



# Cackler

The Latest EFO News

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get cracking®  
Egg Farmers of Ontario

March 2023



Above: Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs provided in-person greetings.



Top (right): EFO Chair Scott Helps joins Get Cracking Award recipient Tonya Haverkamp and her husband Don Storey, along with EFO Vice Chair Dan Veldman.



Above: Tonya Haverkamp accepting her award.

## Highlights from Egg Farmers of Ontario's 58th Annual General Meeting

### EFO DELIVERS A SUCCESSFUL AGM

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) held its 58th Annual General Meeting March 9-10 in Niagara Falls. Despite an impending snow storm, it was a well-attended event, with approximately 350 registered farmers, guests and industry stakeholders.

It was clear that those in attendance were happy to be back in person, enjoying what felt like an almost back-to-normal, pre-pandemic meeting.

Video greetings from Premier Doug Ford were provided and Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs brought in-person greetings on behalf of the Ministry. Other speakers during the two-day session included Roger Pelissero, Egg Farmers of Canada Chair; Jean-Philippe

Gervais, Chief Economist, Farm Credit Canada; Valerie Gilvesy, Vice Chair, Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission; Brian Douglas, Chair, Farm Products Council of Canada; National Young Farmers Program Delegates Brett Graham and Jacob Pelissero; and Industry Working Group Co-Chair Kristen Thompson-Dow.

During the evening banquet on March 9, Tonya Haverkamp was presented with the *Get Cracking Award* for her countless time spent volunteering to promote the egg and pullet sector through her work on various campaigns, projects and time spent connecting with consumers at fairs, events and outreach activities.

Presentation videos will be available on <https://www.getcracking.ca/members/annual-meetings> in the near future.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Industry Updates from CAHRC, FCC, LRIC, OFA and PIC

Avian Influenza: Steps to protect your flock from migrating wild birds

Recipe of the Month: [Mediterranean Sheet Pan Omelette](#)

Outreach Updates: Curling and hockey in full swing

### UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS:

- April 3 & 4
- May 4 & 5

### WITH THIS ISSUE:

- FBCC Update March 16

# INDUSTRY updates

## Canadian Agricultural HR Council (CAHRC)

On February 15, CAHRC shared that Employment and Social Development Canada has funded the [Growing the Agriculture Workforce of the Future: Cultivating Canada's Post-Pandemic Recovery program](#), which is part of a program that helps key economic sectors find solutions to workforce needs. With labour shortages in agriculture and the agri-food industry, the impacts are felt across the entire supply chain. The project supports finding solutions related to workforce challenges by forecasting labour market shortages and skills, developing an inventory of current and future skills needs, creating training programs for job seekers and expanding CAHRC's HR Management program and developing a recognition program for employers.

## Farm Credit Canada (FCC)

FCC shared their [2023 Economic Outlook](#) during a recorded event with the FCC economics team of J.P. Gervais, Desmond Sobool and Darlene McBain.

They also recently shared a helpful podcast on [Business plans: Creating one that fits your farm vision](#), that shares how to build a plan that considers all generations within your farm.

Want to view upcoming FCC events? Click [here](#).

FCC also offers helpful access to mental health resources, including assessment tools and self-check guides to gauge your feelings and how to seek help if necessary. To access this content and helpful articles on topics such as managing stress, understanding the signs of burnout, and checking in on others to provide support, visit

the [Rooted in Resilience](#) page.

Did you know FCC has a full library of on-demand [virtual events](#)? There are a variety of sessions related to topics such as communication, transition preparation, trends, personal growth and more!

Want to receive your own updates from FCC Knowledge? Click [here](#) to sign up!

## Livestock Research Innovation Council (LRIC)

In their February 2023 newsletter, LRIC shared a variety of information, including a commentary by CEO Mike McMorris on [Disrupting the livestock sector](#).

They also shared the following content:

[Plant-based burgers not healthier than beef, new research shows](#)  
[UG looking for alternatives to agricultural plastics](#)

To view recordings from past LRIC events, click [here](#).

For sector-specific innovation highlights, please visit [livestockresearch.ca/sector/egg](#).

## Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

As tax season quickly approaches, OFA shared information on the [Underused housing tax and your farm operation](#). This update discusses new requirements and how this may impact your farm operation.

The 2023 edition of [OFAtoday](#) is now available. This magazine highlights successful projects, hot topics from 2022, the launch of OFA's HomeGrown campaign and more!

OFA is now offering a webinar recording of their [Financial Literacy and Succession Planning Road Show](#), which provided education on financial strategies and succession planning tools.

Mark your calendars for OFA Research Day 2023 on March 28. This event will share information on topics such as agritourism and direct farm marketing, adoption of beneficial management practices, cybersecurity and more! To register for this virtual event, click [here](#).

