

THE CACKLER

THE LATEST EFO NEWS



get cracking®
Egg Farmers of Ontario

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EFO COOKS UP A BATCH OF NEW RECIPES

Each year, Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) works to develop new recipes and photographs for website use, on social media and during television appearances and in advertisements.

For 2020, EFO created 12 new recipes to suit a variety of

tastes and appetites. Recipes range from appetizers such as *Spanakopita* and delicious sweets like *Maple Cinnamon Rolls*.

For these recipes and more, visit www.getcracking.ca.

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- Comments from the Coop, by Andy DeWeerd, Pullet Director
- 2020 Zone Election Results
- EFO welcomes a new Inspector to the team

UPCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

March: Scott Graham
EFO Chair

UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS:

March 3 & 4
April 1 & 2

COMMENTS FROM THE COOP

CONTINUING SUCCESS FOR PULLET FARMERS

by Andy DeWeerd, Pullet Director

This will be my final column in *The Cackler* as I have decided to step down from Egg Farmers of Ontario's (EFO's) Board in 2020, having served as Ontario Pullet Director for 18 years. Being Pullet Director for Ontario has been a challenging and great privilege. During these years I have been encouraged to be on EFO's Executive, Chair of National Pullet Growers Association and even try for a new national agency. It is empowering having people believe you can do something out of your comfort zone.

Since 2020 can connect to 20/20 hindsight in a humorous way, I thought it would be appropriate to take a look back at some of the many opportunities that have come my way over the last 18 years.

I learned patience and to persevere. In this context, I think of the years of relationship-building and continuous momentum needed by many people to move the pullet growing fee to fair farm pricing of \$2.12. Pullet based on cost of production was an important achievement.

I also learned the value of teamwork. I saw this demonstrated countless times over the years within our EFO Board that always showed unity when we were working on new policy, be it Se insurance, pullet leasing or in negotiations. Many decisions are not easy but the Board always continues to strive to do what is best for Ontario's egg and pullet industry. Also, working with the many pullet industry partners is key and we are currently enjoying an unprecedented positive time working together.

I look at our pullet partners in Quebec and appreciate how many obstacles they had to clear to get their own pullet sector organized to the point that this past year, they received approval and joined in the formal structure with their egg farmers. This was very important to our collective success as it made the increase to a \$2.50 pullet growing fee much easier to attain.

I also look back and recognize the foresight EFO's Board has shown over the years. Some policies that started as pullet issues turned out to have great



benefits for the egg sector, one being the issue of flock placements in January and February. It began as an effort to even out pullet placements. In the end, it also helped get more eggs to the market at the right time and made the whole marketing system more effective.

There are many more lessons, but the final one I want to mention is understanding the value of friendships. I have been blessed with many friendships developed over the years. I will always value the relationships I have enjoyed and the memories created with Directors, former Directors and farmers across the country and our Board staff.

I have been blessed to have been Director and wish the best to my successor. My 20/20 vision is looking forward to a strong future for all pullet farmers.

WITH THIS ISSUE

- Managing Ammonia in Layer Barns
- Promotional Items Brochure

* denotes to egg and pullet farmers only

PROTECTING YOUR FARM PREMISES FROM TRESPASSERS

There have been some recent, unconfirmed, reports of special interest groups attempting to, or gaining, entry into Ontario egg and pullet farms.

All farmers are reminded to always maintain a high-level of awareness and security - there is always a possibility for action by these groups at any time.

Good fencing and lighting, proper use of locks and no-trespassing signs are all ways to ensure that you are not an easy target for this type of activity. Special interest groups will look for a simple way in and will tend to avoid well-lit, fenced off locations with extra security such as locks. Don't forget to lock all vehicles and outbuildings. Not all activity takes place during the day when you are around to see it. Many times these events occur at night.

If you have unwanted people on your property, inform them they are trespassing, contact police immediately to let them know you feel there is a risk to you, your family and your birds. DO NOT confront or interact further with any intruders.

Be aware of what is going on both on and off of your barn property and also remind your neighbours to notify you of any suspicious activity. If possible, get to know your local police so if you do have any issues, you can get them easily involved.

In the event that you encounter suspicious activity, please contact your local police detachment and notify Bill Mitchell, Director of Public Affairs (bmitchell@getcracking.ca) or on his cell at 519-897-3440.

2020 ZONE ELECTION RESULTS

Recently, the following Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) Directors were re-elected for the 2020-2021 term at their annual Zone Meetings:

- Zone 1, Scott Helps
- Zone 2, Lorne Benedict
- Zone 3, Dan Veldman
- Zone 4, Roger Pelissero
- Zone 5, Brian Miller
- Zone 7, Scott Brookshaw
- Zone 8, George Pilgrim
- Zone 9, Craig Hunter
- Zone 10, Marc Bourdon

EFO welcomes a new Director, Tonya Haverkamp, to represent Zone 6 egg and pullet farmers.

