

# EggNotes

## Board of Directors

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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

Regular Office Hours  
October 11 - Thanksgiving, Office Closed

### 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: October 15, 2021

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



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Email: [info@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca) Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

# Board Update

- Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to thank producers and industry partners for their participation at the recently completed round of regional meetings. Not only was it wonderful to be able to come together in person after over a year of virtual meetings, but the level of engagement on a variety of pertinent topics facing EFA and the egg industry was exceptional.

A copy of the regional meeting presentation, as well as a video of the entire regional meeting in Calgary – the only meeting that also had a Zoom option, which saw over 10 people join virtually – are both available on the producer website (Information Center / Producer Meetings).

As a follow-up to the Board Update in the August issue of EggNotes, the Board would like to thank producers for the lively discussion about EFA's regulatory review and plan to transition some parts of the legislation to bylaws. As per the process, and at the request of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, EFA completed a producer vote on this proposed transition at the regional meetings.

- Support of proposed Plan Regulations as amended: 98 (yes) - 3 (no)
- Support of proposed Bylaws as drafted: 99 (yes) - 2 (no)

## ➤ Launch of QE4-21 Quota Exchange

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Q4-21 Quota Exchange. The goal of the exchange is to ensure accessibility, transparency, and equal access to Alberta's egg quota transactions. If you are interested in selling quota on the QE4-21 Quota Exchange, submit all of the required documentation to EFA by the deadline of October 7, 2021. If you have questions, please contact Erin Johnston at 403-250-1197 ext. 127 or by email at [erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 13 - 14**, EFA Board Meeting
- September 15**, EFA Production Management Committee
- September 15 & 27**, Board Session on Updating Sustainability Strategy
- September 23**, Eggs for Processing Project (EFP) Team Meeting
- October 6 - 7**, EFA Strategic Planning Session
- October 7**, Quota Exchange Sales Deadline
- October 11**, Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- October 12**, Research Committee Meeting
- October 14**, Quota Exchange Red/Green Date



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# Healthy Birds



## ► Proposed Changes to CFIA Feed Regulations

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) verifies that livestock feeds manufactured, sold or imported in Canada are safe for animal health, comply with federal standards and are safe for livestock that will be used for human consumption (for example, meat, milk and eggs).

The CFIA has proposed changes to the Feeds Regulations, 1983. This is a major update to the federal feed regulations, intended to more effectively manage risks that livestock feeds pose to animal health, human health and the environment, reflect international standards, and keep up with industry innovation, science and technology.

Proposed changes to the Feeds Regulations include:

- Hazard analysis, and preventive control plans
- Licensing requirements
- Using incorporation by reference
- Increasing regulatory alignment with trading partners
- Reducing the number of feeds that require registration
- Increasing record-keeping requirements
- New traceability requirements

EFA's PMC reviewed the proposed changes at the July meeting. We would like to encourage all producers to read the fact sheets and guidance documents that they feel most apply to their farm, to better understand the proposed regulations

The following fact sheets are intended to help regulated parties understand the requirements within the Feeds Regulations, 2022. We have posted them to the producer website at Healthy Eggs ("On Farm Feed Mills").

- Commercial feed mills
- Feed importers
- Hazard identification and analysis
- Licensing
- On-farm feed mills
- Preventive feed safety controls
- Single ingredient feed manufacturers
- Traceability

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The following guidance documents have also been posted to the producer website:

- Feed approval and product registration guidance for the proposed
- Feed import and export guidance for the proposed Feeds Regulations, 2022
- Guide to timelines for complying with the Feeds Regulations, 2022
- Hazard analysis guidance for the proposed Feeds Regulations, 2022
- Labelling guidance for the proposed Feeds Regulations, 2022
- Licensing guidance for the proposed Feeds Regulations, 2022
- Preventive control plan guidance for the proposed Feeds Regulations, 2022

### ► **QE3-2021 Update**

QE3-21 Quota Exchange Summary Results:

Number of Sellers	1
Number of Purchasers	16
Total Number of Bird of Quota Offered for Sale	4,760
Total Number of Birds of Quota Purchase Bids	48,920
Market Clearing Price (MCP)	\$587.70
Number of Birds of Quota Transferred	4,760
Number of Successful Sellers	1
Number of Successful Purchasers	9

If you are interested in participating in the next Quota Exchange, the launch date is set for September 7, 2021. The Quota Exchange Policy 9.34 can be found on the producer website.

### ► **AB SPCA Podcast with EFA**

EFA was thrilled to be invited to appear on the September 3rd episode of the Alberta SPCA's podcast, AnimalChat, to talk about the egg industry's commitment to animal care and welfare. Carley Frerichs, EFA's Farm Programs Coordinator, and Levi Hofer, from New York Colony, were honored to speak on behalf of Alberta's egg farming families.

They talked about the industry's on-farm animal care, food safety, and environmental programs, detailing the stringent requirements and on-farm inspections that are conducted to ensure compliance. Levi spoke passionately about the dedication that egg farmers in Alberta and across Canada have for raising laying hens, and the pride they have for providing fresh, nutritious, local eggs every day.

