

EggNotes

Board of Director

Chair & EFC Alternate: Beatrice Visser
780-674-6297

Vice Chair: Susan Schafers
780-722-3238

EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser
403-653-4480

Director: John Hofer
403-641-2030

Director: Peter Waldner
403-795-8621

Director: Bernadette Vandeborn
780-349-6311

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
ext: 125

Industry Development Officer: Jenna Griffin
ON MAT LEAVE

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 Lastiwka
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 18 for Family
Day

Egg Price Update Effective May 27, 2018

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.20	↑
A	Large	2.20	↑
A	Medium	1.970	↑
A	Small	1.600	↑
A	Nest Run	2.073	↑
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 15, 2019

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



Board Update

Another round of Regional Meetings has come and gone, and the Board of Directors wants to thank all the producers who travelled to listen, learn and engage. We had record turnouts! Many producers had questions around the upcoming changes to the national Animal Care and Start-Clean, Stay-Clean programs. Nationally a committee is working on changing the Animal Care program to implement the changes made to the 2017 Code of Practice for Layers and Pullets. EFC has developed a booklet on Interim Housing Standards, and if you did not receive a copy at the meetings, please contact the office to get one mailed to you.

Questions and suggestions from the open and in-camera portions of the meeting will be reviewed by the staff, relevant committees and the Board of Directors and you will be updated at future meetings or through the EggNotes.

Christina engaged producers in a fun scavenger hunt to navigate the newly-updated Producer website. I encourage you to check out the site, as there is a lot of great information available to you. As a reminder, the producer updates and presentations from the regional meetings are available on the producer portion of the EFA Website, under the Information Tab.

The Board of Directors would also like to invite you attend the Western Poultry Conference held on Monday, February 25th at the Sheraton in Red Deer. The conference will be followed by our 50th AGM. Such a great milestone for our industry!



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



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HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

EFA Annual General Meeting

EFA hopes to see a large turnout of registered egg farmers, value chain partners and industry stakeholders, as we host our 50th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, February 26th.

The AGM will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer. Following a review of EFA's Annual Report, elections will be held for two positions on the EFA Board of Directors. Susan Schafers has completed her second consecutive 3-year term and must stand down. Beatrice Visser has completed her first three-year term and is eligible for re-election. As a reminder, all nominations must be received at the EFA office by February 12th, 2019.

The afternoon session will begin with the Producer of the Year announcement. Tim Caulfield will give an enlightening presentation about the role of social media in the spread of misinformation. EFA would like to remind all egg farmers and honored guests to pre-register for the AGM by submitting your completed registration forms to the EFA office, if you have not already done so. EFA looks forward to celebrating our 50th AGM with you!

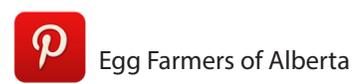


Western Poultry Conference

There is still time to register for the Western Poultry Conference! The conference will be held on February 25, 2019 from 8:00am to 4:00pm in Red Deer at the Sheraton Hotel.

This year's conference agenda includes some exciting topics including: whole barn gassing, antibiotic alternatives, energy efficiency and mental health awareness.

To reserve your spot please visit www.westernpoultryconference.ca or call 1-800-267-9180 to register.



Healthy Birds



Pullet Animal Care

At this time, there is no Animal Care Program in place for pullet growers. EFA continues to support the development of a national Pullet Animal Care program in partnership with the Pullet Growers of Canada and Egg Farmers of Canada. We understand that the updated Animal Care Program for layers will enforce a number of pullet requirements for animal care through documentation. We encourage all pullet growers to work towards compliance with the 2017 Code of Practice requirements.

Through late 2017 and 2018, EFA delivered a Pullet Animal Care Checklist to help educate pullet growers on the 2017 Code of Practice recommendations. A total of 102 facilities were assessed. Below is a summary of what the checklist told us about our pullet growers and where they sit compared to the 2017 Code of practice.

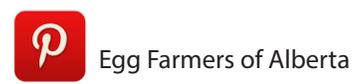
- 74% of pullet facilities are currently meeting the 2017 Code's density requirements.
- 92% of pullet facilities meet the requirements for water access and 78% meet the feed access requirements.
- 83% of conventional facilities have a plan for splitting birds in the pullet barn based on densities in the Code, the system design and the welfare of the birds. Of these only 32% are written plans. The ideal standard is for pullet growers to have a written plan for splitting birds.
- 100% of pullet facilities met the other 2017 Code Requirements outlined in the Animal Care Checklist.

