

EggNotes

Board of Directors

Chair: Conrad Vanessen 403-635-7998
Vice Chair: Bernadette Vandeborn 403-349-6311
EFC Director: Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297
EFC Alternate: Peter Waldner 403-795-8621
Director: Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501
Director: Elie Hofer 780-691-8512

EFA Staff

Susan Gal
General Manager, 587-391-6124 / ext.124

David Webb
Marketing & Comm. Manager, 587-391-6126 / ext.126

Adelina Gashi
Marketing & Social Media Coordinator, 587-391-6122 / ext.122

Jenna Griffin
Manager Programs & Research, 587-391-6129 / ext.129

Carley Frerichs
Farm Programs Coordinator, 587-391-6125 / ext.125

Laurel Martin
Office Manager, 587-391-6121 / ext.121

Brandy Addai
Logistics Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.101

Erin Johnston
Farm Services Administrator, 587-391-6127 / ext.127

Kari Buijs
Business Manager, 587-391-6123 / ext.123

Dave Lastiwka
Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

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

Due to COVID-19, EFA office is closed. Staff are
working from home and are available during regular
business hours by phone and email.

February 15 - Family Day, Office Closed

Egg Price Update Effective February 21, 2021

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.510	↑
A	Large	2.510	↑
A	Medium	2.220	↑
A	Small	1.890	↑
A	Nest Run	2.360	↑
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: March 12, 2021

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



#101, 90 Freeport Blvd. NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 5J9
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

Board Update

- Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended our recent round of regional meetings, as well as the EFA staff for organizing and hosting the virtual meetings. Though we miss the chance to meet and mingle with our fellow egg farmers, the Board values every opportunity to provide updates and discuss issues of critical importance to EFA and the egg industry. The Board was pleased to have such a great turnout and appreciates all the thoughtful questions that were asked.

The overall feedback has been quite positive. Many farmers like the highly informative meetings that are short and sweet, which they can attend without having to leave the farm, especially as they are getting more comfortable with Zoom. Several suggestions mentioned trying to find ways to get attendees more involved in the meeting, which the Board and staff will certainly endeavor to do with future virtual meetings. A wide range of topics were suggested for the Board to cover at future regional meetings, which will be reviewed between now and the next round of meetings in June.

Your Board of Directors looks forward to [virtually] seeing our fellow egg farmers and industry partners at EFA's upcoming 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021**. More details can be found in the AGM Reminder article on page 6.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 10, Uniform Levy Project Team Meeting

February 11 & 17, EFA Board Meeting

February 14, Quota Leasing Pool Deadline - Allocation will be confirmed, producers to be notified of amount

February 15, Family Day - Office Closed

February 15, Deadline to submit motions/resolutions for AGM

February 19, Deadline for receiving AGM Director ballots

February 23, PMC Meeting

February 28, Quota Leasing Pool Deadline - Producers leasing will be notified of the amount

March 2, EFA Annual General Meeting via Zoom



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Healthy Birds



➤ Whole Barn Gassing E-Learning Modules Available

Whole barn gassing is an increasingly common method of end of lay depopulation in Alberta. If done correctly, the ability to euthanize birds in their home environments, without exposing them to the catching process, has significant welfare benefits. However, depopulation of barns using carbon dioxide gas, whether for routine depopulation or an emergency, is extremely dangerous. Given the number of factors that need to be considered for human safety, bird welfare, and equipment protection EFA has worked with experts to develop e-learning for farmers.

The content can be accessed on the producer website under Healthy Birds (Humane Endings). It includes procedures, safety considerations, and operational considerations. There are several downloadable resources to support producers choosing this method.

EFA would like to thank Susan Schafers, Dr. Mike Petrik, Ken Severson, and Dan Trottier for their contributions to this project.

