

EggNotes

Board of Directors

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Vice Chair: Conrad Vanessen 403-635-7998
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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

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Murray Minchin
Fields Services Coordinator

EFA Office Hours
Monday to Friday - 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Egg Price Update Effective September 1, 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: October 14, 2022

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



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Email: 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 all those producers who attended the recent webinars about the Quota Exchange and 10-Year Rule. Both producer engagement webinars were recorded and are now available on the producer portal, under Learning and Education / Webinars and Eggbites. The Board would also like to thank the EFA staff for hosting the webinars, which provided producers with a valuable opportunity to both gain a better understanding of these important issues and share their feedback.

EFA is extending the deadline to submit feedback; producers have until September 23rd to complete and submit their surveys about the Quota Exchange and 10-Year Rule. The Board will be reviewing the feedback gathered on these surveys as part of our ongoing strategic discussion about each policy.

Levy Update

Effective September 4, 2022 (week 37/22), the annual service charge for registered producers has been set at \$14.21 per hen / per year, while the annual service charge for unregistered producers has been set at \$0.5253 per dozen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 11-14**, IEC Global Leadership Conference - Rotterdam, NL
- September 20**, EFA Strategic Planning Session
- September 23**, Deadline for Quota Exchange & 10 Year Rule Survey
- September 27**, EFA Social Media Webinar
- October 6**, Deadline to get in applications for those wanting to sell quota on the exchange
- October 10** - Office closed for Thanksgiving Day
- October 13**, Red / Green notification for Quota Exchange 4 2022

UPCOMING RELEVANT DAYS

- September 29**, International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste
- October 10**, Thanksgiving
- October 14**, World Egg Day
- October 31**, Halloween



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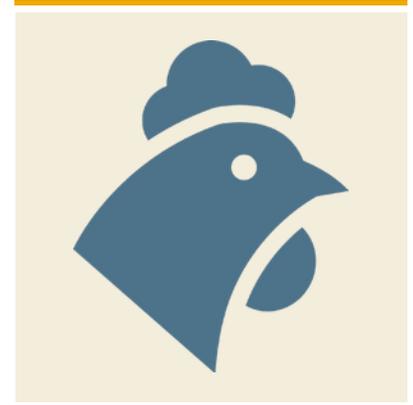


Healthy Birds

Report on the use of landscape fabric for ventilation protection during an Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak

There is evidence of dust-borne transmission of AI both in previous outbreaks and during this recent outbreak in Alberta. Producers asked about low-hanging fruit opportunities to reduce this risk within the context of their existing operations and it was raised that landscape fabric had been tried in the US with some success (anecdotal).

Under the principle of "do no harm" the Poultry Industry Partnership (PIP) looked to confirm whether appropriate ventilation for bird health and welfare could be maintained with the use of landscape fabric coverings should a producer in a high-risk zone wish to try this. **Their report on the use of landscape fabric for ventilation protection during an Avian Influenza outbreak is now available on the Producer Portal under the Learning and Education section.** While this is not an ideal solution, it could be used in high-risk situations if ventilation is appropriately managed to compensate.



Implementation of Redeveloped Animal Care Program

On August 8th EFA sent a memo to all producers advising on the plans for implementation of feeder space and noting that the full audit for the final redeveloped program is now posted on the Producer Portal (on the Farm Programs page under "Resource and Policies").

We would like to make producers aware of a critical change with respect to the new program:

The redeveloped ACP was created in accordance with NFAACC's animal care assessment framework. Accordingly, the redeveloped ACP is a pass or fail model, not a minimum 90% score and critical control point/critical care element model like SC-SC™ and the old ACP. This means that **ALL Corrective Actions (CARs) issued during an ACP audit will have to be closed in accordance with the issued timeframe in order to pass the redeveloped ACP.**

A webinar to discuss the changes to the ACP is scheduled for October 28th from 1-3pm. The webinar will cover the development and roll-out of the revised Animal Care Program, record keeping changes of note, and a review of measurement forms and certificates. There will be a question-and-answer period and Elyse Germain from Egg Farmers of Canada will be on hand to support answering any questions you might have. Stay tuned for more information.

