



EggNotes



Board of Directors

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EFC Alternate: Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501
Director: Elie Hofer 780-691-8512
Director: John Hofer 403-363-0393
Director in Training: Marcella Van Stryland 403-784-3519

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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Murray Minchin

Fields Services Coordinator

Egg Price Update Effective June 12, 2022

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.960	↑
A	Large	2.960	↑
A	Medium	2.660	↑
A	Small	2.300	↑
A	Nest Run	2.786	↑
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: January 20, 2023

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



Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors are pleased to announce that after considering many potential modifications, ranging from minor tweaks to major changes, the Board has adopted revisions to EFA's Quota Exchange based on feedback from the Quota Exchange Survey. The modifications are minor, but the Board feels they benefit the producers engaged in the Quota Exchange. The process for submitting applications to sell and purchase quota remains unchanged. The Board would like to thank producers for their ongoing engagement in this program and all the feedback and suggestions in the recent producer survey.

The Board will review the proposed changes to the Quota Exchange through a consulting firm that will verify their effectiveness. Once the modifications have been validated, EFA will take the opportunity to update producers on the modifications to the Quota Exchange at the Regional Meetings in January 2023.

The Board plans to go live with the Quota Exchange modifications upon QE-2 2023's launch.

The EFA Board is also pleased to announce that Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) has redistributed a portion of the funds collected from producers for Service Fee contributions. Service Fee was collected from producers between 2014-2020. EFA will be redistributing the funds to producers relative to the amount each producer paid into Service Fee during that time. In total, EFA will redistribute nearly \$1.6 million back to producers who contributed to Service Fee. Producers can expect to receive their refund on February 24, 2023.

Continuing the thread of good news stories, January 2023 will bring a new allocation of quota from EFC to the provinces. In total, the Board will be increasing our provincial quota allocation by 80,233 in 2023. This allocation will also trigger the New Entrant program in 2024.

The Board would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, as we head into the holiday season. Please stay safe and keep warm. See you all in 2023!



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Avian Influenza (AI) Update

As of the time of publication, there are currently 8 active Primary Control Zones (PCZs) in the province, with 60 total confirmed cases (33 commercial poultry farms + 1 commercial mixed poultry farm).

Since mid-November BC has experienced over 50 cases of AI on commercial poultry operations. This continues to strain resources in Western Canada and demonstrate the continued presence of the virus. Our thoughts are with our friends and colleagues in BC as they deal with the stress and challenges associated with this fall/winter outbreak. We will continue to support them wherever possible.

Staff Update - Welcome Sandy!

We are pleased to announce that Sandy Xia joined EFA on November 16, 2022, as our Financial Coordinator, replacing Justin. Sandy has more than ten years of hands-on accounting experience, doing payment runs, accounts payable, and employee expense claims.

She received her education at the Hubei University in China with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Accounting Certificate from SAIT. Sandy joined PetroChina Canada in 2022 and before that she spent seven years with Elbow River Marketing company to manage the invoice payment schedules and operate within the supplier agreed framework to complete all month-end processing, track all accounting documents for both AP and AR. Sandy has also held various accounting positions with United Way and Royal Immigration Legal Service, Hubei Power dealing with high volume account information in different systems.

In her spare time, Sandy has built a beautiful garden and likes to explore the amazing Alberta mountains with her husband and three boys. She also loves to spend time with her friends, sharing different food to celebrate various festivals. Make sure to say hi to Sandy and introduce yourself when you see her!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 22-26 | EFA office closed for Christmas - 12:00pm December 22 till the 26

December 30 | EFA office closed at 12:00pm for New Years Eve |

Confirm birds from the 2023/2024 Quota Leasing Pool

January 2 | EFA office closed in lieu of New Years Day

January 5 | QE1-2023 Sales Deadline

January 12 | QE1-2023 Red/Green date

January 18 | Edmonton Regional Meeting

January 19 | Calgary Regional Meeting

January 25 | Lethbridge Regional Meeting

January 26 | Lethbridge Regional Meeting

UPCOMING WEBINARS



*Missed a recent webinar? You can watch the recordings of past webinars on the producer portal ->
<https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/producer-portal/learning-portal/webinars-and-eggbiters>*

Most recent webinar: Revised Animal Care Program



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List of Safe Websites

The list of safe websites has been transitioned onto the producer portal. To find the most up to date list (sites with information on the daily functioning of your pullet/egg facilities that have been vetted by colony elders) please visit the List of Safe Websites tab under Information Center.

What's New in Poultry Research

There is lots new this month in poultry research! We would like to start off by letting you know the producer portal has been updated with video presentations on research projects, Beak blunting in laying hens using a modified feeder and Infectious Laryngotracheitis in backyard poultry and what this means for the commercial poultry industry.

