



## Home Week Policy – Egg Farmers

as amended January 2020

### **PURPOSE AND INTENDED OBJECTIVES:**

Egg Farmers of Ontario (“EFO”) has determined that a Home Week (“HW”) is required for each producer to enable the Board to effectively manage quality, supply and orderly marketing of eggs in Ontario and to work effectively with producers, hatcheries, grading stations, transport companies and catchers to ensure a predictable and reliable supply of eggs to consumers and industry stakeholders.

Each producer has a HW which designates when a producer is required to place 19 week old birds in an egg production facility pursuant to the quota fixed and allotted to that producer. Birds are intended to be in production for fifty-one (51) weeks with one (1) week of downtime between flocks.

Producers are responsible for ensuring birds are placed and removed from their facilities in accordance with the Home Week Policy. The Board recognizes that circumstances do arise which would delay flock removal or delivery. Producers are required to advise the Board as soon as these situations are known for a timely review of potential exemption from the policy.

### **Administering the Home Week Policy**

To provide flexibility, placements can be made during the weeks before and following the HW. These two weeks are referred to as the Exemption Weeks. All stakeholders should, however, target placement in their Home Week to ensure an even distribution of birds week to week.

The HW applies and remains in effect year to year. No change in a HW can be made except upon application to the Board by filing an Application for Change in Home Week Form.

For new barn constructions, new and existing producers are required to contact the Board to confirm their HW prior to ordering pullets.

Producers who fail to place within the HW or Exemption Weeks will be subject to sanctions as determined by the Board.

- All flock placements are required to be placed at 19-weeks in the layer barn in the producer’s Home Week, although placements can be made in the two Exemption Weeks without sanction/penalty
- Regardless of the week birds are placed, all birds including program birds cannot remain in production more than 52 weeks. After this, a penalty of 10-cents per bird per day may be issued
- All applications for Changes in Home Week must be received by the EFO office six months prior to the existing Home Week, or six months prior to the requested new Home Week if moving to an earlier week within the year.
- Applications may be approved or denied at the discretion of the Board
- If the producer requests a Home Week change that results in the barn being empty for greater than 14 days, quota credits may be issued.
- If the producer requests an extended production period, it must be pre-approved by the Board. If approved, a 30-cent per leviable dozen assessment on production after 52-weeks will be invoiced to the layer farmer as the cost of the pullet would have been fully recovered
- The Board does recognize that circumstances beyond a farmers control may occur, for instance delays in spent fowl removal by a third party, in these instances to avoid any Home Week Policy violation, farmers should immediately advise the Board when aware of these events, irrespective of the reason, any flocks laying past 52 weeks are subject to the 30-cent per leviable dozen assessment
- If the production system requires the birds to be placed at an age earlier than 19-weeks, the birds must turn 19-weeks in the layer barn within the producer’s HW or Exemption Weeks
- In all cases the seven (7) day mandatory downtime between layer flocks applies.



**Example of potential levy charge:**

Scenario: Producer’s second flock is placed outside of their Home Week and the Exemption Weeks.

Exemption Week A	Week #4, ending Saturday, January 25, 2020
Producer’s Home Week	Week #5, ending Saturday, February 1, 2020
Exemption Week B	Week #6, ending Saturday, February 8, 2020

Flock #	Placement Date	Placement Week #	23-Week Inventory	Disposal Date	Disposal Week #	Flock Life (days)
1	Feb 1, 2019	5 (Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup> )	5,125	Feb 10, 2020	7	374
2	Feb 20, 2020	8 (Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> )	5,250			

Number of days in production exceeding 52-weeks:  
Feb 1, 2019 to Feb 10, 2020 = 374 – 365 = 9

In the example above, the assessment would be calculated as follows:  
\$0.10 x 5,125 x 9 days = \$4,612.50

**COMPLIANCE:**

Any producer in good standing may qualify for the home week allowance. To be in good standing a producer 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.

**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], Section 27 [Housing Density] and Section 29 [Sanctions]. Indirect methods to circumvent EFO’s policies will not be permitted and where identified may result in an appropriate reduction or cancellation of quota.