



Cackler

The Latest EFO News

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get cracking®

Egg Farmers of Ontario

April 2022



EFO participates in
OMHA championship
weekends!



Farmers and EFO representatives were on hand to present championship medals Left (clockwise from top left): Pauline Embury (Kingston); Sally Van Straaten (Oakville); Colin Vyn (Windsor); Harry & Willy Eisses (Barrie); George Pilgrim (Kingston); Lydia Fenton (Windsor); and Ian Laver (Whitby).

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN HOCKEY ACROSS THE PROVINCE



The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) recently held the *OMHA Championships Presented by Egg Farmers of Ontario*.

EFO had farmers and representatives at the various tournament locations to present the championship medals and red hats as well as MVP prizing.

The championships took place over three weekends (March 25-27, April 1-3 and April 8-10) and were held in five locations across the province (Barrie, Kingston, Oakville, Whitby and Windsor).

UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

- May 4 & 5
- May 27

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from the March 29th and 30th Board of Directors' Meeting

Avian Influenza in Ontario: Updates and Information

Board Officers, Committees and Representatives, 2022-2023

Recipe of the Month:
[French Crullers](#)

INFORMATION *update*

Business Highlights of Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) from the March 29 & 30, 2022 Board Meeting

Confirmed Avian Influenza in three flocks moves all Ontario poultry stakeholders to heightened biosecurity

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed three infected premises with highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Ontario as of March 30.

The Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC), operated by Ontario's four feather boards including EFO, issued a heightened biosecurity advisory effective March 26 to all poultry farmers, small flock growers and poultry industry personnel throughout the province.

All poultry farms within 10 kilometres of the infected premises have been contacted. Two infected premises are located in Guelph/ Eramosa and Woolwich townships and the third is located in Zorra Township. Mapping information about the sites is available on the [FBCC website](#) and all stakeholders are asked to avoid unnecessary travel to these areas to reduce the risk of spreading the disease.

Properly implemented biosecurity is your first line of defense against infectious diseases. Your farm biosecurity protocols should be well thought-out, well implemented and continuously followed. Constant biosecurity measures should be practiced at all times. Please refer to the attached FBCC Heightened Biosecurity Advisory for a complete list of heightened biosecurity measures that **MUST** be implemented.

Additional measures on Ontario egg farms can include:

- cleaning and disinfecting floors in empty egg coolers immediately following egg pick-ups; and
- always being present when service providers (catching crews, feed deliveries, etc.) are on-farm to ensure they are following heightened biosecurity measures.

Ontario egg and pullet quota holders subscribed for insurance through the Poultry Insurance Exchange (PIE) are covered for Avian Influenza (AD) insurance. PIE supplements the compensation provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Farmers are asked **NOT** to contact PIE unless

they are in the zones and impacted by CFIA destruction directives.

The situation remains extremely fluid. FBCC is committed to providing timely communications to Ontario's poultry industry and will continue to keep you updated as the situation evolves. Please visit FBCC's website for the latest information.

In the meantime, should birds show any signs of illness, farmers are to call their veterinarian immediately. It is also recommended that you contact the 24-hour Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) support line, 1-877-SOS-BYRD.

Egg Market Update

As all provinces continue to relax COVID-19 related restrictions and with Easter around the corner, there is optimism that demand will continue to improve in the coming weeks.

Overall, egg demand continues to remain strong, relative to the same week in 2020, and processed egg demand has consistently remained higher than demand in previous years. In addition, processed egg demand is projected to fluctuate over the next few weeks but is expected to continue to remain above 2021 and 2020 levels. The overall market remained in a shortage position in recent weeks with some increase in the number of boxes imported; however, a lack of egg supply in the US will essentially prevent further import increases in the near term at least.

Steps to deal with the short-term under-supply situation are underway in the form of arranging for extended lay in a few flocks under specific circumstances where additional housing is available within some farm operations. This is being done under Special Temporary Market Requirement Quota (STMRQ) announced by Egg Farmers of Canada.

The market will continue to be monitored closely and contingency plans will be in place to use the tools available to balance the market if conditions require further actions.

Decision pending on how and when to hold the postponed 2022 Annual General Meeting

The Board discussed options for holding the postponed 2022 Annual General Meeting. Availability of meeting venues, costs and dates are being pursued by staff for consideration by the Board and the possibility of holding the business portion of the meeting virtually will also be considered as another option.

The outbreak of HPAI over the last few days leading up to the scheduled meeting dates

caused the Board's decision to announce the postponement of the meeting. Every effort was made to contact all egg farmers, guests and participants registered for the meeting and apologize for the late date of the decision to postpone.

More information, including new meeting dates, will be shared as it becomes available.

