

EggNotes

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Fields Services Coordinator

▶ 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
August 2 - Civic Holiday, Office Closed

Egg Price Update Effective July 18, 2021

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.610	↑
A	Large	2.610	↑
A	Medium	2.320	↑
A	Small	1.990	↑
A	Nest Run	2.455	↑
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: August 13, 2021

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



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Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- The Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to remind producers about the upcoming regional meetings, which were rescheduled from their normal timing in June, with the intention of being able to host in-person meetings. EFA will be providing updates about farm gate pick-up, the Quota Exchange, the industry's on-farm programs, the redevelopment of our sustainability strategy, and the Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) funding for farmers. Producers will also be engaged in consultation about EFA's ongoing bylaw review and EFA's policy about access to Board records.

- Monday, August 9: Calgary & virtual
- Tuesday, August 10: Lethbridge #1
- Wednesday, August 11: Lethbridge #2
- Thursday, August 12: Grande Prairie
- Friday, August 13: Edmonton

EFA has sent a package to all producers with registration information and additional details. As a reminder, the deadline to register is July 23, 2021.

If you would like to register, or if you have any questions about the upcoming regional meetings, please contact Brandy (ext. 101) at the EFA office.

➤ Quota Exchange Update

Effective immediately the application fee will only be processed in the event the Quota Exchange is successful. A copy of the updated policy is on the producer website.

If you have any questions regarding the changes, please contact Erin Johnston at ext. 127.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18, Quota Leasing Pool Application Due
July 19, Euthanasia Workshop - Edmonton Area
July 26, Euthanasia Workshop - Calgary Area
July 14, EFA Board Meeting - EFA Office
July 28, PMC Meeting
August 2, Civic Holiday - Office Closed
August 9, Calgary Regional Meeting
August 10, Lethbridge Regional Meeting 1
August 11, Lethbridge Regional Meeting 2
August 12, Grande Prairie Regional Meeting
August 13, Edmonton Regional Meeting



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Healthy Birds



► Engagement Webinar: Outcomes Based Animal Care

On June 10th EFA hosted a webinar on Outcomes Based Animal Care. Thanks to all who participated and provided their thoughts and comments on how best to prepare for the future. EFA would also like to thank Dr. Tina Widowski (University of Guelph, NFACC Code Committee) who attended to present and participate.

Missed it? A 'What was Heard' report has been developed and is available on the producer website at: <https://albertaeggproducers.ca/farm-programs/animal-care-program/>

The report also includes information from the Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply (CSES) Study on Facility Hygiene as requested during the webinar.

Look for a video recording of the webinar coming soon!

► Euthanasia Workshop

As a reminder for Alberta producers, EFA is hosting an upcoming series of individual bird euthanasia workshops, as part of our ongoing commitment to provide opportunities for Alberta's egg farmers to learn from poultry experts and enhance their animal husbandry skills. EFA is pleased that nearly 100 producers have registered for the workshops that will be delivered by Dr. Frank Marshall, Dr. Teryn Girard, and Dr. Hollyn Maloney, which will help fulfill the euthanasia requirement for the redeveloped Animal Care Program.

EFA's euthanasia workshops are yet another way Alberta egg farmers are demonstrating their dedication to providing the highest quality care and compassion for their hens, from day-old chicks through end of lay:

- July 14 – Lethbridge, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- July 19 – Edmonton, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- July 26 – Calgary, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

If you are interested in attending a workshop but did not register by the June 18th deadline, you can contact Carley at the EFA office to check if there is still room. These workshops will also be used to create an e-learning module, which will eventually be available on EFA's producer website.



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MGT

PRODUCING MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS IN CENTRAL ALBERTA



We are so happy to announce our aggregate facility was opened in April 2021.

We are manufacturing 3 products from the new facility:
Zero Grind Limestone / 1 Grind Limestone / 210 Poultry Grit

We are excited to offer our high-purity limestone in our poultry grit.
Our limestone is comprised of calcium carbonate.