Visit OFA's [newsroom](#) to see their latest news items and updates.

## Poultry Industry Council (PIC)

PIC announced Dr. Helen Wojcinski as the 2019 recipient of the Ed McKinley Poultry Award for her contributions to animal health and welfare as the Science and Sustainability Manager of Hybrid Turkeys/Hendrix Genetics. Dr. Wojcinski has recently retired after 30 years of service.

With spring migration underway, PIC is reminding everyone to stay vigilant! They have a variety of resources including [Up-to-date detections of HPAI](#), information on [biosecurity and disease](#) and [depopulation resources](#).

PIC will be holding the [Ag Advisors Day](#) on April 4 at the Grandway Events Centre in Elora. This session provides information about the poultry sector to those who work in financial lending, business advising and management.

Save the date for the Poultry Innovations Conference 2023 on November 14-15, 2023 in Guelph. More information on agenda and registration will be provided when available.

## Important Updates:

### 2022 Pullet Producer Rebate Rate

At their March meeting, EFO's Board decided that the 2022 pullet producer rebate rate would be \$1.35 per bird. Letters and cheques will be distributed later this month.

### EFO Executive Elected

At the special meeting held in conjunction with the 58th AGM in Niagara Falls, the Board re-elected Scott Helps as its Chair and Dan Veldman as its Vice Chair. Scott Brookshaw and Marcel Laviolette were also re-elected to the Executive, beginning their new term April 1.



## PROTECT YOUR FLOCK!

Migrating wild birds pose the greatest risk of avian influenza arriving on your farm. Consider implementing these preventative measures to **protect** your flock and our industry:

- electronic bird deterrents
- consider extra precautions when wild turkey hunting on or near your farm
- coyote or other predator decoys
- perform preventative maintenance on your barn to eliminate wild bird access through air intakes, doors and other openings
- clean up food sources like feed spills and mortality
- take extra care when cleaning farm equipment that may have come in contact with wild bird habitat or resting ground
- dogs should not have access to the barn

PROPER BIOSECURITY IS YOUR BEST MEASURE TO PREVENT AVIAN INFLUENZA!

## TRADE MITIGATION: WHAT EGG FARMERS NEED TO KNOW

### The Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program

#### What do I need to know?

The Canadian government has created the *Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program* (PEFIP) to help supply-managed poultry and egg producers adjust to any market losses from the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership* (CPTPP). This program provides funds for Canadian chicken, egg, broiler hatching egg and turkey farmers to make on-farm investments to increase productivity, improve on-farm food safety, contribute to environmental sustainability and respond to consumer preferences such as improved animal welfare or housing. The funding allocated for egg farmers is \$134 million over 10 years for eligible activities that began on or after March 19, 2019 and project activities must be completed by March 31, 2031. All applications must be submitted by March 31, 2030.

Following the announcement of this PEFIP, additional funding of \$1.7 billion was announced in November 2022 for supply-managed sectors to compensate for any market losses related to the *Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement* (CUSMA). Further details related to this announcement are expected to be available during spring 2023.

To determine if you are eligible, visit <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/poultry-egg-farm-investment/step-2-who-eligible>.

#### Why should I apply?

The impact of trade agreements will last for multiple generations. New trade concessions, combined with the requirements under the World Trade Organization, will allow for 51.4 million dozen eggs to come into Canada from the United States and other countries. The combined market access granted under the CPTPP, CUSMA and WTO agreements is the equivalent to a total of 7 per cent of current domestic egg production.

This funding is available to ensure on-farm investments are not impacted by trade agreements and Canadian supply-managed farms continue to thrive for years to come.

#### How do I apply?

To apply, be sure to read through the requirements for eligibility, then follow the two-step application process.

1. Register with the program: You must register for the program through the <https://pefip-pifvo.agr.gc.ca/PEFIP/public/welcome.jsf?lang=en> online program. Through the registration process, you will be required to create a user or participant profile. Once your account is verified, your participant status will change to confirmed and your maximum funding amount will appear on the same page, from which you can then submit a project application.
2. Submit a project application: Once you have created a profile and it is validated, you may complete and submit a projection application. This must be done by March 31, 2030.

For more information on the program, what is offers, eligibility and steps, visit <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/poultry-egg-farm-investment>.

### With our deepest sympathies

Egg Farmers of Ontario would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Chris Hamers and his daughter Jody Hamers, who were tragically killed in a car accident on February 14. Wishing you strength and peace during this difficult time.

