

Alberta Hatching Egg Producers



Spring 2016

Circular

Board News

- **APO Period 48: April 04 – May 29, 2016**

The current saleable chick price for APO 44 is \$0.5407 (100% pd)

Contact Information

#301, 8925-51 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 5J3
Phone: (780) 434-8414
Fax: (780) 434-9552

www.ahep.ca

- **Annual General Meeting**

A huge thank you to everyone who made it out the AGM on March 1, 2016. There was wonderful discussion about the various presented topics and many great questions were asked and answered.

- **THANK-YOU**

The AHEP Staff and Board would like to extend a huge thank-you to Dennis Wickersham for his years of service to the AHEP Board. Thank you for everything Dennis!

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Special General Meeting

The Hatching Egg Producers Board have called for a special Producers Only General meeting. This will occur on April 12, 2016 at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer. A draft agenda is included in with the circular.

Please contact the Board office if you have any questions about this meeting.

CHEP Meeting – March 2016

Alberta representatives attended the CHEP meetings held in Ottawa during the week of March 21st through to the 24th. Highlights of the meeting included the National allocation review and the MP's reception.

Allocations Review National

With respect to the National Allocations review, this is conducted in November, March and finalized in July of every year. The Advisory allocations review meeting includes several National organizations which include:

- CHF (Canadian Hatchery Federation)
- CPEPC (Canadian Processors and Egg Processors Committee)
- Ag Canada
- FPPAC (Further Poultry Processors Association of Canada)
- CFC (Chicken Farmers of Canada)
- DFAIT (Department of Foreign Affairs International Trade)

The group met on March 23d to review and revise the 2016 and 2017 projections and recommended the following increases nationally:

- 1154 Kilo tonnes of eviscerated chicken for 2016 vs. initial 1124Kilo tonnes – 4.9% increase
- 1189 Kilo tonnes of eviscerated chicken for 2017 over 2016 – 3.0%

As a result of consultations and review the revised projections on chicken have risen over the November 2014 initial estimates.

MP's Reception

A MP's reception was held on March 24th with the SM4 National Agency Directors, Alternates and General Managers. This year's event hosted our new Liberal Government Ag Minister Hon. Lawrence McCauley and several new Liberal and Conservative MP's.

Greetings from the Chair

The Alberta hatching egg industry is poised for positive growth which is influenced by several changes that have occurred over the past ten years. Our industry has been stalled on the growth front by two major factors that included increasing bird size and import creep (moving from 9.0 percent to 17.43 %). Our industry has now fulfilled these market/industry requirements and can look forward toward positive growth in the form of deferential growth, afforded to Alberta as a result of successful negotiations at the National chicken front. With these changes, Alberta can look at a projected 7 % increase for 2016 and a 4.5 % increase for 2017. Further details on this growth strategy will be discussed at our Special General Meeting scheduled for April 12th in Red Deer. With respect to initiatives for 2016, your board has set forth four major priorities which include:

- Enhanced Producer Services
 - Work toward developing vaccination crews
 - Work toward developing fowl catching crews
 - LAPS services
 - Productivity Enhancements
- Manage Growth
 - Pricing mechanism
 - New growth policy
 - Differential growth
- Cultivate Government Relations
 - Farm and Ranch Safety
 - SM5 government relations
- Increase Social License and Consumer Confidence
 - AMU/AMR
 - Animal Care Program

I look forward to an exciting year working with my fellow producers and industry partners.

New Board Member

The Alberta Hatching Egg Producers are happy to introduce our newest Board member, Natasja van der Rijt. Below is a bit of a personal introduction from Natasja.



Hello to all the Hatching Egg Producers. I am very happy to be a part of the Hatching Egg Board of Directors and I think that I can make many positive contributions to the Board.

My husband Laurens and I own a broiler breeder farm outside of Bowden, Alberta. We moved to Alberta 16 years ago from Holland. We now have 5 kids (Kevin, Alicia, Ryan, Justin and Kirsten). The youngest has just entered grade one so I realized that I now have time to dedicate to the industry as a Director.

I look forward to representing all of you at the Board table, and I hope to see you all at the meeting in Red Deer on April 12, 2016!

The Ag-Coalition

In order to ensure that agriculture has one united voice when voicing concerns; many of the Alberta Meat and Crop marketing Boards have started working together, under the title of Alberta Ag-Coalition. This working group has been created in order to work jointly with stakeholders on issues directly affecting all of agriculture. The Alberta Hatching Egg Producers Board have designated two Board members and one staff member to sit on this Coalition to represent the Hatching Egg industry. The Ag-coalition is hoping that through working together with the Alberta Government that the next step in the consultation process for Bill 6 will be an effective, positive collaboration. The AgCoalition was established on January 22nd, 2016 with a mandate to unify the farm and ranch community in an effort to foster a culture of farm safety in Alberta.

Upcoming Agriculture Census

Statistics Canada has informed the Board office that the next Census of Agriculture will take place in May, 2016.

The Census of Agriculture is the definitive source of community-level data. By drawing on this data, decision makers will be assured that they are acting in the interests of farmers, farm communities and agricultural operations.

Statistics Canada has asked for your cooperation in collecting the necessary data.

The circular contains an information sheet from the 2016 Census of Agriculture. These handouts give a brief explanation of why the census is taking place and how farmers can complete the questionnaire. The census questionnaire can either be requested in paper format or can be completed online.

WCB - Mandatory Coverage

As discussed by Erin McFadden at AHEP's annual general meeting, the passing of Bill 6 in Alberta has made it so waged, non-family workers on farms and ranches are now protected under the Workers Compensation Act as of January 1, 2016. Enclosed in this circular is a reminder to producers that the deadline to set up your WCB account is approaching quickly. Members have until April 30, 2016 to set up an account with WCB; however it is highly recommended that it is done prior to April 30.