Please follow this link if you are interested in listening to the egg industry episode of the Alberta SPCA's AnimalChat: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1746195/9128903>



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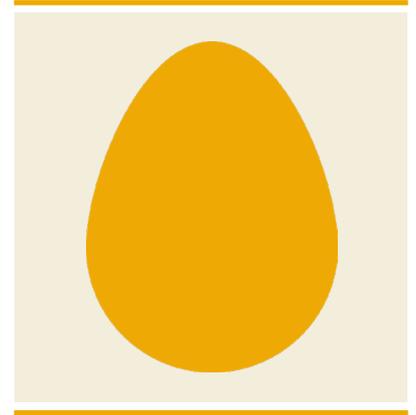
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# Healthy Eggs



## ► Programs Summary Updates

The Animal Care Program and Start-Clean, Stay-Clean® (SC-SC™) Program summaries have been updated and loaded to the producer website to reflect all changes that will be implemented January 1, 2022. They can be found under Farm Programs followed by their associated program title (ex: SC-SC™ Pullets). The most substantial changes are to the SC-SC™ Pullet Program.

Did you know the following was an added requirement to the SC-SC™ Pullet Program for the handling of pullet eggs?

1. Include a statement within the appropriate utilization of manure handling system section that reads “Pullet eggs must be collected and disposed of on-farm.”
2. Include a definition for pullet eggs in the List of Terms that reads “Pullet egg means an egg produced by a mature pullet. These eggs are not for human consumption.”

## ► Wet Versus Dry Cleaning

Farmers choosing to dry clean can obtain equivalent points in the SC-SC™ program by ensuring that an SE test is conducted 8 weeks prior to the repopulation date. Before you decide to dry clean, it is important that you consider the following:

- Under the SC-SC™ Program, farmers choosing to dry clean are still required to disinfect their facility and equipment.
- In order to schedule SE tests 8 weeks prior to the repopulation date, pullet and layer 1 tests may need to be scheduled later to optimize field visits. (Multi-age facilities are going to see the biggest shift in sampling schedules).
- If you test positive for SE during sampling, you will be required to wet wash. An 8-week window does not provide a lot of time to depopulate your flock, wash your barn and get a clean SE result before your pullets are ready to be placed. If you dry clean, you are at risk of having to delay your pullet placement.
- Dry cleaning is not good at cleaning bacteria and disease out of your lay facility: During lay, biofilms form when bacteria attaches to and multiplies on barn facilities and equipment. This biofilm protects bacteria from disinfectants. To be effective the biofilm stuck to facility and equipment surfaces must be removed. Detergent (soap) and hot water used while washing is capable of breaking down biofilms.

**At the August regional meetings the question was asked how many producers are dry cleaning: 3 producers total are dry cleaning.**



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## ► Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to August 14th, 2021, which is period 8/13 for 2021. The stats indicate that in the latest 4-week period 2.9 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 2.1% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending July 17th), and an 7.0% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2020.

The reason for the significant decline was that this period was at the start of the second COVID-19 pandemic lockdown last year, when the market experienced a second surge of isolation-induced buying of eggs.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are down 3.9% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 42.2 million dozen eggs. Alternative eggs (organic, free-range and free-run) have experienced the smallest decline, down 1.7% over the previous 52 weeks, to 4.8 million dozen eggs (11.4% of the total eggs sold in Alberta). As a reminder, additional Nielsen trend data that is updated approximately every four weeks is available on the producer website.

## Healthy Farms

### ► Adaptation Resilience Training

Agriculture is a cornerstone industry in Alberta, but extreme weather and climate variability are impacting the way we do business. Innovative solutions are needed to help build resilience and keep this foundational sector thriving. As part of Alberta's agricultural industry, you may have noticed changes like warmer winters, more intense rainfall, drier summers, and more extreme weather. These changes can impact agriculture by affecting yields, operational costs, damaging crops and infrastructure, and shifting water availability, among other effects.



The Adaptation Resilience Training (ART) program is an Alberta-focused set of introductory courses that will be delivered online from September 7 to 16, 2021 at no cost. This **free training** will explore how Alberta's climate is changing, how this is impacting agricultural production and how you, as a professional in the sector, can understand and manage climate risks in an uncertain future. Topics will include:

- How is Alberta's climate changing?
- What challenges and opportunities does this present for agriculture?
- What kind of solutions are emerging?
- How can the agricultural industry address climate risks?
- What tools, processes, and data are available?

These are foundational modules totaling 14 hours of training. If you are interested you can register at <https://your.alberta.ca/art-registration>.



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## ► Safety Minute - Remote Work/Work Alone

From AgSafe Alberta

There are often parts of the day where someone could be working in your barns alone. Often, when we plan the work day we can become so focused on our plan to get the job done that we may overlook the risk involved with what we are about to do.

Have you ever thought about what would happen if you became caught in or trapped under a piece of equipment you had to stop and repair while working alone? What if the long hours of hard work and hot temperatures set off a heart attack? How would you get help and how long would it take for help to arrive? Would anyone know where you were at? If you were not able to call for help, how long would it be before someone went looking for you?