2022 EFO Executive Elections

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) re-elected Scott Helps as its Chair and Dan Veldman as its Vice Chair on March 29. Scott Brookshaw and Marcel Laviolette were also elected to the Executive.

The Board also elected members to serve on the 2022-2023 committees and more details are included in this issue of *The Cackler*.

Brian Ellsworth, former EFO General Manager, passed away on February 10, 2022

EFO's Board moved to honour and remember Brian Ellsworth's more than three decades of contributions to the development of the Ontario egg farming sector with a significant memorial donation to the OAC Alumni Foundation.

Brian will be remembered as a driving force in the Ontario egg sector and for serving as General Manager of what became Egg Farmers of Ontario for 33 years before retiring in 2003. He was recognized widely throughout the industry domestically, nationally and internationally.

Brian also served as Chairman of the International Egg Commission for three years.

WITH THIS ISSUE:

- Feather Board Command Centre Provincial Advisory, April 12
- Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Webinar
- FFC Funding Announcement

BOARD OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & REPRESENTATIVES

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Chair

*Scott Helps

Vice Chair

Dan Veldman

Egg Farmers of Canada Representative

Scott Brookshaw

Egg Farmers of Canada Alternate

George Pilgrim

Executive Committee

Scott Helps, Dan Veldman, Scott Brookshaw, Marcel Jr. Laviolette

Audit Committee

Scott Brookshaw, Scott Helps, Ian McFall

Egg Industry Advisory Committee

Scott Helps, Dan Veldman, Scott Brookshaw, Marcel Jr. Laviolette, Alvin Brunsveld

Finance Committee

Lorne Benedict, Scott Helps, Marcel Jr. Laviolette, Brian Miller, George Pilgrim

Production Management Committee

Scott Brookshaw, Scott Helps, Marcel Jr. Laviolette, George Pilgrim, Sally Van Straaten, Dan Veldman

Public Affairs Committee

Scott Brookshaw, Ian McFall, George Pilgrim, Sally Van Straaten, Dan Veldman

Pullet Committee

Scott Brookshaw, Alvin Brunsveld, Marcel Jr. Laviolette, Dan Veldman

Research Committee

Alvin Brunsveld, Brian Miller, Dr. Mike Petrik, George Pilgrim

Farm & Food Care Ontario Representatives

Janelle Cardiff, Sally Van Straaten, Alvin Brunsveld (alternate)

Ontario Federation of Agriculture Representative

Sally Van Straaten

Poultry Industry Council Representative

Brian Miller

Pullet Growers of Canada Representative

Alvin Brunsveld

Pullet Growers of Canada Alternate

Marcel Jr. Laviolette

Treasurer

Ryan Brown

Secretary

Jennifer Correa

**EFO's Chair serves as an ex officio Member on all EFO Committees*

FARMER UPDATES

In Sympathy

EFO would like to express our most sincere condolences to the family of Richard Kootstra Sr.

Richard passed away March 26, 2022 surrounded by his family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Staff Update

Ryan Trim was recently named as Director of Operations.

Ryan has been with EFO for 12 years as an Inspector/Investigator and more recently as the Interim Director of Operations.

Ryan has shown his leadership, commitment and desire for continuous improvement, quality and team work. These qualities will continue to serve him well as he takes on new challenges in his new role.

Congratulations Ryan!

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES NOTICE

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 to ensure you have the most recent information.

RSS Feed: Don't miss out on important updates!

A feature of the farmer website, 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 on a weekly basis.

Please visit www.getcracking.ca/members/member-farmer-news to sign up.

PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

Ontario Production (week ending #8)

2022 – 3,242,087
2021 – 3,007,395

Ontario IP (week ending #8)

2022 – 824,140
2021 – 587,830

Ontario EFP (week ending #8)

2022 – 0
2021 – 65,287

US Shell Egg Imports to Ontario (week ending March 12, 2022 - #11)

2022 – 79,826
2021 – 219,216

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA H5N1:

How to reduce the risk of AI on Ontario's poultry farms

by EFO Staff

Every farmer and industry stakeholder in the poultry sector is following heightened biosecurity measures with the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Ontario.

The Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC), operated by Ontario's four feather boards including EFO, issued the first heightened biosecurity advisory on March 26 to all poultry farmers, small flock growers and poultry industry personnel throughout the province.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) had confirmed 14 infected premises having HPAI in Ontario as of April 13.

All poultry farms within 10 kilometres of every infected premise are contacted. Mapping information about the sites is available on the

FBCC website and all stakeholders are asked to avoid unnecessary travel to these areas to reduce the risk of spreading the disease.

