

# THE CACKLER

THE LATEST EFO NEWS



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Egg Farmers of Ontario

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## EFO PROUD TO SUPPORT EGGS-CELLENT ATHLETES

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) is thrilled to sponsor five athletes that have qualified to compete at the 2018 Olympic Games in PyeongChang, Korea, which began on February 9.

Together with Fédération des producteurs d'oeufs du Québec, EFO has sponsored Zone 10 egg farmer Valérie Grenier since 2015. This talented Alpine Skier has a long list of accomplishments, including being named Alpine Canada's 2017 Female Athlete of the Year. EFO is delighted to be a part of her team and has been cheering her on as she competes in this momentous event!

EFO is also proud to be the Official Breakfast of the 2017 *Scotties Tournament of Hearts* and 2017 Ford World Women's Curling Champions, Team Homan. This accomplished foursome has been sporting EFO's logo for just over a year as they've taken Canada by storm.

To show support for all our athletes, EFO has worked with the Canadian Olympic Committee to secure approval for social media activity and the placement of an ad in the 2018 Canadian Olympic Team Fan Guide. Over 75,000 copies of this keepsake will be sold on newsstands across Canada and distributed at Air Canada airport lounges.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Comments from the Coop, by Andy DeWeerd, Pullet Director
- Food for a Crowd
- Upcoming Ambassador Training

### UPCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

March: Scott Graham  
EFO Chair

### UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS:

- March 5
- March 27 & 28 (EFO's 53rd AGM)

## COMMENTS FROM THE COOP

# CHALLENGES ARE RAISING OUR GAME

By Andy DeWeerd, Pullet Director

One year after some Ontario pullets were exposed to a strain of bronchitis that caused false layer problems for about 20 flocks, pullet farmers continue to be on high-alert to try and prevent any repeat in 2018.

The care and skill of pullet farmers working every day to raise pullets to laying age are critical to the success of mature birds in Ontario laying barns and everyone has worked hard to raise their standards even further.

Our sector was able to respond effectively to manage the 2017 outbreak, which caused subsequent health and productivity problems in about two dozen layer flocks.

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) managed to get on top of the problem quickly and developed a program, using funds from its Bacteria Control Fund, to buy pullets to replace the most-severely affected flocks.

As a continuing response to the false layer issues, EFO is doing testing and data collection on some pullet flocks across Ontario. This testing has been going well and the work is positioning us to better understand what is happening with the bronchitis virus to

help protect the entire sector.

Although the work is ongoing, we have developed a greater understanding of how the disease affects birds. Current knowledge seems to indicate that only pullets exposed in their first one or two weeks of life are at increased risk that the development of their reproductive tract is impaired leading to false layers at maturity.

Pullet farmers work constantly on every area of management to produce healthy, high-quality birds for Ontario's layer barns.

Pullet farmers take great pride in the care and management that goes into raising their birds. From barn preparation and set up, putting papers in each housing unit and then removing them within seven days of placement, the constant cleaning of dust, working in temperatures of up to 34 degrees, the observation to see when water lines need to be raised, when to open feed slides up, when to close them, well-planned and well-executed vaccinations, pulling out one to three per cent of the flock in the first 14 days, and then after that, culling any missed roosters, are some of the many items



that make-up the job.

The entire sector functions remarkably smoothly and efficiently and includes breeders, hatcheries, pullet and layer farmers in addition to a tremendous group of other partners and suppliers.

To look optimistically to the future, I see at least three positives that have come out of the difficulties of the last year. The first is the collaborative response by the sector to deal with the 2017 outbreak; the second is the research that is underway to improve our ability to understand, ward off and manage outbreak issues; and the third is that communications and understanding between pullet farmers and the layer farmers they partner with have been opened up and that will benefit our mutual efforts in the future.

## WITH THIS ISSUE!

- Housing Density Reminder
- Promotional Items Order Form

## COMING SOON: EGG AMBASSADOR TRAINING



With the 2018 fair season just around the corner, many farmers have been asking for guidance when speaking with consumers. There are lots of dos and don'ts that we follow when communicating with the public, but who knows what they all are!

