

EggNotes

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Marketing & Social Media Coordinator: Angie Lang
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Industry Development Officer: Jenna Griffin
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Office Manager: Laurel Martin
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Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
ext: 101
Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
ext: 127
Business Manager: Kari Buijs
ext: 132
Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastwka
ext: 128
Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin
Application Support Specialist: Kelly Pow
ext: 105

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

Our office will be closed Monday, November 13
2017 for Remembrance Day

Egg Price Update

Effective January 29, 2017

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen
A	Extra Large	2.130
A	Large	2.130
A	Medium	1.900
A	Small	1.530
A	Nest Run	2.006
A	Pee Wee	0.270
B		0.750
C		0.150

Note: 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.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of
Egg Farmers of Alberta.

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

Next Issue: November 24, 2017

*Note: EggNotes is now a monthly newsletter, which can be
accessed on the EFA website (both full issue PDF and blog
posts) or EFA's producer website*



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

EFA Board Update

September was an extremely busy month for both the EFA Board and staff. EFA took members of Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council on a tour of an egg farm and the province's only egg breaking plant, to introduce them to the egg industry. This engagement was a huge success, as a large portion of the council were recently appointed by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Thanks to our gracious hosts at both EPIC and New York Colony!

The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity's annual public trust summit was held in Calgary this year, which was attended by a large delegation from EFA. A diverse group of presenters spoke on a wide range of topics related to trust and transparency. A consumer panel of six millennials were asked about their views and opinions about food, trusted sources of information, and their purchasing habits and preferences. Farmers are considered trustworthy and credible, but still have a lot of work to do in order to inform, educate, and dispel myths about eggs and egg farming.

EFA also hosted its second stakeholder engagement session, titled Hatching Ideas on Animal Welfare. Representatives for various stakeholder groups attended the event that was hosted at Fairview Colony, including food service chains, retailers, producers, animal welfare researchers, supply chain partners, as well as the EFA Board and staff members. There was good discussion about animal welfare issues in egg production. We discovered a lot of disconnected links between farmers and food service groups, who need to be more informed about how food is produced, since they have the direct connection to the end consumers.

The month concluded with the first meeting of EFA's newest committee, the Egg Industry Advisory Committee (EIAC), which was followed by EFA's annual strategic planning session. The Board would like to thank all those who attended both meetings and contributed to lively and valuable discussion on a broad range of pertinent industry issues.





Quota Exchange Update

At the EFA Board Meeting on September 25, 2017, the Quota Exchange Policy survey results were reviewed, to determine whether any additional points need to be considered as part of the policy development. Some changes have been made, as a result of this consultation and consideration of new information. A summary of the feedback, the Board's response to the feedback, and the revised draft policy are all available on the producer website, in the 'All About Quota' section.

The Board would like to thank producers who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. If there are any further questions or concerns regarding the new policy, please contact one of the EFA Directors.

10-year Rule Extension Policy Update

At the EFA Board Meeting on September 25, 2017, the 10-Year Rule Extension Policy survey results were reviewed, to determine whether any additional points need to be considered before finalizing the policy. The Board has now finalized the policy, which is moving into the implementation phase. A summary of the feedback, the Board's response to the feedback, and the revised policy are all available on the producer website, in the 'Policy' section.

The Board would like to thank producers who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. If there are any further questions or concerns regarding the new policy, please contact one of the EFA Directors.

Security Reminder



There have been recent reports of trespassing on poultry farms in Western Canada. We would like to remind all our farmers to be vigilant in your farm security in order to protect your family, your animals and your property. Take a moment to review the recommendations for farm security below:

- Ensure gates, barn doors and other building access points are closed and or locked.
- Ensure that vehicles or equipment are locked.
- Ensure no trespassing signs are visible and installed at all potential entrances to your property.
- Ensure you have adequate lighting around your property and that any burnt bulbs are promptly replaced.
- Unsolicited visits to the farm should be reported, including uninvited individuals approaching a farm for employment.
- Approach persons loitering on, or near, your property (if safe) and inquire about their presence. "Can I help you?" "Are you looking for something/someone?"
- If a person is trespassing onto your property, ask them to leave. "This is private property. You are trespassing. Please leave." Inform them that you will call police if they do not leave. Call police if they do not leave.
- If you encounter an unknown vehicle in your area, please record license plate and description and/or take a photo with your phone and report to Egg Farmers of Alberta.
- If a vehicle or suspicious person is near your property for an unusual period of time, call the police to report suspicious activity and inform Egg Farmers of Alberta.
- Be aware that individuals may be filming, and act accordingly.

Healthy Birds



Launching the Updated Pullet Animal Care Checklist

Egg Farmers of Alberta is pleased to announce that we will be launching an updated Pullet Animal Care Checklist in the last quarter of 2017. This checklist is an educational tool for Pullet Growers, designed to clearly demonstrate where your facility sits compared to the 2017 Code of Practice recommendations. Our Field Coordinators will be completing the checklists during their visits to your facility to complete Salmonella testing. Upon completion of the checklist, you will receive a copy for your reference, either by e-mail or a printed version.