The portal has also been updated with several research summaries from Egg Farmers of Canada and the Canadian Poultry Research Council including the Effects of Maternal Stress on Layers, How Aviary Rearing systems affect Fearfulness in Pullets, Keel Bone Health, and Aviary Rearing Systems Building Better Bones and Muscles. Additionally, a meeting summary and technology transfer information from Poultry Innovation Partnership's Spark 2.0 meeting on October 17th has also been added.

Lastly, if you are interested in participating in a research project on the Effects of E.Coli on Egg Yolk Peritonitis and have pullets turning 19 weeks in December and or January, please reach out to Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x 125.



Egg Joke

Who tells the best eggnog jokes?
Comedi-hens!



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Healthy Birds

Stand Alone Fillable PDF Records for Revised Animal Care Program

On August 8, 2022, producers received a memo outlining the timelines and records that would be changing with the launch of the Revised Animal Care Program. On the producer portal the updates stand alone fillable pdf records to reflect the Revised Animal Care Program have been loaded.



These include the following documents:

- Emergency Plan
- Visitor Policy
- Returning Visitor Policy
- Farm Animal Welfare Policy
- Employee Code of Conduct Policy
- Beak Treatment and Trimming Policy
- Vaccination Record
- Pullet Flock History Certificate and Pullet Flock History Self Grower
- Handling, Catching, Loading Guidelines
- Catching Crew Record
- Euthanasia Training Records
- Individual Bird Euthanasia Plan
- On-Farm Depopulation Euthanasia Plan
- Emergency On-Farm Depopulation Euthanasia Plan
- Corrective Action Log

As well as updated Standard Operating Procedures for Individual bird and Depopulation Euthanasia that include veterinarian signatures.

Please ensure that you are using these updated resources as you prepare for your upcoming Animal Care Program audits in 2023.



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From Your PMC: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Preparedness Package

As we head into the winter season, producers continue to remain concerned about the looming risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). During the last Production Management Committee (PMC) meeting, members reviewed several template Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Disposal and Cleaning and Disinfecting pertaining to HPAI.

To accompany these SOPs a Disposal working group comprised of members of the Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (APIEMT) have been working to develop a decision tree to walk producers through their disposal options, a document to review legal landsites and setback requirements, and the process for contacting Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AAI) to get provincial approval for burial sites.

The delivery and review of all these resources (SOPs, decision tree, burial site requirements etc.) will be presented in an upcoming webinar in the New Year titled, What to Expect if You're Avian Influenza Positive.

The PMC would like to stress the importance of preparedness to producers. It is important to take as many proactive steps as possible including attending the webinar, completing the templates, and having a plan (and backup plan) in place. During a disease outbreak it is in the industry's best interest to move quickly and efficiently. The more a producer can do to prepare themselves for the outcomes of a potential disease detection the more effective the response and timeliness of activities and the less stress on you!

Stay tuned in the new year as additional details on the HPAI webinar and package are released.

Disposal Services – West Coast Reduction Ltd.

In 2019 EFA advised Alberta egg farmers that West Coast Reduction Ltd. (WCRL) (formerly Northern Alberta Processors) was terminating their depopulation (MAC cart) service for farmers in Alberta. At that time, it was noted that WCRL would continue to provide collection and recycling of spent hens and would adjust their rates to reflect this change in service.

For those farmers who continued to use WCRL for spent hen disposal we would like to advise that as of November, 2022 WCRL has limited capacity to receive birds and has told some farms they are not accepting spent fowl. If you rely on WCRL to receive your birds post-depopulation, we recommend you connect with them regarding capacity during your scheduled timeframe and consider alternative methods of disposal if necessary.

If you have any questions about approved methods of disposal, please contact Jenna Griffin at jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x. 129.



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Classified Ads

Camelina Meal for Sale!

- 35% crude protein
- High in Omega-3

If interested, please contact Paul at
306-331-0045

Poultry Equipment for Sale!

- Big dutchman flat chains feed drives and corners
- Egg gathering equipment for big dutchman conventional cages
- End manure drives big dutchman

If interested, please contact Joe at
403-323-7705

Barn LED Lighting for Sale!

- Extra LED lighting (lightly used)

If interested, please contact Cherilee
at cheri_day@hotmail.com or
780-985-2360

Are you selling equipment that you would like featured here?

Contact Tate O'Dwyer, EFA's Marketing & Social Media Coordinator at 587-391-6122 and your ad could be on the next month's edition! Classified ads are also located on the Classified forums section of the Producer Portal.