Egg Farmers of Ontario, together with Farm & Food Care, is offering two

speaking-up training sessions for both existing and new Egg Ambassadors.

The meetings will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will take place in the following cities on these dates:

April 17, Ingersoll  
April 24, Brockville

Topics will include speaking up about food and farming, dealing with difficult people, working at events, working with the media and much more.

For more information or to register for one of these sessions, please contact Donna Lange, Public Affairs Manager at [dlange@getcracking.ca](mailto:dlange@getcracking.ca).

## HUNGRY CROWD? NO PROBLEM!



Above: EFO's latest recipe, Monte Cristo One-Pan Bake ready for a crowd and (above, right) the recipe featured in Foodism Magazine's February edition.

Have you ever wondered how big a sandwich would have to be to feed eight? Well, if you have one pan and a few eggs, not that big at all!

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) has taken the classic Monte Cristo sandwich and transformed it into a meal that will feed a hungry crowd with our *Monte Cristo One-Pan Bake*. The sweet flavours of French toast with ham and cheese make for a delicious combination your brunch guests will love. Serve with icing sugar and preserves to sweeten things up!

This recipe is also featured in the February edition of Foodism Magazine along with egg farmer Dave Ottens.

For this recipe and more, please visit [www.getcracking.ca/recipes](http://www.getcracking.ca/recipes).

## NOTICE OF LEVY AND LICENCE FEE DECREASE

Effective Sunday, February 25, 2018, the total Producer Levy & Licence Fee will be changed to thirty seven point seven five cents (37.75 cents) per dozen plus HST. The remittance is as follows: total deduction from farmer is 37.75 cents plus grading station voluntary research fee of .02 cents (per dozen, plus HST). In Zone 9N, the levy will be thirty six point seven five cents (36.75 cents) per dozen plus HST. Please check your calculations to ensure that the correct amount of levy is remitted to the Egg Farmers of Ontario's Board office.

## FARMERS WANTED!

Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) is working with national graders in hopes of coordinating a national in-store farmer activation. This would provide a unique opportunity for consumers to engage with real Canadian egg farmers, right in their local grocery store.

The timing for this is May-July. The aim is that EFC, with EFO, would work with graders and retailers to place farmers in their local grocery stores for about 2-4 hours at a time. Farmers would be provided with materials, signage and giveaways to support this activation.

EFO will be conducting Egg Ambassador training in advance to assist farmers.

If this is something you are interested in participating in, please contact Donna Lange at [dlange@getcracking.ca](mailto:dlange@getcracking.ca).

## 2017 PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

### Ontario Production (week ending #52)

2017 – 17,683,521

2016 – 16,686,510

### Ontario IP

#### (week ending #52)

2017 – 4,388,093

2016 – 3,866,480

### Ontario EFP

#### (week ending #52)

2017 – 1,187,409

2016 – 1,187,288

### US Shell Egg Imports to Ontario (week ending January 20, 2018, #3)

2017 – 60,560

2016 – 12,000

## PRE-ORDER PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Tired of waiting in line, juggling with bags and papers during the rush at the annual meeting? The good news is you don't have to!

Simply browse through the *Promotional Items Order Form* (see attached order form) in the comfort of your own home and fax or email your order. We will pack it up for you to pick up at your convenience during the meeting. It's that easy!

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Sabo at [ssabo@getcracking.ca](mailto:ssabo@getcracking.ca).

## ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Egg Farmers of Ontario's (EFO's) 53rd Annual Meeting will be held March 27-28 at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort. Invitations have been recently sent out.

Register online at <https://www.getcracking.ca/members/article/53rd-annual-meeting-registration> and follow the on-screen instructions.

Please note, the registration deadline is March 9, 2018. For further information, please contact EFO's office.

## EGGS IN THE NEWS

### Helping students get cracking on nutrition; Local egg farmers supply free food to Stratford and Perth County schools

Stratford Beacon-Herald  
February 3  
by Terry Bridge

Natalie Gauthier tried a hardboiled egg for the first time this week.

"It was good," said the Grade 5 St. Ambrose student.

Gary West, an area egg farmer, noted she's not alone.

