

# EggNotes

## Board of Director

**Chair** Beatrice Visser  
780-674-6297  
**Vice Chair:** John Hofer  
403-641-2030  
**EFC Director:** Joe Kleinsasser  
403-653-4480  
**Director:** Conrad Vanessen  
403-635-7998  
**EFC Alternate:** 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 Specialist: Angie Lang  
ext: 103  
Farm Programs Coordinator: Carley Frerichs  
ext: 125  
Manager, Programs & Research: Jenna Griffin  
Ext: 129  
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

## 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

Regular office hours

## Egg Price Update Effective September 8, 2019

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.360	↑
A	Large	2.360	↑
A	Medium	2.130	↑
A	Small	1.750	↑
A	Nest Run	2.225	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.280	-
B		0.770	-
C		0.160	-

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: December 20, 2019

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website (full issue PDF) 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 Board of Directors is committed to staying up-to-date with egg industry developments and trends not only here in Alberta, but across Canada and around the world as well. The Board takes its responsibility to learn and share with Alberta egg farmers seriously and, to that end, recently attended the United Egg Producers' annual executive conference in Greenbrier, West Virginia.

Attending the UEP conference is a tremendous opportunity to learn more about the egg industry south of the border and hear from several fantastic presenters. A moderated panel discussion also highlighted the importance of getting the proper messages out to both producers and consumers, in order to build trust and, ultimately, a sustainable egg industry.

Dr. Rudolf Preisinger, Chief Technical Officer for Layers, of the EW Group GmbH, talked about the latest research about in-ovo sexing of male chicks. A pair of speakers – Will Daniels and Michael Taylor – talked about food borne illness and the importance of effective cleaning and disinfecting. Debbie Murdock provided an update from the UEP Animal Health and Biosecurity task force. The wide array of speakers and diverse presentations provided invaluable information that your Board will analyze and discuss, to help formulate effective decision-making and strategy development for the Alberta egg industry.



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA\_AB\_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



# HEALTHY BIRDS

## HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

#### Research Priority Setting

On July 31st the EFA Board, Research Committee, and Production Management Committee gathered in Calgary to work on renewing EFA's Research Priorities. The goal for the day was "to develop a list of researchable questions that are a priority for the Alberta egg industry and EFA investment."

Some of the purposes and benefits of research were noted as:

- To give producers solutions in a changing environment
- To minimize producers having to do trial and error on their own farm
- To help meet consumer demand
- To help defend on-farm practices
- To provide information on what is best for the bird, barn, and environment

The group developed researchable questions related to Animal Care, Food Safety, Bird Production & Health, Environment, and Capturing Value from Farm Byproducts. In the afternoon, researchers and value chain partners were invited to help the group identify "what is known" (where more education might be needed) versus "what we still need to find out" (where research could be funded). Throughout the day there was an emphasis on where Alberta has unique needs.

The Board has now approved EFA's new research priorities and these have been posted on the producer website at Information Centre -> Research.



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA\_AB\_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



# Healthy Farms

---

## Increasing Security

With the increase in animal activist activity in Alberta lately, EFA has noticed an uptake in the number of producers locking their barn doors. Locking your doors discourages unauthorized individuals from trespassing on your property and breaking biosecurity protocols. EFA recommends that you always keep all your doors locked, even when you are inside the barn.



Additionally, every property entrance should also have a no trespassing sign to discourage unauthorized visitors. Without posted signage, law enforcement is unable to charge individuals breaking the law and trespassing onto your property.

Many producers have also begun to inquire about installation of alarm systems and cameras around their barns for a higher level of security. These systems provide detection of unauthorized personnel in or approaching your barn facilities. However, for these systems to be successful, regular maintenance and use is necessary as well as careful consideration for the placement of cameras.

## Field Statistics Update

---

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

- 137 SC-SC Layer 1-2 evaluations have been completed in 2019
  - Alberta's average score: 99.56%
- 30 SC-SC Layer 3 evaluations have been completed in 2019
- 160 Animal Care Program evaluations have been completed in 2019
  - Alberta's average score: 99.89%
- 80 SC-SC Pullet 1-2 evaluations have been completed in 2019
  - Alberta's average score: 99.36%
- 16 SC-SC Pullet 3 evaluations have been completed in 2019

EFA would like to thank farmers for their commitment and hard work each and every day to ensure that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely.



