

EggNotes

Board of Director

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Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb
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Marketing & Social Media Coordinator: Angie Lang
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Farm Programs Manager: Christina Robinson
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Manager, Programs & Research: Jenna Griffin
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Office Manager: Laurel Martin
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Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
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Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
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Business Manager: Kari Buijs
ext: 132

Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka
ext: 128

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 closed May 20 for Victoria 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: June 7, 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 specialty 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)

Producers can register here: <https://efa123.wufoo.com/forms/2019-june-regional-meeting-producers/>

Industry partners can register here: <https://efa123.wufoo.com/forms/2019-june-regional-meeting-industry/>

Alberta Election Results

Egg Farmers of Alberta, and the more than 170 egg farming families from across the province that we represent, congratulates all Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who were elected to the Government of Alberta on April 16, 2019. EFA looks forward to working with the new government, under the leadership of Alberta's 18th Premier, the Honourable Jason Kenney, as well as the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Egg Farmers of Alberta is excited to begin building and strengthening relationships with the new government and all Alberta MLAs, as we work collaboratively to cultivate a thriving and sustainable provincial egg industry. The province's supply managed sector is vital to the economic well-being of rural Alberta, and for providing Albertans with fresh, locally produced eggs, poultry and dairy products.



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Healthy Birds

Final Stage of Phasing Out Multi-Species Facilities



As of January 1, 2020, it will be a requirement of license that pullets and layers are housed in production facilities dedicated to the regulated egg industry.

Over the past 5 years, EFA has been working to phase out facilities housing more than pullets and layers. We'd like to remind our farmers of the reasons why this policy was developed:

- There is an increased risk of bacteria and pathogens in multi-species production facilities that can impact both food safety and hen health. Many harmful bacteria and diseases can be transferred from one type of animal to another.
- Layers and pullets do not mix with other types of poultry. Eggs are the only poultry industry that have a zero tolerance policy for Salmonella Enteritidis. The reason we have zero tolerance is to protect food safety – while most poultry products are thoroughly cooked, people eat raw and undercooked eggs on a regular basis and we need to safeguard the trust they put in the eggs they purchase!
- CEIRA's insurance policy, which provides coverage for Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) and now Avian Influenza states "Subscribers should fully understand that a loss from an SE positive environment is not covered if the production facility is used for any purpose other than conducting business for the regulated egg industry. As an example, if a pullet flock is raised in a production facility that is also used for raising broiler chickens, the pullet flock is not eligible for SE insurance coverage under the CEIRA Policy." We don't want our farmers to be left exposed in the event of an SE positive result from your sampling.

In order to enforce the policy and deadlines to phase out multi-species production facilities, a staged approach with increasing penalties will be used – similar to those previously used to enforce mandatory requirements in the SC-SC and Animal Care programs. Farmers failing to have facilities dedicated to the regulated egg industry by January 1, 2020, will be subject to noncompliance penalties, as outlined in EFA's On Farm Food Safety Policy, OPP 8.3.

We would like to thank all of our farmers who have had to make changes to their facility for their work in helping us achieve our goal of eliminating multi-species barns in Alberta by 2020!



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Change in Withdrawal Time for Oxytetracycline and Chlortetracycline



Health Canada's new policies to phase out growth promotion and production claims for all medically important antimicrobial drugs used in food animals came into effect December 1, 2018. With the policy changes, laying hens have been removed from the labels for antibiotics Oxytetracycline and Chlortetracycline, making the use of these drugs off-label in laying hens.

When previously used to treat sick flocks, these drugs had a zero egg withdrawal time. Now, due to being off-label, a minimum 24-hour withdrawal time for eggs is being prescribed as per the recommendation of the Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD).

EFC has met with personnel from CgFARAD, Health Canada (Veterinary Drugs Directorate) and the Canadian Association of Poultry Veterinarians to discuss the issue and identify short and medium/long term solutions. These include an emergency drug release, storage processes for testing, using the 'minor use' pathway to work to have a laying hen claim added to the antibiotic(s), and conducting a depletion rate study to obtain data on chemical residue levels in eggs.

In the short-term, any farmers experiencing challenges with this should contact Jenna Griffin at ext. 129. We can provide contact information for individuals who can help farmers get through the process.