While it is a scary and overwhelming thought, there are easy steps you can take to manage the risk of these types of situations. Before you head out:

Be prepared:

- Make sure that you can do the work safely, this means being knowledgeable and experienced as well as physically and mentally able (i.e., not overly fatigued or stressed).
- Have a tested, reliable means of communication with you (i.e., make sure there is cell service and that the cell phone battery is fully charged).
- Have more than enough water, food and fuel to get the job done and return home safely.
- Check that first aid kits, fire extinguishers, reflective triangles and other seasonal roadside emergency kits are ready for use and with you.
- Know how to get emergency services to where you are working (such as the rural address, legal land description and/or GPS coordinates of the location) in case something happens.

Have a contact person who:

- Knows where you are working and who you will update when and if you move to another location.
- You have set check-in times with and will know where to go if you miss one.
- Knows how to get emergency services to where you are working (such as the rural address, legal land description and/or GPS coordinates of the location) if they are needed.

Remember:

- If what you are going to do is (or could become) a high risk task, wait for someone or find someone to help you.
- Don't take short cuts or any unnecessary risks, especially if you are working alone.



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## ► PEFIP Update

The Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) is live and open for producers to register and submit project funding applications. Even if you are not planning to submit a funding application in the near future, EFA recommends that all producers register on the PEFIP website and confirm the amount of funding that has been set aside for your farm.

If producers are having trouble registering or submitting an application, please contact David Webb at the EFA office, or contact the PEFIP customer service center directly. Various options for contacting them are available on the 'Contact information' tab of the PEFIP website (<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/poultry-and-egg-farm-investment-program>).

EFA would like to hear from producers that have successfully submitted an application that has been approved for PEFIP funding. This will allow EFA to maintain a list of the types of projects that are being approved, which will be shared via the producer website to help all Alberta egg farmers make use of the funding available through the PEFIP. Please contact David Webb at the EFA office to share your PEFIP success stories.

## Healthy Communities

### ► What has the APIEMT been working on?

The APIEMT is comprised of the following members: the four poultry commodities (ACP, ATP, AHEP, and EFA), egg graders, egg processors, feed industry, meat and egg hatcheries, meat processors, and communications consultants. Both federal and provincial government partners have also been consulted and involved in the development and implementation of some of the emergency preparedness and response resources (ex: API Emergency Response Plan used by industry). Two major producer-based resources have been developed by the APIEMT, including the API Producer Emergency Response Plan and API Producer Emergency Response Quick Guide. These resources guide and assist producers in both preventing and responding to a disease threat. The resources aim to provide technical, logistical, and managerial resources required by the poultry industry for both the preparation and operation of poultry emergencies in Alberta. As a producer, the steps you take during an emergency, especially during the first 24 hours, can mean the difference between an isolated incident and an emergency that has a widespread impact on the industry.



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The APIEMT decides on priority action areas to work on each year. In 2020 some of these activities included successfully completing various command training sessions, functional exercises, and simulations designed to become more familiar with the APIEMT SharePoint site. The poultry industry continued working on improving and updating resources for emergency response including a memorandum of understanding, risk assessment evaluation, emergency contact information, and further development of the emergency response plan.

In the past few years, the APIEMT has transformed from a marketing board-led structure to one that can more seamlessly integrate into the emergency response structures of the Federal and Provincial governments. We have been learning where we as the poultry industry fit into larger-scale disease responses and have been working to create an incident command structure that works for us as a collaborative group of organizations that still need to maintain core function in the event of a disease emergency. These shifts were a result of the need to re-shape the structure of emergency responses to the poultry industry's needs. The APIEMT has plans to implement this revised design in upcoming exercise and training with its members, under the leadership of Risk Ready, our emergency response service provider.

### ► **EFA Customer Service Survey Results**

EFA was thrilled to receive more than 110 submissions for the 2021 Customer Service Survey, including 113 from registered egg farmers. Overall, the EFA Board and staff are pleased with the results.

Results highlights:

- Overall quality of customer service from EFA: 90% scored 8 or higher
- Level of customer service from EFA staff: 92% scored 8 or higher
- Satisfaction when calling EFA: 92% scored 8 or higher
- Treatment by staff when calling EFA: 97% scored 8 or higher

Egg Farmers of Alberta strives to provide the best customer service to Alberta egg farmers and industry stakeholders, so your feedback and suggestions are extremely valuable. For that reason, all of us at EFA appreciate you taking the time to complete and submit your EFA Customer Service Survey each year! The full results are available on the producer website.

Here are a couple items that the EFA will be working on to address feedback mentioned by producers in the survey:

- Revise color of certain slides of the presentation to make the screen easier to read from the back of the room at regional meetings.
- EFA will consider various options for shorter, more frequent meetings between the regional meetings in January and June, to provide timely topical updates to producers.



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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.gashi@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:adelina.gashi@eggs.ab.ca) or call 587-391-6122.

## ► **Local Food and Farms Campaign for September**

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 the month of September, we will be focusing on sharing back-to-school recipes to provide families with fresh, unique ways to implement eggs for school lunches and snacks to keep children full and fueled throughout the day. Follow us on social to check out school lunches and snack ideas.



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