➤ AFAC LCC REMINDER

Kicking off **March 4th**, the Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) will be hosting a virtual Livestock Care Conference (LCC) every Tuesday and Thursday in March. AFAC is proud to bring a variety of speakers and workshops from all corners of the livestock industry and the globe, to highlight how far livestock welfare and practices have come, while also looking ahead to what comes next.

Featuring speakers on farm animal behavior, regulations, and producer strategies, the LCC brings together expert and applicable knowledge. This year's LCC also boasts both a producer panel and a media panel. Conference registrants will gain access to several unique and valued workshops ranging from Emergency Management Planning to Mental Health to the long-awaited Difficult Encounters. Registrants are invited to come to every speaker session and workshop, or to just attend those of particular interest.

Details and registration can be found at <https://afaclcc.ca>.



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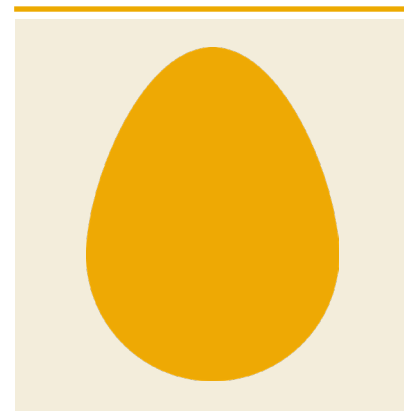
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Egg Farmers of Alberta



Healthy Eggs



► Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to December 26th, 2020, which is effectively the year-end stats for last year. The stats indicate that in the latest 4-week period 3.6 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 3.7% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending November 28th), and a 3.6% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2019.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 7.2% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 44.2 million dozen eggs. Regular white & brown eggs have seen the largest sales growth; a 7.9% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 37.6 million dozen eggs (85.1% 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.

► 2021 Amendments to the Start-Clean, Stay-Clean Farmer Guidelines Manual

The Start Clean – Stay Clean® program is continuously evolving as a result of emerging experiences, science-based research, technical advancements, and government regulations. On August 7, 2020, Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) approved several amendments to the SC-SC™ Program which became effective January 1, 2021. To reflect these amendments, the SC-SC™ Farmer Guidelines Manual has been updated to include the changes to manure removal equipment, mortality disposal, facility hygiene, pullets sourced from SC-SC™ participants, humidity levels in refrigerated storage, no spillage of feed around the bins, and on-farm feed mixing.

The updated pages for the SC-SC™ Farmer Guidelines Manual as well as the full version of the updated Manual have been posted to the producer website at SC-SC™ Layers (Farm Programs). EFA Field Service Coordinators (Dave Lastiwka and Murray Minchin) will be delivering hard copies of these updated pages in their upcoming field visits.

► MEFR Update

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause unexpected market volatility, which has recently seen an increase in demand. As of February 2nd, 2021, the Modified Early Fowl Removal (MEFR) program is in a holding pattern, which will continue for a period of at least 2 weeks, with EFC not accepting any new applications. The MEFR program has not been cancelled and any approved applications currently in process will continue.

EFC and value chain partners are monitoring the situation closely. EFC and the provincial boards will make a further determination at the end of the 2-week period.