Please contact our sales team for more information @ 403-846-1573
Amber Slevin (Southern AB) / Kim Tomlinson (Northern AB)



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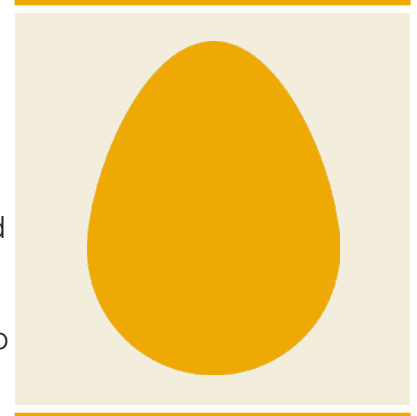
Healthy Eggs

► Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to May 22nd, 2021, which is period of May 13th for 2021. The stats indicate that in the latest 4-week period 3.2 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 5.7% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending April 24th), and a 10.3% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2020.

The reason for the significant decline was that this period was during the first COVID-19 pandemic lockdown last year, when the market experienced extreme panic-buying of eggs.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are down 0.4% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 43.1 million dozen eggs. Regular white & brown eggs are the only type of egg to have experienced positive year-over-year growth, a 0.01% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 36.7 million dozen eggs (85.1% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).



Healthy Farms

► Recycling Council of Alberta Composting Webinar

The Recycling Council of Alberta has launched a project that aims to engage farmers in composting. The RCA is creating a guide that will be released shortly as an introduction to composting for farmers, ranchers and landowners who may be interested in learning more about the opportunities they have to play a direct role in building processing capacity for organics generated by municipalities and businesses. Composting allows organic matter and nutrients to be efficiently recycled, and available to benefit agricultural soils that produce food for communities and support local economies. This project aims to connect urban and rural communities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions created by organic waste.

The RCA will host a webinar on Wednesday, July 14 at 10 am to share more on the benefits of compost, info about the guide and how farmers can establish on-farm composting operations. Register for this free webinar today! Visit <https://recycle.ab.ca/workshop/on-farm-composting-webinar/>.

Save the date for the RCA's follow-up composting webinar on July 27 at 10 am. The second webinar will feature profiles on Alberta composting operators with the chance to ask questions about setting up a compost operation.



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► Farm Programs - Midyear Update

It's hard to believe we are halfway through 2021! These mid-year statistics once again demonstrate Alberta egg farmers' commitment to egg-cellence.

Animal Care

- The current average score is 98.52%.
- The most common Corrective Action Request (CAR) is related to catching crews. As a reminder, catching crew supervisors need to be provided with copies of the guidelines, and each crew member must read and acknowledge they will follow guidelines. The supervisor must write down each members name, and sign off on behalf of the crew.
- As a reminder, as of August 1, 2021, each daily spot in the mortality record must have a number written down, even if the number is 0. In the event that there is no mortality one day, you need to put a '0' in the mortality record spot for that day. It is not acceptable to leave the space blank as there is no way for an auditor to distinguish between a missed mortality check and no mortality that day.
- Consultation surveys have been sent to EFC's proposals:
 - Mortality Element.
 - Proposed Interim Free Run/Free Range Certification Program.

Start Clean – Stay Clean®

- The current average score for layers is 98.83%. For pullets it is 99.85%.
- The most common Corrective Action Requests relate to retaining samples of complete feed mixed on farm for a minimum of 4 weeks and having a record of your annual water test for fecal and total coliforms.
- In March, the EFC Board of Directors approved a recommendation to merge Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Start Clean – Stay Clean® program. There will be one SC-SC™ audit conducted on an annual basis. A minimum score of 90% will be required to pass, and you must pass all CCEs within the program. The SC-SC™ audit will include all requirements currently assessed in Parts 1, 2, and 3. If the farm is in conformance with the annual SC-SC™ program audit, they will be issued an Audited Standards Certificate valid for 1 year. This will be effective January 1, 2022.

Farm Safety

- The current average score is 83% (an increase of over 15% from 2020!)
- An additional 6 producers have obtained their farm safety certificate.
- EFA Field Coordinators are distributing Rescue and Evacuation templates to support producers in including this as an element of their Emergency Response Plan.

PEEP

- The current average score is 85.5%.

Biosecurity

- 86% of producers have signs in their facility indicating their transition zone. Thank you to the field coordinators for handing out posters to help improve this percentage!

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- Producers are recognizing the risk associated with sharing equipment between barns and off property, and there has been a decrease in producers still conducting this practice (only 6% of producers still share equipment between barns and 10% share equipment off their property).
- 24% of production units have invested in installing Danish entries to enhance their biosecurity measures.

