

Alberta Hatching Egg Producers



Spring 2013

Circular

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Board News

- **APO Period 29- May 6 to June 30, 2013**

The saleable chick price for APO 29 has decreased by \$0.0049, from \$0.5565 to \$0.5516 (100% paid). This change is mainly attributed to an increase in flock life from 60 to 62 weeks.

- **AHEP Board of Directors Welcomes New Director**

My name is Cora Scheele, and I am the newest member in the AHEP board. I was elected at the annual general meeting Feb. 26th 2013, for a 3 year board-position. I'm married to Arjan, and together we have 4 children (3 boys and 1 girl), ages 16, 19, 22 and 24. In January, 2005 we moved as a family to Canada from Holland. We bought our broiler-breeder farm in Linden, which we named Arco-poultry farm and there we started our new experience in poultry. Before we moved we had a crop farm, with our specialty crop being seed potatoes. In the summer months we welcomed tourists to our small campground, which was on our farm yard. Besides that, I worked for over 20 years in homes for mentally handicapped people.

This board-position is also an exciting new experience for me. I look forward to serve as a board director and I'm committed and willing to learn about all the aspects of our industry. I am looking forward to meeting, as well as working with those involved in this industry.

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Important Date

Reminder!

Chick and Chat Meetings

June 25 – Edmonton

June 26 – Strathmore

- **AHEP Welcomes New Staff Member!**

AHEP is pleased to welcome a new staff member to the board office. Chelsea Kamprath will be joining the AHEP office in the role of Office Coordinator. Chelsea is working in a unique roll share between the Alberta Turkey Producers and the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers. She will be at the AHEP most Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. She will be involved in communication initiatives, SM-5 events and general office work. Chelsea was raised on a farm in Boyle, Alberta; she has a nutrition and physical education background.

Chelsea is looking forward to meeting and working with the Alberta hatching egg producers. Please join us in making Chelsea welcome to the industry.

Allocation Adjustment

The Alberta Hatchery Association (AHA) and the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers (AHEP) met on May 2, 2013 to review the egg supply and demand moving forward into 2013-2014. Effective May 6, 2013 allocation has been adjusted upward from 85% to 88%. Aviagen has informed us that extra birds for the allocation increase will not be available until after September 2013. AHEP will calculate new placement numbers based on the 88% allocation and will submit these numbers to Aviagen so that the new orders are in place and on Aviagen's books. With respect to adjustments to the pricing model on allocation this will only begin to apply effective when breeders are being placed at the 88% level. Please contact the board office or one of your loyal directors with any questions or concerns about this new allocation.

Contingency Birds

The number of day old pullets placed on Alberta broiler breeder farms is determined by a producer's quota plus leased birds, as well as any policy adjustments. Traditionally, Aviagen also provides an additional 4% of this final number to compensate for mortality and mis-sexed female chicks. Given the increased mortality and morbidity experienced with current chick placements, Aviagen has agreed to provide additional birds, at no cost to the producer. These "2% Contingency Birds" are intended to replace chicks that arrive dead on farm or that die within the first two weeks after placement. Birds must be heavily culled throughout the grow period to ensure that the quota number of birds are in the lay barn at 26 weeks of age. Further discussion regarding these contingency birds will follow at the Chick 'N Chat Meetings in June.

Flock Life

We understand that some producers did not receive an email regarding an increase in flock life. We have made sure to include it here so that everyone is equally informed!

The Alberta Hatchery Association and the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers met March 28, 2013 and had reviewed the egg flow moving forward to the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014. Today there is a shortage of broiler hatching eggs in North America; thus causing a challenge in meeting the market requirements for our chicken allocation in Alberta and Canada. As a result of this shortfall the AHEP has been asked to increase flock life from 60 weeks to 62 weeks. Directors discussed this request at length and have agreed to make this change to meet the market demands for our chicken industry.

Given the foregoing, effective April 22, 2013, the flock life will move from 60 weeks to 62 weeks. This change in flock life will be adjusted in the APO 29 pricing. The flock life will be reviewed again prior to July 1, 2013 AP030.

Hatcheries will work with their producers directly regarding broiler hatching egg standards, as well as rescheduling of fowl ship out.

If you have questions or concerns on the above, please contact the board office or any of your local directors.