## 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](http://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.

## PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

**Ontario Production  
(week ending #52)**  
2022 – 19,954,551  
2021 – 20,062,111

**Ontario IP  
(week ending #52)**  
2022 – 3,909,690  
2021 – 4,411,331

**Ontario EFP  
(week ending #52)**  
2022 – 1,038,543  
2021 – 493,086

**US Shell Egg Imports  
to Ontario (week ending  
January 14, 2023 - #2)**

2023 – 13,440  
2022 – 0

follow us online!



# CASTING CALL:

## Real farmers needed for Tiktok!

Prior to the AGM, a social media session was held by the Public Affairs department, with a presentation by Kelly Daynard, Executive Director of Farm & Food Care Ontario. During her presentation, Kelly shared with the group how to tell your story on social media, learning about your audience, which platform to choose and some tips for sharing photos and content online.

Following the presentation, a casting call was shared to attendees that highlighted three current Tiktok trends and how to create content for the platform. In an effort to further extend the *Real Farmers. Real Eggs.* campaign through real farmer-generated content, EFO is asking interested farmers to create content to use on EFO's Tiktok account.

We are looking for interesting short videos taken from various aspects of your day: in the packing room, changing footwear as you enter or exit the barn, stacking eggs, loading up the cooler and everything else in between! You can send us raw video files and we will put it together for you, or you can provide us with a finished product – it's up to you!



Above: Social media session held prior to the AGM.

Below: How to make a Tiktok video instructions were shared with participants during the social media session. Reach out to EFO's communications team for your copy!



There is a full package of ideas, tips and a one-page "how-to" information sheet available that can be shared with interested farmers. If you would like to participate, please contact Emma Morales-Neyra, EFO Digital Media Coordinator (emoralesneyra@getcracking.ca) or Pam Passerino, EFO Communications Team Lead (ppasserino@getcracking.ca).

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS DURING SPRING MIGRATION

### Be aware

If your birds show any signs of illness, call your veterinarian and the EFO office immediately. Acting quickly can help mitigate the risk of further infections.

Visit the Feather Board Command Centre's website at [www.fbcc.ca](http://www.fbcc.ca) to stay up-to-date on the latest information.

### Have back up plans for any service disruptions

With spring migration underway and recent Ontario outbreaks of avian influenza, EFO would like to remind all farmers of the importance of maintaining back-up plans and alternative options for end-of-lay flocks.

### Biosecurity in the cooler

With highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) circulating, all farmers are encouraged to continue practicing enhanced biosecurity measures. This may also include biosecurity measures in place for egg pick-up, including disinfecting the wheels of trolleys and/or the cooler floor after the eggs are collected.

With this in mind, this is to remind farmers that although the storage of chemical and other substances in the cooler is prohibited under the *Start Clean-Stay Clean*® Program, disinfectant sprays for this purpose may be kept in cooler in the form of a mixed solution in a leak proof container. On-farm auditors are aware of this acceptable practice.

# FARMER UPDATES

## For Sale

### 1000-1200 ft of Chain Feeder Trough

- Good used condition
- Only used for approximately 3 years
- Comes with couplers
- \$3,000

### 13-Ton Feed Bin

- Excellent used condition
- \$2,000
- Does not include removal or delivery

## Circulation Fans

- Approximately 16 circulation or stir fans for sale
- Most are 120 V motors, remainder are 220 V
- Motors have not been tested
- \$75 / fan or \$750 for all

## Used Exhaust Fans and Parts

- 16 exhaust fans (18-24") for sale
- Several complete fans, several just the fan housing
- Fan motors have not been tested
- \$200 for complete fans
- \$50-\$100 for incomplete
- \$1,500 for all

Please contact:

Nathan Hutten

Email: [nathan@huttenshenhaven.com](mailto:nathan@huttenshenhaven.com)

Cell: 289-257-0421

Used free-run Jansen Poultry Equipment (5 years old). Nests: 574' including 3 drive units, slats: 2,350 sq' - Flex egg Conveyor: 102' including 1.90 degree corner and 1 drive unit.

Please Contact- 519-786-8107

250 feet of 20-inch farmer conveyor with one drive unit.

Please contact 613-863-3310



## MEDITERRANEAN SHEET PAN OMELETTE

Servings: 12  
Prep Time: 20 minutes  
Cook Time: 15 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

2 tbsp butter  
2 cups packed baby spinach  
3 cooked Italian sausages, chopped  
2 cups sliced mixed mushrooms  
½ cup julienned roasted red pepper  
½ cup thinly sliced red onion  
1 plum tomato, diced  
½ cup crumbled herbed goat cheese  
¼ cup finely chopped fresh basil  
16 eggs  
1 tbsp hot sauce  
1 tsp kosher salt  
pepper to taste  
basil for garnish

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C).

Butter a 13x18-inch baking sheet.