Our goal is to have all pullet facilities assessed within the next 12 months. While we continue to support the development of a National Pullet Animal Care Program, this checklist helps to inform our farmers about the new Code of practice, and to clearly show where changes may need to be implemented to meet the Code Requirements.

International Conference on Animal Welfare

In September, three representatives from Egg Farmers of Alberta, Jenna Griffin, Christina Robinson and Beatrice Visser, attended the International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level in Ede, Netherlands. We also had the opportunity to visit two farms while in the Netherlands.

Our goals for attending the conference were to learn about outcome based welfare measures in order to support improved on farm animal care programs and farmer education.. This is especially important as we work to provide valuable input into the development of an updated National Animal Care Program.

We also went with the goal to learn about management practices and tools used in the Netherlands that can help Alberta's egg farmers transitioning to alternative housing systems address animal care and production issues. Over the next few issues of Eggnotes, we will be sharing some of what we learned in the Netherlands.



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



with



invite you to the
**2017 Cage Free
Layer Housing and
Pullet Rearing
Seminar.**

LETHBRIDGE

Wednesday
October 25th

LACOMBE

Thursday
October 26th

Please confirm your
attendance with

ARJAN DOMIMICUS

fax: 403-782-0602
phone: 403-596-8599
email:

adominicus@pennerfarmsservice.com

PRE-REGISTER WITH
Company / Colony Name
Member Attending
(2 per)

Hatching Ideas on Animal Welfare

Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) hosted a distinguished group of egg supply chain partners and industry stakeholders for Hatching Ideas on Animal Welfare, a workshop that featured a dynamic discussion about the future of animal care in Canada's layer industry. Over 40 participants shared their diverse perspectives and expectations, highlighting the need for collaboration in order to share the full story with consumers about where their food comes from, and how it was produced.



"It is my hope that we can approach all of our discussions with a sense of curiosity and passion, as well as an underlying desire to work collaboratively toward a common goal of a sustainable egg industry that is built on a solid foundation of sound animal care practices," noted Susan Schafers, Chair of EFA, in her introductory address. "EFA's Board and staff will be listening closely to what you have to share, and we will be taking what we learn to our upcoming strategic planning session."

The event also included a tour of the host farm, Fairview Colony, which is one of the more than 170 family egg farms in Alberta. Jerry Hofer, the colony's egg manager, lead the group on a tour of their egg barn, where their 18,000 laying hens are raised in a furnished housing system.

"We just finished construction on this new barn a few months ago, and placed our first flock at the start of the summer. We decided to go with an enriched hen housing system, which we are quite happy with," Jerry Hofer proudly explained. "The birds are happy and healthy, and I do my best each and every day to ensure that they are all well cared for."

Animal welfare is an issue of critical importance to Alberta egg farmers and the 2.1 million hens that provide Albertans with more than 58 million dozen eggs annually.

It is an issue that stakeholders are emotionally invested in as

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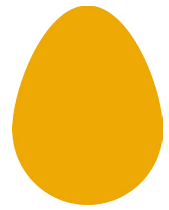
well, beyond just the quest to know more about the story behind the food they feed their families.

Misinformation, inconsistent messaging and common myths only serve to further confuse consumers, which underscores the vital need for the entire egg value chain to share its collective story about eggs and egg farming.

Egg farmers are dedicated to providing world class care for their hens, and are committed to continuous improvement as it relates to hen housing and animal welfare. Events like Hatching Ideas on Animal Welfare are a tremendous opportunity for farmers to connect with a wide range of industry stakeholders, to open their barn doors and share their story. Cultivating a sustainable egg industry in Alberta and across Canada is a worthwhile mission that will require the entire industry to work together to achieve.



Healthy Eggs



Fogging for Enhanced Cleaning & Disinfection

Fogging is a secondary method of disinfecting your barn. After you've completed your main disinfection process, typically with a sprayer in your barn, you can use fogging to get into nooks and crannies that your first round may have missed.

There are three methods available for fogging, all with different advantages and disadvantages, but with the same results. All of the methods take about the same time to complete. Some are shorter to apply but longer to air out and others longer to apply, but shorter to air out.

Mist fogger:

- o Many options for mist fogging, from automatic misters to fine tips
- o The finer the mist the more effective
- o Slow to apply, does not stay in the air long, a supplemental fan pushing the mist back up for longer is beneficial
- o Saturates the room and air
- o Almost all products can be used however Virkon is extremely effective because it is not temperature dependant

Thermal:

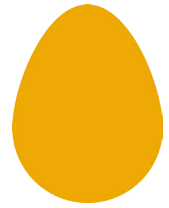
- o Heats the carrier (mostly water) and the disinfectant are sprayed on to a hot barrel which turns Gas when released outside temperature in the room cools it to condensation in a very fine mist
- o Gets everywhere, good dispersal and staying power
- o Faster to apply, but longer to air out
- o Only certain products can be used with this method
- o Equipment to apply is expensive and needs good maintenance

Gas:

- o Chemical reaction – OPP – candles, Potassium/Formalin
- o Dangerous! Hard to get, Gov't restrictions (more detail about current government restrictions)
- o Gets everywhere – good dispersal, quick, but long time to air out.
- o Very few products approved

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There is a common misconception that fogging acts as a pesticide to rid your barn of insects and rodents however this is false. For example, any mouse that is in your barn during fogging will leave the area when they get their first whiff of disinfectant and come back once the air has cleared. As for insects, they are in the walls and fogging does not really penetrate the walls, also most insects are exoskeletal breathers, which means they need to be soaked in the product, so fogging has minimal effect. To rid your facility of pests, you should follow a rodent and insecticide program in addition to your cleaning and disinfection protocols.