➤ **Safety Minute (provided by AgSafe Alberta)**

This month we will focus on “M” for machinery/motor vehicles and moving parts.

If you are operating any machinery or motor vehicles on your farm keep these thoughts in mind.

- Keep any unnecessary individuals away from work areas, and if someone must approach a piece of equipment, ensure they know how to do so safely.
- Before using a piece of equipment, ensure that you fully understand how to operate the equipment, it's capabilities and what the hazards are. If you are training someone else to use the equipment verify that they know this information as well.
- If that piece of equipment has been sitting for a long time, perform a quick visual check and key function tests on it to ensure that it is ready for use.
- One seat in a piece of equipment means one person only. Extra riders can be distracting and can be thrown out and run over if the equipment hits a bump.

Moving parts

If your farm has conveyors, PTO's, and other fast-moving parts keep the following in mind

- DO know the location of the emergency “shut-off” devices and how to use them.
- DO make sure all safeguards are in place.
- DO make sure you know how to work near the machinery safely (and train others to work safely as well) that piece of equipment has been sitting for a long time, perform a quick visual check and key function tests on it to ensure that it is ready for use.
- DO walk cautiously around equipment and keep the area free of debris or water, you don't want to slip and fall into the moving parts.
- DO NOT climb, step on, sit on or ride on these moving parts.
- DO NOT remove guards or safety devices.
- DO NOT wear loose-fitting clothing that can be caught on these parts.
- DO NOT service these parts without locking them out, this will prevent someone else from turning it on while you work on it.

Sometimes these things seem obvious and we can often take it for granted as we work around equipment. Remember there is no such thing as “common sense” it is Common Knowledge we strive for, so communicate this information to everyone at your farm. You can use the information in these safety minutes to hold a toolbox talk with your farm team to help share that knowledge.



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➤ **Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Programs Reopen**

In June the Government of Alberta relaunched the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) with revised programming. The program changes will be in effect for the remainder of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which expires on March 31, 2023. The following programs are now open:

1. Farm Technology Program:

- The Farm Technology Program supports producers in protecting their business by encouraging the adoption of best management practices in farm technology and security.
- This two-year pilot phase (2021 to 2023) of the Farm Technology Program is focused on sensors that contribute to farm data systems, and technology-based security devices, and supports producers in protecting their businesses through the adoption of best management practices in farm security.
- Eligible expenses will be costs shared at 50% grant and 50% applicant.
- Examples of eligible expenses are electronic sensors, data collection and storage units, livestock ID readers, GPS equipment trackers, and remote monitors.

2. On-Farm Value-Added Program **(closes July 12, 2021)**

- A new pilot program within CAP exclusively for primary producers who are adding value past primary production.

3. Market Assurance Program

- The Market Assurance Program focuses on addressing the market assurance gaps for plant health, apiculture health, livestock health, biosecurity, traceability, surveillance and livestock welfare. The program supports value chains with access to technical, compliance and market expertise, and technologies needed to implement assurance requirements and processes that provide confidence in the health, biosecurity, traceability, surveillance and welfare related attributes of Alberta's livestock, crop and bee products.
- Primary producers are eligible to apply under this program.
- Eligible capital expenses will be cost-shared at 25% grant and 75% applicant.
- Eligible non-capital expenses will be cost-shared at 50% grant and 50% applicant.
- The maximum grant an applicant can receive is \$250,000 per project.
- The following activities may be included in an application under this program:
 - o Purchase of, or modifications to, operational systems, technologies, processes and controls needed to comply with the market requirements related to providing assurance for plant, livestock and bee health, biosecurity, traceability or livestock welfare;
 - o Access to expertise for the development of crop, livestock and bee health, biosecurity, traceability or livestock welfare assurance protocols needed to maintain market access, or gain access to a new or emerging market;

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For more information about CAP please contact:

Phone: 310-FARM (3276) | Email: cap.farmtech@gov.ab.ca | Web: www.cap.alberta.ca

► **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Agricultural Clean Technology Program (ACT)**

The new Agricultural Clean Technology (ACT) Program aims to create an enabling environment for the development and adoption of clean technology that will help drive the changes required to achieve a low-carbon economy and promote sustainable growth in Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector.