Lux Meter Apps on Smartphones

Did you know that the **Revised Animal Care Program** audit will include checking your light intensity (brightness)? Producers can prepare for this by using free lux meter apps on their smartphones to check different areas of their barn. It is recommended to always take lux meter readings at bird height. Alternatively, lux meters devices can also be purchased online and are approximately \$45.00+.



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Healthy Eggs

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to August 13th, which is period 8 for 2022. The data indicates that in the latest 4-week period 2.9 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 3.0% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending July 16th), and a 1.5% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2021.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are down 5.7% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 40.5 million dozen eggs. Regular white & brown eggs have seen the smallest sales decline; a 4.5% decrease over the previous 52 weeks, to 34.9 million dozen eggs (86.1% 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.

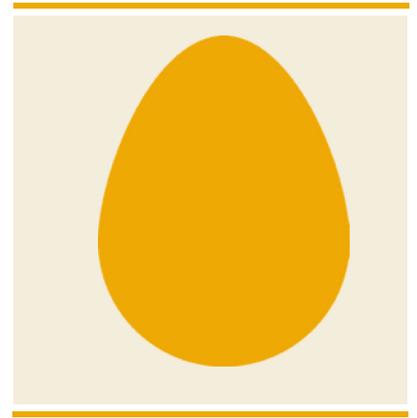
CIPARS Surveillance and SE Testing Process

Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) is supporting a Canadian Integration Program for Antimicrobial Resistance (CIPARS) and FoodNet project entitled “Surveillance of food-borne pathogens and antimicrobial use and resistance in egg layers in Canada.” CIPARS and FoodNet are government programs coordinated by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) that monitor trends of antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in human and animals, and monitor the prevalence and source of enteric pathogens (i.e. Campylobacter, Salmonella, E.coli), respectively.

The project involves surveying and sampling egg farms in sentinel sites in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, via veterinarians. The CIPARS project is a passive surveillance study therefore, the testing methods and timing is not designed for rapid results or immediate action. The turnaround time can be weeks; therefore, it is not possible to hold eggs while waiting for CIPARS test results. However, an SE positive result would trigger the same post-positive protocols as routine SE testing conducted by the egg board. Should a sample test positive for SE and the eggs have gone to table market in the timeframe between sampling and result, the risk of a CFIA recall exists. Accordingly, EFC and the impacted provincial boards (including EFA) have developed the following plan to address this risk:

- CIPARS sampling is to be conducted at the end of lay just prior to depopulation to ensure the associated eggs will not be sent to the table market in the timeframe between sampling and results.

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- Veterinarians will coordinate with the farmers and respective egg boards as the window to conduct sampling will be limited and will require coordinated and efficient scheduling.
- In the event that *S. Enteritidis* is recovered from the CIPARS samples, PHAC will notify the veterinarian. The veterinarian will be primarily responsible for notifying the farmer and respective egg board.
- CIPARS results received following cleaning and disinfection and repopulation of the laying facility will not be applicable to the new flock and associated eggs. However, this will still be informative for identifying critical areas where interventions may be required, for example, rodent control and external biosecurity (manure management, presence of other animals).
- The CIPARS sampling will be a separate SE test, in addition to the two routine samplings conducted by the egg board at early-lay (19-35 weeks) and late-lay (36-60 weeks). The CIPARS SE test cannot replace the late-lay SE test, as this would be conducted outside of the recommended timeframe and the results will likely not be received prior to the next flock placement.
- The SE status of the laying facility for cleaning and disinfection will be based on the result of the SE testing conducted by the egg board (i.e. the late-lay test/dry-cleaning test 8 weeks prior to repopulation).

Ideal farms to participate in the project are all-in all-out. If you are asked by a veterinarian to participate in CIPARS surveillance testing, we ask that you please ensure this testing is scheduled to line up with your flock depopulation and that you have no other flocks as part of the same epidemiological unit (barn). If you are participating and have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenna Griffin at the office at jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x. 129.



