

# EggNotes

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**EFC Alternate:** Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501  
**Director:** Elie Hofer 780-691-8512  
**Director:** John Hofer 403-363-0393

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Murray Minchin  
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** ◀  
Due to COVID-19, EFA's office is closed. Staff are working  
from home and are available during regular business hours  
(7:30 am - 4:00 pm) by phone and email.

### 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](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca)

Next Issue: January 14, 2022

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



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# Board Update

- Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors, on behalf of our fellow farmers and provincial egg industry partners, would like to send our thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery to our friends and colleagues in British Columbia. Our neighbours on the other side of the Rocky Mountains have endured several months of extreme weather, which has resulted in unprecedented flooding. While the egg industry has fared much better than many other commodities, there were several egg farms located within the evacuation zone. With assistance from Egg Farmers of Canada, BC Egg has done excellent work to help mitigate the impact on their provincial egg industry and serve BC's egg farming families.

This tragedy should serve as a reminder for Alberta egg farmers, of the importance of having an emergency plan in place for their own farm. A natural disaster could strike any farm at any time, without warning. Being prepared and having a comprehensive emergency response plan is vital to safeguarding your farm, your family, and your livelihood.

## ➤ Quota Update

The EFC Board of Directors approved a motion in November that seeks prior approval for a quota increase of 50,724 birds nationally, to be effective December 26, 2021 (week 1/22). Alberta's share of this allocation amounts to a total of 6,735 layers.

EFC has submitted the appropriate quota order amendments to Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC) for prior approval. The quota increase will not take effect until EFA has received confirmation that the quota has been approved by FPCC and ratified by EFC. At that time, all producers will be notified in writing. Please note that EFA staff and Directors will not provide any information about the quota increase over the phone.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 24 & 27 and January 3,** Office Closed for Christmas Holidays

**December 31,** Quota Leasing Pool - Confirm Birds from Pool

**January 6,** Quota Exchange Sales Deadline

**January 13,** Quota Exchange Red/Green Date

**January 13,** Regional Meeting - Calgary & Zoom

**January 14,** Quota Leasing Pool - Confirms Birds to Pool

**January 14,** Regional Meeting - Edmonton

**January 18,** Regional Meeting - Lethbridge

**January 19,** Regional Meeting - Lethbridge



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## ➤ **Director Development Program**

Egg Farmers of Alberta implemented the Director Development Program (DDP), to engage the membership and stimulate Board succession planning. A Board-appointed registered producer may participate in EFA Board meetings as a non-voting Director, to gain exposure to how the EFA Board operates and to become more familiar with a number of topics that are critical to the egg industry.

Any farmer interested in applying must submit a letter of interest, explaining why they might like to be an EFA Director. Any potential applicants from a Hutterite Colony must also submit written authorization from their elders, as required. The letter must be submitted to the EFA Board office, to the attention of the Board Manager, by March 1st, 2022.

The EFA Board will review all submitted letters of intent at the first Board meeting following the Board's organizational meeting and may choose to appoint a producer to the DDP for a period of 1 year. If you would like to learn more about the DDP, please contact any of the current EFA Directors or Susan Gal, EFA's General Manager.

## ➤ **EFA Board of Directors Nomination**

At EFA's upcoming Annual General Meeting, we will need to run two separate elections. The first election will be for two positions for a 3-year term and the second election for one position for a 2-year term, which will be to fill the unexpired portion of the term left vacant as a result of Meb Gilani's departure. John Hofer was appointed to this position in October which is only valid until the AGM.

Beatrice Visser has completed two consecutive three-year terms and Conrad Vanessen has completed one three-year term. Both are eligible to run for another term. Nominees can only accept nominations for the 3-year term or the 2-year term, but not both.

Producers will receive a nomination package in December, which will include nomination forms for both elections. Nomination forms must be signed by two different registered producers (cannot be a Board Director) and must have signed consent by the nominee. Nomination forms can be submitted via email, fax or by hand, and must be received by no later than January 20, 2022.

## ➤ **Levy Update**

EFC's Budget for 2022 has the national levy rate at \$.4395/dozen effective period 3, 2022. This represents a \$.02/dozen increase over 2021 rates in order to help bring the PIF balance to within its established trigger points.

The EFA Board reviewed the 2022 Operational Plan, budget and levy requirements at their December meeting. They set the total provincial levy at \$.5127/dozen, to be effective December 26, 2021 (week 1/22), which equates to \$13.869/bird.



