



Cackler

The Latest EFO News

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get cracking®
Egg Farmers of Ontario

February 2022



The Grove Hubs provide support and a variety of resources for youth aged 12-26, which can range from help with homework or providing access to community programs.

“This pandemic has been challenging for youth here in Ontario. For rural youth, the support they need may be a drive away. The Grove’s model brings these supports to the Wellington County community, which are already making a difference, and we are proud to contribute.”

-Scott Helps, EFO Chair

EFO SUPPORTS YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IN ONTARIO

The Grove Youth Mental Wellness Hubs are safe spaces where youth are empowered to take the lead in their own mental health and wellness journey. Recently they shared the exciting news that Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) and Zone 7 egg and pullet farmers will be providing support to the program. The 5-year commitment of \$150,000 per year will help to provide a safe space for youth to access the resources they need.

Three of seven hubs have been open in Palmerston, Fergus and Erin since summer 2021 and The Grove is planning on opening four new hubs in Guelph over the next two years.

As part of the partnership, the kitchen facilities at each of the Hubs will be named in our honour.

For more information about The Grove, visit thegrovehubs.ca.

UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS:

- March 2 & 3, in-person
- (April) March 30 & 31, in-person

With this issue:

- EFC Nest News Release
- Promotional Items Brochure
- Job Posting - Outreach Coordinator
- *denotes to egg and pullet farmers only*

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from the February 2nd and 3rd Board of Directors' Meeting

In the Zone:
Update from Zone 8
Director George Pilgrim

Reminder: Enhanced Biosecurity Advised

Recipe of the Month:
[Runny Yolk Ravioli](#)

INFORMATION *update*

Business Highlights of Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) from the February 2 & 3, 2022 Board Meeting

Egg Market Update

Dropping COVID-19 case numbers in Ontario and most other provinces have triggered a staged removal of public health restrictions beginning this month and hopes for improving egg markets.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the shell market has remained relatively strong but the disrupted business conditions, especially for restaurant and foodservice operations, have meant lower processed egg demand.

After beginning the year with virtually no eggs in storage, the over-supply situation during January saw total eggs in storage peak at close to 150,000 boxes before dropping towards a more manageable level, projected at 100,000 boxes by mid-February.

To manage the market imbalance in the short term, EFO continued working with processors to move some eggs to alternative markets.

Using the available tools to manage the short-term supply situation has meant we have been able to avoid another round of Early Fowl Removal (EFR). This was an important goal to reach in order to prevent removing birds from barns just before Easter and in the face of an opening of the economy that could leave the market short of eggs.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and contingency plans will be in

place to balance the market if conditions require further actions.

2022 Annual General Meeting at Fallsview Casino March 29 & 30

The lifting of provincial COVID-19 restrictions enabled the Board to approve plans for a return to an in-person format for the 2022 EFO Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will take place at the Fallsview Casino Resort on March 29 and 30 in Niagara Falls. The event will be video recorded and posted on EFO's website for any farmers that are not able to attend.

Standardized growing fees for Ontario pullets in alternative housing

The Board passed a motion approving pullet growing fees be adjusted with additions of \$1.00 for aviary pullets and \$1.25 for organic aviary pullets with no change to the conventional pullet growing fee. The background to the move was a pullet industry sub-committee recommendation that setting these rates would standardize fair fees to be paid to Ontario pullet growers raising birds in alternative housing.

False Layer Syndrome will be eligible for PIE coverage

Ontario layer farms using Ontario grown pullets will be able to qualify for Poultry Insurance Exchange (PIE) coverage for False Layer Syndrome (FLS) in the case of future challenges with the disease.

Previous coverage for Ontario flocks was provided through EFO's Bacterial Control

Fund. With more experience with FLS in Ontario, PIE was approached to extend this coverage. Similar administrative details will be in place under PIE and coverage will pay up to 90 per cent of production and will require payment of 90 per cent of the growing fee to the respective pullet producer as part of qualifying for receiving compensation. More details will be coming in future issues of *The Cackler*.

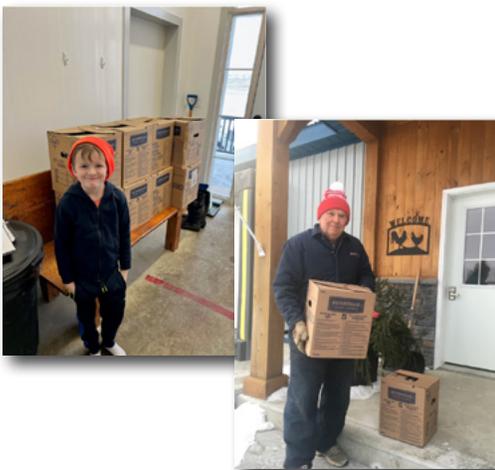
Increased vigilance on biosecurity in the face of heightened Avian Influenza risk

Ontario egg and pullet farmers all need to be observing heightened biosecurity on their farms. A number of farms have been forced to depopulate following current outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (AI) in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. In addition, the US has outbreaks in North and South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Florida.

