



Cackler

The Latest EFO News

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get cracking®
Egg Farmers of Ontario

February 2024



Out with the old...

EFO's foodservice department gets an update!

And in with the new!

EFO's foodservice team recently made some much-needed updates to a range of materials to promote eggs to Ontario healthcare operators.

Updates included new posters that feature local egg farm families, activity placemats and a "did you know" poster kit with dozens of egg facts!

The materials are free to all operators and are available online at EFO's *Egg Chef* portal. In addition to the range of materials for healthcare operators, the portal also offers free resources to restaurant owners and operators in Ontario.

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Notice of Levy and Licence Fee Change; Price Change Notice

Recipe of the Month: [Chicken Katsu Sliders with Curried BBQ Sauce](#)

Outreach Updates: Ontario Tankard and the National Poultry Show

UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS:

- March 4 & 5
- April 2 & 3

WITH THIS ISSUE:

- Protecting Your Farm Premises Notice
- Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame News Release

INDUSTRY updates



AGRICULTURAL ADAPTATION COUNCIL

The AAC is accepting applications for the Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative. Applications will be accepted until March 28th at 11 a.m. The goal of the initiative is to expand production capacity and energy efficiency in the agriculture and food sector. Eligible farmers and processors can apply for matching funds to help with investments in technology, equipment and processes to advance productivity.

Two program information webinars are available to provide support for the application process. Use the following links to register:

[February 22 at 12 p.m.](#)

[March 6 at 7 p.m.](#)



Recent articles and updates from Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Knowledge include:

[Three key transition lessons from a young farmer](#) – Geena Luckett, co-owner of a vineyard shares how she leads her family business through growth and expansion.

Notice of Levy and Licence Fee Change

Effective Sunday, February 25, 2024, the total Producer Levy & Licence Fee will be changed to fifty-four point four five cents (54.45 cents) per dozen plus HST.

The remittance is as follows: total deduction from Producer is 54.45 cents plus grading station voluntary research fee of .02 cents (per dozen, plus HST). In Zone 9N, the levy will be fifty-three point four five cents (53.45 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.

[Poultry: 2024 FCC Economic Outlook](#) – this 2 minute video discusses issues such as avian influenza and other things to watch in the poultry industry in 2024.

[Business Plan Boot Camp](#) – this virtual series shares what is needed to build a successful business plan. Upcoming sessions are available February 27, March 19 and 26. Click [here](#) to register.

To find more upcoming FCC events, including the Women Entrepreneurs Summit, FCC Ag Summit (London) and more, click [here](#).



Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) Digital Farm Security webinar is being held on March 7 at 12 p.m. This session is hosted by Dr. Janos Botschner who will discuss innovations in digital farm security. To register, click [here](#).



OFA recently shared their 2023 Annual Report, which was also shared in the January issue of *Better Farming*. To access a copy of the report, click [here](#).

To learn more about upcoming agricultural events, visit the OFA's calendar of events [here](#).

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



February updates from PIC include the announcement of Tom Lewis as Executive Director, effective February 26. Welcome Tom!

If you've ever been asked about backyard hens, let them know about this upcoming event! PIC will be hosting the Raising Backyard Chickens webinar on March 23, where Al Dam (OMAFRA) will share information on chick care, egg quality, feed, nutrition and disease management.

For more information, visit <https://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/>.

REMINDER

Egg Farmers of Ontario's 59th Annual General Meeting is fast approaching:

Thursday March 7 and Friday, March 8 at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort.

See you there!

Price Change Notice

Effective Sunday, February 25, 2024, the Market Producer Prices for one dozen Grade A eggs are as follows: *Extra Large \$2.68, *Large \$2.68, Medium \$2.38, Small \$2.00 (*denotes change).

Effective Sunday, February 25, 2024, the Producer prices for one dozen Grade A eggs from Enriched Housing at 116.25 square inches are as follows: *Extra Large \$2.76, *Large \$2.76, Medium \$2.45, *Small \$2.06 (*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.