Neilson Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to September 16, 2017 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 3.04 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 4.40% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending August 19th), and a 1.8% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2016.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 4.4% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 39.96 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth; a 14.3% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.5 million dozen eggs (8.7% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

Upcoming Events

October 17: Grader Advisory Committee Meeting (Calgary)

October 23 - 26: Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors
Council National Meeting (Calgary)

October 25: Federal Provincial Meeting (FPA) (Ottawa)

November 1 - 2: EFA Board Meeting (Calgary)

November 1: Colony Elders Meeting (Calgary)

November 7: EFC Meeting (Ottawa)



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Healthy Communities

Government Relations Update

EFA has been busy engaging Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, both on our own and with our supply managed partners in the SM5, to build relationships and discuss a number of pertinent topics. EFA took Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, including several newly appointed members, on a trip designed to introduce them to the Alberta egg industry. The groups toured the EPIC plant and New York Colony, to get a closer look at where their food comes from and what egg farmers are doing to provide Albertans with fresh, local eggs.

The Alberta SM5 group co-hosted a farm tour with Jessica Littlewood, the MLA for Fort Saskatchewan – Vegreville. We were honored to take 7 MLAs and Jamie Curran, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, on a tour of a turkey farm. Farmers from each commodity group – eggs, chicken, hatching egg, turkey and milk – were able to share information about their industry with the MLAs, and engage them in discussion about many critically important issues, including NAFTA renegotiations, revisions to the Canada Food Guide, and government funding for agricultural research and innovation.

Both events highlighted the importance of working collaboratively with industry partners and government stakeholders to address concerns, overcome challenges, and build a sustainable agricultural sector in Alberta.

Producer Website Update

When logging onto the producer website, remember the site requires a password. If you go to www.albertaeggproducers.com and the password request doesn't pop up right away, it may be behind your Internet page. Simply minimize your Internet page and look for the sign-in pop-up. Enter the password and the site will load. If you need a reminder of what the user-name and password is for the site, contact our office and we are happy to provide it for you.



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Culinei's Story

While in the Netherlands, we had the pleasure of visiting with Theo Koekoek of Culinei Farms, thanks to some family connections of Beatrice Visser.



Culinei is located just outside of the small town of Amkerk, Netherlands. Theo raises 9,000 brown free range hens and 20,000 white free run hens.

Here are some of the realities of producing eggs in the Netherlands:

- All housing systems are cage free.
- Beak treatment is not allowed.
- All barns must have natural light.
- No electrical wire can be used to prevent birds from piling.
- When expanding his farm he needs to consider strict environmental controls that look at the ammonia outputs not just of his farm, but of other farms in his area.
- Feed must be vegetarian – he is not allowed to feed any animal residues.

How is he successful raising hens in a loose housing environment with so many restrictions?

- Provides hens with hanging hay bales (short cut) to play with. He also provides brick stones for the birds to peck at – this helps them to naturally wear their beaks down.
- Upon placing a new flock of layers, the first evening he leaves birds to adjust, but on following nights he goes and checks and puts birds up into the system. He ensures that every single bird is up in the system – and continues to do this each night until all birds go up on their own. He has found this has been critical for preventing floor eggs.

One very unique thing about Culinei farm is the egg vending machine he has placed at the end of his driveway, where locals can stop by and purchase eggs. While they are there, consumers can stop and have a rest at the picnic table provided, beside the pasture for his free range flock where guests are welcome to sit and watch his birds.

Theo shared with us his thoughts on being a farmer today. He explained that to be successful, farmers have to make a choice, become larger and gain economies of scale, or add value. He's decided to add value – providing local produce to his local market. He is also working to develop an alcoholic beverage made with eggs that he can also sell from his farm. Theo is focused on meeting market demands for things like non-gmo eggs and organic eggs and explained that even though he may not personally have chosen these products himself, that he needs to provide what the consumers of today want. Theo's advice for farmers, look at what area you are in and what is needed, and look at what is in your heart to decide what is the best for the future of your farm.

Theo likes to tell the story of his farm, and be proud of the work he does. He is not alone, farmers

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in the Netherlands are doing a lot of innovative things to bridge the gap between the public and the farm like providing campsites on the farm, opening a day home on the farm, welcoming seniors to the farm to watch the animals. All of these programs help the farmer by bringing in alternative sources of income, while building connections with the public.



Culinei operates in a country with some of the strictest animal welfare requirements in the world, but Theo has found a way to remain successful, and to secure the future of his farm.



A: For scrambled eggs and legs