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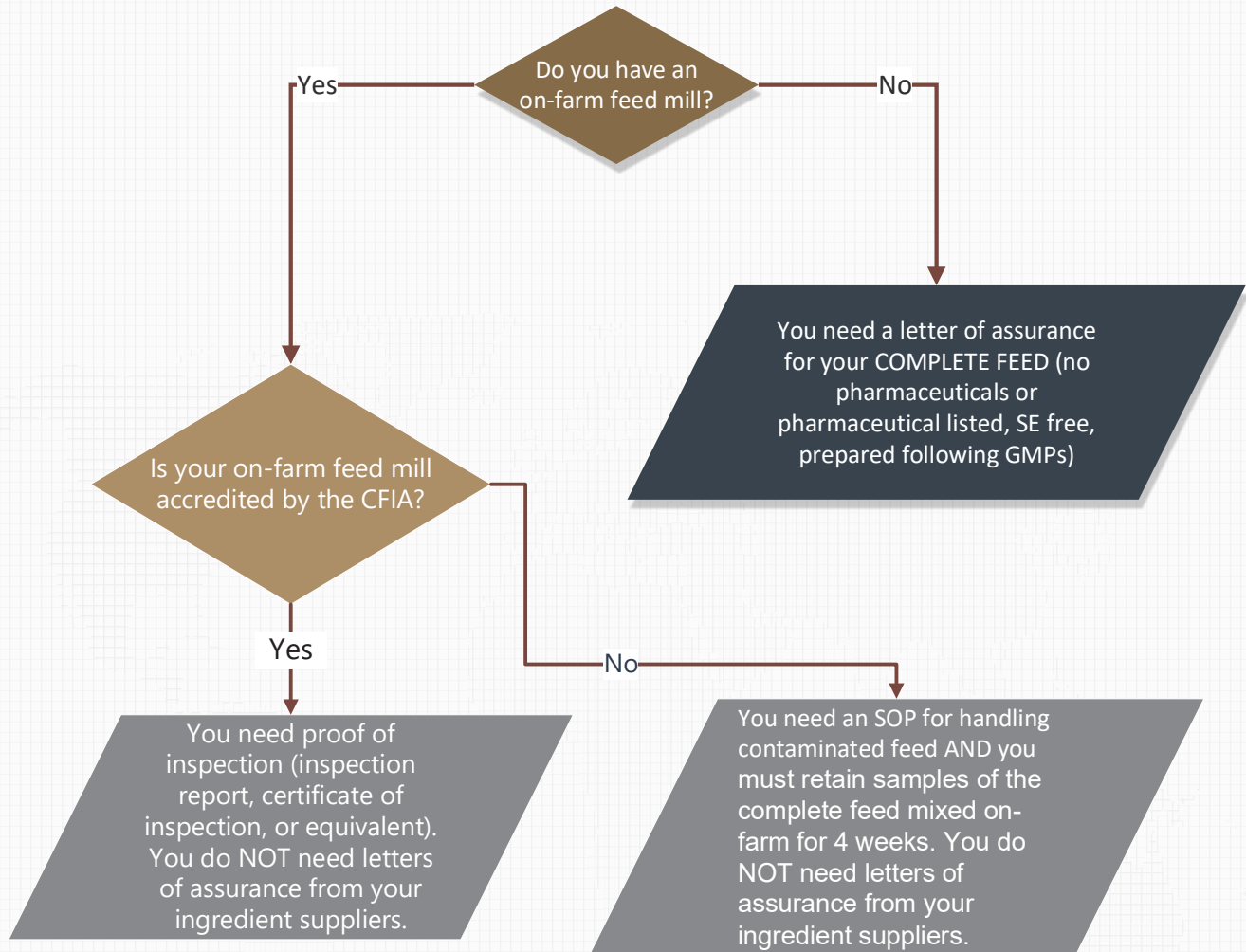
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Egg Farmers of Alberta



Do I Need Letters of Assurance for My Feed?



Healthy Farms

➤ Need Safety Data Sheet?

In the January issue of EggNotes we talked about the purpose and importance of having a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for all hazardous substances on your farm.

We would like to flag that for farmers who purchase supplies from UFA, SDS documents are available online for download. These can be a little tricky to find! Navigate to: <https://coop.ufa.com/environment-health-safety>

At the bottom of the page you will find a button “MSDS”. This will bring you to a list of downloadable sheets searchable by product name and/or manufacturer.



➤ Workers Compensation Board Yearly Statistics

The Workers Compensation Board has released their annual statistics on the number of claims, types of injuries, cost of compensation etc. for the Alberta poultry and egg sector. Impressively, poultry and egg producers had an overall decrease in the number of injuries, their severity, and claim cost for 2020. The results indicated that the two types of incidences to cause injury were falls and roadside accidents, with injuries being sustained to the head and hands/wrists. The age groups involved in these incidences were between 19 to 26 years or over 58 years. For further details visit the producer website at Farm Safety (Healthy Farms).