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## ➤ EFA 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

EFA hopes to see an eggcellent turnout of registered Alberta egg farmers at our 53rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**. The plan is for EFA to host an in-person AGM at the Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre, along with an option to join via Zoom! The AGM is scheduled to run from **9:30 am – 3:00 pm**, with on-site registration opening at 8:30 am.

Following a review of EFA's Annual Report, election results will be announced for three positions on the EFA Board of Directors. Beatrice Visser has completed her second consecutive three-year term and Conrad Vanessen has completed his first three-year term, meaning they are both eligible to run for another term. John Hofer, who was appointed to the Board following Meb Gilani's departure, is required to step down. The third election will be to fill the unexpired 2-year portion of the vacated term. The afternoon session will include the announcement of the 2021 Producer of the Year and the launch of EFA's revamped Sustainability Strategy.

EFA will distribute the Director Nomination Package to all registered producers before the end of December 2021. EFA will use the mail-in voting process established last year for 2022.

- **Nominations:** Director nominations must be signed by 2 registered producers and include written consent of the individual being nominated, then must be received at the EFA office by the deadline of January 20, 2022. **Directors can only accept a nomination for either the 2-year term or the 3-year term, but not both. If 2 or fewer nominations are received for 3-year term and/or 1 nomination is received 2-year term, they will be acclaimed.**
- **Ballots:** EFA will distribute ballots and nomination biographies to the registered producer or the named representative of record by no later than January 24, 2022, with instructions on how to use and submit the ballot.
- **Voting:** Each registered producer or the named representative of record is entitled to cast 1 vote for 2 candidates for a three-year term and 1 vote for 1 candidate for a two-year term per the instructions that will be sent. Completed ballots should be placed into the provided postage-paid envelope addressed to Deloitte LLP and sent by mail, to be received by Deloitte LLP by the deadline of 4:00 pm on February 18, 2022.
- **Counting:** As permitted by section 31(2) of the Plan Regulation, the EFA Board has appointed Ms. Suzanne Delisle from Deloitte LLP to serve as EFA's Returning Officer for the 2022 AGM. The results of the vote will be kept confidential until delivered at the EFA AGM on March 1, 2022.

Formal invitations to EFA's AGM will be emailed to registered egg farmers by the end of January 2022, which will include detailed instructions for registering and attending the AGM. An extensive pre-AGM package will be mailed to all registered egg farmers by February 15, 2022, which will include a copy of the 2021 EFA Annual Report, minutes from the 2021 AGM, a voting guide, and EFA Rules of Order.



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# Healthy Birds



## ► Pullet Animal Care Program Update

On November 10th the EFC Board of Directors approved the Pullet Animal Care development and implementation plan. The work to create ACP-Pullets will begin once the measuring protocol for pullets has been developed and is being implemented, and the development of ACP-Laying Hens is complete. Beginning this work after those milestones are met will allow for lessons learned from the ACP-Laying Hens to be applied to ACP-Pullets, and for insights gleaned from measuring pullet facilities to impact how ACP-Pullets is developed and later implemented. We hope to have more information to share about the development of the measuring protocol for pullets in the near future.

## ► The Redeveloped Animal Care Program is Approved

On November 10th the EFC Board of Directors approved Stage 1 of the Redeveloped Animal Care Program. As a reminder, Stage 1 of the redeveloped ACP includes all relevant laying hen requirements except for accessible feed space provided per hen. How to assess the feeder space requirements in the redeveloped ACP is under revision, and the feeder space requirements will be added to the final Stage 2 redeveloped ACP at a later date.

The program has an 18-month mandatory implementation and a 12-month voluntary implementation. This means that all Stage 1 requirements will be in effect as of May 10, 2023. Farmers that would normally be scheduled for an audit between November 10th, 2022 - May 10, 2023 will have the opportunity to be audited on the new program if they choose.

Now that Stage 1 of the program is approved EFA eagerly awaits a copy of the final assessment from EFC so that we can begin the process of reviewing the assessment with the PMC, other egg boards, and EFC to determine what resources and support might be needed. We will share more information with you as it becomes available.

## ► Release of the Outcome Based Measures Video Recording

Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) is pleased to announce the release of the video recording from the second engagement webinar on Outcome Based Measures. For those producers who were unable to attend or would like a recap of what was discussed, please visit the new producer portal webinar page at <https://portal.eggs.ab.ca>.

Below is a list of the action items that arose from the Outcome Based Measures webinar and the steps taken by EFA to address each action item.

