

EggNotes

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Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston

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Business Manager: Kari Buijs

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Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka

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Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin

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 open for regular hours

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: July 19, 2019

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



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Board Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors would like to invite our fellow farmers, value chain partners and egg industry stakeholders to EFA's upcoming round of regional producer meetings. Several timely and important topics will be discussed, including the status of the redevelopment of the national Animal Care Program, an update about pricing for enriched housing, and a look ahead at working with a new provincial government.

Here is the schedule for EFA's June regional producer meetings:

June 12 – Calgary (Winston Golf Club)
June 13 – Grande Prairie (Pomeroy Hotel)
June 14 – Edmonton (Executive Royal Hotel)
June 18 – Lethbridge #1 (Coast Hotel)
June 19 – Lethbridge #2 (Coast Hotel)

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to April 27th, 2019, and indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.3 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 6.7% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending March 30th), and a 7.4% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2018.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 5.0% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 41.2 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3) have seen the largest sales growth; a 5.0% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.3 million dozen eggs (8.1% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

As a reminder, additional Nielsen trend data is available on the producer website.



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Healthy Birds

Notice Regarding West Coast Reduction's Depopulation Services



West Coast Reduction Ltd. (WCRL) (formerly Northern Alberta Processors) has provided EFA with notice that they are phasing out their depopulation (MAC cart) service for farmers in Alberta. Effective December 31, 2019 WCRL will no longer provide spent hen euthanasia services. This decision was previously made in both BC and Saskatchewan. Euthanasia is not WCRL's core business or expertise.

WCRL will continue to provide collection and recycling of spent hens and will adjust their rates to reflect this change in service.

Farmers who have been using the services of WCRL for their depopulation should begin to consider alternative options for 2020 onwards.

Upcoming events

July 1, EFA Office closed, Canada Day

July 3, EFA Board Meeting, Calgary

July 9, Emergency Response Exercises

July 10, PMC Meeting

June 2019 Regionals

June 12, Calgary

June 13, Grande Prairie

June 14, Edmonton

June 18 & 19, Lethbridge



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Canadian Feather Pecking Management Plan – Project Update

EFA has been supporting the research project “Toward an understanding of beautiful feather cover in laying hens” led by Dr. Alexandra Harlander since 2016. This project explored feather cover and feather loss in Canadian laying hen flocks in non-conventional housing by collecting on-farm information. In 2017, over 50% of Alberta egg farmers operating furnished/free run systems submitted surveys to Dr. Harlander for this project.



Published articles in peer reviewed scientific journals are a common outcome of research projects. The paper, “An Investigation of Associations Between Management and Feather Damage in Canadian Laying Hens Housed in Furnished Cages” was recently published. The study estimated the prevalence of feather damage in furnished cages revealing that, on average, 22% of birds display moderate or severe feather damage due to feather pecking.

Factors found to have an influence on greater feather damage seen in flocks in furnished systems included:

- Having all brown-feathered hens
- The practice of midnight feeding
- Hens not having access to a scratching area or additional foraging material

The authors suggest that midnight feeding may contribute to feather damage in the following way:

“When midnight feeding is practiced it creates an environment where there is a mix of resting and active birds, likely increasing the chance of resting birds becoming victims of active birds performing [feather pecking] during that time.”

The full research paper is available on the producer website at <http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/information-center/EFA-Research/>

If you have questions about the research results please contact Jenna Griffin at jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x. 129.

We are waiting on additional deliverables from the project as well as the release of a similar paper that looks at feather damage risk factors in loose housing – stay tuned!



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New Entrant Preliminary ACP Audit

Historically, New Entrants have been subject to EFC's on-farm program audits during the first flock cycle, but not before the birds are 45 weeks of age, or approximately 6 months after production began. This timeframe allowed farmers to develop and maintain 6 months' worth of records prior to the audit.



During a recent review of the Annual On-Farm Audit Policy a concern was raised about the delay of the first ACP audit. Accordingly, the EFC Board of Directors has approved the immediate implementation of a New Entrant Preliminary ACP Audit that will occur approximately 4-8 weeks after production has begun. This will better ensure that the hens' welfare is not compromised at any time during the initial year of production.

The Audit will use the existing ACP checklist however, the corrective action requests will be for training purposes only. This audit will be an educational tool to ensure that the farmer is aware of the necessary records and requirements within the ACP. It will also allow the inspector to explain the intent of the ACP requirements and associated elements. If necessary, the inspector conducting the audit would be required to report any immediate animal welfare concerns to the EFC Field Operations Supervisor.

New Marketing Form Available

EFA is pleased to announce that a newly updated Marketing Form (Form 7) has been added to the producer website!

The form makes it easy to submit your marketing reports for farm consumption and farm gate sales, while breaking out the type of eggs and housing system.

A copy of the completed marketing form will be sent to you if you type in your e-mail address at the bottom.

We hope that you enjoy using this new form. Go to Forms > Marketings and take a look!



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Healthy Farms

Do you know to expect in the event of an OH&S investigation?



Under current legislation, for OH&S to inspect in the event of an incident or complaint, they need to be able to answer yes to the following three questions:

- Are they being paid?
- Are they non-family?
- Did it happen during a farm activity?

The definition of family member for this purpose is related to the shareholder, sole proprietor or partner of the farm and includes spouse, child, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or first cousin.

Whether or not the investigation is related to a “farm activity” can be difficult to determine. Recently there was an accident during the construction of a grain bin. That may be considered a farming activity, or it may be considered manufacturing or construction. In the most recent case, it was the OH&S officers’ decision how to classify the activity.

If you are subject to an inspection, AgSafe Alberta has put together a resource on “What to Expect when Alberta OH&S Officers Conduct an Investigation.” This resource is available on the producer website at <http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/healthy-farms/farm-safety/>



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Egg Ambassadors

Egg Ambassadors have been busy throughout the spring, caring for laying hens at several major events, engaging consumers in grocery stores, and educating grade-4 students with a CAP presentation. EFA would like to thank all the egg farmers who have taken the time to serve as Egg Ambassadors to promote the egg industry!



Most recently, 6 Egg Ambassadors were in Save-on Foods stores on May 14th, in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Okotoks and St. Albert. On June 18th, 4 more Egg Ambassadors will be in Save-on Foods stores in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. There is still time to sign-up for upcoming rounds of appearances at Save-on Foods, which are scheduled for September 17th and October 10th. Please contact David Webb at the EFA office (x 126) to sign-up, or for more information.

There are still Stampede shifts available from July 4-14, 2019. Please contact Angie Lang at the EFA office (x 103) to sign-up, or for more information. Please note, if you require a hotel room while working shifts over the ten days, please contact Brandy Addai at the EFA office (x 101).

Alberta Open Farm Days

For the 7th straight year, Alberta is hosting Open Farm Days, to give Albertans an opportunity to visit real farms to discover where their food comes from. Open Farm Days will be held on August 17-18, 2019, as a means to showcase Alberta's agricultural and tourism industries, in an engaging and memorable way.

Farmers across the province can participate on August 17th and/or 18th. Participating farms will welcome their neighbours and consumers from their local communities onto the farm to meet real farmers, experience modern farming, and learn more about how their food gets from the farm to their plate.

Farmers must register via the official Alberta Open Farm Days website: <https://albertafarm-days.ca/host-registration/>

If you are interested in participating in Alberta Open Farm Days, or would like to know more, please contact David Webb (x 126) at the EFA office.



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