

the Cackler Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2016

Relevant news, information and statistics for Ontario egg farmers and pullet growers.

COMMENTS FROM THE COOP

Various issues faced over five years

by Marcel Leroux, Zone 10 Director

The Ontario egg and pullet farming business has undergone many significant developments during the five years I have been a part of the Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) Board. It has been a privilege to serve farmers from my Zone and represent egg and pullet farmers from across Ontario.

We have faced many issues during those five years. On the layer side of the business, two issues that stand out were the decision about salmonella enteritidis (Se) insurance and developing the *Quota Transfer System* (QTS).

Se insurance was a serious concern across the province and the decision to go with the *Poultry Insurance Exchange* (PIE) in Ontario has proven to be a good choice.

The development and implementation of the QTS was another significant milestone. Farmers are being served well by this system that provides fair and equal access to quota for all.

On the pullet side of the business, a milestone was progress in Ontario and Quebec towards the goal of all parties to set a price for growing 19-week-old pullets that would be used in both provinces.

This achievement saw industry partners agree to a price of \$1.75 on day-old chicks placed from January 1, 2015 and increasing to \$2.12 on placements after September 1, 2015.

Although not without administrative issues still to be worked out, this achieved acceptance that pullet growers in

both Quebec and Ontario will be paid a growing fee based on a cost of production.

There were a number of other important decisions including the development and evolution of the *New Entrant Program*, the *Layer Leasing Pool* and many others.

One of the latest developments, the national decision to end the installation of conventional housing, was made on the heels of housing research conducted by the *Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply* and involved a great deal of deliberation at the provincial and national level.

See **SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS;** page 2

Canada phasing out conventional hen housing

As Ontario egg farmers were notified on February 4, Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) has placed a moratorium on the installation of conventional hen housing systems and a 20-year phase-out of their use, in co-ordination with all other provincial egg marketing agencies and a national housing position by Egg Farmers of Canada.

This move will begin a coordinated, market-oriented transition from conventional egg production toward other hen housing systems for supplying eggs. This collective

approach will take hen welfare, human health, other resource implications, environmental impact and food production sustainability all into account.

See **ALTERNATIVE HOUSING;** page 2

Upcoming Contributions By:

March: Scott Graham, EFO Chair

Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings:

March 3 & 4, Annual Meeting March 30-31

FARMER NOTICES

Upcoming Census

Statistics Canada will be conducting their next *Census of Agriculture*, starting in May 2016 and a letter will be sent to all Canadian farm operators with instructions on how to complete the online questionnaire.

EFO strongly encourages all farmers to participate in this census as it is used as the primary source of data and leaders will use it to act in the interests of farmers, farm communities and agricultural operations.

The *Census of Agriculture* can be completed online or on paper. Please see upcoming editions of *The Cackler* for more information.

51st Annual Meeting

Egg Farmers of Ontario's (EFO's) 51st Annual Meeting will be held March 30 & 31 at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort. Invitations were sent out in February.

Register online at <http://www.eggfarmersofontario.ca/annual-meetings/51st-annual-meeting-0> and follow the directions on screen.

Please note, the registration deadline is March 16, 2016. For further information, please contact the Board office.

EFO PROUD SPONSOR OF CANADIAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S JUNIOR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



A thank-you tweet from team Alberta.

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) was proud to be the *Official Breakfast Protein* of the 2016 Canadian Men's and Women's Junior Curling Championships, held in Stratford, January 23-31.

We were also proud to be the Inspiring Youth Through Sport sponsor for the *Rocks and Rings* program in Stratford area schools.

Our sponsorships included scoreboard identification, hack signs, in-ice signs and giveaways in the players' welcome bags and banquet.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS; continued from page 1

I believe that taking this type of unified position is one of the real advantages of our national marketing system and puts us in the best position to meet continuing changes in our egg markets in the future.

I have been fortunate to have had opportunities to compare how our fair farm pricing approach compares to markets in other countries. These opportunities make me realize how well the system works for consumers, governments and farmers. We all understand the need to work hard at continuing to improve our system for future generations.

I would like to thank everyone I have been connected with, elected and staff, for my opportunities as an EFO board and executive member, as well as for my roles at EFC and Pullet Growers of Canada and as a member of the Ontario pullet committee.

Congratulations to Marc Bourdon as the newly-elected director for Zone 10 and last, but not least, a special thank you to my wife and kids for carrying the extra burden at home that made all my efforts possible.

ALTERNATIVE HOUSING; continued from page 1

Alongside this announcement, the industry plans to discuss with stakeholders and consumers the benefits of enriched housing, which do not seem to be well or widely understood outside of the industry. These include food safety, the minimization of mortality, cannibalism and other aggressive behaviours, ensuring adequate feed and water for hens, human health and the lowest possible environmental impacts.

"Consumer choices about eggs need to be informed choices," said EFO Chair Scott Graham. "Extensive current research shows that enriched housing should become the new gold standard because it provides the best balance between hen health, hen well-being, sustainability, environment, worker health & safety and affordability."

WITH THIS ISSUE

• denotes to egg & pullet farmers only

- Agri-Food Excellence Program information sheet
- 2015 Zone Fund Summary
- EFO Promotional Item Order Form

FEBRUARY RECIPES TO WARM YOU INSIDE AND OUT



Egg Drop Soup (above) and Frozen Raspberry Mousse (right) are two new EFO recipes for 2016.

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) created two eggs-ceptional recipes for February – one to warm the body and one to warm the heart.