Sprinkle baking sheet evenly with spinach leaves; top with sausage, mushrooms, red pepper, red onion, tomato, goat cheese and basil.

In a large bowl, whisk eggs with hot sauce and salt.

Pour egg mixture gently over baking sheet. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until egg has lightly puffed.

Sprinkle with pepper to taste and garnish with basil.

Watch how to make it [here!](#)

*“eggs-pert” advice*

**TIP:** This recipe is great for meal planning, feeding large crowds, and it is also freezable!

## EGGS IN THE NEWS

### March is Agriculture Literacy Month

Farmtario  
March 6, 2023

AgScape is celebrating the 12th annual Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) with Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (AITC-C), the national voice for agriculture education in Canada.

CALM provides K-12 students in all 10 provinces with engaging experiential opportunities to learn about Canada's remarkable agriculture and food story.

As a proud Ontario member of AITC-C, AgScape will be offering the following free programs, resources and events during CALM to youth and educators across Ontario:

- Teacher Ambassador Program: AgScape Teacher Ambassadors will be delivering interactive, curriculum-linked lessons on agriculture and food for grade 4-12 students in English and French.
- Digital Resource Package: Elementary and secondary teachers can order curriculum-linked lesson plans and activities appropriate for their grades.
- Virtual Field Trips and Live Events: K-12 students will virtually meet with industry experts to take tours of farms and production facilities, explore innovations in agriculture and discover rewarding careers.

- Virtual Art Show: K-12 students and educators can submit an art piece with the theme “Our Food Our Story” to win prizes.

Rebecca Sooksom, chair of AITC-C, said linking students with food producers “helps keep that connection strong so the next generation of Canadians knows not only where their food comes from, but also the importance of the sector to our communities from coast to coast.”

To learn more about AgScape's programs, resources and events for CALM, visit: <https://agscape.ca/event/canadian-agriculture-literacy-month>

# OUTREACH *update*

## Solid as a rock

The 2023 *Scotties Tournament of Hearts* was held in Kamloops on February 18-26, and Team Homan hit the ice to compete. During the tournament, *Rocks & Rings* also had an activation, in the form of a scavenger hunt and word search.

In advance of Curling Day in Canada a virtual *Rocks & Rings* session, featuring Olympic and Paralympic curlers, was held on February 23. This new format of delivering the popular sessions was offered at two different times, free of charge. The 40-minute session included games and activities for more than 50,000 students as they learned about the sport of curling and wheelchair curling.

## Farmer volunteers needed: OMHA playoffs set to begin!

The road to the #redhats, presented by Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO), is set to begin with the first weekend of championships taking place in Oakville on March 17-19.

The championships are taking place over four weekends on March 17-19 (Oakville),

March 24-26 (Oakville) and March 31 to April 2 and April 7-9 in Barrie, Halton Hills, Kingston, Oakville, Whitby and Windsor.

EFO is looking for farmers to participate at each location, in particular during Championship Sunday to present medals, red hats and banners to winning teams.

If you are interested in helping out at the championships, please contact Robin Singh ([rsingh@getcracking.ca](mailto:rsingh@getcracking.ca)).

*Right: Gold medals ready for presenting.*

*Bottom (left): Ian Laver during the 2022 championships in Whitby and (right): Pauline Embury presents a gold medal in Kingston during the 2022 playoffs.*



Zone	Director	Email Address	Phone
1	Scott Helps	<a href="mailto:shelps@ymail.com">shelps@ymail.com</a>	519-464-2744
2	Lorne Benedict	<a href="mailto:lbenedict@eastlink.ca">lbenedict@eastlink.ca</a>	519-281-3321
3	Dan Veldman	<a href="mailto:dveldd@gmail.com">dveldd@gmail.com</a>	519-801-5216
4	Roger Pelissero	<a href="mailto:rpelisseroeggs@gmail.com">rpelisseroeggs@gmail.com</a>	905-984-0279
5	Brian Miller	<a href="mailto:bwmiller@quadro.net">bwmiller@quadro.net</a>	519-521-1325
6	Sally Van Straaten	<a href="mailto:sallyvanstraaten@gmail.com">sallyvanstraaten@gmail.com</a>	519-301-4408
7	Scott Brookshaw	<a href="mailto:scott@grayridge.com">scott@grayridge.com</a>	519-671-7568
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9	Ian McFall	<a href="mailto:imcfall@burnbraefarms.com">imcfall@burnbraefarms.com</a>	613-498-8526
10	Marcel Jr. Laviolette	<a href="mailto:marcel@falaviolette.com">marcel@falaviolette.com</a>	613-806-2847
Pullet	Alvin Brunsveld	<a href="mailto:brunsvelda@gmail.com">brunsvelda@gmail.com</a>	519-319-1874



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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.