➤ AgSafe Alberta Webinar Series

AgSafe Alberta is hosting a series of webinars on farm safety with topics including legislation, culture and how to bring the two together. Webinars include:

- **Getting Started** – February 23/March 23 – How to build a safety plan
- **Being Right or Being Regulated?** – March 9 – Reg Steward brings regulation and culture all home by combining his two decades of safety and boots in the barnyard experience to help view safety as a way of doing business: by doing the right things for the right reasons

The webinars are supported by open sessions in between that farmers can join & ask questions about their farm safety plans. Register for free at: <https://www.agsafeab.ca/events/2021-01-06/agsafe-speaker-series>

➤ CPTPP Mitigation

As a follow-up to the CPTPP Mitigation update article in the December 2020 issue of EggNotes, the federal government has confirmed that the \$691 million of announced funding to support innovation and growth for the egg and poultry sector will be utilized for investment and market develop programs. Representatives from the poultry and egg producers are working closely with the government to develop these programs. EFA will continue to provide updates to Alberta egg farmers as they become available.



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Healthy Communities



➤ EFA AGM Reminder

EFA is looking forward to our 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021**. We expect a tremendous turnout of registered Alberta egg farmers, value chain partners, and industry stakeholders. EFA's virtual AGM will be hosted via Zoom and will run from **9:30 am – 12:30 pm**. If you plan on attending, you must be registered by February 25th, 2021. No late registrations will be allowed.

Ballots for the EFA Board of Directors election were sent out on January 21st, 2021, in a package with nominee profiles and instructions for submitting your completed ballot. Ballots must be returned to Deloitte LLP by 4:00 pm on February 19th, 2021 and must be enclosed in the self-addressed envelope that was provided with the ballot. Results of the election will be announced during the upcoming AGM.

Registered attendees will be able to join via Zoom or by phone. The Zoom link and number for calling in will be provided once you have registered. In order to vote for motions during the AGM you must be the Named Representative for your farm. If you have any questions, please contact Brandy at the EFA office (ext. 101).

Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-TQJ1_daQRWAYb7K_IkHhA

➤ Research Update

In 2020 EFA was proud to launch our first ever research Call for Proposals. Researchers were invited to submit applications in areas that addressed targeted industry priorities. Funding was made available to focus on specific priority areas benefiting Alberta's egg farmers. The targeted priority areas were established in 2019 by farmers in consultation with researchers and value chain partners. Four projects were approved for funding:

- Dr. Karen Schwan-Lardner: Effect of LED flicker on pullet welfare, health, and production and further impacts on hen performance, egg production, and egg quality
- Dr. Karen Schwan-Lardner: Effects of increasing dietary omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid supplementation to 3% during bone development in pullets
- Dr. Dongyan Nui: Surveillance of egg yolk peritonitis (EYP) and causative *Escherichia coli* in egg farms, Alberta
- Dr. Anatoliy Trokhymchuk: Developing a novel, rapid tool for non-typhoidal *Salmonella* detection and risk assessment in Western Canadian poultry