Please review your farm's biosecurity plan to address how you manage animal, vehicle and human access on the farm; animal health; and operations. The main risk of AI transmission is the droppings from wild birds, including ducks and geese. Making sure you change footwear and clothing every time before entering barns is extremely important to protect the health of flocks.

For more information, please check out the recent email message sent to all egg and pullet farmers from the Feather Board Command Centre dated February 4 - *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Biosecurity Advisory*.

IN THE *Zone*



by George Pilgrim, Zone 8 Director

Zone eight farmers have been busy assisting those less fortunate within their large geographical area. The pandemic has caused a drastic shift in the focus of our sponsorship dollars. We have been assisting a multitude of food banks within the region, including but not limited to:

Otonabee South Monaghan Food Cupboard, Innisfil Community Church Food Bank, Busby Centre, Salvation Army Bayside Mission, Simcoe Hospice, Thornton Food Bank, Barrie Food Bank, Alderville First Nation Food Bank, Northumberland Food Bank, Clarington East Food Bank, Salvation Army Bowmanville, Lindsay Food Bank & Brock Food Bank.

A massive thank you to the egg farmers who volunteered their time to assist in the distribution of eggs to said food banks.

As the provincial restrictions are lifted and optimism reigns supreme, the Zone is looking forward to sponsoring sports and organizations with in-person events once again. We also look forward to resuming the Student Nutrition Program, once the provincial guidelines are clarified.

NOTICE: COUNCILLORS AND DELEGATES INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

An email with meeting details was recently sent out to all Councillors' and Delegates to attend this governance training session prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The session, facilitated by Quintin Fox and supported by Bill Mitchell and Donna Lange, is designed to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the complexities of the egg industry and the role of EFO. The session will begin Monday, March 28 (6:30 to 9:30 p.m.) and conclude Tuesday, March 29 (7:30 to 10:30 a.m.).

Registration for the session can be accessed through the AGM registration link and the deadline to sign-up is March 15.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Donna Lange (dlange@getcracking.ca).

EFO HOLDS ANNUAL UPDATE DISCUSSION WITH EGG FARMERS OF CANADA

February's EFO Board meeting included the annual face-to-face update (virtually) that Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) provides to the provincial and territorial boards.

EFC Chair Roger Pelissero and Chief Executive Officer Tim Lambert presented the update and discussed a wide range of ongoing issues. Discussion items included: the on-farm audit process and feedback about the audit transition in Ontario, Eggs for Processing (EFP) issues, how to deal with storage fees incurred by Ontario for eggs from other provinces, the Animal Care Program (ACP) redevelopment timeline, positive changes in the relationship between EFO and EFC, and COP and pricing.

Progress towards EFC's Vision 2020 targets for increases in Canadian egg consumption were discussed along with the International Egg Commission (IEC) Vision 365 program aiming to double global egg consumption by 2032. Information about the IEC program can be found here: <https://www.internationalegg.com/our-work/vision-365/>

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Egg Farmers of Ontario's (EFO's) 57th Annual Meeting will be held March 29 & 30 at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort. Invitations have recently been sent out.

To register online, visit and follow the on screen instructions at <https://www.getcracking.ca/members/article/57th-Annual-Meeting>. Please note, the registration deadline is March 15, 2022.

If you require accommodation at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort please call 1-888-325-5788 before February 25, 2022 and request the Egg Farmers of Ontario block of rooms. For further information, please contact EFO's office.

In sympathy

Our most sincere condolences are with the family of Brian Ellsworth who passed away on February 10, 2022.

Mr. Ellsworth retired as General Manager of Ontario Egg Producers in 2003 after 33 years.

Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.

Pullet Election Results

A Zoom meeting was held on January 25 to elect EFO's Pullet Director for the 2022-2023 term. Alvin Brunsveld was re-elected to serve as Pullet Director for this term.

