

EggNotes

Board of Directors

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EFC Alternate: Jerry Hofer | 403-363-3501
Director: Elie Hofer | 780-691-8512
Director: Marcella Van Stryland | 403-784-3519
Director in Training: Jorn Wipf | 403-635-0516

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

EFA Staff

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Egg Price Update Effective February 25, 2024

| Canada Grade | Size | Price Per Dozen | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---|
| A | Extra Large | 3.080 | ↑ |
| A | Large | 3.080 | ↑ |
| A | Medium | 2.780 | ↑ |
| A | Small | 2.420 | ↑ |
| A | Nest Run | 2.900 | ↑ |
| A | Pee Wee | 0.260 | ↓ |
| B | | 0.750 | ↓ |
| C | | 0.140 | ↓ |

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

Next Issue: May 17, 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 | Producer Portal: portal.eggs.ab.ca
 Email: 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 remind producers about the importance of consulting with egg graders when planning to build a new egg barn or renovate an existing egg barn. With the ever-changing retail landscape, it is always beneficial to confirm what the current consumer demand trends are before investing in your production facility.

With summer just around the corner, and with increasing animal activist activity across the country targeting the egg industry, EFA wants to remind farmers that we must all remain vigilant about security on Alberta egg farms. The moment we feel relaxed and confident is the moment we are most vulnerable, whether the risk is Avian Influenza or animal activism. All Alberta egg farmers should have a comprehensive security and response plan in place to safeguard the health and well-being of their farm, family, employees, animals, and livelihood.

As a reminder, there are a variety of resources available on the producer portal Farm Security page under 'Emergency Preparedness'. 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!

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to March 23, which is period 3 for 2024. The data indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.7 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 9.8% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending February 24th), and an 18.3% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2023.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 3.6% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, currently sitting at 41.7 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (ie: free-run, free-range, and organic) have seen the largest sales growth; a 4.8% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 4.4 million dozen eggs (10.5% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

As a reminder, additional Nielsen trend data that is updated approximately every four weeks is available on the producer portal, under 'Eggstra' and Egg Sales Trends.



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Pullet Growers of Canada Survey

Pullet Growers of Canada is in search of feedback from pullet growers nationwide. The online survey is 5 minutes long. EFA encourages any producer that raises pullets to fill out the survey. Link to survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7751789/Pullet-Growers-of-Canada-Strategic-Planning>

Supply Management Video on the Portal

The Supply Management video by Farm Products Council of Canada that was shown at EFA's AGM is now available to watch on the producer portal, under 'Producer Meetings'.

Announcement: New Executive Director for Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG)

The ILWG welcomes Melody Garner-Skiba as the new Executive Director for this cooperative industry group since March 15, 2024. Melody takes over from former Executive Director Ron Axelson. She looks forward to working for the ILWG and coordinating a strong unified voice on shared commitments and priorities for the group to ensure that the industry is listened to by stakeholders, the public, and the government. The ILWG is an industry coordination mechanism for the livestock and poultry industry on shared priorities facing confined feeding operations and the producers within the industry.

UPCOMING KEY DATES

May 1 | New Entrant Program (NEP) is open for applications

May 9 | QE3-2024 Purchase Deadline

May 13 | Research Committee Meeting

May 15 | NEP Townhall Call #2 - Q&A session

May 20 | Office closed for Victoria Day

June 5-6 | EFA Board Meeting

UPCOMING WEBINARS

 **May 2** | NEP Townhall Webinar #2



Healthy Farms

New Entrant Program

In January we announced the launch of the 2024 New Entrant Program. So far, we have held the first webinar and first Q&A session. There are many interested applicants. Any producers that want to learn more about the program, or to share information with other aspiring producers are encouraged to look here <https://eggs.ab.ca/healthy-farms/new-entrant-program/> and to attend our next webinar. The important dates are listed below.