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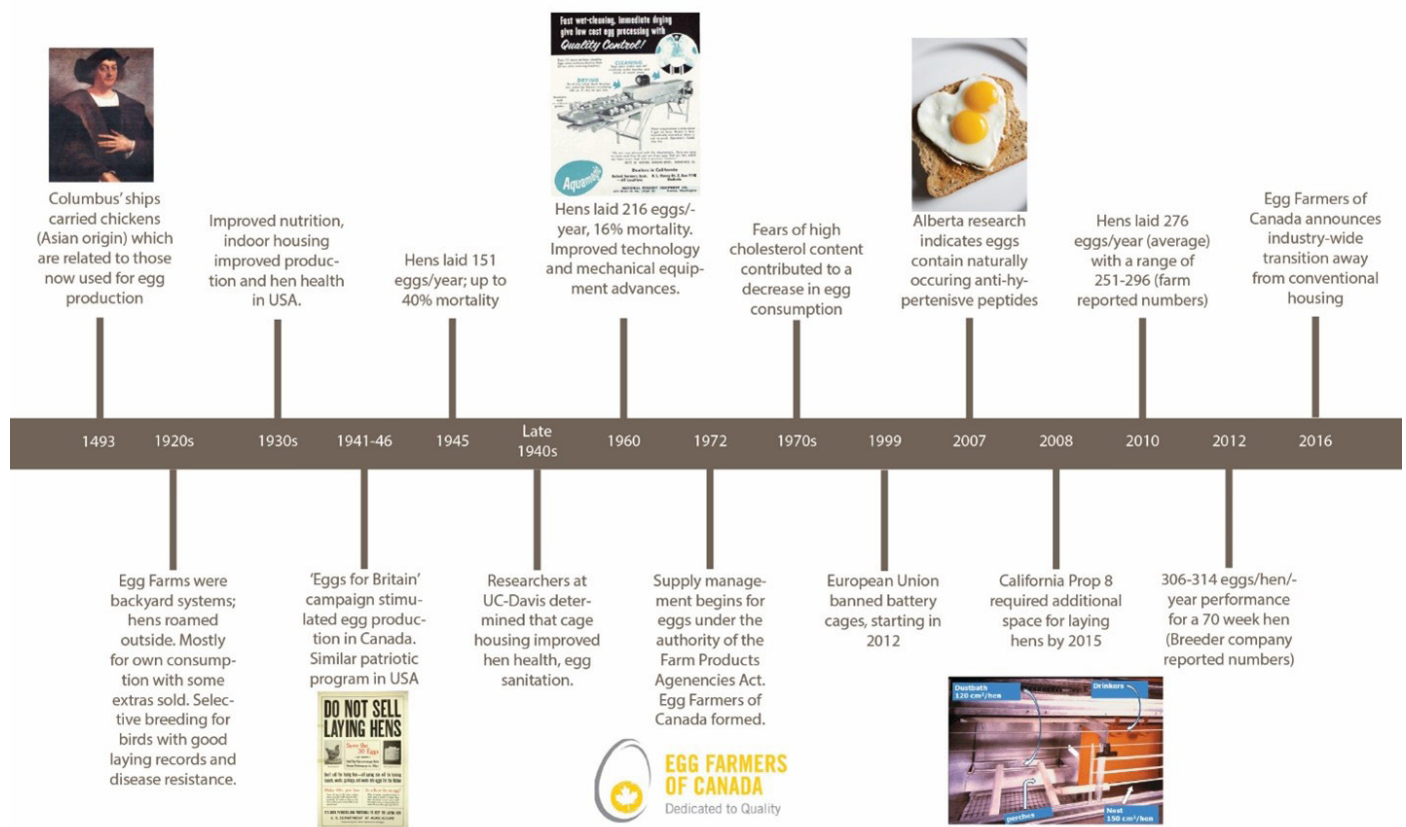


EFA's Research Committee was pleased with the high quality and relevancy of the submissions to the targeted call for proposals. Accordingly, the decision was made to run a second call in 2021. The call launched on January 26, 2021. For more information, please visit <https://eggs.ab.ca/industry/research-development/>

► From Your Research Committee

This is a new regular column in EggNotes written by a member of EFA's Research Committee. It is intended to provide Alberta's egg farmers information about what is happening in Alberta poultry research. This article was written by Susan Schafers.

Recently, I was on a Zoom meeting with the University of Alberta's Poultry Innovation Partnership (formerly known as the Poultry Research Centre). During a presentation, a timeline of changes in the Canadian and American poultry industry was presented and I was struck by the amazing improvements that have taken place in our industry.