"Lots of kids in Stratford haven't even had a hardboiled egg before," said West, who has laying hens on his farm near Shakespeare.

But that group should be dwindling in the Stratford region, as West is involved in an egg-farming partnership that delivers free food to area schools. Egg Farmers of Ontario and Farm Credit Canada team up to supply ready-to-serve - hardboiled, peeled and packaged - eggs to students in Stratford and Perth, Huron, Waterloo and Oxford counties.

"We do a lot of schools in Stratford," he said. "The schools just feel that the eggs are such a great protein, and the kids like them."

"We've been coming to the school for a long time, a couple of years already," West said.

The donations augment the school's breakfast and snack program.

"They usually call me then I'll order them and have them here in a couple of days," he said.

Elsewhere, West estimated they deliver to about 11 schools in the city and a handful more throughout the county.

# FARMER NOTICES

## INSPECTOR UPDATE

Field staff inspectors Mandy Wright and Jeff Parker are no longer with EFO. We would like to thank them for their years of service and wish them well in their future endeavours. If your farms were visited by Mandy or Jeff for either regulatory inspections or for On Farm Food Safety and Animal Care programs, please contact Albert Visser at 613-847-7075 or [avisser@getcracking.ca](mailto:avisser@getcracking.ca) if you require assistance during this time of transition.

## MAPLE LODGE PLANNED LINE SHUTDOWN

As part to the Modular loading transition for broilers the following weeks CANNOT have any fowl (USA or Canadian) scheduled. The fowl line will be used for broiler processing or shut down completely.

- Week of October 22nd, 2018
- Week of October 29th, 2018
- Day of December 5th, 2018
- Day of December 13th, 2018

On these weeks and days there can be no fowl coming to Maple Lodge Farms.

For farmers who typically send out birds in that time period, you are asked to work with industry and Maple Lodge or other processing plants as soon as possible to plan your fowl pickups and new flock placements accordingly. An alternate plan would be a full barn depopulation using EFO's team. This option would require additional planning and co-ordination; please contact Albert Visser at 613-847-7075 or [avisser@getcracking.ca](mailto:avisser@getcracking.ca).

## EFO POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES ONLINE

Reminder: New policies and procedures will be updated and posted on EFO's farmer website at [www.getcracking.ca/members/operations-quota](http://www.getcracking.ca/members/operations-quota) 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 office.

## 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	<a href="mailto:shelps@ymail.com">shelps@ymail.com</a>	519-464-2744
2	Dianne McComb	<a href="mailto:gizmo53.dm@gmail.com">gizmo53.dm@gmail.com</a>	519-494-5360
3	Dan Veldman	<a href="mailto:dveldd@gmail.com">dveldd@gmail.com</a>	519-801-5216
4	Roger Pelissero	<a href="mailto:rpelisseroeggs@gmail.com">rpelisseroeggs@gmail.com</a>	905-984-0279
5	Brian Miller	<a href="mailto:bwmiller@quadro.net">bwmiller@quadro.net</a>	519-235-1126
6	Scott Graham	<a href="mailto:scottgraham06@gmail.com">scottgraham06@gmail.com</a>	519-284-1300
7	Scott Brookshaw	<a href="mailto:sbrookshaw@sympatico.ca">sbrookshaw@sympatico.ca</a>	519-671-7568
8	Hubert Schillings	<a href="mailto:chschillings@hotmail.ca">chschillings@hotmail.ca</a>	905-260-0951
9	Craig Hunter	<a href="mailto:chunter@burnbraefarms.com">chunter@burnbraefarms.com</a>	613-341-2006
10	Marc Bourdon	<a href="mailto:marc@bourdon.ca">marc@bourdon.ca</a>	613-551-5071
Pullet	Andy DeWeerd	<a href="mailto:abdeweerd@hsfx.ca">abdeweerd@hsfx.ca</a>	519-502-5385

**Egg Farmers of Ontario Mission Statement** The Mission of Egg Farmers of Ontario is to provide customers with a supply of safe, high-quality eggs at a fair price and a return to egg and pullet farmers achieved through fair farm pricing, within a stable national supply management system.

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