- May 1, 2024: NEP is open for applications
- May 2, 2024: NEP townhall webinar #2 - go to website listed above to register
- May 15, 2024: NEP townhall call #2 – Q&A session - go to website link listed above to register
- June 25, 2024: NEP application deadline @ 4:00 pm
- July 5, 2024: Notice to applicants regarding initial screening, and to inform about moving to next phase
- September 5, 2024: Notice to applicants regarding business plan evaluation, and to inform about moving to next phase
- September 25, 2024: \$10,000 performance deposit due (refundable if not selected)
- November 4-6, 2024: Applicant interviews – 10 questions in-person
- November 30, 2024: NEP successful applicants are announced

Negotiating Renewable Energy Leases

Have you been approached by a renewable energy developer seeking to lease land for the development and construction of a solar or wind energy power plant? If you are weighing your options and seeking more information, the farmers advocate office (FAO) has published “Negotiating Renewable Energy Leases” as a guide for Alberta landowners.

EFA has posted the guide on the Producer Portal in the Farmer Resource Library. It can be found by searching “FAO” or “energy”.

Farmers interested in seeking more information related to renewable energy developments are encouraged to visit <https://www.alberta.ca/surface-rights-and-renewable-energy> or to contact:

Darcy Allen
Energy, Utility & Policy Specialist
Farmers’ & Property Rights Advocate Office
Agriculture and Irrigation
Phone: 780-427-2350
Email: Darcy.Allen@gov.ab.ca



Strategies in the Spring to Mitigate the Risk of Wildfire

One of the learnings from the project with All One Sky, regarding climate risks and adaptation actions, was to reduce damage to buildings and property from wildfires. One way to do this is to encourage Alberta egg farmers to adopt FireSmart Guidelines and practices on farm. This will be article three of a four-part series and will focus on spring wildfire prevention tips.

Spring is here and that means wildfire season is just around the corner. Reduced snowpack and a mild, dry winter points toward another challenging wildfire season this year.

3 forms of ignition for fire:

1. **Embers:** Embers can travel up to 5-6kms and can ignite ember traps such as dead grass, lumber, sawdust, branches, and needles. This is the primary way fire spreads from forests to and through farms and ranches.
2. **Radiant Heat:** Radiant heat can ignite combustible and flammable material if the fire gets close enough (within 10 meters of the materials) and burns hot enough and for long enough.
3. **Direct Flame:** Direct flame can ignite combustible materials in its path and then continue burning through your farm from fuel source to fuel source.

Fire permits
are required
from March 1
to October 31

The best defence is preparation

What is your wildfire plan?

Some recommendations to protect your farm:

- ✓ Clean up waste and dry vegetation piles, move combustible materials away from buildings or cover with plastic or tarps. Close in embers traps and enclose areas with hay or feed and keep them away from priority structures.
- ✓ Eliminate fire pathways around priority structures by using metal, cement or stucco siding as well as clay tile, metal or asphalt roofing.
- ✓ Consider non-combustible fencing and eliminate ground fuel around structures. While the Start Clean – Stay Clean program references a 0.3 meter gravel, stone, or asphalt border around the outside foundation of your production facility (to discourage rodents from entering or burrowing) extending this to at least 1.5 meters can help mitigate the risk to your building in the event of a wildfire.

Healthy Birds

Change to Third Party Auditor for Animal Care Program

Egg Farmers of Canada recently conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the third-party audit contract. As a result of the RFP process, effective April 26, 2024, third-party audits in Canada will be conducted by MSVS Canada Inc.

The individual auditor(s) in Alberta will change.

The list of producers scheduled to receive a third-party audit in 2024 has not changed.

If you have any questions regarding this transition, please contact Jenna at jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x. 129.

Alberta SPCA to take over answering ALERT line

The Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC), founded in 1993 by livestock producers, served as a leading voice for animal welfare in the province. Over the years, it championed responsible livestock care through collaboration and education. Despite its impactful projects, including emergency trailers and informational programs, a changing landscape resulted in financial challenges, leading to AFAC's closure on March 1, 2024.

The Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has taken over the AFAC ALERT Line as of March 21, 2024. This transition ensures continuity for livestock welfare in the province. Calls to the ALERT Line will now be answered by the Alberta SPCA, maintaining a vital resource for reporting animals in distress. Producers and stakeholders have expressed support for the transition, recognizing the importance of the ALERT Line in safeguarding animal welfare. While the ALERT Line will remain operational for the time being, transitioning your contact information to the Alberta SPCA will ensure you always have access to someone who can help.