(credit Brenda Reimer and Val Carney at the University of Alberta for the slide and information)

Research and innovation have played such an important role in our industry. Within one or maybe two generations, we have seen egg production move from 151 eggs/year in 1945 to 276 eggs/year in 2010. Now the standard is well over 300 eggs per year!

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I also noted how much change there is in the advancement of technology and in mechanical equipment., such as cages and grading equipment. We went from hand gathering and home coops to indoor production with cages that advanced the health and welfare of our hens. With more advancement and research, we are developing breeds and equipment that allow us to raise large numbers of hens indoors while managing and respecting the hens' welfare needs.

Our research dollars are well-spent knowing that we are advancing all aspects of our poultry industry!

► **Filed Plan Regulation Amendments**

Please be advised that the EFA Plan Regulation Amendments have been approved by the Minister, filed and are now officially in force and effect. As a summary, here are items that have been changed or updated. The new Plan Regulation is available on our producer website as soon as the Plan Regulation is posted to the Alberta Queen's Printer website.

- **Commercially Sensitive Information**

The Board may refuse to allow access or limit access by a registered producer to books and records, if the Board is of the opinion that access would reveal commercially sensitive information about a producer, processor or other person.

- **Terms of Office**

Directors are now eligible to serve 3 consecutive 3-year terms.

- **Director Eligibility**

Modifications have been to the definition of family member. Processors, designated representatives of processor, member of the Board, or someone otherwise involved directly or indirectly in the control management or direction of processor or an organization that processes eggs for other producers are not eligible to serve on the Board. This also extends to family members family members defined as spouse, adult interdependent partner, child, parent, sibling, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law.

► **“In The Know” Free Online Mental Health Training for Farmers**

Keystone Agricultural Producers (Manitoba's general farm policy organization) is delivering a series of free online mental health literacy training courses through the months of January, February, and March 2021.

The training covers mental health and illness, how to promote wellbeing in your own life, how to recognize when someone is struggling with their mental health, and how to provide assistance. The training is developed specifically for farmers and will be delivered by Kim Moffat, a mental health professional with lived farm experience. To register visit the following link and select a date that works with your schedule: <https://www.manitobafarmsafety.ca/upcoming-events>

Please note that the sessions are in the Central Time Zone.