The FBCC team, involving a specialized group of staff from the four feather boards, in co-ordination with the CFIA, OMAFRA and other stakeholders, is working with farmers in the infected zones and communicating and co-ordinating with stakeholders to manage and contain the outbreak.

EFO's Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 29 and 30, was postponed as a result of the outbreak.

With the postponement of the annual meeting, the Board's April board meeting was held March 29 and 30 and received an update and background information about the outbreak from a prominent veterinary expert – Dr. Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt.

Dr. Vaillancourt is a professor at the University of Montreal. He is part of the Research Group on the Epidemiology of Zoonoses and Public Health

within the Swine and Poultry Infectious Disease Research Center at the University's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

A summary of part of the information presented to the Board is provided in this issue of *The Cackler* to help farmers protect their flocks.

Farmers are reminded that they should have appropriate biosecurity personal protective equipment (PPE) available for themselves, their employees and anyone entering their premise. Should birds show any signs of illness, farmers are to call their veterinarian, immediately. It is also recommended they contact the 24-hour FBCC support line, 1-877-SOS-BYRD and board office.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE 2022 AI OUTBREAK?

By Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, DMV, MSc, PhD, University of Montreal

The current strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 is not the same as the one that has affected and even killed people in Asia and Africa. It shares the same ancestors, but the one in Ontario only affects birds.

Avian influenza viruses can change via mutation (the virus changing by itself) or via recombination or reassortment (when two different influenza viruses meet within cells of an infected bird and share genetic material to create a new strain). This most likely occurred during the last nesting season of migratory birds a few months ago. With climate change, different species of migrating birds that normally are in different ecosystems ended up meeting and exchanging pathogens.

Longer incubation period increases risk of spreading the virus

This HPAI H5N1 is problematic because the incubation period is long. Essentially, a bird getting infected today may start shedding the virus within a few days but may only get sick a few days after that. This means that you could be in contact with birds shedding



Above: Decline in egg laying and discoloration of shells (photo courtesy of J-L Guérin, ENVT).

billions of viral particles (covering your boots) without showing any signs.

Symptoms of infection are very different

The other problem is that clinical signs in egg layers are not necessarily typical of HPAI outbreaks. Nervous signs may first be absent. Eventually, they may be severe and terminal. Mortality may first be low to moderate several days before

SEE: What is different? page 5

Top 10 ways to protect your flock

Lessons from European outbreak can help

By Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, DMV, MSc, PhD, University of Montreal

Ok, there are 11 on the list actually, but here are some of the lessons learned by the devastating impact of recent outbreaks in France, where they had about 800 infected farms. This is what they learned:

1. If you are in a dense poultry area and there is a case, you are at greater risk of getting the disease on your farm.
2. Stay away from any standing water (e.g. ponds).
3. Basic on-farm biosecurity works, if you do it consistently. The main problem is the lack of compliance by personnel having access to the birds.
4. Movement of poultry personnel between farms must stop; if essential, biosecurity measures must be followed with no compromise (changing boots correctly, putting on coveralls, washing hands before touching anything on the clean side of the anteroom).
5. No visitors, and absolutely no mutual aid between farmers, including family members; essentially, stay away from any other production sites.
6. Poultry kept outside, multi-age, multi-species farms, moving birds to another location, partial pick up, are all important risk factors.

SEE: Lessons, page 5

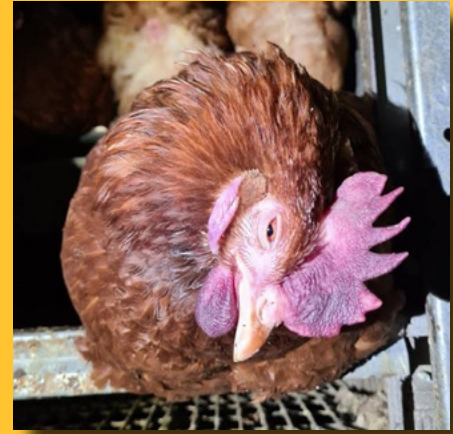
...CONTINUED from page 4: What is different?

an explosive progression. Birds are progressively lethargic and prostrate; non-specific diarrhea may be observed, as well as a decline in egg production and discoloration of eggshells. The most likely lesion, if you open dead birds, will be a severe hemorrhagic inflammation of the ovaries.

“....given the current situation in Ontario, anything abnormal in a flock, even if not spectacular, should raise concerns....”

Classic HPAI lesions such as cyanosis of the comb, wattles and legs are not always present, and may even be rare.

So, given the current situation in Ontario, anything abnormal in a flock, even if not spectacular, should raise concerns and it is best to communicate with the appropriate authority and initiate a self-quarantine (better safe than sorry approach). Do not delay.



Above: Although not always present, cyanosis of the comb (blue appearance), wattles and legs may occur in rare circumstances (photo courtesy of J-L Guérin, ENVT).

