

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
ext: 101
Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
ext: 127
Business Manager: Kari Buijs
ext: 132
Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastwka
ext: 128
Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin
Application Support Specialist: Kelly Pow
ext: 105

EFA Vision Statement

Healthy Food, Healthy Farms, Healthy Families

EFA Mission Statement

Cultivating a sustainable egg industry together
with farmers, consumers & other stakeholders

EFA Office Hours

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

Egg Price Update

Effective 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: December 8, 2017

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



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P: 403-250-1197 Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 F: 403-291-9216
Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Director Development Program

The Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors has been exploring various avenues to help with Director recruitment. To that end, the Board has developed a Director Development Program, which will call on interested applicants to submit a letter to the Board, explaining why they might like to become an EFA Director. The Board will consider all of the applicants and may consider appointing one producer to a one-year term, to serve as a Director-in-Training.

The purpose behind the Director Development Program is to engage membership and stimulate Board succession planning. The Director-in-Training will gain valuable exposure to how the Board operates, while familiarizing themselves with a number of pertinent topics and issues that will shape the future of Alberta's egg industry.

Full details about the Director Development Program are available on the producer website, in the information center section. If you have any questions, please contact one of the current Directors.



Healthy Farms



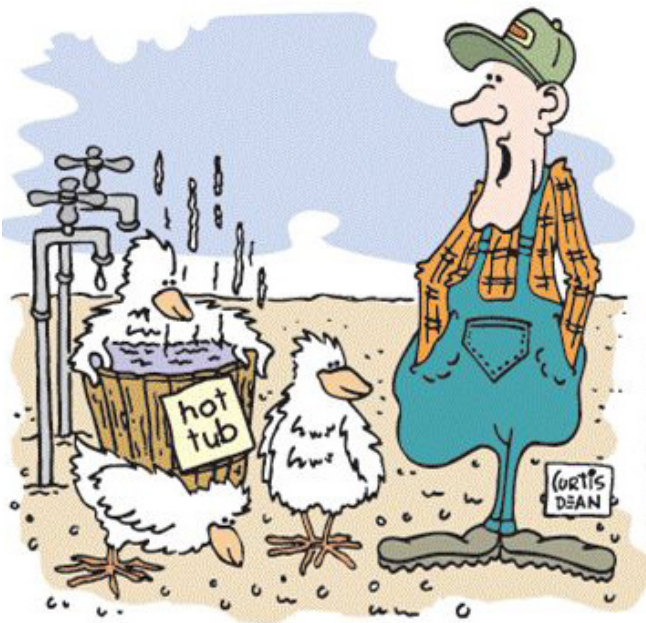
Changes to the EFC Quota Credit Policy

The Quota Credit Policy is an incentive program offered by EFC to producers whose flocks are out of production for longer than the standard 7 day down-time. It allows producers to capture the lost production by allocating additional birds that can be placed at a later point in time, for a specific period of time. The Quota Credit Policy was developed to assist producers when retooling and refurbishing their barns, installing new ventilation systems, re-caging, moving from multi-age to single-age flocks, adjusting flock placements dates, constructing new barns on existing footprints, and/or to become compliant with EFC production standards.

EFC has made the following 2 changes to the Quota Credit Policy:

- If approved applicant's plans to utilize quota credits changes from their original application, they must tell Egg Farmers of Alberta 30 days prior to the change
- Quota credits must be placed for a minimum of one flock cycle.

If you have any question, please call Kari (x 132) at the EFA office.



"Okay, which one of you has been laying the hard boiled eggs?"

Classified:

Dear Producer,

Currently, Alberta producers have an excellent opportunity to have an expert from Manitoba come service some of our older mills. The mill type is the Rad 3000 and the controller is the Weightronix series. If you are interested in having Rich Wildeman come calibrate your mill, your Weightronix controller and your scales, please contact me by phone. I will be in touch with Rick and will see if we can arrange a cost sharing tip.

-Michael Froese (587-340-7344)

Fair and Family-Friendly Workplaces Act



The Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act passed on June 5, 2017. It included changes to the Employment Standards Code and Labour Relations Code that will apply to farms and ranches. These changes considered input from the farm and ranch technical working groups, which reviewed employment standards and labour relations, as well as the public.