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.

follow us online!
f i t s

PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

Ontario Production (week ending #44)

2021 – 16,874,310
2020 – 16,018,614

Ontario IP (week ending #44)

2021 – 3,622,130
2020 – 2,985,882

Ontario EFP (week ending #44)

2021 – 493,086
2020 – 955,886

US Shell Egg Imports to Ontario (week ending December 11, 2021 - #50)

2021 – 1,511,552
2020 – 1,312,005

REMINDER: FOLLOW ENHANCED BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS AS NORTH AMERICAN AI CASES RISE

With the recent cases of high pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has advised the World Organisation for Animal Health of the confirmed presence of the disease in our country.

With increased cases in Canada, several locations in the United States and global outbreaks, comes a reminder to always follow strict biosecurity guidelines.

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. As a reminder, this includes:

- Each farmer, employee and every 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.
- If possible, have a pressure washer or a hose available to wash tires and equipment, and make this available to all service vehicles and visitors.
- If possible, "heat treat" the barn/litter ahead of chick or poult placement (to 30°C for a minimum of 3 days).

Farmers should immediately contact their veterinarian and board if their birds show any signs of illness or increased mortality. For more information, visit <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/protect-your-flock/eng/1614352583029/1614352660146>.

EFC launches new sustainability tool for egg farmers

Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) recently released a new online sustainability tool for Canadian egg farmers, aptly named the National Environmental Sustainability Tool (NEST). With this tool, farmers execute an environmental assessment of their farm across a number of key measures, such as energy and water use. With this online tool, egg farmers can:

- Access the latest in agricultural sustainability research
- Create an action plan and set sustainability goals
- Track the progress of their goals
- Compare how their farms measure on sustainability with local and Canadian egg farms

For more information, read the EFC National Environmental Sustainability Tool News Release that is included as an insert or visit eggsustainability.ca.

OMHA updates championship structure for 2022

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) recently announced changes to how their championship games will be structured in 2022.

The Championships will take place over three weekends – March 25-27, April 1-3 and April 8-10 and will be hosted in five locations across the province (Barrie, Kingston, Oakville, Whitby and Windsor). Over 375 teams will play in more than 850 games, culminating in 41 champions that will "capped" as part of the Championships.

The new format was designed to extend the length of play for teams and minimizes travel for hockey families. It removes the elimination style series used in the past and keeps more teams playing for a longer period of times. The OMHA have created a video with a more detailed explanation of how the new championship format will work. For more information visit

Farmer volunteers will be needed to distribute awards on the final day of the championships, as well as for activations throughout the weekend. If you are an active egg or pullet farmer who would like to participate, please contact Sarah Brien (sbrien@getcracking.ca).

FARMER UPDATES

Price Change Notice

Effective Sunday, March 6, 2022, the Market Producer Prices for one dozen Grade A eggs are as follows: *Extra Large \$2.45, *Large \$2.45, Medium \$2.17, Small \$1.77 (*denotes change).

Effective Sunday, March 6, 2022, the Producer prices for one dozen Grade A eggs from Enriched Housing at 116.25 square inches are as follows: *Extra Large \$2.53, *Large \$2.53, Medium \$2.24, *Small \$1.83 (*denotes change).

The above prices are for eggs ungraded and unwashed f.o.b. the producer's farm, shipped and graded in minimum lots of 1,500 dozen. In lots of 300 dozen to 1,499 dozen the minimum prices shall be one cent (1¢) less, and in lots of 1 dozen to 299 dozen the minimum prices shall be ten cents (10¢) less than the above quoted prices.

Standardized growing fees for Ontario pullets in alternative housing

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EFO Promotional Items

Are you planning on attending the annual meeting and want to stock up on promotional items? Check out the EFO Promotional Items Brochure that is included as an insert with this issue and skip the line. Not attending the AGM? No problem - we can ship directly to you!

Any orders placed before March 11 will be ready for pick up at the meeting.

EFO hiring outreach coordinator

EFO's Public Affairs Department is looking for an Outreach Coordinator for the 2022 Fairs and Events season (April to October). For more information on this position, please see the *Job Posting Outreach Coordinator* attachment included with this edition. Application deadline is March 11, 2022.

MONTHLY recipe

Runny Yolk Ravioli



Serves: 4 to 8
Prep Time: 60 minutes
Cook Time: 7 minutes

INGREDIENTS

Pasta:

1 cup (140g) all-purpose flour
1 cup (140g) semolina flour
3 eggs

Filling:

1½ cups (375 mL) ricotta cheese
1 cup (250 mL) fresh grated Romano cheese
½ cup (75 mL) chopped fresh basil
16 egg yolks

Butter Sauce:

½ cup (125 mL) salted butter
fresh sage leaves
microgreens to garnish

DIRECTIONS

Pasta: In a large bowl, whisk together flours. Place in a mound on a clean surface. Make a well in the centre; add eggs. With a fork, whisk eggs while gradually incorporating the flour until mostly combined. Work remaining flour in with hands; knead dough for 5 minutes or place dough in the bowl of a stand mixer, fitted with the dough hook attachment, and knead on medium speed for 3 minutes. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and let rest.