The ACT Program offers support under 2 streams:

- Adoption Stream
- Research and Innovation Stream

The Adoption Stream will provide non-repayable contributions to support the adoption of clean technology by Canadian farmers and processors, to meaningfully reduce GHG emissions. The program will prioritize investments that show promise to generate measurable GHG emissions reductions in line with the Government of Canada targets. These on-farm and agri-food sector investments may include proven technologies, including proven technology upgrades that reduce GHG emissions. The program will further prioritize:

1. Energy efficiency improvements that enable better management of energy intensive agricultural processes, including the purchase and installation of:
 - a. energy-efficient, low-emissions equipment (for example, commercial grain dryers) where an efficiency gain can be demonstrated.
 - b. technologies to power farms with clean energy (for example, fuel switching, such as conversion from diesel).
 - c. energy-efficient watering systems for livestock and irrigation systems.
 - d. energy-efficient heating systems for functional on-farm structures like barns.
 - e. heat pumps and frequency converters.
 - f. solar panels and solar-powered technology, including for ventilation, farm equipment, sensors, etc.
2. Precision agriculture that contributes to more precise, and therefore reduced input use, including the purchase and installation of:
 - a. nutrient management technologies that optimize fertilizer application (that is, rate and placement) and other inputs including variable rate application technologies and GPS auto-steer guidance systems.
 - b. technologies and systems to collect and analyze data that enable reduced input use, including soil sensors, yield monitors, remote imagery and related geographic information systems technologies.
 - c. technologies that enable feed grain processing for improved digestibility and reduced enteric fermentation, such as steam flaking.

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3. Bioeconomy solutions that use agricultural waste and by-products to generate energy or create bio-products, including:

a. purchase and installation of technologies and equipment to support improved manure management and processing waste into bioenergy products and other useful outputs, including:

- i. Anaerobic digesters for processing agricultural waste into bioenergy.
- ii. Bio-product boiler systems for heating greenhouses and nurseries.
- iii. Implementing solutions that use agri-based products, such as bioplastics.

The Adoption Stream will focus its support on projects valued at \$50,000 or more of total eligible project costs. The maximum amount payable to a recipient will generally not exceed \$2 million per project.

The cost sharing is 50/50 with for-profit entities.

The program may provide a more favourable cost-share ratio (60:40) where the majority of the business (more than 50%) is owned or led by one or more under-represented groups. Under-represented groups include:

- Women
- Youth, aged 35 or under
- Indigenous groups
- Visible minorities

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until funding has been fully committed or otherwise announced by the program. For more information about eligibility and to apply visit <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agricultural-clean-technology-program-adoption-stream>

or contact the program at:

Email: aafc.act-a-tpa-a.aac@agr.gc.ca

Telephone: 1-877-246-4682

► **NRCB Factsheet on Permitting Process for Confined Feeding Operations**

The Natural Resources Conservation Board has released a new factsheet on the permitting process for confined feeding operations. Egg Farmers of Alberta has made this resource available on the producer website under Manure (Healthy Farms).



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Healthy Communities

► Quarter Two Research Report Update

The quarter two research report is available on the producer website and highlights a couple newly funded research projects one from the Egg Farmers of Alberta 2020 Call for Proposals and the other is in conjunction with the Results Driven Agriculture Research. The two new studies, “Developing a novel tool for Salmonella detection and rapid risk assessment in Western Canadian poultry and Investigation into constituents of poultry barn bioaerosols with a focus on antimicrobial resistance, bird’s respiratory health and vaccine induced immune response” align with egg farmers research priorities and we are so excited to learn more about these topics!

Did you know that there are over 10,300 backyard flocks (average flock size of 1-50 birds) in Alberta that are primarily owned by middle-aged, well-educated, females from acreages that are mostly new to poultry keeping? Learn more about the findings of this research and other new information by visiting the producer website at Research (Information Center).

► 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.

► Summer Fun and Snacks Campaign for July

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 July, we will be focusing on summer fun and snacks that are ideal for fueling up while on the go. The goal of this month’s campaign is to share egg recipes that are quick and easy to make or prepare ahead of time. Follow us on social to check out summer snack recipes.



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