Most changes that affect farms and ranches will come into effect on January 1, 2018, with the exception of the availability of Public Emergency Tribunals, which took effect on June 7, 2017, and changes to youth employment standards, which will be proclaimed after additional engagement with stakeholders including the agricultural community.

The Government of Alberta has developed a FAQs document to help inform producers, which has been posted to the Farm Safety section of EFA's producer website.

Upcoming Events

November 13: Office closed for Remembrance Day

December 7 & 8: EFA Board Meeting (Calgary)

January 16: Regional Meeting, Winston Elks Club, formerly known the Elks Club (Calgary)

January 17: Regional Meeting - Days Inn, Leduc (Edmonton)

January 24: Regional Meeting - Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre (Lethbridge)

January 25: Regional Meeting - Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre (Lethbridge)

July 8-10: Summer Meeting (Calgary)



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Healthy Birds



Learning from Hatching Ideas on Animal Welfare

The October issue of EggNotes included an update about Hatching Ideas on Animal Welfare (HIAW), a stakeholder engagement session hosted by EFA. This event brought together a wide variety of people engaged in the egg industry including retailers, researchers, government, graders, hatcheries and other service industries. You may be wondering what was discussed at the event, and what EFA plans to do with the information moving forward.

One of the greatest challenges the egg industry faces is continuing to provide animal care for layer hens that meets the expectations of society and retailers, and is based on sound scientific research. EFA needs to continue engaging with industry stakeholders, to understand their perspectives, gain new ideas on how to move forward and, ideally, to work together towards a common goal of a sustainable egg industry built around sound animal care practices.

At HIAW, all participants had an opportunity to share their vision for the future of animal care in the egg industry, their thoughts on the biggest welfare challenges, and how the industry can most effectively address them. Obtaining input from outside voices helps to identify priorities and provides more options to consider, as EFA determines how to move forward towards its vision of success regarding animal welfare in the egg industry:

- Progressively look for solutions to animal welfare challenges;
- Continuously improving;
- Focused on supporting egg farmers to implement meaningful improvements on farm;
- Meeting expectations from society, customers, retailers and other stakeholders.

EFA has compiled key messages and lessons learned from HIAW, which were published in a summary report. Some highlights from the report include:

- The collaborative industry should be working together to build a sustainable egg industry. While a sustainable industry needs to consider animal welfare, other factors are also considered including the environment, food safety, traceability, consumer choice, and food affordability.

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- Transparency is fundamental in building trust with consumers. The egg industry needs to communicate proactively, in two-way dialogue and in a way that is not perceived as defensive.
 - There is opportunity to collaborate with other egg industry stakeholders, to educate one another about animal welfare issues and to tell the great stories about how egg farmers care for their hens.
 - Animal based outcomes provide an opportunity to measure welfare on farm, and will likely play an important role in animal welfare programs going forward. The egg industry can begin by selecting one animal outcome based measure and working to make improvements over time.



EFA will use the information cultivated at Hatching Ideas on Animal Welfare to help shape strategic plans for 2018 and beyond. Connecting with stakeholders will continue to be an important step as EFA works towards achieving our vision of success for animal welfare in the egg industry.





Assessing Animal Welfare

In September, representatives from EFA attended the International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare (WAFL) in Ede, Netherlands. Attendees learned

more about how animal welfare can be measured and monitored on farms.

There are three types of measures that can be used to assess welfare:

1. Resource based measurements – also known as input based measurements, these measures look at aspects of the animal's environment. Historically the egg industry's Animal Care Program has been made up of mostly resource based measurements such as assessing the amount of floor space, feeder space and water access per bird.
2. Management based measurements – these measures assess the overall level of management, including animal care procedures. These types of measures typically require farms to maintain records to verify their management practices. In recent years, a number of management based measures have been added to the Animal Care Program, including the requirement to maintain an Employee Code of Conduct, Handling and Catching Guide, and standard operating procedures for euthanasia.
3. Outcome based measurements – also known as animal or bird based measurements, these measures assess the actual state of the animal. Examples of outcome based measures include feather cover, foot pad health and keel bone scores. While the Animal Care Program currently does not include any outcome based measures, it is a requirement that at least one outcome based measure be added to the Animal Care Program as part of the current update to the 2017 Code of Practice using NFAC's animal care assessment plan.