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- **ACTION ITEM #1:** Continue to include outcomes-based templates in the EFA record keeping calendar. Ensure farmers understand they are one tool or option and that they are also free to keep records by photos, or general notes, in lieu of or in addition to the EFA templates.
  - o **Follow-up to #1:** The outcomes-based templates have remained in the 2022 record keeping calendars. Additionally, resources such as the Free Run Pecking Behaviour meeting report highlights using tools such as photographs to monitor feather coverage in your flock. This report is available on the producer [website](#) at Meeting Reports (Information Center).
- **ACTION ITEM #2:** Monitor other outcome-based animal care programs around the world as they are introduced to see if there are learnings that can be passed on (ex. UEP). Communicate learnings to producers.
  - o **Follow-up to #2:** This action item is ongoing, but EFA continues to be monitor learnings from around the global that can be communicated to the Alberta pullet/egg producers.
- **ACTION ITEM #3:** Review Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply (CSES) literature to communicate the findings of hygiene in cage vs non-cage systems.
  - o **Follow-up to #3:** References and summaries are included within the What Was Heard Report from this engagement webinar. The report can also be found on the producer [portal](#).

## ➤ QE4-2021 Update

QE4-21 Quota Exchange Summary Results:

Number of Sellers	3
Number of Purchasers	22
Total Number of Bird of Quota Offered for Sale	8,954
Total Number of Birds of Quota Purchase Bids	77,796
Market Clearing Price (MCP)	\$618.10
Number of Birds of Quota Transferred	8,954
Number of Successful Sellers	3
Number of Successful Purchasers	6

If you are interested in participating in the next Quota Exchange, the sales deadline is January 6, 2022. The Quota Exchange Policy 9.34 can be found on the producer website. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Johnston at 403 250-1197x127 or by email at [erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca)



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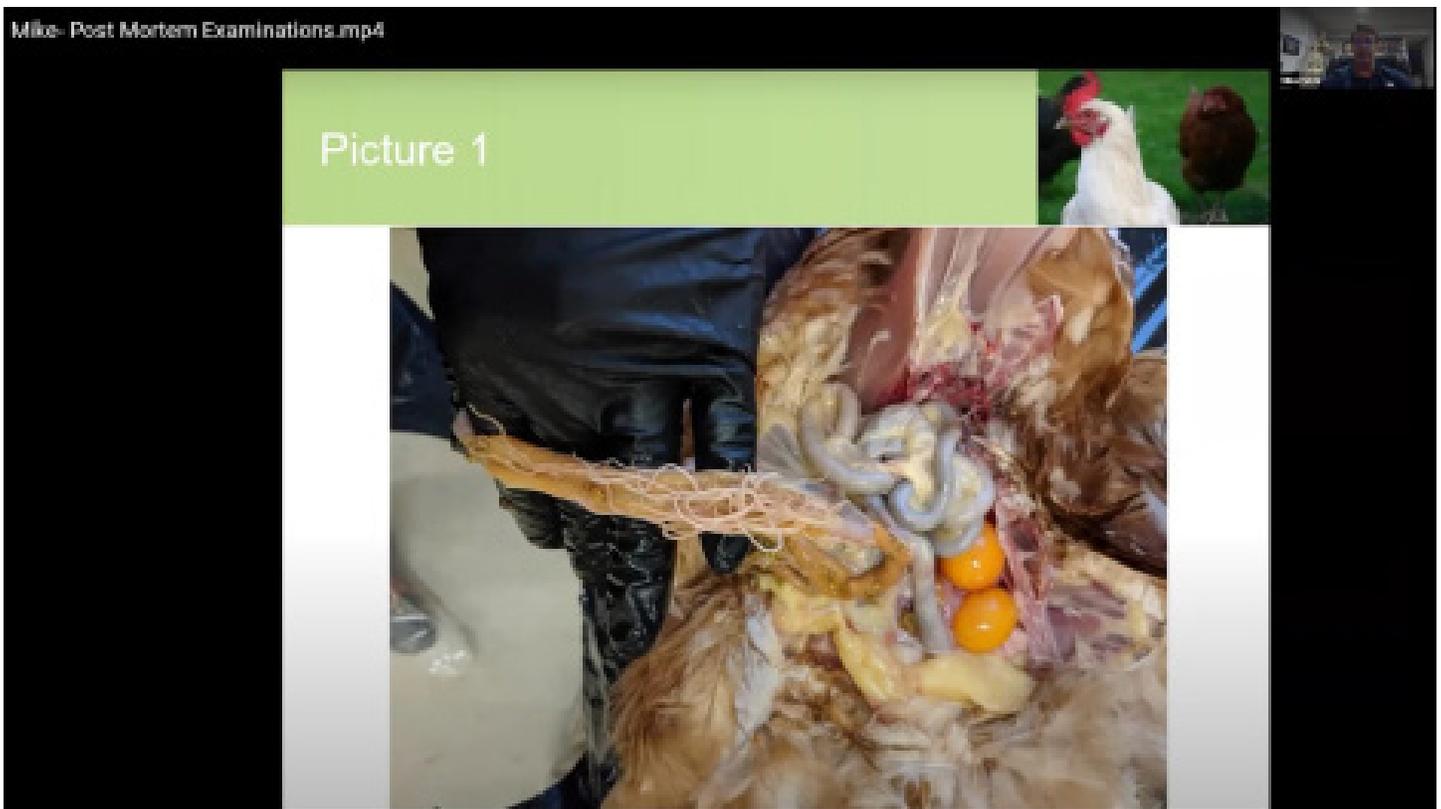