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA\_AB\_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



## New Dry-Cleaning Test Charge

As of January 10, 2019, farmers choosing to dry clean can obtain equivalent points in the SC-SC® program by ensuring that an SE test is conducted 8 weeks prior to repopulation.



Over the past year, the following has been communicated to farmers who are dry cleaning or considering dry cleaning:

- Under the SC-SC ® Program, farmers choosing to dry clean are still required to disinfect their facility and equipment.
- In order to schedule SE tests 8 weeks prior to the repopulation date, pullet and layer 1 tests may need to be scheduled later to optimize field visits.
- Multi-age facilities are going to see the biggest shift in sampling schedules.
- If you test positive for SE during sampling, you will be required to wet wash. An 8-week window does not provide a lot of time to depopulate your flock, wash your barn and get a clean SE result before your pullets are ready to be placed.
- If you dry clean, you are at risk of having to delay your pullet placement.
- Wet Washing is Best:
  - The Short Story:
    - > Dry cleaning is not good at cleaning bacteria and disease out of your lay facility
  - The Long Story:
    - > During lay, biofilms form when bacteria attaches to and multiplies on barn facilities and equipment.
    - > This biofilm protects bacteria from disinfectants. For disinfectants to be effective, the biofilm stuck to facility and equipment surfaces must be removed.
    - > Detergent (soap) and hot water used while washing is capable of breaking down biofilms.
    - > Dry cleaning alone is of little or no use in fighting pathogens or disease.

On October 28th EFA's Production Management Committee reviewed the above. In consideration of the impact of this new policy on field visits, a dry-cleaning charge of \$250 will be implemented on a go forward basis. This will only be charged in the event that this dry cleaning creates the need for an additional visit from EFA Field Coordinators.



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA\_AB\_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



# Healthy Eggs

## December 31st Deadline for Specialty Production Coverage

All farmers with specialty production including free run, free range and organic, can opt-in for specialty production coverage through CEIRA until December 31, 2019.

CEIRA will send all farms with specialty production an invoice directly for their supplemental premium. If the supplemental premium is paid to CEIRA by the deadline, specialty coverage is confirmed. If you do not pay the invoice by December 31, 2019, you are opting out of the specialty coverage. Opting out will provide you with conventional, caged white coverage for specialty flocks for the entire production year.

The subscriber's charge for specialty production coverage is as follows:

- Free Run base premium + 2 cents;
- Free Range base premium + 4 cents;
- Organic base premium + 6 cents.

If you have lost or have not received an invoice, please contact CEIRA at [info@ceira.ca](mailto:info@ceira.ca) or call toll free at 1-877-628 9564.

### Upcoming Events

**December 12-13** – EFA Board Meeting

#### Christmas Hours

**December 24** – Office Closed at 12 PM

**December 25-27** – Office Closed

**December 31** – Office Closed at 12 PM

**January 1** – Office Closed



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA\_AB\_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta





# Healthy Birds

---



## Ammonia Testing Reminder

It's that time of year again! Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to remind farmers that the Animal Care Program requires monthly test records for October-March.

## Overview on transportation regulations

Egg Farmers of Alberta has put together a brief overview on the CFIA transportation regulations. It includes information on what is defined as a compromised or unfit bird, feed, water, and rest withdrawal times, and crating requirements. The brief overview of CFIA transportation regulations can be found on the producer website under Transportation (Healthy Birds).

Additionally, on February 1, 2020, it will become mandatory for producers to have up to date transportation records. To assist producers with this transition, record keeping templates will be included in the 2020 Start-Clean, Stay-Clean calendars to fulfill the changes made to the CFIA transportation regulations. For those producers keeping electronic copies of their records, the transportation template will soon be released on our producer website. Stay tuned!