- **2013 Board Positions**

Below is the current list of your directors, as well as committees they are currently a part of.

Tina Notebomer – Chair, MOU Pricing, Promotion and Trade Fair, Poultry Research Committee, CHEP alternate

Kevin Tiemstra – Vice-chair, CHEP Director

Jan Van Lieshout - ACP advisory, Poultry Research Committee, Alberta Poultry Emergency Management

Dennis Wickersham – MOU Pricing, Alberta Poultry Emergency Management

Cora Scheele – Alberta Farm Animal Care, Intensive Livestock Working Group

- **Upcoming Chick and Chat Meetings**

The dates for the Chick and Chat meetings have been set.

June 25 – Edmonton

June 26 – Strathmore

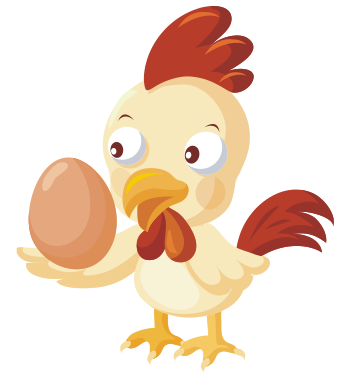
These meetings are a great opportunity to meet fellow producers, your directors as well as the staff of the AHEP.

If you have any topics that you would like to discuss at these meetings please contact the AHEP office or any of your directors.



Save the date!!

Lorrie's Corner



CHEQ™ OFFS Update

I would like to thank all of the producers for their willingness and co-operation in participating in the CHEQ™ On Farm Food Safety Program. There are 13 re-certified producers to date. A pre-assessment is offered free of charge to all producers to ensure that all paperwork and mandatory facility set-up is in place, making certification effortless. To schedule your pre-assessment, call me at 403-948-8577.

- The CHEQ™ program is available online - including the entire manual and writable record-keeping forms in PDF format. Access information is available by contacting the board, or myself at kadylo@poultryhealth.ca

CHEP Production Committee Meeting

I attended the CHEP production committee meeting in March and can provide a few "take home messages" for the producers.

- An "Animal Care Program" is in the works for broiler breeders. It is a new welfare program based on the "Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals". The broiler and turkey producers have similar welfare programs that they incorporate into their on farm food safety programs.
- The AMU/AMR survey report is almost complete. I would like to thank the producers who participated in the survey last year.

Growing Forward 2 - Biosecurity

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) biosecurity producer program is a national government granting program that provides funds for the different commodity groups.

The GF2 biosecurity producer program will reimburse 50% of the project cost to a maximum of \$30,000.00 per producer per year.

The following paperwork needs to be completed and sent in to apply for funding under the GF2 biosecurity:

- Answering a commodity specific Risk Assessment questionnaire
- Completing the application form describing your project
- Obtaining quotes and any permits needed for all activities in your project

Examples of projects include (but not limited to):

- Improved pressure washers - higher heat, more pressure
- Improved mortality disposal
- Non-hatching egg disposal
- Egg room upgrades - washable wall and floor materials

The application forms and risk assessments will be available in the near future.

Growing Forward II

Growing Forward II is a government initiative that will support ongoing development and stability in Alberta's agriculture sector. There are two segments: 1) Business Risk Management Programs and 2) Strategic Initiatives. Look for more information in future circulars

or

Visit the Growing Forward II website at

<http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/>

Or if you have any questions call the AHEP office at (780) 434-8414.

Intensive Livestock Working Group

UPDATE

From Ron Axelson

Natural Resource Conservation Board – Policy Advisory Group (NRCB-PAG)

The NRCB has indicated a meeting of the Policy Advisory Group will be held May 29th, 2013.

Those matters that will be on the agenda and are cause for some concern include:

- Amending municipal conditions on pre AOPA permits ... the NRCB may be petitioned by permit holders to remove conditions on pre AOPA that exceed AOPA requirements, however, recent applications have invariably been turned down and unfortunately setting the precedent for future considerations
- Water License Approval Process & Timing ... this is the issue of linking AOPA approvals and water licenses, which will not die. Industry has indicated over and over it does not support linking, but the AAMD&C continues to push for some compromise and it is expected this will be the case at the next PAG meeting.
- CFO Systems Audit Update & Surface Water Implementation Plan ... the Auditor General has switched policy scrutiny away from CFO impacts on ground water over to impacts on surface water. This issue has the potential to have the NRCB monitor manure management practices for impacts on water bodies.
- Process for Making Grandfathering Determinations ... probably the issue with the greatest potential for controversy and because of its complexity, has not been resolved after several years of review. No matter the final outcome, it will not satisfy all concerns.