## ► Post-Mortem Flock Talk Summary

In November, Egg Farmers of Alberta partnered with the Poultry Innovation Partnership (PIP) to bring producers a Flock Talk on Virtual Post-Mortems. The flock talk covered the basics of bird anatomy with Dr. Teryn Girard, a practicing poultry veterinarian in Alberta and the benefits of performing post-mortems on farm with Dr. Mike Petrik, a practicing poultry veterinarian based out of Ontario. Producers learned to recognize what normal and abnormal anatomy looks like, tips for successfully completing a post-mortem, what information to provide their veterinarian to achieve good telemedicine, and hands on practice identifying which areas of the birds are cause for concern.

There were 39 pullet/egg producers that attended the virtual flock talk. Overall, producers indicated the session provided valuable information and some new tips and tricks to try on farm. One producer even recognized the importance of cleanliness when conducting post-mortem procedures on their farm.

“I will do safety measures before doing post-mortem and will focus on cleaning.”



For those who were unable to attend or would like a recap of what they learned during the session please be advised that we will be sharing the video recordings in the upcoming months.

Lastly, a special thank you to the PIP members who made this virtual flock talk possible.



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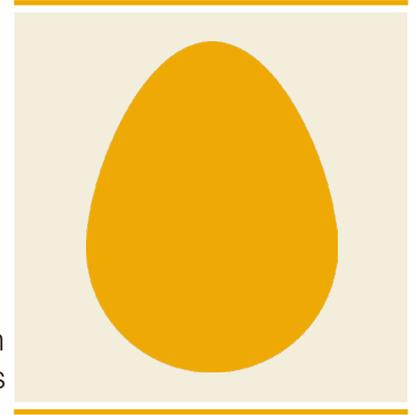
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# Healthy Eggs



## ► **Post SE Positive Vaccination Mandatory as of January 1, 2022**

Since October 2020, a number of steps have been taken across the industry to mitigate the risk of egg recalls linked to positive environmental Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) test results, including the work of EFC's SE Taskforce. Upon review of vaccination in preventing SE contamination in eggs, the SE Taskforce requested that steps be taken to make SE vaccines mandatory for subsequent flocks housed in facilities that have tested positive for SE.

The National SE Protocol provides guidance and sets minimum standards for the microbiological sampling process and the management of confirmed SE positive environments. On November 10, 2021, the EFC Board of Directors approved an amendment to the vaccination requirements within the National SE Protocol **for implementation on January 1, 2022**.

Effective January 1, 2022, when a laying facility tests positive for SE, the next flock placed in that laying facility **must** be vaccinated against SE. It is **highly recommended** that all subsequent flocks in the facility be vaccinated against SE.

## ► **Amendments to the Start Clean - Stay Clean<sup>®</sup> Programs**

The EFC Board of Directors has approved three amendments to the Start Clean - Stay Clean<sup>®</sup> program for implementation on January 1, 2022:

### **1. LAYER PROGRAM. Area within 4.5 meters of the production unit is kept free of vegetation**

- The current element reads that the area within 4.5 meters of the production must be kept free of vegetation. While the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Farmer Guidelines and GMPs & SOPs further detail that clearing long grass, weeds and debris from around the production unit helps to discourage rodent nesting, this was not explicit in the element.
- In recent years, it has been questioned whether this element is applicable to the range side of the production unit. While this discourages rodent nesting, vegetation in the range is important to provide shade and predator protection.
- Element 3.b.ii has been amended to read: Areas within 4.5 meters of the production unit is kept free of vegetation **that may harbor pests**.
- It has been clarified that this element does **not** apply to the range side.