To report an animal in distress, outside of the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, call the Alberta SPCA at 1-800-455-9003.



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Light Flickering Project – A Message from Your Research Committee

Researcher Dr. Karen Schwean-Lardner and her graduate student Samantha McPhee presented their findings on the effects of LED light flicker on the welfare, health, and production of Lohmann pullets and laying hens to the research committee. Their study evaluated the impact of flicker frequency at 30 Hz (visible to humans and birds), 90 Hz (visible to birds but not humans), and 250 Hz (not visible to birds or humans) on behaviour, fear and stress response, productivity, egg production and quality.

The results indicated that pullet behaviour, fear, and stress were minimally affected by visible light flicker (30 and 90 Hz) but this impact disappeared as the birds aged and light flickering was discontinued. Light flickering during rearing also did not demonstrate an impact later on for productivity, egg production and quality in laying hens. It was noted however that the visible light flicker had aversive effects on the barn staff which may negatively influence their ability to identify sick birds.

The committee was surprised by these findings and had outstanding questions. The researchers indicated that achieving 250 Hz frequency would be the optimal goal, however, they recognized that a realistic goal in practice would be to attain 120 Hz to limit impacts of light flick to birds. Both the researchers and committee members felt that more research in this area is necessary. Concepts for further investigation could include additional stress response measures using other techniques (ex: blood pressure monitoring), evaluating the impacts on the brain and eyes, effects on navigation of complex environments etc.

Classified Ads

Are you currently or soon to be looking to sell any farm equipment, tools, etc? If so, reach out to Tate O'Dwyer, EFA's Marketing & Social Media Coordinator to get your ad in next month's EggNotes. If you are interested in having an ad in future issues, please email tate.odwyer@eggs.ab.ca or call ext 122.

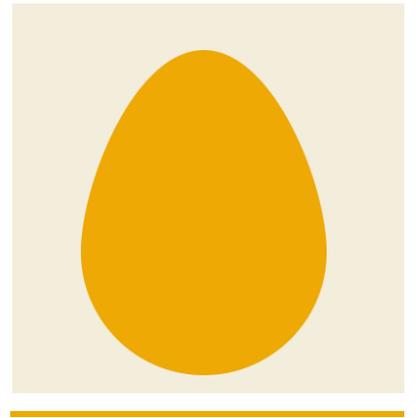


Healthy Eggs

Clarifying the Difference Between Wet-Washing and Dry-Cleaning Facilities

There are three mandatory elements of the Start Clean – Stay Clean® program that relate to cleaning and disinfecting between flocks:

- Laying facility - is pressure wet washed with detergent or equivalent,
- Disinfected and/or fumigated with an approved chemical, and
- Given a minimum of 7-day rest period before repopulation or if less than 7 days proof of microbiological analysis.



Egg Farmers of Canada has recently provided clarification on the differences between a wet wash and a dry clean, and how that applies to the SC-SC™ audit.

The definition of the two types of cleaning practices are as follows:

Wet wash:

A wet wash means to pressure wash the entire facility with a detergent. This includes the housing systems, walls, ceilings, rafters, fans, heaters, wire mesh, drinkers, feed troughs, and conveying equipment.

Dry cleaning to remove most of the organic material in advance of pressure wet wash is desirable.

If any part of the facility is not wet washed with a detergent or there is any deviation in the wet-wash process as outlined above, then it will be considered a dry clean, as defined below.

Dry cleaning:

Dry cleaning is removing organic material from the facility without the use of water and/or detergent, followed by a disinfection.

Although not ideal, in certain instances (climate, equipment electronics and warranties, building design, provincial environmental regulations/municipal environmental by-laws) dry cleaning may be the only means of cleaning.

Article continued on next page ...

Should the farmer choose to dry clean, the laying facility must be swab tested for Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) by a qualified third party 8 weeks prior to repopulation. The SE test can be combined with the late-lay SE test as per the National SE Protocol. If a positive test result is received, the farmer will be expected to perform a wet-wash and disinfection instead of their planned dry clean.

Please note that EFA continues to promote wet washing at flock changes as a best practice. EFA's policy is that if dry cleaning necessitates an extra visit by EFA Field Coordinators, a \$250 dry cleaning charge will be billed.