EFO would like to thank current Zone 6 Director and Chair Scott Graham for his time spent with the Board and his outstanding dedication representing egg and pullet farmers.

Please note, elections for Pullet Director will be held during the 2020 Annual Meeting.

EFO'S INSPECTION TEAM

Egg Farmers of Ontario welcomes a new inspector to the Operations Team. Mike Andersen comes to EFO with extensive experience in the poultry sector and will be covering inspections in the Counties of Waterloo, Wellington, Grey, Bruce, Dufferin, Simcoe and York. Mike joins our existing EFO inspector team:



Mike Andersen



Hilary Croft



Danielle Fawcett



Terry Gray



Connie Hutchinson



Guylain Levac



Cassandra O'Donnell



Casey Riddle

PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

Ontario Production (week ending #52)

2019 - 18,489,707
2018 - 17,973,294

Ontario IP (week ending #52)

2019 - 3,995,809
2018 - 3,899,685

Ontario EFP (week ending #52)

2019 - 1,261,640
2018 - 1,187,242

US Shell Egg Imports to Ontario (week ending January 18, 2020 - #3)

2020 - 34,276
2019 - 148,318

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Egg Farmers of Ontario's (EFO's) 55th Annual Meeting will be held March 31 & April 1 at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort. Invitations have recently been sent out.

To register online, visit <https://www.getcracking.ca/members/article/55th-annual-meeting-registration> and follow the onscreen instructions.

Please note, the registration deadline is March 16, 2020. For further information, please contact EFO's office.

EGGS IN THE NEWS

Agriculture Minister speaks with area farmers about proposed trespass bill

Kitchener Today
February 6

Bill 156 would protect farmers and others in the agriculture industry from on-farm trespass and interference with livestock transport.

Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Mike Harris, MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga, met today with local farmers to discuss Bill 156.

Bill 156, the proposed Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019, was introduced by Minister Hardeman in the Ontario Legislature on December 2, 2019 and began Second Reading on December 10, 2019.

The proposed bill strengthens protection for farmers by:

- Increasing fines for the first offence to up to \$15,000 and

up to \$25,000 for subsequent offences

- Allowing the courts to order restitution in cases where a farmer has suffered damages to their livestock or from theft.
- Protecting farmers from civil claims by people who were hurt on the farm while they were trespassing

"I would like to thank Minister Hardeman for sitting down with Waterloo Region farmers to hear their views on Bill 156," said MPP Harris. "I've heard clearly from local producers that illegal trespassing not only threatens food contamination, but also family and employee safety which is unacceptable."

"If passed, our proposed bill would not interfere with the right of people to participate in legal protests," said Minister Hardeman. "Our government will always protect that right. However, these activities cannot include creating safety risks on farms or interfering with livestock in transport."

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	Lorne Benedict	lbenedict@eastlink.ca	519-281-3321
3	Dan Veldman	dveldd@gmail.com	519-801-5216
4	Roger Pelissero	rpelisseroeggs@gmail.com	905-984-0279
5	Brian Miller	bwmiller@quadro.net	519-521-1325
6	Scott Graham	scottgraham06@gmail.com	519-284-1300
7	Scott Brookshaw	sbrookshaw@sympatico.ca	519-671-7568
8	George Pilgrim	georgepilgrim@hotmail.com	905-376-6869
9	Craig Hunter	chunter@burnbraefarms.com	613-341-2006
10	Marc Bourdon	marc@bourdon.ca	613-551-5071
Pullet	Andy DeWeerd	abdeweerd@hsfx.ca	519-502-5385

Egg Farmers of Ontario Mission Statement Egg Farmers of Ontario is a farmer-run organization that manages the supply and orderly marketing of eggs so customers can enjoy fresh, safe, high-quality protein at a fair price.

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FARMER NOTICES

For sale - Diamond egg packer, very good working condition. \$12,000 o.b.o. telephone: 519-236-4095 email: vbeeler@hay.net.

Complete system, Farmer Automatic, 22,000 bird capacity, 4 tier, all parts available (free), contact Peter Van Zeeland, 519-392-8448.

One Sanovo Staalkat FP40 farm-packer, 80 cases per hour, all stainless steel. Brand new with full one-year warranty. Installed and delivered in southwestern Ontario, \$30,000. If interested, please call Meller Poultry Equipment, 519-587-2667.

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 as they come into effect.

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.

REMINDER: ANIMAL CARE POLICY EUTHANASIA TRAINING

This is a reminder to all egg and pullet farmers of the main criteria of the *Animal Care Policy* euthanasia training:

1. Certified trainer on farm evidenced by a veterinarian certificate or individual deemed a competent trainer.
2. Documentation of a secondary method as back up for euthanasia.
3. Evidence that all farm staff trained have demonstrated their competency to the certified trainer.

Should you have any questions about these requirements, please contact the Board office.