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## 2. LAYER AND PULLET PROGRAMS. Only one kind of poultry maintained on the farm – Adjacent Production Units

- The Start Clean - Stay Clean<sup>®</sup> program currently requires that only one kind of poultry is maintained on the farm. This requirement prevents and reduces biological contamination in the production unit from adjacent production units. If more than one kind of poultry is maintained on the farm, the production units must not be adjacent, and each production unit should have its own staff or a change of outerwear is available. Production units are not considered adjacent if the minimum distance of separation is met. This is defined as the height of the taller building from ground to gable multiplied by 10.
- Due to space limitations and pre-existing farm layouts, this is unachievable on many farms. Corrective Action Requests for this element are irresolvable without a complete reconfiguration or rebuild of the production unit(s). In many circumstances, farmers are losing points on the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Program due to a situation beyond their control. A change to this element would allow farmers to close this frequently issued CAR and receive equivalency points where the risk of cross-contamination is appropriately mitigated.
  - A. The program has been revised such that if more than one kind of poultry unit is maintained on the farm, equivalent points may be awarded provided that production units are independent structures; and
  - B. Each production unit has its own staff or staff must change outerwear and footwear between production units.**
- These exceptions to adjacent production units do not apply to new construction/major renovations on a new or existing footprint. In these cases, the production units must not be adjacent (i.e. the minimum distance of separation of the height of the taller building from ground to gable multiplied by 10 is met).

## 3. LAYER PROGRAM. Foraging Material

- Within the Start Clean - Stay Clean<sup>®</sup> program, there are several control measures to mitigate the hazards associated with all inputs and incoming materials. However, requirements for incoming foraging materials are not currently outlined. These are items such as bales of hay or straw, insoluble grit, oat hulls, or other materials such as golf balls, hanging CDs or rope tassels, compressed cardboard pellets, or peck stones.
- This amendment includes the following additions to the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Layer Program:
  - o Edible pecking material and supplemental foraging material must be free from mold or other visible contamination and stored in a dry covered location protected from wild birds, insects and rodents.
  - o Hard objects used for foraging sites must be appropriately cleaned before entering the production unit.
  - o These will be categorized as Minor elements, valued at 1 point each.

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- This applies to housing systems utilizing additional substrates or objects as foraging material.
- Edible pecking material (ex. oat hulls) and supplemental foraging material (ex. hay bales) must be visually inspected for mold or other visible contamination. Non-edible/hard objects used to provide foraging opportunities (ex. golf balls) must be appropriately cleaned before entering the production unit. Store foraging material in a dry covered location free from birds, insects and rodents. It is recommended to determine whether the source has a control program in place to assure you of uncontaminated foraging material. Purpose-designed foraging materials such as pecking stones should be registered poultry products.
- In the 2022 record keeping calendars, a Standard Operating Procedure for foraging material has been added near the back of the booklets to fulfill this amendment. Producers can fill out what type of foraging material they have, when it was received, how it is stored, and if the producers conduct a control program to ensure foraging material is free of visible contaminants and/or cleaned prior to entering the production unit.



## SOP for Foraging Material

This SOP applies to all housing systems utilizing additional substrates or objects as foraging material. This SOP allows producers to protect their flocks from biological hazards such as *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *E. coli*, and mold.

### 1. What is the foraging material source?

- Registered Poultry Product (e.g. pecking stones)

Type:

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- Homemade product (e.g. straw bales)

Type:

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- Other

Type:

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### 2. When was the foraging material received?

Date received: ( dd / mm / yyyy )

### 3. Where is the forage material stored?

*Store foraging material in a dry, covered location free from birds, insects, and rodents.*

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### 4. Does the forage material have a control program to ensure it is uncontaminated?

*A control program should ensure that edible pecking material (e.g. oat hulls) and supplemental foraging material (e.g. hay bales) are visually inspected for mold or other visible contamination. Non-edible/hard objects (e.g. golf balls) must be appropriately clean prior to entering the production unit.)*

- YES    NO



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## ► From Your Production Management Committee – Medium Eggs

At the last PMC meeting the Committee once again discussed Alberta's medium egg issue. The great thing about our industry is that we are there to support one another and this note is to present a few things that producers do in managing egg size.