Disinfection:

Disinfection must be conducted following both a wet wash and a dry clean.

Farms that fail to comply with the above requirements for two consecutive flocks will end up in a failure position for the SC-SC™ Layer Program. Farmers will receive full points for these elements if:

- The farmer has pressure wet-washed with detergent and disinfected the entire facility and has met the 7-day downtime requirement; OR
- The farmer has pressure wet-washed with detergent and disinfected the entire facility, did not meet the 7-day downtime requirement, but has conducted an SE test, and has a letter from the egg board acknowledging the reason for the reduced downtime; OR
- The farmer has completed a dry-clean, has disinfected, and has had an SE test done 8 weeks prior to repopulation. The farmer must have the negative result for review by the auditor.

JOKE

How can you tell if an egg is hard-boiled or not?

Eggs-ray vision!



Healthy Communities

Alberta Open Farm Days - Reminder

EFA is calling on registered egg farmers to consider participating in Alberta Open Farm Days 2024, which is scheduled for August 17 & 18, 2024. Host farm registration is open, and farmers can choose which day(s) they want to participate.

Alberta Open Farm Days is a collaborative, province-wide, two-day event that gives Albertans an opportunity to experience the farm and understand where their food comes from. It is a backstage pass to meet farmers and experience ag-tourism in Alberta.

The deadline for host farms to register is the end of this month. To register as a host farm, or to learn more about Alberta Open Farm days, please visit their website:

<https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/open-farm-days-2024/open-farm-days-registration-2024/>

EFA is standing by to help interested egg farmers register, plan, and potentially host a farm tour during Alberta Open Farm Days. Resources, swag, bio-security gear, and potentially personnel are readily available through EFA's Grassroots Public Relations Program. As further incentive, EFA will provide all farmers who participate in Alberta Open Farm Days with a \$100 gift card!

If you are considering participating in Alberta Open Farm Days and want to discuss how EFA can help support you, please contact David Webb at the EFA office (ext.126 / david.webb@eggs.ab.ca). The deadline to register is April 30, 2024.

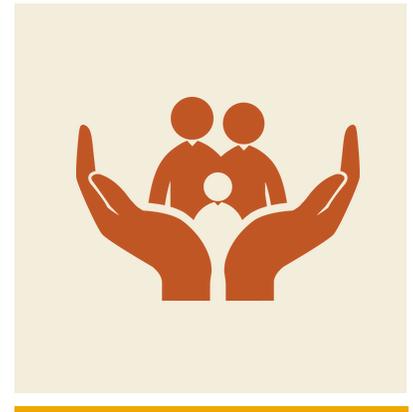
Did you know - almost 35% of farms that participated in 2023 were first time farms (new farms). Read highlights and quotes from Open Farm Days 2023 here: <https://www.alberta.ca/agri-news-alberta-open-farm-days-continues-to-grow>.

Culinaire Magazine - Best of Egg Winners!

EFA partnered with Culinaire Magazine to do another special egg feature, "The Search for Calgary's Best Hardboiled Egg Dishes" which appeared in the April 2024 issue. The winners have now been announced and you can find out which restaurant was crowned with the best Deviled Eggs, Scotch Eggs, and Egg Salad Sandwich here:

https://issuu.com/culinairemagazine/docs/culinaire_12.10_april_2024_

Linda Garson, Editor-In-Chief, also appeared on Global News Calgary on March 30 to announce the winners. You can watch the segment here: <https://globalnews.ca/video/10392975/culinaire-magazine-yc-best-egg-dish-winners/>



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Egg Ambassador Workshops Recap

EFA was pleased to see good attendance at our egg ambassador workshops this year in Red Deer, Lethbridge, and through the webinar, over the month of March. These workshops are designed to help farmers understand what it means to be/become an egg ambassador, the protocols involved, and how to answer a variety of questions. Between the 3 workshops, 30 egg farmers participated, with many being their first time. There were great discussions and engagement between David, Tate, and farmers.

As a reminder, there is already a wide range of resources and toolkits available on the Egg Ambassador page on the producer portal, which you can find at: <https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/producer-portal/public-relations/egg-ambassadors>.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the workshops and for your interest in helping share your knowledge and stories of local egg farming at events!