Upcoming events

Victoria Day – **May 20, 2019** - Office Closed
Farm Safety Committee Meeting – **May 23, 2019** - EFA Office

June 2019 Regionals

June 12, Calgary
June 13, Grande Prairie
June 14, Edmonton
June 18 & 19, Lethbridge



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Depopulation Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

In the fall of 2018, it was communicated that the Board would work to develop veterinarian approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for large MAC carts, small MAC carts, sea container gassing, and whole barn gassing. The SOPs are now available to Alberta egg farmers on the producer website at http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/healthy-birds/humane_endings/



The intent of the SOPs is to support farmers in passing the new Animal Care Program. We anticipate that the Program requirement will be “to have a vet approved SOP” for depopulation. As the new Animal Care Program is not yet in effect, releasing the SOPs early provides farmers with time to review the procedures and adapt their depopulation practices and equipment if needed.

The Board is not approving mass depopulation methods or procedures. Farmers using a different method or considering making adaptations to methods outlined in the approved SOPs are encouraged to connect with their veterinarian to determine if they are willing to sign off on their procedures.

STAFF UPDATE

In March EFA announced that Christina Robinson, our Farm Programs Manager, will be leaving EFA towards the end of May, since she and her family have decided to move back to New Zealand permanently. In light of Christina leaving, EFA has restructured staffing positions. Jenna Griffin, formerly Industry Development Officer, will be taking on the role of Manager, Programs and Research. Carley Frerichs has been hired to take on the role of Farm Programs Coordinator at EFA. Carley completed her undergraduate degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 2015 and is currently working on a Masters in Animal Science focusing on Poultry Transportation. Through her education Carley has worked with a number of Saskatchewan egg farmers and has direct hands on experience with poultry. She has been involved in outreach programs such as Ag in the Classroom. In her spare time Carley enjoys horseback riding, snowboarding, camping, and the arts. Carley will be starting with EFA full-time beginning June 3rd.



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Healthy Eggs

Qualifying for Enriched Pricing

Plans are well underway for launching a new National pricing system in September of 2019. Once implemented, farmers with enriched systems will receive their cost of production, and consumers will help pay for the transition away from conventional housing. When it comes into effect, a blended “market producer price” will be paid to both farmers with conventional and enriched production. Funds will then be transferred so farmers receive their conventional producer price and enriched producer price.

Across Canada, a standardized set of requirements have been established for farmers to qualify for enriched pricing. To qualify as having enriched production, your housing system must meet the final enriched colony standards as outlined in the Interim Housing Standards and subsequently redeveloped Animal Care Program.

These standards are the same as those in the code. For facilities installed after the code's release in 2017, facilities should already be meeting these requirements. For facilities installed before the 2017 code release, the transition timeline was January 1, 2022. Please be advised, that farmers wishing to qualify for enriched pricing, must meet the following requirements before payment will be received.

Attribute	Final Enriched Colony Standards
Space Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 116.25in² of total space, including nests, of which 93.0in² does not include nest boxes• Minimum height of 17.7in between floor and ceiling of each colony unit
Nesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 10in² of nest space area• Nest space must be enclosed on at least 3 sides• Where curtains are used, they must extend close to the floor (without impeding flow of eggs)• Nest area cannot contain drinkers, feeders or perches• Space between nest area and useable feed trough must be at least 6 in• The floor of the nest area must be covered with a surface that promotes nesting and prevents injury

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Attribute	Final Enriched Colony Standards
Perching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 5.9in of useable, elevated perch space • Perches must be positioned to minimize fecal fouling of birds, feeders or drinkers below • Perches must be constructed of materials that are easily cleaned and do not harbor mites • Perches must be designed to minimize injury to hens that are mounting or dismounting, and nearby hens • Perches must not extend into nests • Perches must be at least 0.75in in width/diameter
Foraging and dust-bathing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 4.8in² of a flooring surface for foraging • The flooring surface (scratch pad) must be a solid surface that is securely attached to the colony during the flock cycle. The material used could be in accordance with a manufacturer company's recommendations, and must be safe, industry accepted material.
Feeders and Waterers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible feed space must be provided at a minimum rate of 2.8 inches per bird • All birds must have access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A minimum of one waterer for every 12 birds - At least 2 water sources

We look forward to working with our farmers to launch this new pricing program that supports farmers with enriched systems receiving their cost of production.

Classified Ad

Birds for sale: Dekalb, 19 weeks old on June 25, 2019. Please contact Philip Wipf @ layer@lonepinecolony.com



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Healthy Farms

Biosecurity Assessments



In 2019 EFA launched a new biosecurity assessment. The goal of this assessment is to provide a bite sized, practical assessment to help our farmers improve biosecurity by recommending reasonable steps forward. The focus of the biosecurity assessment is currently the front entry and transition areas as getting this right is central to a good biosecurity program.

Our Field Coordinators have hit the ground running this year, already completing 104 biosecurity assessments.

We have been pleased to see that many elements we have been looking at are already in place on many Alberta egg farms. For example:

- 97% of farms have a concrete pad outside their primary barn entrance.
- 98% of farmers have biosecurity signage posted at all barn entrances and have all access points to the barn locked.
- 93% of farms had personnel present at the time of the farm visit that could demonstrate an appropriate transition to the restricted area.
- 90% of farms have a dedicated area for dirty clothes and boots to be stored on the unrestricted side of the transition zone.

We also identified some areas where there may be room for improvement:

- Only 18% of barns had a security alarm installed.
- Just 38% of farms keep their barn doors locked at all times.
- 30% of farms do not have a hand washing or sanitizing station available at the transition zone.

These results show that there are some easy improvements Alberta's farmers can make to enhance biosecurity such as placing a bottle of hand sanitizer in your transition zone and keeping your barn door locked

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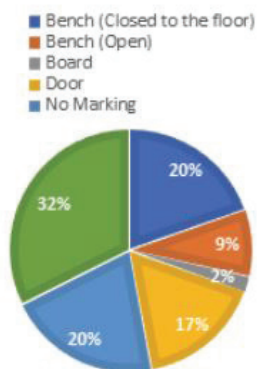


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We found that there was a lot of variance between the types of transition lines used on farms. Some farmers have a simple painted lines on the floor, while others have doors, boards or benches.

While delivering the biosecurity assessment, EFA is distributing a resource on building a Danish entry in your transition area to encourage farmers to consider installing one.

HOW ARE TRANSITION LINES MARKED?



Danish entries have benches that span from wall to wall with coverage to the ground. The Danish entry acts as a barrier that is both hard to ignore, and helps prevent dust and pathogens from inadvertently traveling over the transition line. We are eggstatic to hear that many farms are installing Danish entries following their biosecurity assessment! This is an exciting change, that will help enhance biosecurity on farm!

For a complete summary of results from the biosecurity assessments so far, as well as a copy of the biosecurity assessment and Danish entry resource, please visit the new biosecurity assessment page on the producer website under farm programs.



Plainview Colony has installed this Danish entry that can swing open when large equipment needs to be brought in. Thanks for sharing!

Water Resources

Alberta Environment is responsible for water policy and legislation to ensure the quality and quantity of Alberta's water resources. Information documents, developed by the Farmer's Advocate Office (FAO) and the Government of Alberta, can help answer questions about the Act, its Statutes and Regulations, and how it might impact your operation. These resources have been posted at <http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/healthy-farms/Water/>



Ventilation Flock Talk Podcasts

In the Fall of 2018 EFA hosted a series of flock talks that brought together experts to share their insights on many aspects of ventilation. We have compiled the information from these workshops for your ongoing reference at <http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca/healthy-farms/ventilation/> The resources developed include a "What was Heard" report, summary video, and a series of topic specific audio recordings focused on:

- Ammonia Management
- Cooling & Misting Systems
- Energy Management
- Heating Systems
- Light & Rain Traps
- Minimum Winter Ventilation

Biosecurity Assessment

A new page has been added to the producer website under farm programs for the biosecurity assessment that is being delivered on farm as of January 2019. The page includes a copy of the complete biosecurity assessment form, a summary of results and a Danish entry resource that outlines the steps for installing a Danish entry in your barn.



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Field Statistics Update

Here's an update on how our farmers are doing with their on-farm programs so far this year:



- 50 SC-SC Layer evaluations have been completed in 2019
 - Alberta's average score: 99.5%
- 67 Animal Care Program evaluations have been completed in 2019
 - Alberta's average score: 99.8%
- 24 SC-SC Pullet evaluations have been completed in 2019
 - Alberta's average score: 99.5%
- 100% of Alberta's Egg Farmers are certified in the Egg Quality Assurance Program

We'd like to thank our farmers for their commitment and hard work each and every day to ensure that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely.

EFC Summer Meeting

This summer, Egg Farmers of Canada will be hosting the 2019 Canadian Egg Farmers NWT Conference in Yellowknife, NT, from August 11-13. The Northwest Territories Egg Producers and EFC have an adventurous program planned for egg farmers and their families, and space is limited, so it is advised to register ASAP. Registration must be completed by July 1st, 2019.

For more information about this year's summer meeting, please check the official website (click the big yellow 'REGISTER' button at the bottom of the page to go to the registration page): https://events.myconferencesuite.com/Canadian_Egg_Farmers_NWT_Conference/reg/landing

The producer conference agenda will be updated once confirmed, so stay tuned for further updates and more information.



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