---

## Producer's Experience on Monitoring Foot Health-Healthy Birds

This year Egg Farmers of Alberta set a goal to provide producers with additional information and monitoring criteria on the outcome-based measure—foot health. In the February Eggnotes issue, Egg Farmers of Alberta had an article on a 3-point scoring system developed by the Welfare Quality Assessment Protocols that producers could use to monitor foot health in conjunction with evaluating feather cover. A couple of our Alberta producers have shared with Egg Farmers of Alberta how monitoring foot health has helped improve the overall welfare of their flocks.

*continues on next page*



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA\_AB\_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



## Case Study One:

*The first producer runs an aviary system and with the first couple flocks they noted an incidence of swollen feet in roughly 40% of their flock. Monitoring foot health became imperative to try to problem solve where this issue might be coming from. Ultimately with changes to ventilation equipment to address problems of wet/moist litter and checking aviary equipment for sharp edges the foot health issue has essentially disappeared.*



## Case Study Two:

*The second producer runs an enriched system for their layers. However, it was found that the foot health issues in past flocks stemmed from the pullet rearing environment which is a conventional system. Past pullet flocks had come out of the pullet barn with sores on the bottom of their feet and remnants of blood in the cage. This created production problems in the laying stage because birds were less apt to move to the nest box to lay an egg due to increased sensitivity and pain from the sores on their feet.*

*Out of 15 pullets that were measured for foot health issues, 9-10 had sores on their feet. The producer adjusted the ventilation, frequency of manure removal, and feed additives and has found vast improvement in their flock's foot health. Increasing ventilation provided additional air movement and coupled with increased frequency of manure removal (2-3/week), the moisture level of the barn was decreased, allowing the producer to hit their targeted humidity between 40-60% with good air circulation. Additionally, Vitamin B was added to the diet which helped strength the bones of the birds and has been shown in research to improve walking ability and leg quality in poultry.*

*On this producer's farm, roughly ¼ of the pullet flock is purchased from a pullet grower while the other ¾ of the pullet flock is farm-raised. Incoming pullets from an external source are also checked for foot health upon arrival. During the pullet stage, the producer checks roughly 15 pullet's feet at 6, 12, and 16 weeks of age. Once the birds have been moved to the layer barn, monitoring foot health is continued at 20-30 weeks, 30-40 weeks, 40-50 weeks, 50-60 weeks, and 60-70 weeks of age in combination with feather cover assessments on 50 layers/assessment. The producer describes the outcome-based measures which they have incorporated into their routine as a "simple and fast" way to monitor overall condition of their birds.*

*Both case studies demonstrated that implementing foot health monitoring into the producer's*

*continues on next page*



*routine can have a positive impact on the welfare of the birds and help alleviate problems which may be associated with foot health.*

Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to acknowledge and thank the producers who shared their experience on foot health monitoring.



## **Cost Model for Depopulation Gassing Methods**

In the May issue of EggNotes it was noted that EFA had worked with a veterinarian to develop approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for MAC carts, sea container gassing, and whole barn gassing and that the SOPs are available on the producer website under Healthy Birds->Humane Endings.

In order to support farmers who are evaluating these methods, EFA has developed a simple cost model. The model can help farmers estimate the capital and operational costs for their farm for each method on a per bird basis. Farmers can get a copy of the model by contacting Jenna Griffin at the EFA office.

## **Calling Egg Ambassadors to become CAP Volunteers**

EFA is a proud member and supporter of the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP), which has been helping to teach grade-4 students about agriculture since 1985. CAP is a fantastic opportunity for Egg Ambassadors to talk to kids about farming, and to help explain where their food comes from and what it takes to provide fresh, local food.

To learn more about CAP, please visit: [www.classroomagriculture.com](http://www.classroomagriculture.com)

If you want to register as a CAP volunteer, please visit: <https://classroomagriculture.com/Portal/Project/classroomagricultureprogram/pages/VolunteerRegistration.html>

EFA has created a CAP Volunteer Toolkit that provides additional information about CAP classroom presentations and ideas for engaging the students. Please contact David Webb at the EFA office (x126) to request a CAP Volunteer Toolkit, to help plan your presentation, or to help you prepare for your school visit as a CAP volunteer. Once you've registered as a CAP volunteer, a CAP Zone Coordinator will contact you and is also an invaluable resource as you prepare.



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA\_AB\_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta

