

# the Cackler Newsletter



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Egg Farmers of Ontario

SEPTEMBER 2016

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

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## COMMENTS FROM THE COOP

### The many ways PIC is helping egg farmers

by Brian Miller, Zone 5 Director

Telling our story has been a strong focus for egg farmers for many years and only continues to rise in importance in today's consumer marketplace.

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) has a multi-pronged approach being constantly refined to reach out to our audiences including consumers, retailers, restaurants, foodservice and institutional buyers, in addition to government and egg industry stakeholders.

One important player in this overall effort is the Poultry Industry Council (PIC), and as the EFO representative on the PIC, I want to share some of the many things that the council has to offer in those outreach efforts.

This past April, the 2016 London Poultry Show, held at the Western Fair Agriplex, boasted the most exhibitors ever and had the largest attendance in history. This was the first year held in the new building which was a great venue for the show.

In addition to The Poultry Show effort, PIC works hard all year at developing programs for farmers and industry partners and the staff of PIC works to provide leadership to put these programs in place. They are always on the look-out for

new ideas to work into programs and your suggestions are always welcome.

Upcoming programs include the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PACCO) Poultry Welfare Auditor Course on November 8-10 in Guelph. This is useful for industry partners dealing with animal welfare auditing and provides education, training and certification during a three-day session. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/education-extension-events/welfare-auditor/>.

For egg and pullet farmers, Producer Updates provide information that is current, relevant and easy to implement on your farm. Farmers in Eastern Ontario were offered a Poultry Farmer's meeting in July with a number of excellent speakers on a variety of topics. Also coming later this year will be the *Eastern Ontario Poultry Conference*, December 1, in St. Isidore, Ontario.

Producer Update sessions for 2016-2017 will be held in:

- Belleville, December 7
- Broadhagen, December 14
- Grimsby, February 8
- Clifford, February 15
- Mt. Brydges, February 22

Programs for all meetings are developed by a committee of

farmers and industry partners. This year a renewed priority has been made to have topics of interest specific to the egg and pullet industry. Meeting agendas and registration information will be available in the early fall.

Research Day, highlighting research activities related to the poultry industry, and Poultry Health Day, with sessions held by animal health specialists on a variety of topics, will come along as we enter the spring of 2017 and beyond. Videos of presentations at the 2016 Health Day can be found on the PIC website.

For farmers or industry partners with new staff members, Poultry Pro – an on-line training tool for poultry basics may be useful. Developed by PIC and offered through University of Guelph's Ridgetown campus via their online portal, this four-part course provides a look at many poultry basics.

The dates for the 2017 London Poultry Show are April 5-6. It will be a busy season and you should check out PIC's education programs and plan to attend at least one. There are many worthwhile sessions that are useful to all egg and pullet farmers.

#### Upcoming Contributions By:

October - Bryan Hostrawser, Zone 7 Director

#### Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings:

October 6 & 7, November 2 & 3

## FARMER NOTICES

### 2016 Egg & Pullet Farmers' Workshop

The 2016 Egg & Pullet Farmers' Workshop is open to all egg and pullet farmers and will be held November 29 & 30, 2016 at the Toronto Airport Marriott. Invitations and further details will be mailed next month.

### Requests for special consideration

As outlined in EFO's Policy, Programs & Procedures, Section 9: If an egg and/or pullet producer requires special consideration for relief from an EFO Policy, the circumstances should be reported in writing to the Board office. All of the pertinent details as to why special consideration has been requested must be contained in the letter.

EFO's Board of Directors will consider requests at their Board meeting; any identifying producer information is omitted and the Board makes their decision without knowing the specific farmer name and location. This approach prevents any personal bias or conflicts in these Board decisions. The producer will subsequently be advised in writing.

### RSS feed available

A feature of the farmer website, [www.getcracking.ca/members](http://www.getcracking.ca/members) offers a Rich Site Summary (RSS).

This is a format for delivering regularly changing web content.

Egg and pullet farmers who subscribe to this feed will receive any updates to the website via email.

Please visit

<https://www.getcracking.ca/members/member-farmer-news> to sign up.

## LET'S GO TO THE EX: ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT THE CNE



Hens were definitely the highlight of Egg Farmers of Ontario's (EFO's) display during the 2016 Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), which ran from August 19 to September 5.

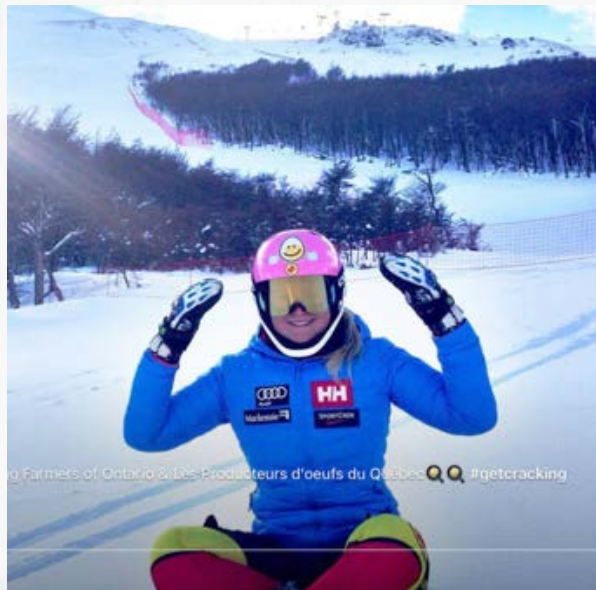
Housed in an enriched colony unit, courtesy of Burnbrae Farms, consumers "flocked" to EFO's booth to learn more about the 10 white hens and 10 brown hens on display. As always, there was a variety of questions asked which our farmer volunteers were on hand to answer. Here is a sample of what Ontario consumers wanted to know:

- Why are brown eggs more expensive than white eggs?
- What makes Omega-3 eggs different?
- How many eggs are laid per day?
- What happens to the hens after they are done laying eggs?
- How long do chickens live for?
- What do hens eat?

There was a number of people interested in learning more about backyard flocks and where to buy chickens for their backyard.

Thank you to all of our farmer volunteers who dedicated time to help out at the display and help Ontarians learn more about egg farming.

## Ski champ powered by eggs




Egg Farmers of Ontario, together with Fédération des producteurs d'oeufs du Québec, is proud to sponsor Valerie Grenier (daughter of Zone 10 egg farmers Gabriel & Nathalie). This medal-winning alpine skier is turning heads in both national and international circuits and the *Get Cracking*® logo is prominently displayed on her helmet.

# EGGS & BAKIN' GETS CRACKING THIS OCTOBER

**Want a sneak peek at our new recipes?**

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter and get an **eggs-clusive early** look at our new recipes before you can see them anywhere else!



Once you subscribe, we promise we'll only send one email each month! Indicates required

Email Address

First Name

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) is excited to launch a new recipe-based consumer e-newsletter beginning October 1, 2016.

*Eggs & Bakin'* subscribers will have exclusive early access to new EFO recipes before they're available anywhere else. Filled with recipes, egg tips, tricks and much more, *Eggs & Bakin'* offers something for everyone.

To subscribe, please visit <https://www.getcracking.ca/recipes/> and click on the yellow subscribe button at the bottom of the page.

Share the news with your friends and family so they can be part of the *eggs-citement!*

## 2016 PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

### Ontario Production (week ending #28)

2016 – 8,834,851  
2015 – 8,227,629

### Ontario IP (week ending #28)

2016 – 1,987,408  
2015 – 1,660,454

### Ontario EFP (week ending #28)

2016 – 638,768  
2015 – 638,369

### US Imports to Ontario (week ending July 30, 2016, #31)

2016 – 973,730  
2015 – 1,359,899

## For Sale

Farmer Automatic, 4 rows, 4 high, approximately 20 x 20" cage and 200' long. Diamond egg packer, 32' Farmer Automatic rod conveyor, 1-24 ton feed bin. Available in July. Call Mike: 905-730-3536.

