

EggNotes

Board of Directors

Chair: Susan Schafers 780-722-3238
 Vice Chair: John Hofer 403-641-2030
 EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser 403-653-4480
 EFC Alternate: Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297
 Director: Byron Toews 403-389-4404
 Director: Peter Waldner 403-795-8621

EFA Staff

General Manager: Susan Gal
 ext: 124
 Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb
 ext: 126
 Marketing & Social Media Coordinator: Angie Lang
 ext: 103
 Farm Programs Manager: Christina Robinson
 Industry Development Officer: Jenna Griffin
 ext: 129
 Office Manager: Laurel Martin
 ext: 121
 Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
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 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

Office will be closed on February 19th for
 Family Day

Egg Price Update

Effective November 12, 2017

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.150	↑
A	Large	2.150	↑
A	Medium	1.920	↑
A	Small	1.550	↑
A	Nest Run	2.025	↑
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: March 9, 2018

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website
 (both full issue PDF and blog posts) or EFA's producer
 website



EFA Board Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors would like to thank the registered egg farmers who attended our January round of regional meetings. All four sessions were well attended, and full of lively discussion. The meetings were an excellent opportunity to share updates and collect feedback, while engaging farmers on a variety of important issues. The insights and ideas gathered will help the Board throughout the coming year, and provide further strategic direction as we lead the Alberta egg industry forward.

As a reminder, the regional meeting presentation, as well as a summary of the notes taken during the various round-table discussions, will be available on the producer website. As another reminder, please reach out to David or Angie at the EFA office, to share your insights and memories in celebration of EFA's 50th anniversary. EFA is encouraging egg farmers to share their stories about how the egg industry has changed over the past 50 years, their thoughts about the egg industry's greatest achievements, or any fond memories that stand out and make you especially proud to be an egg farmer.

See you all in Red Deer at EFA's AGM, on February 27!



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HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

EFA Director Development Program

Egg Farmers of Alberta recently launched the Director Development Program (DDP), which is designed to engage the farmer membership and stimulate Board succession planning. Each year, a Board appointed registered producer will be able to participate in Board meetings as a non-voting Director, to gain exposure to how the EFA Board operates and familiarize themselves with current issues of critical importance to the Board.

Every Director must act honestly and in good faith, with a view to the best interests of EFA and the Alberta egg industry. Directors must hold in strict confidence all information relative to the activities, plans and affairs of the Board.

The EFA Board will announce the Director Development Program in December of each year, and farmers interested in applying to the DDP must submit a letter by March 1, explaining why they might like to become an EFA Director. Any interested Hutterite egg farmers must also include written authorization from their colony elders, as required.

For more information about the Director Development Program, including the roles and responsibilities of EFA Directors, please visit the producer website or contact the EFA office.

Upcoming Events

Feb 8 – Board Meeting (Calgary)
Feb 7 - Mass Depopulation Committee Meeting (Calgary)
Feb 26 – Western Poultry Conference (Sheraton, Red Deer)
Feb 27 – EFA AGM (Sheraton, Red Deer)



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Healthy Farms



Bill 6

The technical working groups studying occupational health and safety have submitted their recommendations outlining how provincial legislation could apply to farms and ranches. The deadline to review the recommendations and provide feedback has been extended to February 26, 2018.

Please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch-consultations.aspx> for a summary of the recommendations.

Written comments can be sent to:

Farm and TWG recommendations feedback
Occupational Health and Safety branch
Alberta Labour
8 Floor Labour Building
10808-99 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 0G5

FarmandRanch@gov.ab.ca

EFA's Farm Safety Committee met with Alberta Labour in December and subsequently provided written feedback. A copy of that feedback can be found at:
<http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/userfiles/files/farm%20and%20ranch.pdf>

In addition, the AgCoalition is working to provide consolidated feedback on behalf of its member organizations.

2018 Livestock Care Conference

The annual Livestock Care Conference brings together industry experts, stakeholders and producers to discuss latest trends and issues in the livestock industry in Alberta.

The conference will be held in Olds, Alberta on March 14 and 15, 2018. To register and find out speaker and general info go to: www.afac.ab.ca/livestock-care-conference



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Western Poultry Conference



The 4th Annual Western Poultry Conference will take place in Red Deer February 26, the day before the poultry AGMs. The conference presentations are designed to be practical and will cover a wide range of topics including:

- Measuring Performance beyond Productivity
- Supporting immune function
- AOPA Permitting Requirements – a Practical Guide
- Geo-fencing: The Facts, the Myths, the Benefits and more!

Following the conference, the welcome reception for the AGM and trade-show begins – so you can plan for a full day of learning and networking!

You can register for the Western Poultry Conference on their website at www.westernpoultryconference.ca

Tickets are \$85.00 each and include a light breakfast and lunch. Note that pricing is reduced to \$75.00 if you register 4 or more people. We hope to see you there!

Clarification on Ammonia and Temperature Records

Egg Farmers of Canada has recently provided clarification on the requirements for recording ammonia levels and barn temperatures in facilities that have more than one room for housing birds.

