



# The Cackler

The Latest EFO News

Publication Agr. No: 40068941



get cracking®  
Egg Farmers of Ontario

December 2023



## Ho-ho-holiday recipes!

Make eggs the heart of your Christmas celebrations

## DECEMBER RECIPE OUTREACH

'Tis the season for get togethers with friends and family, which makes it the perfect time for EFO to share our delicious collection of holiday recipes.

Five festive recipes – [Black Forest Crinkle Cookies](#), [Creamy Egg and Smoked Salmon Pouches](#), [French Toast Casserole](#), [Chocolate Orange Roll](#) and [Zucchini-Feta Triangles](#) – were featured in *Denninger's Foods*, *Foodism* and *Horizon* magazines during December.

In addition, decadent [Black Forest Crinkle Cookies](#) were showcased for the holiday season in *Global Heroes*, *Chatelaine*, *Canadian Living* and *Canada's Food and Drink* magazines.

Looking for some great meal inspiration of your own? Visit [getcracking.ca/recipes](https://getcracking.ca/recipes) to find your next favourite recipe.

### UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS:

- January 9 & 10
- February 5 & 6

### WITH THIS ISSUE:

- Governments Driving Innovation In Food Production News Release

## IN THIS ISSUE

Industry Updates: AAC, LRIC, FCC, OFA, PIC

Zone Elections: Meeting Dates & Locations

Recipe of the month: [Black Forest Crinkle Cookies](#)

Outreach Updates: Royal Agricultural Winter Fair & More!

# INDUSTRY updates

## Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC)

There are a number of programs offered through the AAC:

1. Applications are currently being accepted for the *Increasing Deadstock Capacity in Ontario Program* which provides cost-share funding for deadstock management to eligible applicants. For more information about this program, visit <https://adaptcouncil.org/program/deadstock>.
2. The *Veterinary Incentive Program* offers grants of up to \$50,000 for newly licensed veterinarians who practice on food animals in underserved areas of Ontario. For more information on the program, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit <https://adaptcouncil.org/program/vip>.

## Livestock Innovation Research Council (LRIC)

Recent updates from LRIC included a CEO commentary on LRIC's new strategic plan that delivers on five key areas of focus: member services, research services, strategic intelligence, engagement and collaboration and getting research into practice. To read the full commentary, visit [here](https://lric.ca/ceo-commentary).

Recent research shared by LRIC included a study on *Generating Clean Electricity with Chicken*

*Feathers* by extracting keratin from feathers and converting it into fibres that are used to make membranes at the centre of every fuel cell. Click [here](https://lric.ca/feathers) to learn more.

## Farm Credit Canada (FCC)

FCC will be hosting an Ag Summit in London on March 13. This one-day, in-person conference will feature interesting speakers, innovative ideas and new strategies. To reserve your spot, click [here](https://fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge).

Recent FCC Knowledge updates included [childcare solutions](https://fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge/childcare-solutions) for farm families and information on [creating a business plan](https://fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge/creating-a-business-plan) that fits your vision.

For more FCC Knowledge updates on a variety of topics including finance, strategy & planning, managing people and more, visit [fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge](https://fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge).

## Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

OFA recently elected Drew Spoelstra, a dairy and crop farmer, as their new President. He has served on the OFA board since 2013. To read the full news release, click [here](https://ofa.ca/news-releases). They also welcomed [four new directors](https://ofa.ca/news-releases) to their board for 2024.

A [survey](https://ofa.ca/survey) is open to all OFA members to gauge the sentiment of farm businesses as they head into the new year and to help discover the issues

that are important. The survey is open until December 22.

To see more updates from OFA, visit <https://ofa.on.ca/>.

## Poultry Industry Council (PIC)

PIC would like you to mark your calendars for upcoming winter producer updates. To view upcoming dates and locations, for more information or to register, click [here](https://pic.ca).

The next *Science in the Pub* event will be held on January 22, 2024 at the Shakespeare Arms in Guelph from 5 to 8 p.m. The featured topic is Navigating the Gap: Exploring Challenges & Opportunities Between Seasoned Industry Professionals and New Emerging Professionals. To register, click [here](https://pic.ca).

Upcoming producer updates:

January 10, 2024 - Brodhagen (in-person), registration open.

February 28, 2024 - Lincoln (in-person), registration open.

March 6, 2024 - Webinar, registration open.



## EGG & PULLET FARMERS' WORKSHOP

The Egg & Pullet Farmers' Workshop was held on November 28 in Mississauga and included an agenda full of updates and farmer consultation sessions.

The morning session included a presentation from Egg Farmers of Canada on the *National Environmental Sustainability and Technology Tool* (NESTT) from Elyse Germain, Manager, Program Development and Roger Pelissero, EFC Chair. This was followed by a farmer consultation session on housing transition with three questions posed to start off round-table discussions.

Scott Helps (EFO Chair) started the afternoon off with a Strategic Plan



update, followed by a second farmer consultation session on pullet challenges. Both farmer consultations closed with roundtable reporting and questions.