Outcome based measures are gaining popularity in livestock animal care assessments for a number of reasons:

- Measures are independent of the housing type, for example, foot pad scoring is the same regardless of whether your hens are in a conventional cage system or an aviary.
- When the right measures are selected, they can be a good signal for overall welfare of the animal and flock. For example, in pigs the number of tail lesions is seen as a good indicator of welfare – fewer tail lesions typically means that welfare overall is likely good, and vice versa.
- Outcome based measures can assure the public that the actual welfare of the animal is meeting a

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certain standard of welfare. This type of measure is also seen as being more transparent.

EFA learned that in Europe many processing facilities have automated foot pad scoring for broilers. If farms ship birds that don't meet the foot pad health score, they have to reduce density at their next flock placement. It is anticipated that in the future, retailers may begin adopting more outcome

based measures as part of their required standards from suppliers.

From a farm perspective, tracking outcome based measures can be a powerful management tool, providing you with early warning for potential health and production issues with your flock. EFA began familiarizing and training farmers on the Welfare Quality Assessment a few years ago, which provides tools for measuring a variety of outcome based measures.

So what are the next steps for outcome based measures in the Alberta egg industry? In 2018 EFA will be including a spot right in your record keeping books to track one outcome based measure – feather cover. Through the year, EFA will also be supporting farmers in adopting this measure by providing educational info in EggNotes, at regional meeting, etc. As the updated Animal Care Program is developed for the Canadian egg industry, EFA will keep producers updated on what outcome based measures will be included in the assessment, and how you can be prepared for the changes this may bring to your flock management.

At WAFL, EFA heard again and again that it is vital for farmers to have positive attitudes towards their animal care program and the measures used. It has been proven that when farmers have positive attitudes, the care of animals actually improves! Keeping measures simple and continuing to keep farmers informed is an important focus for EFA's animal care initiatives moving forward.

If you have ideas for how EFA can support you in providing excellent animal care, please contact Christina (christina.robinson@eggs.ab.ca) at the EFA office.

If you are interested in reading more about outcome based measures, check out this recent article from the United Egg Producer's last newsletter: New Learning about Animal Welfare Assessments (www.unitedegg.com/newsletter/readfile.cfm?id=744).



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Be Seen Be Safe

The Alberta poultry industry is adopting Be Seen Be Safe, as a way of improving emergency preparedness and response efforts in the face of disease threats such as avian influenza. Producers are encouraged to take part by picking up your farm gate sign and downloading the app for your cell phone.



Be Seen Be Safe Ltd. is an animal health company specializing in infection prevention and control. Be Seen Be Safe is a real-time, virtual visitor logbook that monitors people and vehicle movement on and off farm properties and, based on this information, can predict potential disease movement and provide early notification to farm owners and industry personnel in a disease emergency. Be Seen Be Safe is designed to prevent a minor disease outbreak from becoming a catastrophic disease outbreak. All information is confidential, more private than your current visitor logbooks, and password protected.

In 2016, Be Seen Be Safe was the recipient of an Ontario Premier's Award and the Small Projects Award at the South Australian Spatial Excellence Awards for the innovative use of geo-spatial technologies.

Download the Be Seen Be Safe app from your app store (beseenbesafe in the Google Play Store or Be Seen Be Safe Ltd. in the App Store or Blackberry World). Once the app is downloaded, make sure to register your account and fill in your account details, such as your email and user type (Farm Owner). As a property owner, you will receive real-time notifications on your mobile device, stating who has entered or exited your property. You can also view or download your visitor records at any time.

EFA is having a contest! Please make sure to pick up your Be Seen Be Safe farm sign and hang it somewhere prominently on your property. Once you have done so, snap a photo and send it to info@beseenbesafe.ca before December 31, 2017. The winner of the most unique sign placement (while still being functional) will receive a free smartphone!



See our frequently asked questions, privacy policy, etc. on our website www.beseenbesafe.ca

We are here to help! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate contact by phone (1-519-803-3542) or email (info@beseenbesafe.ca).



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Avian Influenza in our Backyard?

Will highly pathogenic AI strike North America this year?

With no serious AI outbreaks in North America yet this year, it is easy to become complacent about the true degree of risk that AI represents.

