

JULY 2018

# THE CACKLER

THE LATEST EFO NEWS

Publication Agr. No: 40068941



get cracking®  
Egg Farmers of Ontario



## CTV SEGMENT SHARES EGG FARMING STORY

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) are once again proud to sponsor an upcoming series within the *Fields to Forks* campaign with CTV London.

The partnership includes a 60-second vignette that features the Veldman Family, promotion on the *Fields to Forks* website, pre-roll ads and radio advertising.

Another aspect of the program is farmer participation on

1290 CJBK radio's call-in show on July 17 (Tonya Haverkamp and Don Storey); July 31 (Megan and Kayla Veldman); and August 14 (Gary West). All of the farmers will cover various topics during each segment, related to egg farming and animal care.

To learn more about the *Fields to Forks* program or to watch the video, please visit [www.fieldstoforks.ca](http://www.fieldstoforks.ca).

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Comments from the Coop, by Dan Veldman, Zone 3 Director
- Canadian Government invests in egg research
- Simplify your mornings with eggs

### UPCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| August:    | Roger Pelissero |
| September: | Zone 4 Director |
|            | Brian Miller    |
|            | Zone 5 Director |

### UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS:

- August 1 & 2
- September 6 & 7

## COMMENTS FROM THE COOP

# WHY WE MUST BE CAMERA READY

By Dan Veldman, Zone 3 Director

Continuous improvement. Those two words are a good description of the business dynamic that dominates the positive and thriving business environment of egg and pullet farming in Canada.

At the same time, there has also been a continuing rise in consumer expectations and increased desire for transparency throughout the food chain.

Our long-term progress receives external shocks and unwanted attention like the type caused by undercover videos from groups that want to allege that a few bad examples are common practice. Their motivation is to turn consumers against all animal agriculture.

With the recent video released in B.C. with footage from inside three egg farmer's barns, this again makes us ask ourselves: are our barns camera-ready? As Canadian egg farmers, we are privileged to receive fair farm prices directly from the market, have a reputation for some of the highest quality eggs and are committed to being innovative and progressive in hen housing and care. But every once in a while these videos get released and it reminds us we are only as strong as our weakest link.

How can you judge if your farm is camera-ready? If photos or video showed up on the news from inside your barn, would you be able to defend your conditions and practices and be proud of them? If not, then you need to change the way you do things.

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) and Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) take hen welfare very seriously and have been proactive with farm programs, including third-party audits. I know many of you reading this will say, "Great, more paperwork," and we all feel like that at times. But in reality, being proactive in adopting these changes is in everyone's best interest.

If we didn't introduce third-party audits, then we would probably have auditors from major retailers and restaurants on our farms. These would all be different and many would be following different protocols which would be more complicated and require even more paperwork.

I have brought many news crews and journalists into my family's barns, sometimes knowing that they would like to throw me under the bus; but I let them film anything or everything they want. I've always had the impression that I'd rather invite them in the front door then have them look for ways to get in



the back door. The effort has always been worthwhile as a way to tell our story to consumers.

We all know that videos and photos can be dramatized to make situations look worse. EFO and other farmers will stand with you if your farm is targeted by activists; however, if your barn was not camera-ready and you have real hen welfare issues then we will not be able to defend you.

For many of these reasons EFO will be developing more specific policies about camera-ready requirements; there could also be financial penalties for non-compliance too. Since none of us can accept inadequate barns or hen welfare issues on Ontario egg and pullet farms, perhaps eggs that get diverted to breakers should be subject to a reduced price as an incentive to ensure we are always "camera ready."

### REMINDER: CHECK COOLER TEMPERATURES!

Due to the warmer weather during this time of year, farmers are advised to check their egg cooler temperatures regularly.

The mandatory temperature for on-farm coolers is between 10 to 13 degrees Celcius (50 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit).

Egg Farmers of Ontario encourages all farmers to maintain a properly sized compressor-cooler to maintain the quality of eggs.

EFO inspectors continue to check cooler temperatures during regular visits.

### VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE CNE

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) is still looking for active egg or pullet farmers to help with the CNE display, so it's not too late to volunteer!

The CNE is open from August 17 to September 3 and EFO has two shifts operating per day. The morning shift runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the afternoon shift is 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Both past volunteers and new ones

are encouraged to help and to invite fellow farmers to join. The knowledge and experience of our farmers are invaluable at such events!

If you are an active egg or pullet farmer who is interested in volunteering at the CNE, please contact Sarah Brien at [sbrien@getcracking.ca](mailto:sbrien@getcracking.ca).

## SIMPLIFY YOUR MORNINGS WITH EGGS



Summer can be hectic, but that doesn't mean your breakfast has to be!

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) takes the rush out of your mornings without losing the nutrition, with our *Muffin Tin Strata's*. These flavour-packed muffins combine asparagus, ham and tomatoes for a delicious on-the-go breakfast. They are perfect for a busy weekday morning or a quick lunch at your desk.

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

## EFO PARTICIPATES IN ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BREAKFAST ON THE FARM



Zone 4 egg farmer Chris Mullet Koop speaks to a consumer at the breakfast event.