We know that every barn is different but perhaps you and your team (nutritionist, field support person, etc.) can help you get to an egg size that pays you more while ensuring a healthy flock with undergrades that are managed. Here are a few notes that might be worth looking at. Note: If one of these steps cannot be accomplished that just might be your problem.

**Step 1. Pullet Age and Body Weight:** Don't light them too early in the pullet barn but if you do, make sure they are at least over target in body weight. Undersized pullets are a main reason for light case weight early in a flock. The minute you light your flock, feed goes to the egg rather than bird growth and if you have under sized pullets, you have an uphill fight for the whole flock to get egg size.

**Step 2. Bird Strain:** Be careful when someone tells you it is a very efficient bird when it comes to how many grams it eats per day - chances are it also lays a few more medium eggs too. But with the latest price spread between large and medium it is not like it was 20 years ago - we are now getting rewarded more for the large egg compared to the medium egg. If the birds eat a bit more don't get too excited about that because it will produce more large eggs which will benefit you more in the long run.

**Step 3. Protein, Energy Balance and Amino Acid Balance:** Make sure your feed has the actual protein and energy level that it is supposed to have. Spending a little bit more money by having a higher protein and energy level can really reward you in the long run. We now have a calculator that can help us with that. We encourage anyone that feels like they have a medium egg problem to use it and if you don't know how please reach out and a producer or EFA staff member can work with you on it. (Amino acids like Methionine and Lysine drive egg size so having them balanced is essential.)

**Step 4. Midnight Feeding:** During heat stress it really helps even if you don't run the feeders - letting them drink will increase egg production, improve case weight, and improve undergrades too. If your pullets happen to come in light on weight, a midnight feeding will help get a few more grams per hen per day into them.

**Step 5. Good Air Movement:** In the winter it's a challenge but in the summer if you are under ventilated, fans are getting more and more efficient to run. Buying a few more big fans for the side or chimney depending on your flow of air in the barn would help a great deal for those hot summer days.

**Step 6. On Farm Feed:** Make sure when you make on farm feed you get your new grain coming in tested for energy and protein because it takes a couple of weeks to get the results sometimes. A lot can go wrong in 2 weeks if the diet doesn't meet the requirements of what the bird actually needs to achieve good egg size. Energy comes from starch, and we look at protein in wheat normally, but to see what energy is in that grain is key.

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**Step 7. Weigh Your Eggs Weekly:** Don't wait until the grader sends you grade outs because now you are 2 weeks behind time in your decision to change the protein level which is very important.

We will be talking a little but more about mediums at the upcoming regional meetings. Hopefully that helps for now and most important stay safe out there!

## Healthy Farms

### ➤ Safety Minute – Chemicals

From AgSafe Alberta

A—Animal safety

The next letter in our series is A for safety around animals, and the key areas of importance for you to consider are: 1) making sure your handling areas are free from hazards (sharp edges, slippery floors, poor lighting). 2) practice good hygiene during and after handling and 3) being trained in animal handling to reduce potential hazards. With this section being short and sweet, we wanted to talk about fatigue for this newsletter.

Fatigue is something we often hear people bragging about in agriculture, as we work to ensure the tasks get finished in time. At this time of year with less light and time changes, fatigue can be an important safety hazard on your farm operation.

Did you know these facts about fatigue:

- Fatigue is among the **top 5** causes of worker incidents.
- Fatigue is **4X** more likely to contribute to workplace impairment than drugs or alcohol.
- Being awake for **21 hours** is the safety equivalent of someone legally impaired by alcohol (BAC 0.08%).

What can you do on the farm to manage fatigue?

1. Identify what situations cause you to be tired.
2. Make equipment safer (ensure all guards are in place) to protect you when you are tired.
3. Take care of yourself—prepare for the busy season by eating properly and keeping fit.
4. Schedule work for everyone on the farm team and make sure everyone takes breaks.
5. Keep kids away, when we are tired they can be a distraction and we are less able to protect them.
6. Exercise—get up and take stretch breaks, get fresh air and increase your blood circulation to raise oxygen levels in your system.