Rich Smith reported the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has not been active from his perspective, but the current list of issues remain specifications on concrete floors, hydrological testing, the definition of seasonal wintering and bedding sites

AOPA Review

Sandi Jones, Head of ARD's Agri-Environmental Management Branch provided an update on the potential for an AOPA review in 2014. Briefings to the Minister and Deputy Minister have outlined a couple of options that are premised on there being no time critical issues needing attention:

- Extend the expiry date of the current regulation until 2017
- Present an Ag Statute Amendment Act to address housekeeping issues such as:
 - Seasonal feeding sites
 - Deemed capacity
 - Administrative fines & penalties
 - NRCB approval policies to include economic considerations

There was general consensus amongst ILWG members that any action taken to amend regulations or open the Act that would require an industry response would strain resources considering the list of current issues faced by producers, including economic viability. A decision should be forthcoming from the GOA in the next few weeks.

Alberta Water Council (AWC) – Non-Point Source Pollution (NPSP)

The final report of this project with recommendations (circulated previously) has been submitted and was accepted by the AWC Board in March

The report is currently being formatted for presentation to the GOA. The ILWG will stay in close contact to ensure involvement in the implementation of the recommendations.

The Alberta Environmental Network has requested that the Alberta Water Council (AWC) fund as a fee for service, the work that they do to participate in the AWC. This would include anytime that they spent establishing their policies, reviewing AWC projects, holding their internal water caucus meetings etc. The current AWC policy is that they may reimburse on request all travel,

accommodation expenses, and provide a per diem for AWC Board members attending any meeting held on behalf of the AWC, including board meetings and any working group meeting. The eight ILWG member organizations were petitioned and five responded with each supporting a “status quo” position and this has been passed onto the ILWG rep on the AWC Board.

Sub Basin “Phosphorus” Project

With regards to the funding issue outlined in the monthly updates, the task team negotiated the submission of a revised project work plan with a \$240,000 funding request, down from the \$600,000, which was completed April 26th. Letters of support from each ILWG member organization was attached to the revised application forwarded to ALMA (subsequent to the meeting ALMA has advised the new funding submission has been approved.) ARD has agreed to make up the revised budget shortfall by analyzing water samples in-house.

The task team met the middle of March to review work on the development of risk management tool and a solid framework has been completed and the tool is scheduled for field testing this summer. A communication poster aimed at the producer constituency to encourage participation has been completed and is in circulation.

Monitoring on the two sub basin watersheds (Mosquito Creek, west of Nanton & Blind Man Creek, south west of Lacombe) commenced in April to give us baseline phosphorus levels.

Bow River Phosphorus Management Plan (BRPMP)

The ILWG through the Executive Director sits on the Rural Non-Point Source Task Team of this initiative. The Task Team has identified run-off from snow melt and rain to be the over-arching threat and therefore is the keystone consideration in developing mitigation strategies. Threats identified that would directly affect in livestock/poultry operations include:

1. Loss of wetlands
2. Degradation of riparian areas
3. Poor management of manure
4. Run-off from confined feeding operations
5. Poor location of livestock feeding
6. Poor grazing management practices

The ILWG engagement is being focused on these threats and participates in the Task Team that has develop a template to accommodate an outlining of the risk, mitigation strategies, the inventorying of existing mitigation programs and the identification of strategy gaps. Several sub teams have been since been struck to populate the templates, which should be completed for review sometime in May.

The ILWG has recommended the development of a communication tool that provides a synopsis of the overall plan which is common to all constituents, but then has customized components that details the strategy required of each specialized sector (such as livestock/poultry). We have also recommended an information workshop be presented to the Intensive Livestock Working Group, facilitated by the BRPMP task team members who identified the risks and strategies to be implemented by the livestock/poultry sector. The goal of this exercise is to create a forum that provides a practical, producer perspective of any proposed action plan and to identify any significant challenges

A major caveat the ILWG has articulated is that any ask of the plan has to be within the capacity of the sector (constituency) to implement. If we cannot project realistic outcomes and access the resources to facilitate implementation, such strategies will be considered a “bridge too far.” There are two other prerequisites being promoted by the ILWG; the first is to use existing or initiatives under development wherever possible (eg. ILWG’s sub basin phosphorus project),

and secondly; any strategy must be implemented on an incremental basis over a reasonable time period to prevent shocking the system.