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) was a presenting sponsor of the first *Breakfast on the Farm* event for 2018, which was held June 23 at Cranston Dairy Farm in Ancaster. The event is held by Farm and Food Care Ontario and is one of two free breakfast events this year.

Although the day brought heavy rain at times, crowds still came out to enjoy a delicious breakfast while learning more about how food is produced in Ontario. EFO's Egg Ambassador, Alisha, along with local farmers and representatives from Burnbrae and Gray Ridge Eggs were on hand to engage with visitors as part of the *Explore Agriculture* display area.

## CANADA SOLVING A CHICKEN-AND-EGG PROBLEM

On July 3, Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced an investment for the egg industry to assist in the development of an electronic scan to determine the gender and fertility of eggs, helping to increase the capacity and efficiency of hatcheries. The Government of Canada is providing \$844,000 to Egg Farmers of Ontario to study ways to minimize waste and take a major step forward to address animal welfare matters.

This non-invasive technology using light allows the separation of eggs according to the sex of the embryos

on the day the egg is laid, before any development of a chick has happened. This solution will mean that hatcheries will be able to produce female-only eggs for hatching of egg-laying varieties. This approach solves animal welfare concerns, reduces costs and eliminates any waste in the raising of egg-laying hens.

To find out more about this exciting new technology, please visit [www.getcracking.ca/news-releases](http://www.getcracking.ca/news-releases).

*Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

## 2018 PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

### Ontario Production (week ending #20)

2018 – 6,881,597  
2017 – 6,801,593

### Ontario IP (week ending #20)

2018 – 1,474,449  
2017 – 1,670,037

### Ontario EFP (week ending #20)

2018 – 456,120  
2017 – 456,059

### US Shell Egg Imports to Ontario (week ending June 16, 2018, #24)

2018 – 939,134  
2017 – 547,423

## NOTICE OF LEVY AND LICENCE FEE DECREASE

Effective Sunday, July 15, 2018, the total Producer Levy & Licence Fee will be changed to thirty four point two five cents (34.25 cents) per dozen plus HST. The remittance is as follows: total deduction from Producer is 34.25 cents plus grading station voluntary research fee of .02 cents (per dozen, plus HST). In Zone 9N, the levy will be thirty three point two five cents (33.25 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.

### FOLLOW US ONLINE



# EGGS IN THE NEWS

## When cannibalism rears its ugly head in the chicken coop

The Toronto Star

July 13, 2018

By Amy Pataki

(*Toronto Star Restaurant critic Amy Pataki and her family decided to rent chickens this summer. This is the seventh in an occasional series on backyard livestock.*)

The happy hen story takes a dark turn. Chickens eating their own eggs. Poultry people call it cannibalism.

It started with us forgetting to add crushed oyster shells to the chicken feed. Blair, Julep and Zazu need this calcium supplement to lay proper eggs. Without calcium, the egg comes out as soft and floppy as one of Dali's melting clocks.

We didn't notice the squishy egg until too late. It had no shell, just a thin membrane. We found it collapsed in the coop, smears of yolk amongst the bedding. It either broke on its own or the chickens pecked it open.

Just this week, Blair laid a soft-shelled egg — her second egg of the day — on the wire bottom of the coop, not in her usual nesting box. Zazu

swooped in. Our daughter Ella tried to shoo her off but Zazu soon had yolk all over her beak.

This can be a serious problem. Once a chicken discovers how tasty eggs are, it's a hard habit to break.

To make sure this behaviour doesn't escalate to normal, hard-shelled eggs, we first looked to the internet, where sources said to temporarily isolate the perpetrator.

Another form of cannibalism can rear its ugly head. It's the pernicious habit of hens pecking each other bloody, or worse.

This thankfully hasn't been the case amongst our backyard flock, which is neither stressed nor bored nor fighting for dominance.

Then there's the true meaning of cannibalism: ingesting the flesh of your own kind.

Once, I fed our birds bits of chicken meat from the stock pot. They gobbled it up obviously.

It didn't feel right. I prefer to supplement their diet with overripe fruit, table scraps — and crushed oyster shells. Mustn't forget those.

## 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	gizmo53.dm@gmail.com	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	Scott Brookshaw	sbrookshaw@sympatico.ca	519-671-7568
8	Hubert Schillings	chschillings@hotmail.ca	905-260-0951
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** 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.

**THE CACKLER**  
THE LATEST EFO NEWS



7195 Millcreek Drive,  
Mississauga, ON L5N 4H1

# FARMER NOTICES

## FOR SALE

Farmer Automatic complete layer barn equipment, seven years old, complete cages - 23 by 24 inches to house 11,700 white layers. 10 tonne feed bin and feed system, also complete ventilation system, one floor lift in pack room. Multiple spare motors and spare cage parts. If interested, please contact: Mark Littlejohn: 519-678-3280.

## 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.

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) will be closed on August 6 to celebrate the Civic Holiday. In case of emergency, please contact Harry Pelissero, EFO General Manager, on his cell phone at 289-237-5554.