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Symptoms of fatigue include:

- Micro sleeping while operating equipment
- Irritable mood swings
- Upset stomach, headaches, dizziness, blurry vision
- Reflexes are slow and we have poor concentration
- Feeling distracted, tired all over, sleepy

This great TED talk called Sleep is Your Superpower, tells a story of what can happen to your body both when you get enough and when you don't get enough sleep. Have a quick view and then make a plan to manage fatigue on your farm.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/matt\\_walker\\_sleep\\_is\\_your\\_superpower?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/matt_walker_sleep_is_your_superpower?language=en)

### ➤ **Annual Letters and Signatures for the Record Keeping Calendars**

As we head into 2022 Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to remind producers that the following letters need to be collected annually:

- Feed ingredient letter from your feed supplier(s) for those producers purchasing complete feed.
- Letter from your grader which will be distributed January 1, 2022.
- A water test letter which will be obtained after booking your annual sampling.

Additionally, a friendly reminder to have your egg pick-up driver and any other returning visitors sign your returning visitor policy on the first page of your record keeping calendars.

### ➤ **Farm Security Reminder**

EFA would like to thank all the Alberta egg farmers who attended our recent webinar about farm security and preparedness. As a reminder, a recording of that webinar has been published on the producer portal, while an extensive set of resources continue to be available on the Farm Security page in the Healthy Farms section of the producer website. Finally, EFA would appreciate you taking the time to complete our farm security survey, which was recently sent to all registered egg farmers.

The upcoming holidays are a time to relax and celebrate with family, friends, and colleagues, which is even more welcomed after the last two years we've all had to endure. Having a comprehensive security and response plan in place to safeguard the health and well-being of your farm, family, employees, animals, and livelihood, will help provide peace of mind. EFA's Farm Security Toolkit shares 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.



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## ➤ **Changes to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Laws**

An updated Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHS Act) and revised regulations took effect December 1, 2021.

- The term contractor has been replaced by contracting employer and the definition of an employer now includes a person who is self-employed. (A family farm may be exempt from some legislation, but if you hire contractors some of the legislation may apply while they are working at your farm).
- The right to refuse unsafe work has not changed, however, the term undue hazard has been added to help clarify where work refusals are appropriate; as well, how work refusals are handled has been simplified.
- Disciplinary action complaints must now be filed within 180 days of the action and complaints found to be “without merit” do not have to be investigated by an OHS Officer.
- There are changes to the wording of the Act relating to reportable injuries, illnesses and incidents. An injury, illness or incident where there is “reason to believe the worker has been or will be admitted to a hospital beyond treatment in an emergency room or urgent care facility” must now be reported to Alberta Occupational Health and Safety.
- The revisions change how the number of workers are calculated when deciding if an employer requires a health and safety committee or a representative. The calculation is based on the number of workers “regularly employed.”

If you have any questions about what applies to your farm or how these changes may impact your operation, we encourage you to contact AgSafe Alberta at [info@agsafeab.ca](mailto:info@agsafeab.ca) or 403-219-7901

## ➤ **Infectious Laryotracheitis Detections in Alberta**

Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) has been notified of a few cases of infectious laryotracheitis (ILT) in backyard flocks in Alberta. While this is not uncommon, EFA encourages you to make sure your PID contact information is up to date to ensure you receive notifications for risks in your area. As well, please remain diligent in your biosecurity practices to keep your flocks safe.



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# Healthy Communities



## ▶ **Canadian Poultry Research Council Articles 2021**

The Canadian Poultry Research Council has released two new articles. The first article focuses on assessing the impact of IBV variants in Canada and the second article highlights how gut health research to lead to improved yeast-based feed products.

Did you know that prebiotic components like yeast-based feed products have a significant effect on the proliferation and function of beneficial bacteria in the gut and can control pathogens and help ensure food safety? Learn more by visiting these articles on the producer website under Information Center (Research).

## ▶ **Government Relations Update**

Following the Liberal Party of Canada's win in the recent federal election the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced his new cabinet on October 26, 2021. Canada's egg industry looks forward to continuing to work with the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, who was renamed the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, to build a sustainable national egg industry.

On November 11, 2021, Canada's Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture released The Guelph Statement, as their shared vision for the next Agricultural Policy Framework that is meant to guide Canadian agriculture and agri-food forward to 2028. The Guelph Statement recognizes Canada as a world leader in sustainable agriculture and agri-food production and outlines the following priorities:

- Climate Change & Environment
- Science, Research & Innovation
- Market Development & Trade
- Building Sector Capacity, Growth & Competitiveness
- Resiliency & Public Trust

More information about The Guelph Statement can be found online: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/about-our-department/key-departmental-initiatives/meetings-federal-provincial-and-territorial-ministers-agriculture/guelph-statement>



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### ➤ **GoFundMe Page to Help BC Farm Families**

Our thoughts, hearts, and prayers have been with the farm families of British Columbia as they navigate the impact of record-breaking rainfall, floods, and mudslides. The Western Associations of Swine and Poultry Veterinarians has setup a GoFundMe page to collect donations with a goal of providing each impacted farmer with \$10,000 to assist the families in finding the resources they need to overcome this natural disaster. If you are looking for a way to help these farm families, please consider donating to the cause by visiting the link below, these families need our support right now.