Top: Tonya Haverkamp and (above) Will McFall were recently announced as Young Egg Leaders.

ONTARIO EGG FARMERS PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

A new group of Young Egg Leaders (YEL) was recently announced by the International Egg Commission (IEC) and includes two exceptional young farmers from Canada. Tonya Haverkamp (Zone 7) and Will McFall (Burnbrae Farms) will be starting the two-year program this April.

The IEC developed the Young Egg Leaders program as a way to cultivate and encourage the next generation of egg industry leaders.

As Canadian representatives, the pair will join their YEL counterparts from around the globe on April 14-16 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

To learn more about this program and to meet the entire group of young leaders, visit the [International Egg Commission website](#).



OMHA Championships - Calling all egg and pullet farmers!

EFO's partnership with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) 2024 championship road to #redhats is fast approaching! EFO is looking for farmers to participate at each location, to present medals, red hats and banners to winning teams.

Four playoff weekends have been announced: March 15-17, 22-24, 29-31 and April 5-7 and will be held in 6 Ontario cities - Newmarket, Brampton, Whitby, Halton Hills, Oakville and Kingston.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Kwesi Jacob (kjacob@getcracking.ca). To learn more about the championships, visit [omhachampionships.ca/](#).

COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

Ontario & East Coast

ONTARIO Ridgetown February 29, 2024 8:30am - 4:30pm EST	NOVA SCOTIA Truro March 21, 2024 8:30am - 4:30pm ADT
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR St. John's March 5, 2024 8:30am - 4:30pm NST	NEW BRUNSWICK Fredericton March 22, 2024 8:30am - 4:30pm ADT
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND Charlottetown March 19, 2024 8:30am - 4:30pm ADT	ONTARIO Belleville March 25, 2024 8:30am - 4:30pm EDT
ONTARIO Guelph March 21, 2024 8:30am - 4:30pm EDT	



Agrimenter: Women's Mentorship Program

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is hosting a "lunch & learn" to learn more about their women in agriculture's professional development and mentoring program.

This virtual session will be held on February 28 at 12 to 1 p.m. Click [here](#) to register!

NOTICE: Policies & Procedures

This notice serves as a reminder that 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 be sure to check this site frequently to ensure you have the most recent information.

In addition, consider subscribing to receive EFO's RSS news feed to stay informed on any updates to the member website.

PRODUCTION STATISTICS

(in boxes of 15 dozen)

Ontario Production (week ending #52)
2023 - 19,930,682
2022 - 20,361,269

Ontario IP (week ending #52)
2023 - 3,260,872
2022 - 3,953,460

Ontario EFP (week ending #52)
2023 - 1,355,984
2022 - 1,064,583

US Shell Egg Imports to Ontario (week ending December 30, 2023 - #52)

2023 - 1,782,002
2022 - 1,265,532

follow us online!



EFO'S ONLINE STORE IS NOW LIVE

Ordering promotional items just got easier

In anticipation of the Annual General Meeting in March, EFO is excited to share that our online store is now officially live. For those that registered for an [account](#) during the one-week pop-up store in January, you don't need re-register. Didn't order in January? Here's what you need to do!

The online shop will allow registered users to shop and place orders for their favourite *Get Cracking* promotional items. Users can also pay online using a variety of payment options.

To register for your account, follow these easy steps:

1. To access the online site, please register for an account. After you submit your information, our team will approve your account. You will then get an email to set your password. Please allow up to 24 hours for our team to review and approve your account.
2. Log-in to the online shop, browse away and then place your order.
3. Please allow 7-10 business days for your order to be fulfilled.

If you have any questions about the shop or how to register, please contact Sarah Brien (sbrien@getcracking.ca).

Please note: EFO does not post this information on social media for security reasons. Do not click any links related to promotional items through EFO's social media accounts as there have been recent fraudulent links placed in post comments.