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Healthy Farms

Changes to Special Programs Lease Policy

Effective as of November 2022, there are changes to the Special Programs Lease Policy:



- Producers don't qualify if they are naturally shifting months based on an extended flock cycle (ex. if recent flocks show a history of being in lay for more than 52 weeks).
- The 5% for movement to January is staggered at 2% in the 1st year, 5% in the 2nd year, and 8% in the 3rd year (total of 15% to match with 5% for 3 years)
- The 2% for movement to May is staggered with 1% in the 1st year, 2% in the 2nd year, and 3% in the 3rd year (total of 6% to match with 2% for 3 years)

The goal of the above staggering is to incentivize producers not only to change, but to stick with the revised schedule when there may be competing incentives to switch back.

As a reminder, Egg Farmers of Alberta has established a pool of 10,000 layers to be used for special programs that encourage the adoption of good management practices and production efficiencies. Two production practices have been targeted for special programs due to the positive impact changes in these areas will have on the industry including moving to an all-in all-out production cycle and adjusting flock placement to periods of lower demand (ex. January, May) from periods of high demand (ex. March, April, October, November, December).

Special program leases are available on a first come, first serve basis to those who submit a completed application form and meet application requirements.

If you have any questions about the special programs lease policy please contact Erin Johnston at erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x 127.

Farms are loud places, but how loud is too loud? Article written by Jody Wacowich, AgSafe Alberta

Noise induced hearing loss is a common problem among farmers. Hearing loss in adult farmers is almost double that of non-farmers.

Damage that occurs from noise exposure is gradual and it sneaks up on you. The higher the noise level the shorter the exposure time that is required to cause the loss. Noise induced hearing loss is irreversible, but the good news is that it is preventable.

Continued on next page....



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Noise hazards on the farm include:

- Tractors
- Clamouring of equipment or materials
- Compressors
- Tools (chainsaws, pneumatic tools)

If we have to start raising our voice to speak to someone about 1 meter away, then this noise could be hazardous to our health. There are apps that you can download, to give you an estimate of the noise levels you are working with (Note: because they are not calibrated, they are not considered an exact measurement). Sounds over 85 decibels cause hearing damage after 8 hours of exposure. An increase to 88 decibels reduces that time to 4 hours and at 100 decibels it is less than 15 minutes.

What can you do to prevent hearing loss?

Anticipate when you will be working in a noisy area and use the appropriate hearing protection. Often, we think about this after we get started, and it is too much time to go get it. So, identifying the hazard before we start helps us start the task with proper hearing protection. Remember, not all hearing protection is equal and not all hearing protection fits people the same way.

Factors to consider when selecting hearing protection:

- Is it comfortable?
- Are you wearing it correctly?
- Are you wearing it when you should be wearing it?

NRR = Noise reduction rating. This is found on the box and the higher the number the better the protection.

Signs you may be experiencing hearing loss:

- Asking people to repeat themselves
- People saying—did you not hear me when I said
- Feeling like people around you are mumbling

I want to leave you with one last thought, think of an activity that brings a smile to your face, you can hear the sounds happening at that activity. What would that activity feel like if you could not hear it? Take a moment to grab some hearing protection before starting a noisy task.



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Healthy Communities

EFA volunteers serving breakfast at Father Scollen Catholic School

As part of our social responsibility with supporting our communities, one of EFA's partnerships is with the Breakfast Club of Canada. They work with schools across Canada to help feed students' nutritious breakfasts. One of these schools is Father Scollen Catholic School in Calgary, a Kindergarten to Grade 9 school with over 650 students.



On Tuesday, November 29th, the Breakfast Club of Canada along with Egg Farmers of Alberta helped serve the entire school breakfast, with scrambled eggs in the spotlight. Team members that helped cook the eggs included Brandy, Carley, and Tate.

We are proud to take time and give back to our community and look forward to the next one. Get Cracking!



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 presence. Each month we'll include a communications update 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 tate.odwyer@eggs.ab.ca or call 587-391-6122.



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Marketing Highlights

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

Myth Busted



New Blog: What to Make with 1 Dozen Eggs



COOKING

NOVEMBER 28, 2022

What to make with a Dozen Eggs?

Have you recently purchased a dozen fresh, local eggs from the grocery store? Deciding how best to use those 12 eggs for meals spread out through the week? We figured we would lend a hand and highlight 6 recipes that [...]



New Sponsorship!



Fresh, Local, Affordable



EFA is pleased to have partnered with the Calgary Hitmen, the WHL junior team! Watch for social media 'Crack of the Game' highlights of hits and more throughout the season. EFA will also have a 10x10 booth on the concourse for 2 games.

The EFA team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



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