However, we can learn a lot about the current level of risk by examining how the disease has been changing in other parts of the world. Some key points to consider are:

- AI outbreaks in China are still active.
- H5N8, the strain that has been plaguing Europe for the past year, has still not been resolved. Most recently, 19 cases of highly pathogenic H5N8 were reported in Italy. The spread of the European H5N8 has been linked in part to migratory birds.
- Europe and Asia have been on high alert for AI all year. Normally, seasonal lulls would be expected in hot weather. However, even Africa has continued to have outbreaks throughout this period.
- When AI infects a flock, it can spread quickly through the barn population and then potentially spread to other farms through direct contamination by people or equipment, through the air, or even through rodents and flies.
- This year, dry conditions have led to less open water in Alberta, which means waterfowl are more concentrated, leading to an increased risk of AI transfer among birds or between species.
- Watch for dead migratory birds and other wild birds in your area. You can double-bag them and bring them to the provincial vet labs in Airdrie or Edmonton.

Keep reading to find out more about how to protect your farm from Avian Influenza.



Fall is a Season with Increased Avian Influenza Risk

- Wild waterfowl, are known to carry AI viruses.
- These viruses often do not cause illness in waterfowl, however certain strains can cause severe illness and death in domestic poultry.
- AI viruses can be transmitted to domestic flocks through direct contact with wild birds or their droppings, or contaminated water supplies.
- Massive movement of wild birds during migration further increases the risk of AI transmission to poultry farms.

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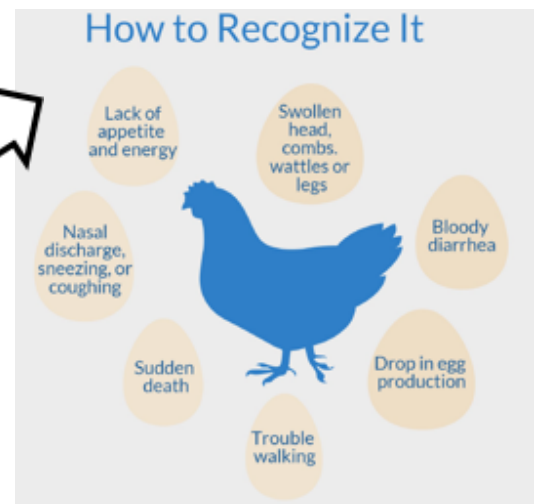
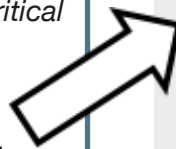
Take Steps to Protect Your Flocks

- Please do not process any wild birds on your farm during hunting season.
- Review your biosecurity protocols, updating them to address any gaps.
- Discuss biosecurity and the current AI threat with your staff and family members.
- Ensure that everyone entering the restricted area of your poultry barn adheres to strict biosecurity protocols each and every time they enter.
- Keep the doors to your barns locked to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Deter wild birds from the areas around your barns.
- Deter wild birds away from your water source and ensure that the water you give your flock is free from wild bird contamination.
- If you have a free range flock with access to the outdoors, you need to manage your risk as you let your birds outside.



Early detection of Avian Influenza is Critical

- If your flocks exhibit these symptoms or:
 - Have high mortality – greater than 0.5% for 2 days in a row
 - A drop in egg production of more than 5% over 2 days.
- Take Action:
 1. Call your vet
 2. Initiate a self-quarantine
 3. Arrange to have birds submitted for diagnostics
 4. Call EFA



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If you find dead wild birds on your farm

- If possible, do not handle the bird.
- If handling can't be avoided
 - o Wear disposable gloves;
 - o Place a plastic bag over your hand before picking up the dead bird;
 - o Dispose of the bird appropriately, following provincial and municipal regulations
 - o Wash your hands with soap and water;
 - o Disinfect any surfaces that came into contact with the wild bird using alcohol, diluted bleach, or a commercial disinfectant.
- If you find a cluster of unusual mortality such as a group of dead waterfowl, gulls, or raptors (hawks, owls, etc), contact Fish and Wildlife at 310-0000. Alberta uses these birds for Avian Influenza surveillance.

The Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team will continue to monitor the Avian Influenza risk level, and will communicate further recommendations as required.

Save the Date

Next year, Egg Farmers of Alberta is turning 50! To mark this significant occasion, EFA is inviting all producers and industry partners to a celebration at the Wild Wild West Event Centre in Calgary, on August 29, 2018.

We hope you will join us!



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