**Fundraiser by Jillian Carr: HELP OUR BC FARM FAMILIES!** [https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-our-bc-farm-families?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp%20share-sheet&fbclid=I-wAR28iSL-Z3eZHUJTTggrgRV0AlzE2Ej8zTjXmtvM9aXdq0wkgCXJIerjVYY](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-our-bc-farm-families?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp%20share-sheet&fbclid=I-wAR28iSL-Z3eZHUJTTggrgRV0AlzE2Ej8zTjXmtvM9aXdq0wkgCXJIerjVYY)

### ➤ **Mental Health Resource from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry**

Most individuals will encounter periods of stress throughout their lives. However, not everyone is aware of what the physical symptoms or signs of stress may be. Did you know that you can physically carry stress in your neck and shoulders? To learn more about what signs and symptoms to watch out for to detect stress visit the new resource on the producer website under Mental Health (Healthy Communities).

### ➤ **Poultry Innovation Partnership Newsletter**

Do you like hearing what is new with poultry research? Did you know that the Poultry Innovation Partnership also has a monthly newsletter which includes information on new research, recipes, games, and featured farmers?

To subscribe to their newsletter, please visit: <https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/stay-connected/>

### ➤ **EFA Bylaws Update**

As a follow-up to the discussion had during the regional producer meetings in August about EFA's draft bylaws, we are pleased to report that they have been approved by the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council. Pending Ministerial approval by the Honourable Nate Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, the bylaws are scheduled come into effect when EFA's Plan Regulation is filed between December 15, 2021, and February 10, 2022.

### ➤ **AMA Fill Our Fleet Food Drive**

EFA was proud to be a part of AMA's Fill our Fleet drive-thru food drive to support food banks across Alberta. EFA donated over 100 egg coupons and attended two successful drive-thru food drives with a total of over 95 cars passing through and over 3,655 pounds of food donated. We were thrilled to support AMA while hoping we can continue to support Food Banks Alberta through our own initiatives in 2022.



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## ➤ **EFC Women in the Industry Program 2022**

Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) is recruiting female mentor/mentee egg farmers from across the country to participate in the Women in the Industry program for 2022. The national program aims to connect egg-farming women, facilitate knowledge transfer and foster confidence among women interested in leadership roles within the egg industry. The program was launched on May 30, 2019. Since its launch, the program has engaged more than 25 women from across Canada through in-person engagement, online activities, and a mentorship program.

Throughout the program, delegates engage in continuing education opportunities, take part in networking and industry events to build connections and share experiences, and support each other through this unique mutual mentorship program. Several Alberta egg farmers have participated in the program over the past few years, including Susan Schafers in 2021. Canada's egg sector relies on the determination and hard work of our farmers, and we are proud to support the next generation of leaders.

If you would like to participate in 2022 as a delegate from Alberta or would like to learn more about the program and what the commitment entails, please contact David Webb (ext.126) at the EFA office.

## ➤ **2021 Record Keeping Calendars**

Traditionally, Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) has distributed record keeping calendars during the January regional meetings. However, given the current gathering requirements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic EFA will be mailing record keeping calendars to producers. For producers who currently use or are looking to transition to the electronic record keeping calendars (excel version), the 2022 version will be available on the producer portal by January 1, 2022.

A friendly reminder that while you are waiting for your 2022 calendar, there is an extra copy of the month of January in your current 2021 calendar. This will allow for uninterrupted record keeping while calendars are being distributed.

## **Happy Holidays from EFA**

From EFA Board and staff to all of our dedicated Alberta egg farmers, value chain partners and industry stakeholders, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season filled with joy, prosperity and good health.



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## ► **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.banaj@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:adelina.banaj@eggs.ab.ca) or call 587-391-6122.

## ► **Holiday Egg Inspired Recipes Campaign for December**

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 December, we are sharing holiday recipes our followers can make during the festivities. We hope to inspire families to think about all the different ways to use eggs this holiday season such as devilled eggs, eggnog, and cranberry and pecan pie. Follow us on social to check out these recipes and more!