On November 27, prior to the workshop, a *Communications and Interpersonal Skills* workshop was held with about 60 people attending. This full-day session featured case studies with interactive activities.

## EFO RECIPIENT OF PAUL MISTELE AWARD

EFO was presented with the Paul Mistele Award at the 2023 Farm and Food Care Harvest Gala. This award is presented to agricultural partners that have made a significant commitment to ending hunger across Ontario through Feed Ontario.

Scott Helps, EFO Chair and Sally Van Straaten, Zone 6 Director, were on hand to accept the award on behalf of EFO.



## Protecting your farm from trespassers

The holidays can often be a time to be distracted from our usual routines and procedures. With that in mind, EFO wants to remind everyone to maintain a high-level of awareness and security to protect your farm, flock and family from unwanted visitors.

Good fencing and lighting, proper use of locks and no-trespassing signs are all ways to ensure you are not an easy target. Trespassers will look for an easy way in and will avoid well-lit, fenced off locations with extra security such as locks. Not all activity takes place during the day when you are around to see it!

Follow farm security and visitor protocols at all times, especially when any work is being done on your property. Ensure all employees are educated on the process

for checking in and escorting visitors. As an additional precaution, visitors can be requested to sign a waiver prohibiting them from taking photographs and/or video on your farm.

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 any further with any intruders.

In the event that you encounter suspicious activity, contact your local police detachment and notify Donna Lange, Director of Public Affairs at 705-715-7380/dlange@getcracking.ca or Pam Passerino, Communications Team Lead at 905-537-9768/ppasserino@getcracking.ca.

## NESTT Update: Demonstration video available online



Egg Farmers of Canada has recently created a 5-minute [demonstration video](#) to help egg farmers learn how to use the *National Environmental Sustainability and Technology Tool* (NESTT).

Available on YouTube, this easy-to-follow, step-by-step instruction video includes how to sign-up, what is necessary to complete your farm's sustainability assessment, how to complete your assessment, how to assess your results and more.

To learn more about the NESTT tool and how it can help you achieve your sustainability goals, visit [eggsustainability.ca](https://eggsustainability.ca).



## PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

### Ontario Production (week ending #44)

2023 – 16,813,894

2022 – 16,969,579

### Ontario IP (week ending #44)

2023 – 2,807,992

2022 – 3,439,128

### Ontario EFP (week ending #44)

2023 – 1,147,176

2022 – 829,683

### US Shell Egg Imports to Ontario (week ending November 18, 2023 - #46)

2023 – 1,498,542

2022 – 990,522

follow us online!



## 2024 Zone Meetings For the Election of Councillors, Delegates & Directors for Egg Farmers of Ontario

Zone	Date	Location	Time
1	January 18	Royal Canadian Legion Wyoming	12:00 pm
2	January 18	Caradoc Sands Strathroy	5:30 pm
3	January 16	Elmhurst Inn Ingersoll	5:00 pm
4	January 11	Hemder Estate Wines St. Catharines	3:30 pm
5	February 15	White Carnation Restaurant Holmesville	5:30 pm
6	January 8	Stratford Country Club Stratford	5:30 pm
7	January 8	Knox Presbyterian Church Listowel	12:00 pm
8	January 25	Holiday Inn Peterborough Peterborough	4:30 pm
9	January 23	The Mill Restaurant Brockville	4:30 pm
10	January 24	St. Isidore Recreation Center St. Isidore	3:00 pm
PULLET	AGM	Fallsview Casino & Resort Niagara Falls	TBC

\*A notice of meeting will be emailed (and mailed to those without email) to the respective farmers prior to the meeting. If you have not received your invitation, please call the Board office at 1-800-387-8360 to RSVP

Voting Eligibility: All persons voting must qualify as a "producer" as defined in the Farm Products Marketing Act R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 409 Eggs-Plan. Under the Act, a "producer" means a person engaged in the production of chicks for placement, eggs, hatching eggs, or fowl.

### Layer farmers encouraged to carry contingent business interruption insurance

Layer farmers make decisions about business interruption insurance on their layer operations and on pullets that they may grow for their own operations, but the Board would like to remind layer farmers that separate coverage – contingent business interruption insurance – is encouraged to cover pullets purchased from other growers.

Pullet farmers should also consider their own business interruption insurance. Consult with your insurance provider to see what is best for your operation.



### Egg Team Update

Effective November 23, Ryan Trim is no longer employed at Egg Farmers of Ontario.

We wish Ryan all the best in his future endeavours.

## FARMER UPDATES

### Wanted

Minimum 8'-0" long slat bars for Jansen nesting system.

Contact James: 519-608-3829

### For Sale

Staalkat packer for sale, 40 case, 2007 type FP102.