Filling: In a medium bowl, combine ricotta, Romano cheese and basil.

Unwrap dough and cut in half; rewrap other half. Work dough with hands into a rough ½-inch (1cm) thick rectangle. With pasta sheet roller or rolling pin, roll dough to 1 mm thickness, dusting with flour as needed.

On a well-floured surface, making four ravioli at a time, spoon about 2 tbsp (30 mL) of filling onto the pasta sheet spaced 3 inches (8 cm) apart. Make a well in the centre of each to form a ring large enough to tightly fit an egg yolk; place yolk in each well.

Roll out remaining dough to same thickness. Carefully place on top of first sheet, pressing firmly around the filling to remove any air bubbles. Cut ravioli with a 3½ to 4-inch (9 to 10 cm) round cookie or pasta cutter. Re-roll pasta dough and repeat steps to make all 16 ravioli.

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook ravioli, 3 to 4 at a time, stirring occasionally until ravioli float to surface, about 2 minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove ravioli and set aside on a plate.

Butter Sauce: In a large non-stick skillet, over medium, brown butter and sage, about 7 minutes or until leaves are slightly crisp. Spoon over cooked ravioli, top with microgreens and serve.

“eggs-pert” advice

TIP: Leftover rolled pasta scraps make a delicious addition to soups or stews.

EGGS IN THE NEWS

Niagara project testing technology that could keep birds healthy

Niagara This Week
February 8, 2022
by Luke Edwards

In a world where Avian Influenza has become a real, though perhaps not imminent and dire, concern for chicken, turkey and egg producers, new technology may play a role in preventing an outbreak should the disease arrive in a place like West Niagara. That's why a Guelph company and the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) are focusing on a trial project for a smartphone app that could help those in

the industry quickly identify an outbreak and take steps to prevent a virus from spreading.

“Many farmers being connected together to share this information quickly will help everyone do a better job,” said Rob Hannam, CEO of Farm Health Guardian.

The project is running through the end of March and will focus on farmers in the Niagara region.

Veterinarian Dr. Tom Baker is the manager at FBCC. He said there's potential with the technology on two major fronts: the immediate communication to those in the industry that will help control the spread of an outbreak, and then quicker and more effective trace-backs and trace-outs.

When a disease is found in a flock, Baker said, they never assume that was the first flock to

be infected. Tracing it back as close to the original infection as possible is important, as is tracing out to places where the virus may have spread.

The pilot project started in January and will culminate with a simulation in late winter or early spring.

“We do see it as an important demonstration of how farmers can work together, and digital tools can help improve animal health,” Hannam said.

The highly contagious virus has seen outbreaks across the world, including last month at farms in Newfoundland.

While he said it's no time to panic, Baker said producers do need to accept that the disease arriving in Niagara is a realistic possibility.

outreach UPDATES

Island Gurl shares soul food made with eggs and beans

Chef Raquel Fox (www.instagram.com/islandgurlfoods/) was featured in a segment on Toronto's popular *Breakfast Television* show on February 1. The segment was sponsored as shared outreach with EFO and Ontario Bean and the two recipes created by Chef Raquel included Ontario eggs and beans.

The theme of the feature was "making something out of nothing" and was in honour of Black History Month. Chef Fox made *Cheesy Mac & Beans* and *Bean & Rice Pilau with Smoked Ham and Eggs*, with both recipes being a variation of traditional meals that would have been popular a century ago in the southern U.S.

Professional photography was also taken of each recipe and both are available on getcracking.ca. To watch the segment with Chef Raquel, visit <https://www.breakfasttelevision.ca/videos/drool-worthy-soul-food-recipes-that-arent-unhealthy/>.



Top: Chef Raquel Fox on Breakfast Television. Above: Cheesy Mac & Beans would make a delicious and hearty meal. Right: Bean & Rice Pilau with Smoked Ham and Eggs is an updated take on Southern cooking.



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4	Roger Pelissero	rpelisseroeggs@gmail.com	905-984-0279
5	Brian Miller	bwmiller@quadro.net	519-521-1325
6	Tonya Haverkamp	tutzhaverkamp@hotmail.com	519-274-2574
7	Scott Brookshaw	scott@grayridge.com	519-671-7568
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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



February Quote

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt.”

-Charles M. Schulz



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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.