Pullet quota allocation increase for 2024

Recently, EFO announced the implementation of a pullet quota allocation increase of 518,694 units of pullet quota, effective June 30, 2024. This corresponds to the layer quota increase that was announced in December 2023.

Consistent with the layer increase allocation, this allocation will be distributed among current quota holders using the 70%-30% (pro-rata/per quota holder) mechanism, subject to existing policies and regulations.

Individual letters confirming specific quota increases will be sent to all quota holders within the next few weeks.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board Director in your Zone, Julie Cangiano at jcangiano@getcracking.ca or 905-858-9791, ext. 251, or James Corpuz at jcorpuz@getcracking.ca or 905-858-9791, ext. 262.

Biosecurity tips

It's no secret that migratory birds create a high risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) making its way onto your farm. In addition to your regular biosecurity practices, consider implementing other preventative measures to protect your flock. These can include:

- Electronic bird deterrents.
- Cleaning up food sources like feed spills and mortality.
- Take extra care when cleaning and disinfecting farm equipment that may come in contact with wild bird habitats or resting grounds.
- Using coyote or other predator decoys.
- Dogs should not have access to the barn.
- Perform preventative maintenance on your barn to eliminate wild bird access through air intakes, doors and other openings.

Following proper biosecurity practices is your greatest measure to prevent HPAI from infecting your flock.

FARMER UPDATES

For Sale

170 ft of 14 inch Farmer Automatic egg conveyor. I have 2 double-drive drive units - can be all one conveyor length or 2 separate conveyors.

Contact Dan: 519-801-5216

Wanted

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

Contact James: 519-608-3829

2024 Zone Election Results

The following Egg Farmers of Ontario Directors were re-elected for the 2024-2025 term during their recent Zone annual meetings:

- Zone 1 - Scott Helps
- Zone 2 - Lorne Benedict
- Zone 3 - Dan Veldman
- Zone 4 - Roger Pelissero
- Zone 5 - Brian Miller
- Zone 6 - Sally Van Straaten
- Zone 7 - Scott Brookshaw
- Zone 8 - George Pilgrim
- Zone 9 - Ian McFall
- Zone 10 - Marcel Jr. Laviolette

The Pullet Director election will take place on Thursday, March 7 prior to the AGM at the Fallsview Casino Resort in Niagara Falls.

Egg Team Update

La-Reine Camara (lcamara@getcracking.ca) joined the Policy and Strategic Initiatives Department on January 29 as the new Industrial Product Coordinator.

As announced in the January Cackler, Julie Cangiano will be retiring at the end of February. As of March 1, please direct any calls or emails to James Corpuz (jcorpuz@getcracking.ca).

REMINDER: Access information online

Missing an issue of *The Cackler*? Don't worry - it's always available online! Check out previous issues [here](#).

Have you signed up to receive EFO's RSS feed yet? Receive weekly alerts of any information that is posted to EFO's member website, including monthly issues of *The Cackler*.

Chicken Katsu Sliders with Curried BBQ Sauce



Yield: 12
Prep Time: 45 minutes
Cook Time: 12 minutes

INGREDIENTS

Curried BBQ Sauce

½ cup (75 ml) ketchup
2 tbsp (30 ml) mild or medium curry powder
2 tbsp (30 ml) **each** Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce and hoisin sauce
1 tbsp (15 ml) **each** maple syrup and Dijon mustard
½ tsp (2 ml) **each** minced garlic and grated ginger

Sliders

1 cup (250 ml) julienned Napa cabbage
1 cup (250 ml) julienned red cabbage
1 small carrot, shredded
¼ cup (60 ml) fresh cilantro leaves
1-2 green onions, sliced
2 tsp (10 ml) toasted sesame seeds
1 tsp (5 ml) sesame oil

6 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
½ tsp (2 ml) each kosher salt and pepper
½ cup (125 ml) all-purpose flour
2 eggs, lightly beaten
2 cups (500 ml) panko bread crumbs
oil for frying
12 sweet slider buns (such as King's Hawaiian), halved

DIRECTIONS

Curried BBQ Sauce: In a bowl, whisk together ketchup, curry powder, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, hoisin sauce, maple syrup, Dijon, garlic and ginger. Set aside.