The results from the first Pullet Animal Care Checklist based on the 2017 Code of Practice requirements are very positive – demonstrating that our farmers are already meeting many of the standards detailed in the new Code.

Dry Cleaning SE Test

EFC has clarified that a facility is considered to dry-clean when all or a portion of the laying facility is dry-cleaned (ie just the housing system) or when the laying facility is wet washed without detergent. Note that even when dry cleaning, the full facility must be disinfected.

As of January 10, 2019, egg farmers that are not fully wet washing have an alternative to ob-
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tain equivalent points in the SC-SC program. If dry cleaning is chosen, an SE test must now be conducted 8 weeks prior to the re population date. This SE test can be combined with the layer 2 SE test. Should the test results be SE positive, the barn must be wet-washed and confirmed to be SE negative prior to re population.



To implement this change, at the time of the Layer 1 test and count, EFA field coordinators will ask if a farm requires a dry-cleaning layer 2 test 8 weeks prior to re-population. At this time, EFA will also collect information on the planned date of disposal. The EFA field coordinator will adjust the field visit in our system to reflect the new required date. We will be keeping track of the additional field visits this creates and determining if this process is sustainable going forward.

Farm Program Q&A

At the January Regional Meetings, we received some great questions about recent changes to the SC-SC programs. We wanted to share the questions and answers with everyone as they are a great reminder.

Can we still wash eggs for our own use?

Yes, eggs that are going straight to your own kitchen to be cooked can be washed on farm. Eggs sold at farm gate, at a farmers market, or shipped to a grader cannot be washed on farm.

Do we need individual feed letters for every feed ingredient that is used?

You require a letter of certification from each feed supplier, not for each ingredient. For example, if you get your calcium and vitamin pack from the same supplier, only one letter is needed. Remember that you need a letter once a year and the letter must state:

- No pharmaceuticals were added to the feed OR any pharmaceutical that were added have been listed on the feed slip
- To the best of our knowledge, this feed/feed ingredient has been manufactured in an environment free of SE.
- The letter must include the terms feed AND feed ingredients.

A template of the feed letter can be found on the Producer Website under Farm Programs, SC-SC Layer.

Does the dry cleaning rule impact the SC-SC Pullet program?

The changes to the dry-clean SE test apply to the SC-SC Layer program only. The dry-clean requirements in the SC-SC Pullet program have not changed at this time. Currently, if a pullet grower decides to dry-clean, the pullet test must be negative for SE. There are special requirements for the timing of this test.



Hen Housing Survey

Starting this February, Egg Farmers of Alberta is going to begin delivering a hen housing survey. We will be issuing this survey twice a year to capture more accurate information on housing capacity and transitions.



This information will help forecast how quickly quota allocations will be placed, how quickly hen housing is transitioning away from conventional, and allow us to manage the pricing for conventional and furnished systems.

When you see the hen housing survey arrive in your inbox, please take a few moments to fill it out and reply to EFA. We are working to make the survey short and easy to complete. Thank-you for your participation and co-operation!

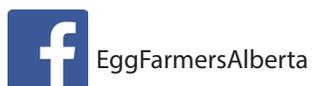
Foot Health Monitoring – A tool for Flock Management

In 2018, EFA have included feather cover monitoring as the newest outcome based measure in your record keeping books. By monitoring outcome based measures in your flock, you can identify changes or issues early, which can aide you in understanding possible causes of the problem and thus potential solutions.

Foot health was selected by the Production Management Committee as the next measure because it can impact flocks in any type of housing system and has a significant impact on animal welfare throughout the life of the bird. Monitoring foot health can help you identify issues in your flock related to bird welfare, litter quality, dehydration and the functioning of equipment.

The 3 point scale for monitoring foot health was developed in the Netherlands for the Welfare Quality Assessment Protocols. To complete the monitoring, you will need to pick up the bird being assessed and look at the bottom of their feet. You will look for hard patches, flaky skin, swelling and wounds as you decide how to score the foot. The chart provided can help you determine which scoring to assign.