Pullet Growing and Moving
 Contact Martin at Springview Colony
 Phone: 587-816-5112, ext. 531
 Email: broilers@svfarming.ca



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Healthy Farms

Biosecurity Assessment Changes

We would like to advise producers that there will be changes to the Biosecurity Assessment delivered by EFA field services coordinators beginning January 1, 2023. These revisions are to align with anticipated changes to the Start-Clean Stay-Clean® program and to reflect feedback from producers on challenges with respect to signs and barriers at the farm entrance. The revisions are as follows:



- We will be moving the recommendation for no trespassing and do not enter signs from the farm entrance to the barn entrance. While having these at the farm entrance is still recommended best practice, we understand there are concerns with this - the barn entrance is the next best option.
- Likewise, we will remove the assessment of barriers at the primary and secondary entrances. While we will continue to promote this as a best practice, we understand that in many cases traffic on and off the farm is too significant to reasonably implement this during normal times.
- We will be removing all references to geofencing as we do not currently have a geofencing system in place
- We will remove the Movement of Equipment and Personnel and Training sections as we believe there will be overlap with emerging requirements of the SC-SC© program (we will communicate these on farm food safety program changes as soon as officially approved by EFC, likely at the January regional meetings)

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) update

In July the federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture reached an agreement in principle for the new, five-year, Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). The SCAP is the next five-year agricultural policy agreement, which will take effect April 1, 2023, replacing the current Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) programming.

The framework builds upon the five priorities from the Guelph Statement, agreed to last November:

1. Tackling climate change and environmental protection to support greenhouse gas emission reductions and the long-term vitality of the sector while positioning producers and processors to seize economic opportunities from evolving consumer demands.
2. Continued and targeted investments in science, research and innovation to address key challenges and opportunities.
3. Supporting sustainable agriculture and economic growth by creating the conditions for Canadian businesses to meet evolving challenges of the interconnected domestic and global marketplace.
4. Building sector capacity and growth through realizing the potential of value added agri-food and agri-products.
5. Enhancing resiliency to anticipate, mitigate and respond to risks, including a robust suite of Business Risk Management programs.

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The framework will run until March 31, 2028. The funding details for the framework have been agreed-to-in-principle. Details will be confirmed as intergovernmental agreements are formalized. In general:

- The new framework represents a **25 per cent increase** from both the federal government and the provinces and territories. Half of the increased envelope is earmarked for the development and implementation of the cost-shared Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program (RALP). (See *article on RDAR administration of on-farm climate action fund*)
- The total value of the new framework is **\$2.5 billion** (representing federal, provincial and territorial dollars), up from \$2 billion under the current CAP Framework.
- Federal total contribution over the five-year period represents an **increase of \$300 million**. Approximately **\$61 million** of the increase is allocated to Alberta, an annual increase of **\$12 million** over the current CAP Framework.
- The estimated total federal allocation to Alberta over the five-year period is \$304.8 million or approximately **\$61 million** per year. Of this amount, approximately \$47.3 million per year is dedicated to Strategic Initiatives and Programs in Alberta. The remainder of the federal contribution in Alberta (\$13.7 million) is earmarked for RALP and federal attributed programming.

Stay tuned for more information on SCAP funding as detailed programs are developed provincially.

On-Farm Climate Action Fund

Recently, Results Drive Agriculture Research (RDAR) announced it will be open to receiving applications for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program starting August 4, 2022.

The OFCAF is a cost-share funding program that supports farmers in adopting best management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and store carbon, specifically for in-field nitrogen management, expanding cover cropping, and implementing rotational grazing practices.

This program helps producers adopt different practices by offsetting 85% of the cost. Alberta farmers can apply for up to \$75,000 in funding to implement practices related to nitrogen management, rotational grazing, and cover cropping.

While the program is primarily targeted at cattle and cropping operations (ex. grazing and cover cropping) there are some eligible activities related to manure application that may be of interest to egg farmers. This includes agronomic services to develop farm-specific nutrient management plans, equipment rental or custom rates for fertilizer application in fields, and soil sampling and analysis. Please visit <https://rdar.ca/ofcaf/> for more information.



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Hand Signals On the Farm – From AgSafe Alberta, Jody Wacowich

I once watched a 4-H speech about hand signals on the farm. While the speech was cute and entertaining, it pointed out to me the challenges of hand signals varying from farm to farm and how people could easily get confused and perhaps even worse, injured. This became clearer when I got married and my husband had learned some of the same signals, but also had some different ones.