Egg Drop Soup is an Asian-inspired soup that is great for a light meal or snack to enjoy on a cold winter's day by the fire. Perfect to warm you right down to your toes!

As the name implies, *Frozen Raspberry Mousse* won't warm you up, but it makes for a romantic-looking treat to share (especially with your Valentine). Make this dessert ahead of time, store in the freezer and pull out to serve when ready.

Both recipes were posted on all four of EFO's social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. The complete recipes can also be found at www.getcracking.ca under egg recipes.

Stay posted for more new egg recipes from EFO throughout the year!

Zone Election Results

Recently, the following Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) Directors were re-elected for the 2016-2017 term at their annual zone meetings:

- Scott Helps, Zone 1
- Dianne McComb, Zone 2
- Dan Veldman, Zone 3
- Roger Pelissero, Zone 4
- Brian Miller, Zone 5
- Scott Graham, Zone 6
- Bryan Hostrawser, Zone 7
- Hubert Schillings, Zone 8
- Craig Hunter, Zone 9

EFO welcomes one new Director, Marc Bourdon, to represent Zone 10 egg farmers.

EFO would like to thank retiring Director Marcel Leroux for his time spent with the Board and his dedication to representing local egg farmers.

Please note that the Pullet Director election will take place Wednesday, March 30 at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls.

2015 PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

Ontario Production (week ending #52)

2015 - 15,358,132
2014 - 14,818,755

Ontario IP (week ending #52)

2015 - 2,905,103
2014 - 2,963,638

Ontario EFP (week ending #52)

2015 - 1,187,123
2014 - 1,192,186

US Imports to Ontario (week ending January 16, 2016, #3)

2016 - 47,060
2015 - 20,854

For Sale

Valli cages, 3 rows and 4 high, capacity of 6720, holds brown or white. Fans & controls. Egg cooler, 2 - 6 ton feed bins. Respond to 2dchesney@execulink.com.

Ford-Dickison A-frame cages with Ziggity water nipples, 16" centres, automatic feeders and elevators. Will separate.
1 1/2-HP egg cooler. 60'-0"
Farmer Automatic rod conveyor.
Contact: Pete at 519-902-3508 or Colin 519-328-7787.

Six 4-tier Farmer Automatic egg elevator ends. If interested, please call 519-871-8202.

Farmer Automatic - 2 front end units, floors and doors, gear boxes and other parts for sale. Please call Willy at 519-494-6114.

Eggs in the News

Eggs are best for a filling children's breakfast, study finds

If you're not sure which is the most filling breakfast to give your kids on a morning a team of U.S. researchers might have found the answer, finding that eggs are a more filling way to start the day than a breakfast of cereal or oatmeal.

The study looked at which breakfast kept children fuller for longer -- protein-rich eggs or a grain-based breakfast such as cereal or oatmeal.

At the end of three weeks, the researchers found that children who ate the eggs breakfast (scrambled eggs, whole wheat toast, diced peaches and one percent milk), ate less at lunch time, reducing their energy intake by 70 calories, roughly equal to a small chocolate-chip cookie and 4 per cent of a child's daily caloric needs.

Eating more than the caloric needs regularly, even by a small amount, can cause weight gain and possibly obesity.

- CTV News, February 3

Cage-free eggs have drawbacks says farm animal welfare expert

The push for cage-free eggs by fast food companies is not necessarily the best option, according to a farm animal welfare expert at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

Michael Cockram at UPEI's Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre says he approves of the standards the Egg Farmers of Canada announced Friday, with Canadian commercial producers committing to raise hens in enriched cages by 2036.

While no one system is perfect, said Cockram, and all have their pros and cons, he supports the Canadian industry moving to the enriched cages model.

Cage-free farming — where hens roam free in a barn, also known as free-run — can lead to aggressive behaviour, such as pecking and cannibalism, said Cockram, and it's more difficult for farmers to keep the environment clean.

- CBC News, February 11

How to contact EFO Zone Directors

Your Directors are available to address any questions and comments you may have pertaining to your industry.

ZONE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
1	Scott Helps	shelps@ymail.com	519-464-2744
2	Dianne McComb	dmccomb@isp.ca	519-494-5360
3	Dan Veldman	dveldd@gmail.com	519-801-5216
4	Roger Pelissero	rpelisseroeggs@gmail.com	905-984-0279
5	Brian Miller	bwmiller@quadro.net	519-235-1126
6	Scott Graham	scottgraham06@gmail.com	519-284-1300
7	Bryan Hostrawser	bryanhostrawser@gmail.com	519-803-9076
8	Hubert Schillings	chschillings@hotmail.ca	905-260-0951
9	Craig Hunter	chunter@burnbraefarms.com	613-341-2006
10	Marcel Leroux	msleroux1@gmail.com	613-293-0730
Pullet	Andy DeWeerd	abdeweerd@hsfx.ca	519-502-5385

Egg Farmers of Ontario's Mission Statement - The mission of Egg Farmers of Ontario is to provide customers with a supply of high-quality eggs at a fair price and a fair return to egg and pullet farmers within a stable national supply management system.

PLEASE NOTE: Egg Farmers of Ontario Policies, Programs & Procedures are online

New policies and procedures will be updated and posted on EFO's farmer website www.eggfarmersofontario.ca as they come into effect and will no longer be mailed to all farmers.

Policies, procedures and documents posted on EFO's farmer website contain the most up-to-date versions and should be used for all policy interpretation and quota transactions – please check this site frequently.

If further information or clarification on any matter is required, farmers should contact EFO's Board office.