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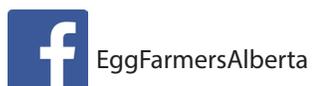
Score	Description
0	Feet intact, no or minimal hard patches, no wounds 
1	Significant hard patches, thickening on the foot, no or moderate swelling 
2	Swollen 



We suggest completing foot health monitoring at the same time as you monitor feather cover in your flock. To record the foot health scores from your monitoring, we have added a new column to the record keeping book as well as instructions on how to complete the monitoring.

Throughout 2019 Egg Farmers of Alberta will be building resources related to foot health management – watch Eggnotes and the Producer Website for updates!

If you use the monitoring tools for feather cover and foot health, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Christina Robinson at 403-250-1197 x125 to share your stories – both of your successes and your challenges!



Healthy Eggs

Egg Quality Assurance Program Launches this February!

The EQA is a new program being launched across Canada this February and will help to highlight the strict requirements Canadian egg farmers are already meeting! EQA certified eggs come from farmers that are passing the SC-SC food safety and Animal Care Programs.

When Canadians see the EQA mark on their egg cartons they will know their eggs are from Canada and that they meet the highest national food safety and animal care standards.

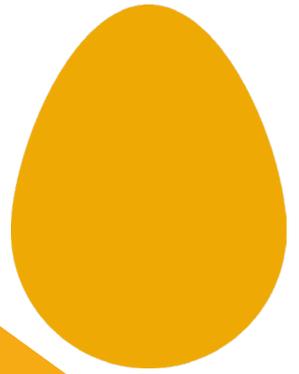
For farmers there are no new records, audits or farm visits. To qualify, farmers must pass the SC-SC and ACP each year with a score of at least 90% and with all critical elements in place. Farmers failing to meet these requirements will need to come into compliance within required timeframes or face penalties.

Eggs failing to meet food safety standards will be sent to processing and discounted at 20 cents per dozen until the corrective action requests are successfully closed.

Eggs failing to meet animal care standards will be sent to alternative non-human consumption market if available, otherwise the eggs will be destroyed. In either case, the farmer will receive the market price relative to the salvage value. A disposal fee may be added.

This program will help egg farmers across the country tell the good news story about egg farming and the standards each farm meets, regardless of housing system – helping to build trust!

Farmers will be receiving their EQA certificates from EFC within the next few weeks. Any producer graders interested in putting the EQA mark on your cartons can apply to EFC for a license. Start looking for the EQA on egg cartons in the grocery store starting in late February!



Healthy Farms



2018 Farm Program Results are in!

We are pleased to present you with an overview of 2018's final farm program results. As we compile these year end statistics it always brings me a sense of pride to see how well our farmers perform in their food safety, animal care and environmental programs. We know that such a high standard of excellence is only achieved with a daily commitment to flock management, animal husbandry and record keeping. I think we also need to take a moment to thank the EFC and third party auditors, as well as EFA's Field Coordinators for their diligence in delivering the farm programs.

- 2018's average score in the Animal Care Program was 99.93% with 98.26% of farmers scoring 100% in the program. All eligible farms have received a 3rd party audit in the last 3 years.
- In the SC-SC Layer Program, the average score last year was 99.82% with 89.65% of farmers scoring 100%. All Alberta egg farmers maintained their accreditation last year.
- In the SC-SC Pullet Program's average score was 99.68%, with 83.5% of pullet growers scoring 100%. Each pullet grower in Alberta achieved accreditation in the SC-SC Pullet program! Remember that as of January 1, 2019 it is mandatory that all Alberta egg farmers purchase pullets from a grower that is accredited in the SC-SC Pullet program. This applies if you raise your own pullets, and regardless of where you buy your pullets (ie out of province). If you order your pullets from a grower, please confirm their accreditation status before you confirm your order.
- In the PEEP program 88.62% of farmers passed with a score of over 60%. The average score in the program was 76.29%.
- 100% of Alberta's Egg farmers meet the requirements for the Egg Quality Assurance (EQA) Program and will be receiving their certificates from EFC in the next few weeks. As the national EQA program is launched this month, it provides egg farmers across Canada with further opportunities to share the story about the high standards you meet.

We would like to thank each of you for your hard work and commitment to excellence in egg farming. Well done!