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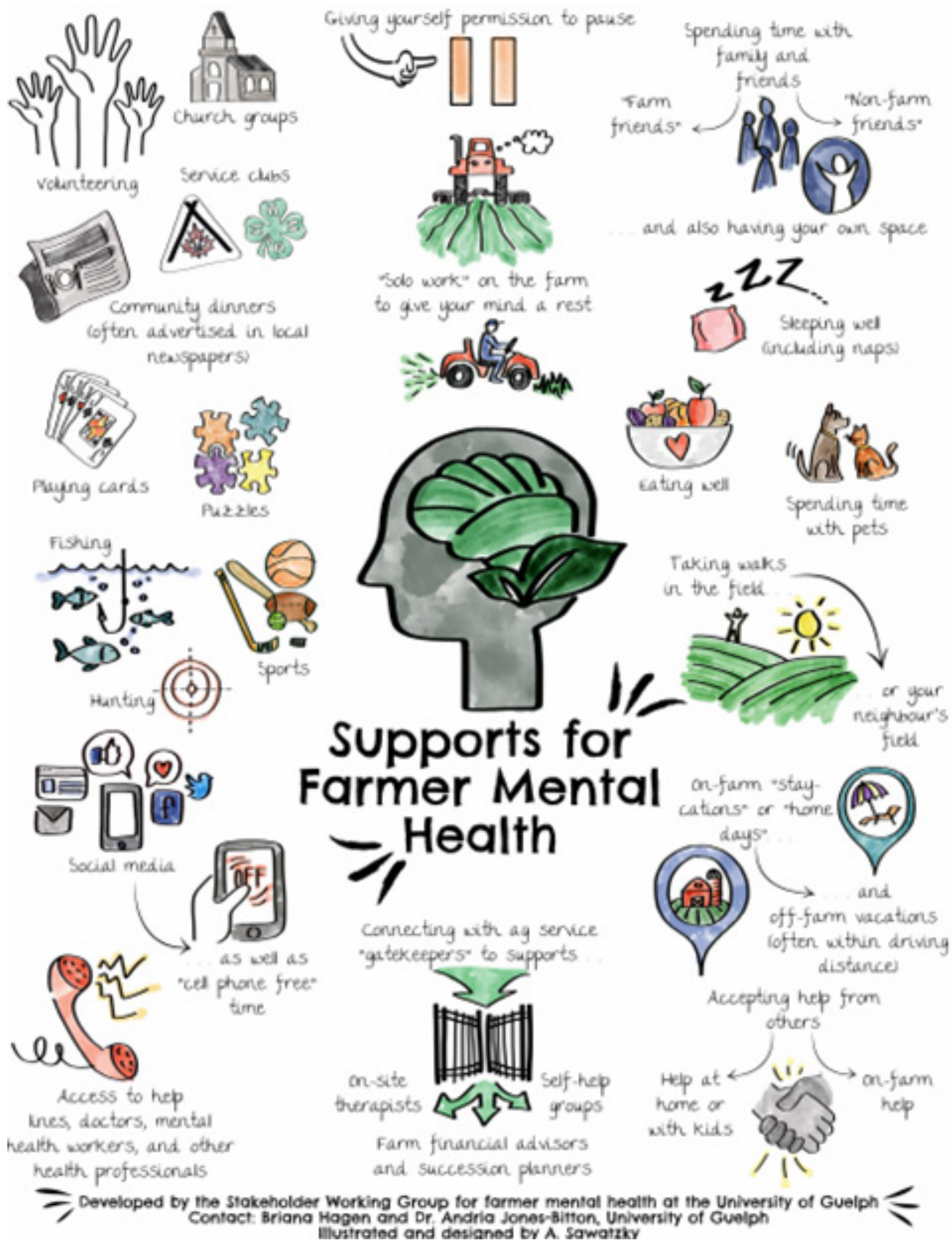


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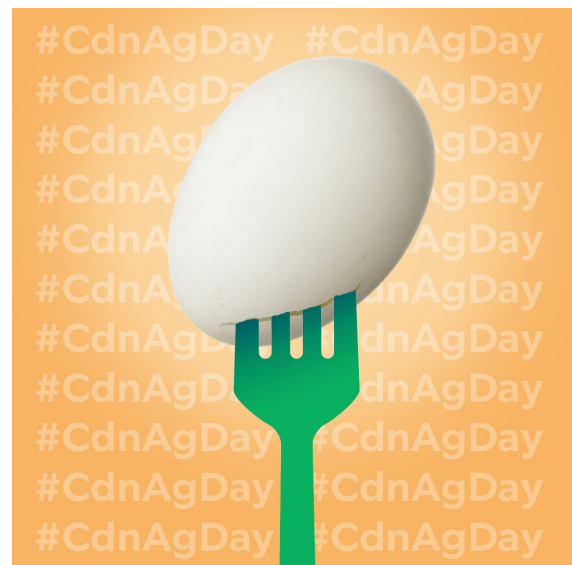


► Communications Update

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 or call 587-391-6122.

► Healthy Eating Campaign for February

As part of our 2021 marketing strategy, we've developed a themed monthly campaign as a fun and creative way to share all the wonderful information about eggs. During the month of February, we will be focusing on farming facts and families with Canadian Agriculture Day on February 23. With the help of AdFarm, throughout the month we will be highlighting interesting facts about the egg industry and its history, here's what you can expect to see on our social media channels this month:



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