720 Ford Dickison cages, 3 high, 20 x 24", capacity of 5,000 birds. Collector unit and egg and manure belts, two lengths of Ziggity water lines. Please contact Tom at 519-664-2357.

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.

## Wanted

Farmer Automatic cages, 24" x 22.75", conventional, 216 cages. Please call: Peter 519-392-8448.

## KEEP IT CLEAN TO KEEP IT OUT: more risk of avian influenza during fall migration

With the fall season comes colder temperatures and wild bird migration, which increases the threat of a return of the highly pathenogenic avian influenza. With this in mind, we remind you to follow these biosecurity measures:

- Every farmer, employee and person entering all poultry barns must put on clean footwear, protective clothing and follow all biosecurity protocols on every entry into barns.
- Minimize visits to other poultry production sites and avoid any co-mingling of birds or contact with outside/wild birds.
- Avoid exchanging equipment with other poultry production sites.
- Ensure all vehicles/farm equipment that access the barn vicinity are properly washed and disinfected and that the laneway is restricted/ secured.
- Ensure adequate training of farm and company personnel in biosecurity and disease prevention.
- Ensure adequate control of wild birds and rodents.
- Have a pressure washer or hose available to wash tires and equipment, and make this available to all service vehicles.
- If possible, "heat treat" the barn/litter ahead of chick or pullet placement (to 30°C for a minimum of three days).

If your birds show any sign of illness, please contact your veterinarian and board immediately.

# Eggs in the News

## Cage-free is really a step back; Modern facilities have reduced mortality, energy use and GHG emissions over cage-free systems of 50 years ago

As an egg farmer, I am truly disappointed in the new "direction" our housing system is headed. I am sure many are aware, the latest farming practice to come under attack is conventional housing.

Large companies have made 'cage-free' their latest media campaign. With over 96 per cent of the population coming from urban areas, many of them two or more generations removed from the farm, unfortunately they are getting their farming information from TV, print, radio and the Internet. As many of us know, there is so much misinformation out there when it comes to farmers every day.

In our barns there is minimal dust,

and the hens are calm and well-feathered. The manure is removed every three to four days. There is little to no cannibalization, the hens have figured out their pecking order in their individual flocks of six.

There is a study that was conducted over many years called "The Coalition For Sustainable Egg Supply" facilitated by The Center For Food Integrity with 29 members including McDonald's, American Humane Association, Herbruck Poultry Ranch, University of Guelph, the EFO and EFC as well as many others.

While looking through the results, I was shocked when McDonald's made its announcement in February to only source eggs from cage free environments, and then thereafter many other companies followed suit.

From what I saw, the lower mortality, better feather coverage, lower cause for injury to the hen as well as many other factors, I

wondered if the cage-free movement was just a way to trick the public that large corporations are doing the "right thing" and a way to drum up media buzz.

In the last 50 years there is 75 per cent reduction in hen mortality with 50 per cent improvement in hen production; 81 per cent less land used, 41 per cent less energy used as well as 69 per cent less water used. Egg production in Canada has increased more than 50 per cent with 72 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

My top priority as an egg farmer is our hen's quality of life. She is my livelihood, I will do whatever it takes to keep her away from harm, keep her healthy and comfortable.

*-Ontario Farmer, by Tonya Haverkamp, September 13*

## 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	Marc Bourdon	marc@bourdon.ca	613-551-5071
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.

## Egg Farmers of Ontario Policies, Programs & Procedures are online

**REMINDER:** New policies and procedures will be updated and posted on EFO's farmer website [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 Board office.



WHO MADE YOUR EGGS TODAY?



get cracking Egg Farmers of Ontario