CONTINUED from page 4: Lessons.

7. Rendering: if you use this service, you have to be extra careful when you return to your barns. Like any other time you leave the farm, you return as a potentially contaminated visitor. The virus does not care that you own the place and it can be picked up anywhere wild birds and farmers can be found (e.g., Canadian Tire parking lot, your driveway, etc.).
8. Backyard flocks can be a reservoir of the virus, but if nobody from the farm has any contact with backyard flocks, these flocks do not significantly contribute to the spread of the virus.
9. Cleaning and disinfection: the problem when it fails is not the products, it is how you do the job.
10. Control rodents, flies and darkling beetles.
11. Communicate, communicate, communicate with the proper authorities. The quicker you react, the less likely the virus may spread to other production sites.

Minister Thompson offers support to farmers during AI outbreak

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) appreciates the support provided by the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) in reaching out to EFO regarding the avian influenza outbreak impacting Ontario.

Part of the communication included a reminder to maintain strict biosecurity practices and to also offer government support to the poultry sector. A variety of resources can be accessed on the government website [here](#).

Minister Thompson also shared the importance of seeking help in times of high stress.

“We care about the well-being of our farmers and their families and recognized the additional impact this difficult and extraordinary challenge may have on their mental health and wellbeing,” wrote Minister Thompson. “Anyone struggling are urged to reach out and talk to a family member, a friend or a health care professional.”

In addition, Minister Thompson shared that free mental health counselling is available to farmers and family members by calling 1-866-267-6255.

Access additional support

(from FBCC update, April 12)

We know that this is a stressful situation for all involved in Ontario's poultry industry and OMAFRA has resources available to help people navigate these difficult times.

Visit OMAFRA's [Mental Health for Farmers - First Aid Kit](#) or call 1-866-267-6255 for the Farmer Wellness Initiative, which provides farmers and members of their household access to free counselling sessions with a mental health professional.

MONTHLY recipe

French Crullers

Servings: 10
Prep Time: 40 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes

INGREDIENTS

Cruller:

½ cup milk
½ cup water
½ cup unsalted butter
1 tbsp granulated sugar
1 tsp salt
1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour, sifted
3 eggs
vegetable oil for frying

Raspberry or Blackberry Glaze:

½ cup raspberries or blackberries, crushed
1 cup icing sugar

Lemon Glaze:

1 cup icing sugar
2 tsp grated lemon zest
2 tbsp lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

Crullers: In a medium saucepan, over high heat, bring milk, water, butter, sugar and salt to a boil. Using a wooden spoon, stir in flour all at once. Cook, stirring vigorously, until mixture forms on bottom of pan, about 1 minute. Reduce heat to low and cook stirring 2 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes.

Transfer cooled dough into a stand mixer, fitted with the paddle attachment. On medium speed, add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition, making sure to incorporate each egg until smooth and shiny. Scrape mixture into a large piping bag fitted with a large star tip.

Heat oil in a deep fryer to 375°F (190°C) or alternatively use a large pot filled with 3 inches (8 cm) of oil and a deep-fry thermometer.

Pipe 3-inch (8 cm) round circles onto 4-inch (10 cm) squared pieces of parchment paper. Using a slotted spoon, gently immerse crullers into deep fryer, along with parchment paper. With tongs, remove papers once they have loosened from the crullers in the oil. Fry crullers in batches of 2 for about 2 to 3 minutes per side, until golden brown. Let drain on a cooling rack set over a baking sheet.

Raspberry or Blackberry Glaze: In a medium bowl, stir together crushed berries and icing sugar in a bowl until smooth.

Lemon Glaze: In a medium bowl, stir together icing sugar, lemon and juice until smooth.

Dip cooled crullers halfway into glaze and let set on a cooling rack.

Zone	Director	Email Address	Phone
1	Scott Helps	shelps@ymail.com	519-464-2744
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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	Sally Van Straaten	sallyvanstraaten@gmail.com	519-301-4408
7	Scott Brookshaw	scott@grayridge.com	519-671-7568
8	George Pilgrim	georgepilgrim@hotmail.com	905-376-6869
9	Ian McFall	imcfall@burnbraefarms.com	613-498-8526
10	Marcel Jr. Laviolette	marcel@falaviolette.com	613-806-2847
Pullet	Alvin Brunsveld	brunsvelda@gmail.com	519-319-1874

APRIL THOUGHTS...

“The sun was warm
but the wind was chill.
You know how it is
with an April day.”

- Robert Frost

 **The Cackler**
The Latest EFO News



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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 consumers can enjoy fresh, local, safe, high-quality protein produced under fair farm pricing.