This much used communication tool on the farm can be used to help move livestock, hook up and implement or navigate an oversized load. The importance and frequency of these tasks on the farm means it is important to have clear tools for communicating. The American Society of Agricultural Engineers created a standard set of hand signals to help everyone communicate in the same “language” on the farm. Using these hand signals will:

- Decrease the risk of injury
- Save time
- Prevent frustration
- Prevents incidents
- Lowers the risk of accidental death

Check out our website for the poster of the hand signals you can print off or even order from our online store and help get everyone on your farm using the same signals.

https://agsafeab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ASA_Hand-Signals-v6.pdf

Farm Security Reminder

Egg farmers across the province have been focused on implementing enhanced biosecurity practices over the past few months, as part of a concerted effort to help mitigate the spread of AI. With the provincial AI threat level returning to normal and the industry able to take a small collective sigh of relief, EFA wants to remind farmers that we must all remain vigilant about both biosecurity and regular security on Alberta egg farms. The moment we feel relaxed and confident is the moment we are most vulnerable, whether the risk is Avian Influenza or animal activism.

The Government of Alberta strengthened provincial trespass laws to protect farmers from “harassment and occupations by protesters, which are actions that risk introducing disease and threaten the welfare of animals.” All farmers should have a comprehensive security and response plan in place to safeguard the health and well-being of their farm, family, employees, animals, and livelihood. A variety of resources are available on the Farm Security page in the Healthy Farms section of the producer website. EFA’s Farm Security Toolkit provides 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.

Committing to effective farm security is vital to maintaining the health of your farm, including your own mental health!



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Healthy Communities



Educational Egg Farm Tour

EFA was thrilled to host our first farm tour in nearly three years, when we recently welcomed a class of students from the University of Saskatchewan. Taking a class designed to introduce them to the diversity of animal agriculture and agri-business, the students toured the egg farm and the EPIC plant in Lethbridge, as part of their five-day field trip to gain hands-on knowledge about the commercial livestock and food processing industry.

The tours were highly engaging and were a tremendous way to help the students learn about modern farming, while also providing EFA with valuable insights about the next generation of consumers.

EFA would like to thank Wild Rose Colony and EPIC for hosting tours of their facilities. Opportunities like this to tell our story would not be possible without partners like you! EFA would also like to thank our very own Murray Minchin, for being on-site to help ensure enhanced biosecurity protocols were both in effect and enforced.

Despite the need to continue being diligent about biosecurity and the fact that autumn is around the corner, all egg farmers can still play the role of Egg Ambassador, even if it's just for your neighbours, local schools as students go back to class, or your local elected official (MLA or MP). If you are considering hosting a tour or getting involved in a community event, EFA has programs and resources to support you, which are all available on the Egg Ambassador page in the Healthy Communities section of the producer website. EFA's Grassroots Public Relations & Social Responsibility Program makes funding and other support available, while the Farm Tour Toolkit offers tips, messaging, and suggestions to help you plan a successful tour of your own layer barn.

If you are interested in learning more about EFA's Egg Ambassador program or discussing how you can get involved with EFA, please contact David Webb at the EFA office.

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 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.

Egg Joke



Why did the egg cross the road?
To get to the shell station!



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Marketing Highlights

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

Myth busted!

Egg Farmers of AB @EFA_AB_eggs · Aug 25

#DYK there is no nutritional difference between white or brown #eggs. The main reason they are different colors is due to the breed of the hen. White hens lay white eggs and brown hens lay brown eggs. Other than the color, it's still the same tasty and nutritious egg!



MYTH: There is a difference between white & brown eggs

New blog! Wild Rose Colony / EPIC Tour



Congrats to Conrad!

CANADIAN POULTRY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 TOP 4 UNDER 40



Conrad Vanessen
Egg farmer, Egg Processors of Alberta director, Coakdale, Alta.



Dr. Teryn Girard
Veterinarian, Prairie Livestock Veterinarians, Red Deer, Alta.



Emma Rutherford
Broiler farmer, Woodstock/Eastro, Ont.



David Arand
Turkey farmer, Atwood, Ont.

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