Call Markus: 613-229-8336

### Notice of Levy and Licence Fee Increase

Effective Sunday, December 31, 2023, the total Producer Levy & Licence Fee will be changed to forty-five point four five cents (45.45 cents) per dozen plus HST. The remittance is as follows: total deduction from Producer is 45.45 cents plus grading station voluntary research fee of .02 cents (per dozen, plus HST). In Zone 9N, the levy will be forty-four point four five cents (44.45 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.



# Black Forest Crinkle Cookies



Yield: 36  
Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 30 minutes

## Ingredients

2 cups (500 ml) all-purpose flour  
2 tsp (10 ml) baking powder  
½ tsp (2 ml) kosher salt  
1½ cups (375 ml) granulated sugar  
1 cup (250 ml) cocoa powder  
3 eggs  
½ cup (75 ml) grapeseed oil or another neutral-flavour oil  
2 tsp (10 ml) vanilla extract  
1 cup (250 ml) chopped dried cherries  
½ cup (125 ml) mini semi-sweet or dark chocolate chips  
Icing sugar to coat cookies

## Direction

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt.

In a large bowl, whisk together sugar, cocoa, eggs, oil and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture, cherries and chocolate chips.

Roll dough into 1½ tbsp balls and roll to coat in icing sugar. Place 12 balls on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake in oven for 9-10 minutes or until puffed but cracks are still moist on the tops.

Repeat to make approximately 36 cookies. Let cool a few minutes before removing cookies to a cooling rack to cool completely.

Nutrients per serving (1 cookie or 1/36 recipe): 120 calories, 4 g total fat, 40 mg sodium, 21 g carbohydrates, 1 g fibre, 13 g sugars, 2 g protein.

## "eggs-pert" advice

**TIP:** Premade dough can be tightly wrapped and frozen for up to 2 weeks. Let thaw in the refrigerator before rolling and baking. Baked cookies can be kept in a container at room temperature for up to 3 days.

## EGGS IN THE NEWS REPORT

### Canadians overwhelmingly support supply management and homegrown food security

Farms.com  
Dec 13, 2023

A recent survey conducted by Abacus Data delves into Canadians' perspectives on the food system and the value they place on the system of supply management.

According to the findings, 9 in 10 Canadians say it's important to them that the dairy, eggs,

chicken and turkey they buy come from Canada. This sentiment is strong across multiple demographics and geographical regions, reflecting a shared belief in the benefits of this approach.

The Abacus survey highlights that 94% of Canadians consider it a 'good thing' when they hear that local dairy, poultry and egg products are produced with high standards of food safety and animal care under supply management.

Notable findings include:

- 97% of respondents feel it is important that Canada has strong domestic food supply chains that allow us to produce enough food to feed Canadians year-round; and

- 94% of Canadians prefer their dairy, eggs, chicken, and turkey products to be produced locally and in Canada under supply management.

The survey, conducted online with a sample size of 2,000 adult Canadians from November 9 to 12, 2023, provides insights into the importance Canadians attribute to a strong domestic supply of dairy, eggs, chicken, and turkey.

# OUTREACH *update*

## 2023 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

EFO participated in the 101st Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) which ran from November 2-12. Our dedicated team of farmer-volunteers were on-hand at the egg education trailer each day to answer consumer questions and interact with school groups. In addition, EFO sponsored five culinary academy cooking sessions within the Burnbrae Culinary Academy. Participants in each session were taught how to cook egg dishes with help from five celebrity chefs.

## Grey Cup Festivities

Through EFO's partnership with Hamilton Sports Group, EFO participated in the *YWCA Young Trailblazers Rise & Shine Breakfast* on November 16. The breakfast, which hosted about 600 young women, featured Canadian women's basketball

Olympic team member Kia Nurse, who gave the keynote address and farmer Tonya Haverkamp (Zone 7). EFO staff were also on-hand with resources and activities including an "egg-toss" game.

## RENEW Breakfast Fundraiser

The Community of Christ Church in Stratford held a breakfast on November 26 in support of the Rights and Economic Development for Nepal's Empowered Women (RENEW) project.

Following the breakfast, which raised about \$5,000 for the project, a presentation about the 2022 trip was shared by Scott & Laurie Graham (Zone 6) and Donna Lange (EFO Director of Public Affairs). 2023 trip team member Tonya Haverkamp also provided details about the upcoming trip.

A recap from the 2023 visit to Nepal will be shared in the new year.



Above (left to right): Tonya Haverkamp, Scott Brookshaw, David Barth (former Executive Director of World Accord), Scott & Laurie Graham and Donna Lange gathered in the Community of Christ Church sanctuary.

Zone	Director	Email Address	Phone
1	Scott Helps	shelps@ymail.com	519-464-2744
2	Lorne Benedict	lornebenedict@outlook.com	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	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



## December wishes

"May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility."

— Mary Anne Radmacher



7195 Millcreek Drive,  
Mississauga, ON L5N 4H1

## EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO MISSION STATEMENT

To lead a progressive and thriving egg sector committed to high-quality eggs, consumer choice and sustainable practices.