

**Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) June 9 & 10, 2022 Proceedings  
Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort**

**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

**Call to Order**

Egg Farmers of Ontario's Annual Meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by EFO's Chair, Scott Helps.

**Agenda Approval**

The agenda was reviewed, moved and carried for approval.

**Confirmation of 56th Annual Meeting Minutes/Highlights**

Upon a motion duly received and seconded

THAT the highlights of the 56th Annual General Meeting of Egg Farmers of Ontario are accepted as presented

Motion Carried

**Chair's Address – Scott Helps, EFO Chair**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Chair welcomed the broad cross-section of stakeholders and partners in attendance and extended a special welcome to representatives of Boards from other provinces and Egg Farmers of Canada.

The Chair spoke about the progress achieved on several important issues last year that put us in position to meet the opportunities that we hope the new normal will bring egg and pullet farmers for 2022.

Looking back at 2021, the issues and activities highlighted were:

- work to manage the responses required to the pandemic;
- the successful implementation of three rounds of Early Fowl Removal actions to manage volatility in the egg market;
- the change to delivery of audits by EFC on Ontario farms in 2021;
- increased food bank donations in response to needs created by the pandemic;
- the transition to our new General Manager in March 2021; and,
- an update on our commitment to a multi-year governance training program.

**Video Greeting from Premier Doug Ford**

Scott Helps introduced a video greeting from Ontario Premier Doug Ford. The Premier commented on the COVID-19 pandemic, and expressed appreciation for all the hard work Ontario's farmers and the agricultural-food industry do each and every day to protect our food supply chain and keep our grocery stores shelves stocked and Ontarians fed. The pandemic has further reinforced the importance of having a safe and secure food supply. Minister Thompson and our government will continue to make targeted investments to build up our processing capacity, create a strong labour force and build a resilient supply chain from farm to fork. I look forward to working together to ensure Ontarians continue to have access to the quality food produced in our great province, he concluded.

**Memorial Tribute: Brian Ellsworth, Past General Manager**

Scott Helps introduced a memorial tribute for Brian Ellsworth who passed away on February 10, 2022. Brian Ellsworth served as General Manager of the Ontario Egg Producers for 33 years, from 1970 to

2003. He was instrumental in the development of the supply management system and a key contributor in the formation of policies throughout the years.

Given Brian's impact on the industry, the Board has decided to establish a scholarship fund to help build future industry leaders. Starting with Class 20, EFO will be awarding a \$5,000 scholarship to successful applicants to the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program who are an egg or pullet farmer/family member/employee and/or an EFO staff member. The Board feels that this is an *eggs-cellent* way to not only continue Brian's legacy, but also develop future leaders of EFO.

**General Manager's Report – Ryan Brown, EFO General Manager**

Ryan Brown provided a report on the previous year including COVID-19 challenges, Avian Influenza, staff changes, EFO Online, and strategic planning. He thanked the dedicated staff and Board for their support during his first year as General Manager and looks forward to continuing to work hard for the egg and pullet farmers in Ontario.

**Egg Farmers of Canada Report – Roger Pelissero, EFC Chair**

Roger Pelissero provided an update on the national front highlighting the collaboration achieved during COVID-19, the need to protect our industry and promote the benefits of supply management, the importance of cost of production (COP) data and encouraged farmers to participate in a COP survey when asked. He introduced the National Environmental Sustainability Tool (NEST); a web-based tool that Canadian egg farmers can use to assess the environmental footprint of their farm, and set goals to improve sustainability ([eggsustainability.ca](http://eggsustainability.ca)).

**United Egg Producers Report – Oscar Garrison, Senior Vice President Food Safety Regulatory Affairs**

Oscar Garrison presented an update from the United Egg Producers. He reflected back on the 2015 HPAI outbreak in US layers, as well as the 2022 HPAI situation. He noted priority industry concerns were labor, supplies, transportation, disposal plans, and depopulation. Symptoms commonly reported were drops in water consumption, feed and production. Biosecurity remains of paramount importance, he concluded.

**Farm Products Council of Canada Update – Ron Bonnett, FPCC Vice Chair**

Ron Bonnett was welcomed to the meeting and provided an overview of the roles and responsibility of Council. The Council is reviewing its strategic plan this year with a focus on strategic relationships. The importance of supply management has been demonstrated over the past two years and he commended industry resilience in responding to COVID-19.

**Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission – Valerie Gilvesy, OFPMC Vice Chair**

Valerie Gilvesy was welcomed to the meeting and provided an update from the Commission. She commented on the strong relationship with EFO which is essential for the success of a strong regulatory system. The Commission encouraged continued work with industry partners provincially and nationally to find effective responses and strategies to ensure consumers have access to the best eggs in the world.

**Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 Report – Dr. Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, DMV MSc PhD Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal**

Dr. Vaillancourt provided a presentation on highly pathogenic avian influenza including lessons from ongoing world events and mitigating risks. Reported risk factors associated with avian influenza included visitors, clothing, boots, hands, sharing equipment, birds over 10 weeks of age, rendering versus onsite

## *Egg Farmers of Ontario 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Highlights*

disposal, racoons or foxes observed near the farm, darkling beetles and flies. Basic biosecurity principles were outlined: reduce, clean, separate, communicate and organize. The recurrent pandemic indicates it is time for a paradigm shift in control practices including regional biosecurity, environmental sampling and strategic vaccination.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business brought before the assembly, the 57th Annual Meeting of Egg Farmers of Ontario adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

### **Friday, June 10, 2022**

#### **Call to Order**

The 57th Annual Meeting of Egg Farmers of Ontario was called to order at 8:55 a.m. by EFO Vice Chair Dan Veldman.

#### **Auditor's Report – Jennifer Riddell, RLB LLP**

Jennifer Riddell from the accounting firm of RLB LLP reported on Egg Farmers of Ontario's 2021 balance sheet, statements of operation, accumulated surplus, administrative expenses and changes in the Board's financial position. The Chair announced the appointment of RLB LLP as Egg Farmers of Ontario's auditors for the succeeding year, 2022.

#### **EFO's Public Affairs Report – Donna Lange, Director of Public Affairs**

Donna Lange provided an update from the Public Affairs Department including the *Real Farmers. Real Eggs.* campaign, *Freshly Cracked* campaign, *Fields to Forks*, retail partnerships, recipes and promotions, outreach, sponsorships, and social responsibility programs. Kwesi Jacob, Digital Media Coordinator, presented EFO's 2022 social media outlook and noted that we are hoping to produce enough farmer generated content to launch on World Egg Day (October 14, 2022).

#### **Mental Health and Wellness Session:**

##### **Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Peggy Brekveld, OFA President**

Peggy Brekveld outlined the Farmer Wellness Initiative which brings free mental health support to Ontario farmers. This telehealth line is a step in a multi-year program and a suite of tools that will facilitate easier access to much-needed mental health services for all farmers and their families. The Farmer Wellness Initiative was developed and launched by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Ontario Division, in partnership with OFA. The service itself is provided by LifeWorks. This initiative is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program in partnership with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Agriculture, and Agri-Food Canada.

Both the provincial and federal governments have provided funding access for free counselling sessions with mental health professionals. Mental health professionals (both the intake call center professionals and counsellors) are provided farm-specific mental health training and sector updates. Access to mental health resources for farmers is an important step for our entire sector. We understand the challenges of farming and that it can take a toll on our mental health and wellbeing, and that's why these specialized programs are being developed, she concluded.

##### **The Grove Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario – Cyndy Moffat Forsyth, Executive Director, Wellington/Guelph**

Cyndy Moffat Forsyth provided an overview of services offered by The Grove Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario. A youth hub is a "one-stop-shop" for youth aged 12-26 designed to meet a wide range of needs

including mental health, substance use, primary care, education, employment, training, housing and other community and social services. In 2018 there were 10 sites in Ontario funded by the Provincial Government. In June of 2021, 4 new sites were added including The Grove Wellington/Guelph being an official site. EFO's donation, to name their kitchens and kitchenettes, have helped to inspire others to donate. Thank you for showing up for youth in our communities and for being such a magnificent leader, she concluded.

**EFO's Pullet Report – Alvin Brunsveld, Pullet Director**

Alvin Brunsveld reported on 2021 activities in the pullet sector. The growing fee remained at \$2.50, plus an additional 2 cents per bird, per day for the period of 19 weeks until placement; EFO Online seminars were held in November 2021; work was underway to promote Ontario pullets; new committees were established – Contract Committee and Pullet Promotion Committee; and Ontario continued to support the efforts of Pullet Growers of Canada.

**Pullet Industry Committee/Industry Working Group Report – Kristen Thompson-Dow, Pullet Business Manager, New-Life Mills (Committee Co-Chair)**

Kristen Thompson-Dow provided an overview of the monthly industry meetings which are filled with various topics and some lively conversations pertaining to the day-to-day happenings as well as future concerns for the producers and the industry. Some of that covers challenges with fowl removal and pullet placements. COVID-19 pulled hard on that chain as well as surplus or shortages of pullets, lease birds, pullet barn density changes and much more. Examples of progress made include negotiating the pullet growing fee and recommending a standard growing fee for Ontario pullets in alternative housing, which was passed by the Board.

**Egg Farmers of Canada Research Chair in Sustainability – Dr. Nathan Pelletier, University of British Columbia – Okanagan**

Dr. Pelletier joined the meeting virtually and presented *Pathways to a Net Zero Egg Industry* including international and domestic climate change targets; the net zero objective (what it means; who is pursuing it in the food sector; why the Canadian egg industry should as well); and potential egg industry pathways to net zero (what we know; required research; developing a roadmap).

**Open Session**

Time was afforded on the agenda for egg and pullet farmers to voice their concerns, comments and questions in an open session.

**Closing Remarks & Adjournment**

Scott Helps closed the proceedings summarizing the topics of the day's agenda, noting both EFO's successes and recognizing the challenges ahead.

With no further business brought forward, the 57th Annual General Meeting of Egg Farmers of Ontario adjourned at 12:30 p.m. In lieu of speaker appreciation gifts, Egg Farmers of Ontario will make a financial contribution to Feed Ontario in each speaker's name.