



# Special Layer Lease Policy

new July 2020

*Effective Date: January 1, 2021*

## APPLICATION AND PURPOSE

1. It is an industry accepted practice to place additional pullets in the Pullet barn to recognize mortality during the growing period to ensure there are sufficient hens at 19 weeks of age to place 100% of the layer farmers pullet order.
2. The Egg Farmers of Ontario Board and Hatcheries have agreed that this mortality is set at 2.75% for white birds and 4% for brown birds for all housing systems.
3. When the expected growing results are better than the planned mortality, this policy provides provision to move those birds to a layer farmer on a special lease to minimize the number of birds having to be directed to pullet hotels and / or the small non-quota market.
4. When the expected growing results are not achieved, quota credits will be issued to those layer farmers whose layer order is not 100% filled.

## CRITERIA

5.
  - a) Layer Farmer agrees in writing (mail or email) to all program requirements including payment of \$14 per bird lease based on the number of pullets shipped to the layer farm versus the farmers Board approved allowable, to note the farmer must be on quota plus any approved special lease when birds are delivered less and normal expected mortality prior to the 23 week count which will determine the number of birds on a special lease.
  - b) If there are multiple layer farmer's involved with the pullet supply, staff will work with all parties to determine the layer farmer(s) entitled to the \$14 lease and number of birds.
  - c) The approval of the special layer lease will be at the discretion of the Board with respect to the hen utilization figure.
  - d) The Pullet Farmer, Hatchery or Pullet Contractor can place more pullets than recommended by policy; however, in these instances the special lease provisions will not apply unless the pullets are marked for sale for small orders and communicated to EFO prior to birds placed in the pullet farm.
  - e) EFO will provide quota credits to those farmers in those instances when a layer order is shorted due to higher than expected mortality and for administrative purposes this will apply for any birds short shipped in excess of a quarter of a percent of the layer farmers allowable for that flock and must be more than 25 birds. In addition, credits will not be provided for when the farmer has the correct number of birds at the 19 week date.
  - f) Program requirements;
    - All required pullet reporting must be submitted within the prescribed time frames, day old, two weeks, ten weeks and 19 week old reporting
    - EFO must have on file the submitted Replacement Layer Order Report in accordance with the prescribed time frames fully completed by the layer farmer or approved representative
    - Special lease follows the farmer flock and all EFO Rules and Regulations attached to the lease birds
    - Farmer must be in "Good Standing"
    - Farmers with single allotments will be staff approved when provisions of this policy are applicable, for layer farmers with multiple allotments for a registered premises, Board approval will be required.

## COMPLIANCE:

Any quota holder who is in good standing may apply to the Board for this program. To be in good standing a quota holder must be in conformity with all EFO Regulations, Policies, Orders, and Directions, including housing density. Producers must have all the paperwork filed at the EFO office as outlined in the EFO General Regulations; and be up-to-date with all licence fees, levies and any other amounts owing to EFO.



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**SANCTIONS:**

The Board may cancel or reduce, refuse to increase, refuse to loan, fix, and allot quota to any person for any reason that the Board considers proper. Additional or alternative sanctions may apply under EFO's Quota Policy; Section 25 [Quality Standards], Section 26 [On Farm Food Safety/Animal Care Program] and Section 28 [Housing Density]. Indirect methods to circumvent EFO's policies will not be permitted and where identified may result in an appropriate reduction or cancellation of quota.

Leasing forms are available to download through the EFO website at [www.eggfarmersofontario.ca](http://www.eggfarmersofontario.ca) or may be submitted online at <https://eforms.getcracking.ca>.