Ventilation Flock Talks: Heating Systems

In November, over 50 attendees participated in the Flock Talk, “Ventilation: Exchanging Expertise”. We are including a series of articles in EggNotes as part of an ongoing effort to share learnings from those sessions. This article focuses on heating systems.



RECIRCULATING/STIR FANS

- Recirculating/stir fans are good for moving heat, but once the heat is off, they should be off. Typically, they should only be used to move the air off thin pipes. Recirculating fans need good maintenance as cleaning out the tubes can be difficult, and they can harbor disease.
- When the heat shuts off, this stir fans should be off. You don't ever need them for summer ventilation if the system is properly designed.
- Fans may help in the winter if you are trying to keep baffles open. These need to be tied to the heating and the pump, circulation pump, and fan should be turned on at same time.

BOX HEATERS

- Box heaters have been used historically because they are inexpensive to install and easy to fix. Consider the following:
 - They may not be efficient if you need to increase ventilation to remove the gas.
 - It is possible to achieve a million BTU in four boxes with circulating fans and they barely turn on however, box heaters are on/off. You have a million BTU and then you have nothing. You may be getting too much heat at once.

INFRARED

- Infrared is good option because you are directly heating the bird instead of the air around them. Keep the following in mind if considering infrared heating:
 - It may be difficult to achieve uniformity from one end to the other. Using a lot of smaller heaters as opposed to less long ones may be better.
 - Because you need a direct line of sight to the target infrared heating doesn't work as well in caged facilities. The birds on the bottom row don't see the infrared tubes hitting them. The system works better for free range or organic where birds can get direct exposure to it and there is the added benefit that the infrared will also dry the litter a bit.

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BOILERS AND PIPE

- Starting and firing up a boiler takes a lot of energy versus idling at 20%. A 3 way mixer valve lets the controller keep the boilers steady instead of trying to heat the water up with on/off cycling. This may also be easier on the boilers and increase their longevity.
- With respect to thin pipe, there is a lot to consider about material:
 - Material may impact maintenance. Aluminum never loses efficiency. Other materials can build up dust on the pipe and then lose their efficiency.
 - If using aluminum, you need to treat the water properly or it may wear through.
 - Continuous and serrated thin pipe will have the same BTUs although continuous thin pipe might be easier to keep clean and therefore not lose efficiency.
 - Delta tube is cheaper than aluminum, but you may have to run more tube.
 - The recommended flow depends on how far you are running the tube. Ideally you would have a maximum 4 degrees difference from the source to return. If the water is leaving at 160 degrees and coming back at 140 degrees you won't have uniformity in your barn, you will have a big temperature difference from the front to the back. 1 gallon per 10,000 BTUs is a rough calculation.
 - Some flow rates are difficult to achieve with aluminum because the opening is too small
- Consider the placement of thin pipe: It should ideally be underneath or behind the inlet and not in front, The cost of heating can go up 40% if it is in front as you may be blowing cold air onto the top of the pipe.



FLOOR HEATING

- Keep in mind if you are covering the floor with straw, manure, or bedding you aren't getting much heat out of it
- If there is poor outside foundation insulation it might be helpful to put a couple of loops just around the outside edge if frost is coming through the foundation
- You won't use much of it in a caged system, it might not be the most efficient

The above represents information presented and discussed at three Flock Talk meetings in November 2018 by experts with a broad base of perspective. Information is from the perspective of those experts present. Farmers designing or changing ventilation systems are advised to consult their own experts who have knowledge of their specific barn and system.



Healthy Communities



Become an Egg Ambassador

Do you want to be an Egg Ambassador for this industry that you're passionate about? Would you like to learn more about the program and how you can get involved?

EFA will be hosting 3 Egg Ambassador workshops this March, in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, in the hopes of giving all interested farmers the opportunity to attend one of them. You will discover the various ways you can get engaged with the program, hear from fellow egg farmers about their experiences as an Egg Ambassador, get updates and key messages about a variety of topics that matter to consumers, and have the chance to practice engaging and answering common questions.

No two Egg Ambassadors are the same, and EFA wants your involvement to be enjoyable and rewarding! Attending a workshop does not commit you to anything, and doing so even helps contribute to the Egg Ambassador portion of the annual Producer of the Year evaluation.

Egg Ambassador Workshops:

- March 5th – Leduc (Executive Royal Hotel)
- March 12th – Lethbridge (Coast Hotel)
- March 27th – Calgary (Best Western Premier Freeport)

Invitations to the Egg Ambassador workshops will be distributed to all registered egg farmers. Please contact David or Angie at the EFA office to RSVP for one of the Egg Ambassador workshops.



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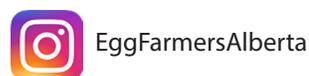
Alberta Trucking Regulations – Class 1 Licensing

Egg Farmers of Alberta has recently learned of new trucking regulations that are set to come into effect on March 1, 2019 and may impact farmers that use semi-tractor trailers to transport birds. This information is provided to bring awareness and help you prepare for the changes.



- Public scrutiny has been at the forefront for increased trucking regulation, namely stricter testing and training. These provincial changes are significant and meaningful changes to the province's qualifications and training of drivers of large vehicles on our highways, how they deal with the examinations of drivers for licensing, and how they regulate the trucking industry itself.
- Starting March 1, all new drivers in Alberta seeking their Class 1 (semi-tractor trailer) and 2 (commercial bus) licenses will have to take a mandatory entry level training course called MELT (Mandatory Entry Level Training Program). The MELT program is a government standardized curriculum consisting of a mandated number of training hours as outlined below:
 - 40.50 hours Classroom instruction
 - 15.50 hours of in-yard instruction
 - 57.00 hours of In-cab training
 - Actual drive –39.00 hours
 - Off-road maneuvers 18.00 hours
 - 8.5 hours of air brake testing
 - Total training hours – 113.00 or 121.5 with air brake training
- Safety Fitness Certificates - Starting Jan. 1, companies will need full compliance documentation when applying for a safety fitness certificate. Certificates will have to be renewed every three years. Previously, companies could get 60-day temporary safety certificates without having to prove compliance – temporary certificates are no longer available.
 - Existing carriers with permanent Safety Fitness Certificates will be required to renew their Safety Fitness Certificate between 2019 and 2022. Alberta Transportation will mail reminder notices in 2019 to these carriers.
 - In addition to completing a Safety Fitness Certificate application, new carriers will be required to complete the Pre-Entry Program for New National Safety Code Carriers which includes:
 - Successful completion of the online Safety and Compliance course
 - A passing mark (80%) in the Pre-Entry Knowledge Test administered by Alberta registry agencies
 - Successful completion of the new carrier compliance review within 12 months of operation

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- In the coming months, the privately-run licensing certification that is currently in place in Alberta will shift to a government provided service.
- At this point in time, there are no exemptions to these regulations for farmers.



For more detailed information on the upcoming trucking regulations please visit EFA's Producer Website under Healthy Birds – Transport or visit the Alberta Government Ministry of Transportation website at: www.alberta.ca/ministry-transportation.aspx

Canadian Agriculture Day

Canada's Agriculture Day is February 12, 2019. This is an opportunity to showcase all the amazing things happening in our industry and create a closer connection with consumers about where their food comes from, and the people who produce it. Canada's Agriculture Day was created by Agriculture More Than Ever and has been embraced by agriculture organizations and farmers across the country.

EFA and EFC will both be actively promoting Canadian Ag Day on social media this month and call on egg farmers to help spread the word and promote this special day to celebrate the food we love! Egg farmers can 'like' and share posts from EFA, EFC, fellow farmers and other agriculture groups, or post your own message and photo to share what it is that makes you proud to be an egg farmer. Your unique post could be about life on your farm, working on the land, caring for animals, or feeding your community.

Show your pride in Canadian agriculture and Canadian food by using #CdnAgDay from now until Canada's Agriculture Day on February 12, 2019!

Upcoming events

- EFC Industry Orientation Session – **February 7**, Ottawa
- EFA Board Meeting – **February 8**, Calgary
- International Production & Processing Expo – **February 12-14**, Atlanta
- Office Closed – **February 18**
- Western Poultry Conference – **February 25**, Red Deer
- Alberta Poultry Reception – **February 25**, Red Deer
- EFA 50th AGM – **February 26**, Red Deer
- Board Orientation – **March 6**, Calgary
- Board Meeting – **March 7**, Calgary