“Farmers with a barn that has two separate rooms, with a wall between them, have to perform an ammonia test in each room and record the results for each room. They also have to monitor and record the temperature daily for each room.”

While farmers with multi-age flocks have been maintaining records for each flock all along, it is now confirmed that farmers with one age of birds housed in 2 separate rooms must also maintain ammonia and temperature records for each room. To give impacted farmers time to adjust, auditors will begin auditing according to the above interpretation on July 1, 2018. Farmers with one age flock, but two rooms may want to consider adopting the 2 flock record keeping book as it provides the necessary space for tracking temperature and ammonia levels twice.



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Farm Energy Agri-Processing (FEAP) Program Open

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap



FEAP is a combination of two discontinued GF2 programs:

- On-Farm Energy Management Program
- Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program (Stream C)

By combining these two programs, a single program can be offered across the whole agricultural value-chain, for energy efficiency and energy management projects.

Program Description:

The Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program shares costs with the agriculture and agri-processing sector on energy efficiency investments. The program is designed to encourage energy management which will result in cost savings, energy conservation, and ultimately, reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The program offers financial support, subject to financial constraint, to applicants who incorporate high efficiency equipment that is identified in the applicable funding list in their construction and/or retrofitting projects.

Key Messages:

- This program is RETROACTIVE to April 2016.
 - Applicants with eligible receipts dated April 2016 and later can apply.
 - Retroactive projects are subject to current eligibility criteria.
- 50% cost share on most items. See funding list for full details.
- \$250,000 maximum grant per applicant per year
- Funding Timeline is from now to February 2020
- An EFP is NOT a prerequisite for this funding
- Applications will be processed in a first complete, first served basis.
 - Incomplete applications will not secure a spot in line.
- Once applications have been approved, producers can watch for emails from the grant management system: "Grant_Management_System@agric.gov.ab.ca" They will get notifications from this email address as their application moves through the steps.

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For More Information:

Visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap for:

- Application forms
- Producer Funding List
- Processor Funding List
- Program Terms and Conditions



Calling all Egg Ambassadors!

With the new year comes another opportunity for Alberta egg farmers to become Egg Ambassadors! There are many ways that Egg Ambassadors can represent EFA and the Alberta egg industry. Whether it's attending public events like the Calgary Stampede, becoming a farmer profiled on EFA's website, engaging consumers on social media, or attending meetings with industry stakeholders, becoming an Egg Ambassador can be a rewarding experience for both the farmer and the egg industry.

If you are interested in being an Egg Ambassador in 2018, or even just want to learn more about the Egg Ambassador program, EFA encourages you to attend an upcoming Egg Ambassador Workshop. We are tentatively planning to host 2 workshops this year, one north of Calgary and one south of Calgary, to give all egg farmers more opportunity to learn about the Egg Ambassador program. Attending a workshop does not commit you to anything, and doing so even helps contribute to the Egg Ambassador portion of the Producer of the Year evaluation!

Egg Ambassador workshop details will be distributed to all egg farmers in the coming weeks. Please contact David or Angie at the EFA office to RSVP for one of the Egg Ambassador workshops.



Healthy Birds



Feather Cover Monitoring

If you picked up a new record keeping book for 2018 you will notice a new addition – feather cover monitoring! In 2018, EFA is encouraging each farmer, regardless of the housing system used, to start monitoring feather cover in their layer flocks. Monitoring feather cover is voluntary, however through the year we will be continuing to encourage this practice and will be releasing additional resources on feather cover to support farmers in adopting this flock management tool.

Feather cover is important for many reasons: it is linked to the overall perception of bird welfare, it can impact a bird's feed consumption, temperature regulation, and their ability to protect themselves from injury. By monitoring feather cover in your flock, you can identify changes or issues early, which can aide you in understanding possible causes of the problem and in turn, potential solutions. Monitoring over time will also help you better understand the impacts of any measures you take to manage feather cover issues in your flocks.

We've chosen a system for feather cover monitoring that is quick, easy, reliable and was developed here in Canada. The assessment is visual, so you don't have to handle your birds and the assessment can be done as you complete your regular barn walk-through. The new feather monitoring sheets in your record book include complete instructions on how to select birds for monitoring and how to score feather cover. Here are some highlights:

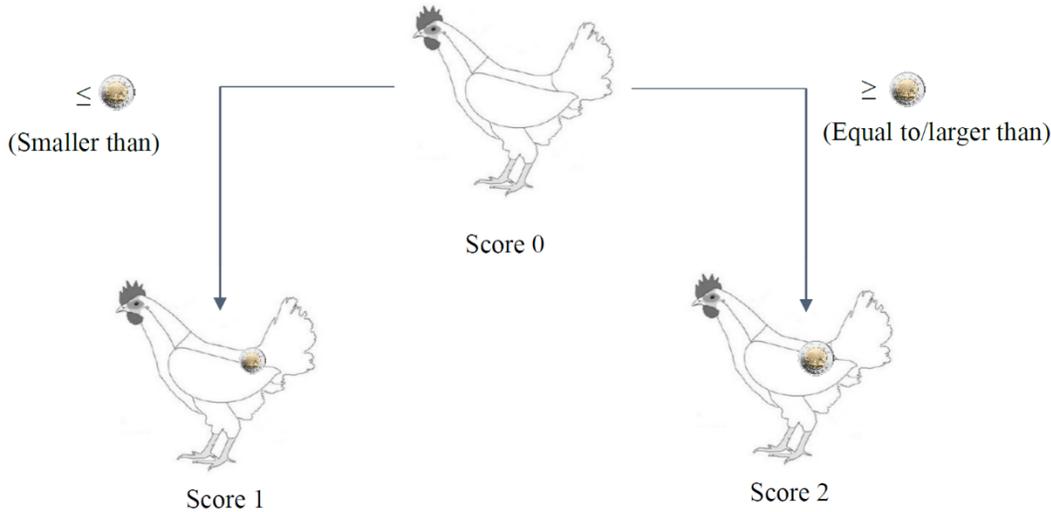
- It is recommended that a flock's feather cover be monitored 3 to 4 times during the lay cycle at regular intervals (for example at 20, 35, 50 and 65 weeks of age).
- We suggest monitoring 50 birds each time you record feather cover scores. Be sure to review the instructions for how to select birds that reflect the flock housed in your barn and how to avoid bias.
- Birds are scored on feather cover in two areas – their head/neck and their back/rump. The scoring system is as follows:

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Score	Description
0	Intact feather cover or bald patch visible that is smaller than a two-dollar coin
1	Damaged feathers (worn, deformed) or bald patch visible that is equal to or smaller than a two-dollar coin
2	At least one bald patch visible that is larger than a two-dollar coin



We encourage you to reflect on the results of your feather cover monitoring and to record your observations as well as any adjustments you've made to manage emerging feather cover issues.

A new page has been added to the producer website under Animal Care – Best Practices with additional resources on feather cover management including: the complete guide for the Canadian feather cover, the Featherwel guide that provides advice on practical strategies to reduce the risk of injurious pecking, and more!

We hope you find the record keeping pages and the resources on feather cover helpful! If you have questions or feedback on the resources, please feel welcome to contact Christina at Christina.robinson@eggs.ab.ca.



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SC-SC and Animal Care – 2017 Recap

We know that there is a lot involved in managing an egg farm with healthy hens producing quality eggs. In 2017 farmers demonstrated again how dedicated they are to their professions as egg farmers by performing egg-ceptionally well in their on farm programs!

- 2017's average score in the Animal Care Program was 99.95% with 91% of farmers scoring 100% in the program.
- In the SC-SC Layer Program, the average score last year was 99.9% with 92% of farmers scoring 100%. All Alberta egg farmers maintained their accreditation last year.
- In the SC-SC Pullet Program's average score was 99.58%, with 83% of pullet growers scoring 100%. 86% of pullet growers are now accredited in the program as well. It is mandatory that all pullet growers be accredited in the SC-SC program by January 1, 2019 – see our On Farm Food Safety Policy (link to [http://www.albertaeggproducers.com/userfiles/files/8_3%20Policy\(2\).pdf](http://www.albertaeggproducers.com/userfiles/files/8_3%20Policy(2).pdf)) for more detail

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and commitment to excellence in egg farming.

We know that to continue this amazing success in our industry, we can't sit idle, but focus on continually stretching to improve. With that in mind, we took a look back at 2017 to see what the most common corrective actions were and how they can be addressed.

In both the pullet and layer SC-SC programs, the most frequent CAR by a landslide was only one kind of poultry is maintained on the farm. With so many arms producing more than one type of poultry, we understand that this will continue to be an area highlighted by our on farm food safety programs.

If you have more than one type of poultry on your farm, you have a heightened risk of sharing diseases amongst your flocks, but there is a lot you can do to minimize your risks. The resource Protecting Flocks on a Multi-Species Farm (link to <http://www.albertaeggproducers.com/userfiles/files/Protecting%20Flocks%20on%20a%20Multi-Species%20Farm%20-%20Update%20for%20Q4%202012.pdf>) is a great read to refresh you on the steps you can take to manage your risks.

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In the Animal Care Program, the most common Corrective Action is a written plan for euthanasia of birds with acceptable methods described. Acceptable methods are those that are approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association. For the written plans, you can use the SOPs that have been developed by Egg Farmers of Alberta (link to http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/userfiles/files/Laying%20Hen%20Euthanasia%20Producer%20Resource%20-%20Final,%2002_04_15.pdf), however you must ensure that you are following the steps outlined in these procedures or adjust the SOPs accordingly.

EFA is here to support you in your on farm programs. If you receive a corrective action that you aren't sure how to address or resolve, contact Dave Lastiwka or Christina Robinson and they will be happy to provide you with information and advice to help on your journey.

If you don't have access to the producer site that we link to in this article, you can contact EFA's office and request a copy of these resources be e-mailed or faxed.



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