it is vitally important to have a comprehensive security and response plan in place to safeguard the health and well-being of your farm, family, employees, animals, and livelihood.

As a reminder, there are a variety of resources available on the Farm Security page in the Emergency Preparedness section on the producer portal. EFA's Farm Security Toolkit provides details and tips to help you develop a security plan for your farm, as well as a response plan to help you know what to do if your farm is ever targeted by activists or is the victim of an illegal trespass. Committing to effective farm security is vital to maintaining the health of your farm, including your own mental health.

## *AI Update*

As of the time of publication, there are 6 active Primary Control Zones (PCZs) in the province, with 18 total cases as of December 14th, 2023.

Since this October, BC has experienced dozens of cases of AI on commercial poultry operations. This continues to strain resources in Western Canada and demonstrate the continued presence of the HPAI virus. Our thoughts are with our friends and colleagues in BC as they deal with the stress and challenges associated with this outbreak. We will continue to support them wherever possible.



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## ***Buying or selling a confined feeding operation? Here's what you need to know - article courtesy of the NRCB (Natural Resources Conservation Board)***

If you are planning to buy or sell a confined feeding operation (CFO) you should consider contacting the NRCB early in your process. Here's what you need to know about your rights and obligations under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA).

### **For the buyer**

Under AOPA, anyone who buys or otherwise acquires a CFO permit must inform the NRCB of the change in ownership. You can contact your nearest NRCB field office to advise them of the change. Doing so does not confirm the status of the permit, though the NRCB might be able to answer questions.

### **For the seller**

If you are selling your CFO you may want to consider verifying with the NRCB whether your operation's permit is still valid.

### *Older operations*

- For example, if your operation existed, or was permitted by the municipality, before AOPA came into effect on January 1, 2002, you may need to request a grandfathering determination from the NRCB to confirm the status of your CFO. This process can take several months. Read more about the benefits of a formal grandfathering determination and how to request one from the NRCB at <https://www.nrcb.ca/news/post/request-a-formal-grandfathering-determination-for-your-pre-2002-cfo>.

### *Operations not in use*

- If your operation has not been used for some time, the NRCB may have to determine whether the operation's permit is still valid or if the operation is considered abandoned. See the NRCB's [Operational Policy 2016-3: Permit Cancellations under AOPA Section 29](https://www.nrcb.ca/public/download/files/97575) (<https://www.nrcb.ca/public/download/files/97575>) for more information.

For more information, call your local NRCB field office or send us an email:

Peace/North Central regions (Morinville) 780-939-1212  
Central region (Red Deer/Airdrie) 403-340-5241  
Southern region (Lethbridge) 403-381-5166  
(Dial 310-0000 to be connected toll free)  
[info@nrcb.ca](mailto:info@nrcb.ca)



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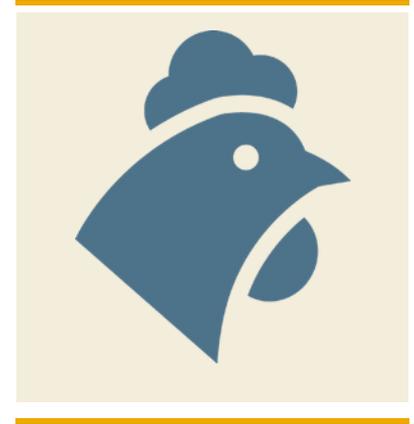
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# Healthy Birds



## *Fiber Presentation – Follow-up Questions Answered*

On October 13th, Egg Farmers of Alberta held a Dietary Fibre in Laying Hens: A Review of the Effects Webinar. Speaker, Dr. Rene Kwakkel, presented his research to the Alberta egg industry and answered numerous questions on dietary fiber and nutrition. During the session there were some questions that warranted further follow-up. Below are a list of questions and Dr. Kwakkel's answers.

1. What is the best amount of oats in a diet?
  - *Around 2 to 3 percent, both in rearing and in laying*
  - *Be aware that no segregation takes place, while feeding a coarse mash*
  - *If a pellet is being fed, pellet quality may go down due to a larger percentage of broken pellets and fines*
  - *Include fibre of oats in a diet considering potential other fibre sources from other ingredients*
2. Process for wet feed analysis
  - *The process and used equipment can be provided by contacting Carley Frerichs at Egg Farmers of Alberta (carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x 125) for a wet sieve protocol*
  - *Due to the soaking process of feed (pellets, mash) in the crop prior to transit down the tract to the proventriculus and gizzard, a wet sieve analysis is a more reliable method to determine particle sizes on gut level than a dry sieve method*
3. What is the highest percent of fiber in a laying hen diet that has had good success?
  - *Around 4 to 6 % functional fibre (insoluble); it's the crude fibre fraction;*
  - *However, another part of this fraction are the soluble fibres, mainly originating from cereals, having an effect on slowing down passage of digesta*
4. What is your opinion in including barley as a fiber content?
  - *Barley contains beta-glucans (soluble fibre fraction); no issue in using it if proper enzymes (xylanases; beta-glucanases) are added to the diet (up to 5% of barley can be included easily)*



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Dr. Kwakkel also wanted to share this tidbit of knowledge: Milling your ingredients is more important than fibre as such; birds can handle fibre well, but if particle size distribution is resulting in very large particles and a lot of fines, selection will occur and such an imbalanced intake of only large particles (mainly cereal components) will result in a decrease in performance (lack of protein components). A better particle size distribution is reached while using a roller mill instead of a hammer mill.

If you have additional questions on fibre, please feel free to contact Dr. Rene Kwakkel at [rene.kwakkel@wur.nl](mailto:rene.kwakkel@wur.nl).



### ***Egg Joke!***

What did Snow White name her hen?

*Egg White!*



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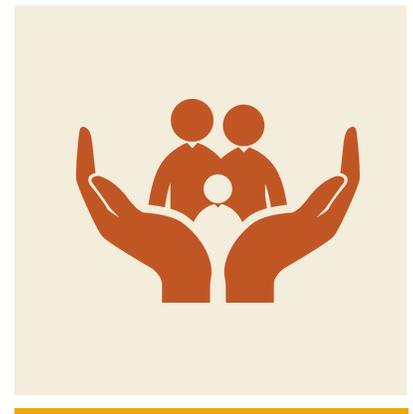


# Healthy Communities

## *EFA volunteers with Breakfast Club of Canada*

As part of EFA's social responsibility, under our Healthy Communities pillar, it is important for us to give back to the community. We have a long standing relationship with Breakfast Club of Canada (BCC) and helped serve breakfast at St. John XXIII catholic school in Calgary on Friday, December 1st. EFA staff members included David Webb, Tate O'Dwyer, and Brandy Addai who took on the role of cooking scrambled eggs and making toast for over 30 children.

Across Canada, BCC supports almost 3,200 school nutrition programs. To learn more about BCC, visit <https://www.breakfastclubcanada.org/>.



## Survey on consumer perceptions of food

Back in March, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) published the survey results of consumer perceptions of the Canadian food system, food purchasing habits and drivers, trust in Canada's food and agriculture industry and food attributes consumers are seeking.

Among the key findings were:

- The vast majority (88%) of Canadian consumers say Canada's food and agriculture industry is moderately to very trustworthy
- The majority (70%) of consumers say they have changed their food purchasing habits in the last year because of increasing food prices.
- The majority (59%) of Canadian consumers define local as food produced within their region of the province (42%) to within their city or town (17%).

For the full results, visit <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/consumer-trends-and-behaviours/survey-consumer-perceptions-food-wave-vi>.



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## Marketing Highlights

Here's a snapshot of some recent highlights in the marketing world!



### *Cook with Meg on CTV Calgary*

Meg Tucker (Cook with Meg) appeared on CTV Calgary Morning Live on Friday, December 8th, talking about her delicious eggnog pie recipe for the holidays. You can watch the clip here: <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/video/c2824260-cook-with-meg--sweet-treats?binId=1.1201941>.

Afterwards, she announced an Instagram contest for followers to comment what their favorite egg dish is, with a chance at winning free eggs for 6 months! We have seen great engagement with this.



*Thank you to all Egg Ambassadors and external partners for a successful 2023 year of promoting Alberta egg farmers and fresh, nutritious eggs! We look forward to 2024!*

2024  
H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



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