Once stakeholder feedback has been completed and appropriate adjustments made, sometime this fall, recommendations will be made to the initiative's Steering Committee for inclusion into the "Bow River Phosphorus Management Plan."

Water Conversations

Environment & Sustainable Resource Development hosted 11 facilitated stakeholder sessions around the province and ILWG coordinated livestock/poultry representation. There are four main discussion topics:

- Healthy lakes;
- Hydraulic fracturing and water;
- Drinking water and wastewater systems; and
- Water management.

The ILWG focus was directed at "water management" and it appears no dramatic changes are being considered in allocation policy. This may not necessarily hold true from a long-term perspective and the issue must continue to be closely monitored. There was also some vision of the future being projected around storage and retention, although no concrete proposals articulated. A summary document of the feedback received through the sessions should be available in late June.

Water, Agriculture and the Environment Conference

This conference is held every two years and covered two broad topics: water management and water quality. The most valuable presentation from a project management perspective was "Lessons Learned from US Watershed Programs" by Don Meals who is a non-government environmental scientist. His experience is integrating land treatment with water monitoring, which is the basis of our "P" Sub Basin Project. Our project team spent some time with him and he agreed to act as a resource to help us maximize limited resources.

Ammonia Workshop

A number of ILWG representatives attended a workshop on "Agricultural Ammonia Emissions & Policy Implications" sponsored by the ARD's Agri-Environmental Branch and CASA (Clean Air Strategic Alliance.) The impetus for the workshop seems to come from the CASA CFO Report completed last year. The report stated that "emission inventories are a key component of Alberta's air quality management system and consideration" be given to developing an accurate inventory that precisely reflects the impact of livestock production on air quality. This will aid policy making decisions that will not only benefit Albertans in general, but the CFO industry in particular."

Ammonia emissions from agriculture represent 80% of the total. Europe, with emphasis on the Netherlands could not be considered comparable because of large variances in conditions, such as climate and density; however, the US did represent a more similar scenario to Alberta with particular reference to the US EPA National Air Emissions Monitoring Study on confined feeding operations. The US has done a number of site specific studies, with subsequent models development to predict emissions from CFO's, but both the studies and models are facing serious challenges from peer review. The US appears years away from any scientific consensus regarding ammonia emissions from CFO's.

Another issue is that Alberta's Clean Air Strategy in the next few years will set objectives for ozone and particulate matter. The concern here is that ammonia is a base substance while

much of the other compounds in the atmosphere are acidic, which under the right conditions react with one another to form particulates. This issue requires monitoring.

Ambient Air Quality Objective for Ammonia

Environment & Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) is considering setting an annual ambient objective for ammonia based on vegetative impacts. The ILWG has requested participation and received confirmation that Rich Smith will be included in the committee addressing this matter, which will begin meeting June.

CASA Odour Management Project

The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Board, on a recommendation from its secretariat, agreed to form an odour management working group last fall, exactly three months after disbanding the CFO Emissions Project Team. A new working group, which was actually formed in February, has developed a draft "Project Charter" that considers odour management on a very broad basis, including industrial, resource, municipal and agricultural odour emissions. The "Project Charter" will be presented to the CASA Board for approval in June with an expectation to have the project completed within 22 months.

The ILWG did not participate in the working group but has requested through Rich Smith, who is a CASA Board member, to have a representative appointed to the project team, if the "project charter" is approved. Rich has also recommended in discussions with the CASA Secretariat that no individual who served on the disbanded CFO Emissions Project be appointed to the new project team. That would mean the ILWG would have to search out a fresh face within our organizations and Mike Slomp was asked to consider taking the appointment. He will consult and advise on his availability.

Regional Planning

The GOA has completed Phase II of its public engagement sessions on the SSRP and is currently developing the draft plan which should be out late June. It is anticipated stakeholder engagement will occur over the summer and fall with the plan going to Cabinet by year end.