Sliders: In a large bowl, combine Napa cabbage, red cabbage, carrot, cilantro, green onion, sesame seeds and sesame oil. Set aside.

In a large, deep pot, heat 2-inches (5 ml) of oil to 350°F-375°F (180°C-190°C).

Slice each chicken thigh in half, butterfly any thicker pieces to even out thickness of chicken. Season chicken pieces all over with salt and pepper.

Place flour, egg and panko into separate shallow bowls. Dredge chicken in flour shaking off excess, dip into egg to lightly coat and press in panko crumbs until well coated on both sides. Place breaded chicken on a plate. Repeat steps with remaining chicken pieces.

Fry 2-3 pieces of chicken at a time in hot oil for about 3 minutes, until golden brown. Remove chicken to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.

Assemble sliders by placing fried chicken on bottom bun, drizzle with curried BBQ sauce, top with a mound of slaw and top bun. Repeat to make 12 sliders. Serve immediately with any remaining *Curried BBQ Sauce*.

Farm and Food Care host virtual field trip with Ontario family



Above: Screen shot from video tour with the Longtin Family.

In celebration of *Canada's Agriculture Day*, Jessica and her dad Daniel Longtin (Zone 10) participated in a virtual field trip with Farm and Food Care (Ontario). This was the first bilingual field trip offered by Farm and Food Care.

The tour included a view inside the barn, the egg packing room and the egg cooler. Participating students were able to submit questions and some of them included: What do chickens eat?; Do brown chickens lay brown eggs?; and Are chickens omnivores, carnivores or herbivores?

The full tour is available on [YouTube](#).



OUTREACH *update*

Ontario Tankard

The Ontario Tankard was held at the FlightExec Centre in Dorchester, January 21 to 28. As the official volunteer sponsor of the tankard, EFO's *Get Cracking* logo was prominently displayed on the jackets and vests of approximately 220 volunteers throughout the week-long event. The logo was also on display around the rinks and in the ice.

In addition, EFO had a display complete with a floor curl set from the *Rocks & Rings* program. The activation included the opportunity to have egg and pullet farmers on site daily to chat with visitors about eggs and invite them to a game of floor curling.

The National Poultry Show

Fans of the National Poultry Show were excited for its return on February 7-8th at the Western Fair District Agriplex in London. EFO was a sponsor of the show and staff



representatives joined Board members to attend our display.

#EasterTreeContest returns for another year

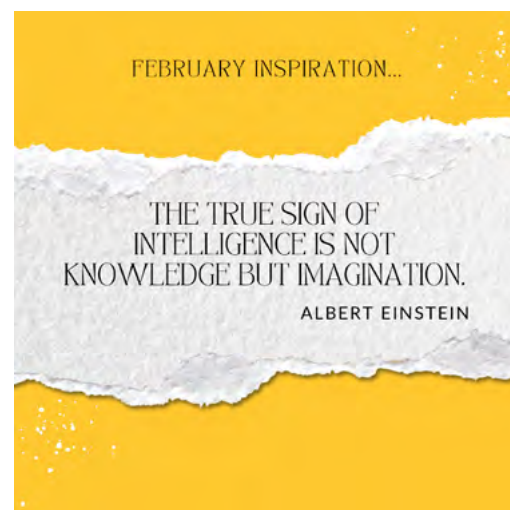
As we lead up to Easter, EFO's Public Affairs team has been busy working to bring back the



popular *#EasterTreeContest* where Ontarians are invited to decorate eggs then trim a tree. Information, including contest details, dates and more will be released in March!



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



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EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO MISSION STATEMENT

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