The GOA has decided it will proceed with the remaining five regional plans by developing the North Saskatchewan, North Peace and South Peace coincidentally, starting in 2014, followed by Upper Athabasca and Red Deer in 2015. They will also tighten timeframes by eliminating stakeholder/public engagement on RAC advice.

Agri-Environmental Partnership Alberta (AEPA)

The AEPA Board meeting was recently held and included the following highlights

- ARD Update
 - Minister is committed to agriculture and the agri-food sector, and is a passionate advocate for the industry, rural Alberta and rural communities (of which environmental stewardship is an important component).
 - Agriculture is the province's largest renewable resource with increasing opportunities for agriculture and food (domestically and internationally).
 - ARD is developing a long term strategy for research and innovation, and will be looking for feedback from industry on the draft document when complete.
 - GF2 is expected to be signed before the end of March, and will have an increased focus on research and innovation, competitiveness and market development.
 - ARD continues to be involved in the Land-use Framework, including the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (draft plan expected early summer).

 - Provincial governments are currently negotiating bilateral agreements with the federal government, with GF2 programs to be in place for the 2013-14 fiscal year.
 - Areas of Focus in Alberta: Business Risk Management; Research Opportunities &

Innovation; Agri-Processing Innovation, Automation & Commercialization; International Market Development & Investment Attraction; Assurance Systems; Business Management, Opportunities & Skills Development; Water Management (On-Farm Water Management Program, Regional Water Supply Program, Irrigation Efficiency Program); and Environmental Resource Management & Innovation (On-Farm Energy Management Programs, On-Farm Stewardship Program, Confined Feeding Operation Stewardship Program, and Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program)

- Program details may start rolling out in mid-March through the Minister Olson's information sessions (three in the province – invitations previously forwarded).
 - Many programs will be available for application in April.
- Forum 'Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Land: "Public Benefits, Producer Opportunities?"' attendees provided feedback and observations. Both attendees and participant evaluations indicated it was a very informative and worthwhile function. Speaker presentations are posted on the AEPA website.
 - Board members approved by consensus the following organizational items;
 - 2012-2013 Workplan and Evaluation
 - 2013-2014 Business Plan
 - 2012-2015 Communications Plan Renewal (annual)
 - 2013-2014 Budget
 - Support for further development of the criteria for priority setting of agri-environmental issues
 - Board members acknowledged and thanked Alberta Milk for the administration of AEPA finances for the past four years. They also thanked Alberta Pork for taking on the role going forward.
 - Upcoming Dates:
 - 2013 Board Meetings - Executive Royal Inn, Leduc
 - June 5, October 16, December 11 &/or 12

Ecosystem Services Assessment

The ILWG sits on the Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) project which is a collaborative initiative supported by Alberta Innovates and ALMA. Unfortunately the second meeting to be held April 30th meeting was cancelled because of weather which will protract the timeframe for us to get our heads around this initiative. The ESA project has two principal objectives:

- Develop a credible system for measuring, valuing, and mapping ecosystem services across Alberta
- Promote environmental innovation and competitiveness in Alberta's natural resource sector by developing applications and tools using ecosystem services information

The ESA project will also measure and map biodiversity, which is a key component of all ecosystem services. As the project evolves learning's around the biodiversity component may become the most relevant to the ILWG as regional plans will be developing biodiversity management frameworks similar to those of water and air quality. These biodiversity frameworks may become a significant emerging issue for agriculture in medium term (five years.) A poster outlining the ESA project will be circulated.

Feed Grain Secretariat

The Feed Grains Coalition has hired a manager (Kelly Chambers) who will be domiciled at the ACFA office. The primary coalition members providing resources are the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association and the Alberta Barley Commission. Immediate activities include determining research goals and priorities, increase participation in the coalition, and improve funding. These will ultimately determine overall goals.

Farm Safety Advisory Council

The “Council’s” report received a soft release with little follow up from the GOA. The key GOA individual identified to establish a working relationship is Lynn Stegman who is head of ARD’s Process Industry and Workforce Development Branch and which farm safety development seems to now reside. We will work with Page Stuart to develop a “where to from here plan.”

Next meeting September 11th, 2013 in Edmonton to be hosted by the Alberta Milk

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