Included in this circular as a handout is a copy of the WCB Fact Sheet for Farming Coverage. The fact sheet discusses what WCB is, who it covers, the timing of the coverage, costs and how to set up an account.

Reminder: WCB coverage is now a requirement in Alberta for all waged workers on Alberta farms and ranches. Farm families who do not have any waged workers will not be affected. Unpaid farm and ranch workers, such as relatives, friends and neighbours helping out on the family farm, will not be affected. Children doing chores or participating in 4-H are also not affected. WCB coverage will be required for farms with non-family waged individuals; optional coverage can be extended to unpaid workers like family members, neighbours and friends if wanted by the farm owner.

The Circular is going Green!

The next edition of the circular will be an electronic version. You should have received this circular (Spring 2016) to the email address that the Board office uses for correspondence. **If you wish to still receive a paper copy of the circular please let Chelsea at the office know.**

AFAC

The 2016 Livestock Care Conference was held in Olds on March 22 and 23. The AGM conference featured a sheep handling and body condition scoring demonstration, and a student focused "Meet the Experts" networking session. Every year the AHEP sponsors students at the event and this year was no exception. The students attending the conference with Nancy Robinson were from the Lethbridge and Lakeland areas of Alberta.

The evening keynote speaker was Jeffrey Fitzpatrick-Stillwell on the MacDonald's Verified Sustainable Beef Pilot Project, followed by some student research presentations.

Brenda Schoepp opened the second day of the conference by addressing the interconnection between human and animal welfare, followed by a fascinating and complicated story of a burgeoning industry in Alberta – raising rabbits for meat – by Marion Popkin. Alexandra Harlander from the University of Guelph covered hot topics in poultry welfare, and Jennifer Walker (Dean Foods) discussed animal welfare in the context of politics, policy, profit and people.

An open session featuring Darren Vanstone (World Animal Protection), Brandy Street (BC SPCA), Jackie Wepruck (National Farm Animal Care Council), Michelle Follensbee (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry) and Angela Greter (Alberta Farm Animal Care) took questions from the audience and spoke on the importance of coordination and communication when managing animal welfare incidents.

Leona Dargis ended the conference by speaking on her experiences with animal welfare practices and cultures around the world.

Intensive Livestock Working Group Update (ILWG)

INFORMATION UPDATE – MARCH 2016

(Ron Axelson)

FARM SAFETY

Education & Awareness Funding

The proposal brought forward by Agriculture & Forestry (AF) to provide a grant to fund farm safety awareness/education has been signed off by the Minister.

As suggested, AF has agreed that it made good sense to combine livestock/poultry and cropping into one cross sector initiative and Alberta Wheat has agreed to act as the “administrator.” We underscored the need to be involved in the funding agreement discussions with Alberta Wheat, and that has happened. To ensure this remains a collaborative initiative we have recommended a cross sector working group be struck as quickly as possible to manage the development and delivery strategy.

The expectation from the GOA is the initiative will focus on providing basic risk identification and mitigation on-farm, and to facilitate substantial industry penetration of the program.

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

County of Lethbridge Infrastructure Special & Business Tax

Response to open houses hosted by the County on its proposed special and business tax of \$4 per animal unit, \$3.31 per irrigated acre and \$1.27 per dryland acre has cropping interests stating it's about time livestock started to pay its way, and because cropping already pays its fair share that sector should not be levied. Response from livestock producers is for the County to first focus on strategies of efficiencies and exhausting all other avenues of revenue generation before turning to the special/business tax option. Council timelines suggest a decision on introducing an enabling bylaw will be made late April.

Municipal Government Act (MGA) – Rural Infrastructure Deficiencies

The Intensive Agriculture Operations Working Group (IAOWG), which the ILWG co-chairs, was formed as part of the MGA Review process to explore areas of concern between municipalities and agriculture producers with a focus on assessment and taxation for farm land and agriculture buildings, plus infrastructure challenges associated with the presence of intensive agriculture operations.

It is understood amendments to the MGA will not include any substantive assessment changes to farm land, farm buildings or farm residences. The exception will be the updating the farmland regulated rate formula which currently uses 1995 production values.

Regarding infrastructure funding challenges, the IAOWG has written the Deputy Minister and advised that it has not reached consensus on a proposal that would amend the MGA so that municipalities could voluntarily implement infrastructure levies to fund road and bridge improvements. Municipal Affairs was asked to extend consultation timelines to facilitate the building of stakeholder consensus on legislative options. The unofficial response is that Municipal Affairs wants a consensus recommendation by July; if consensus is not achievable the heavy odds are they will act unilaterally along the lines currently being proposed in the County of Lethbridge.

We are currently working on a levy proposal that associates an operation's impact on infrastructure, based on inputs/outputs (weights) and should be ready for a robust discussion amongst the ILWG member organizations in the coming weeks.

SUB BASIN “P” PILOT PROJECT

“This project is a long-term, research initiative between AF, ILWG and cofounded by ALMA to develop and test an approach to mitigate phosphorus (P) loss from agricultural watersheds in Alberta.”

As reported in earlier, this project is struggling to achieve a critical mass of producer involvement, that is, have enough producers participating in the risk assessment and BMP implementation process to verify this approach will help improve water quality in the two watershed (Acme & Tindastol Creeks).

A funding application went to Growing Forward II that would provide the resources to hire a full time contractor over a two year period whose job it would be to be in the local areas every day promoting the project and working closely with local producers, municipal staff and agricultural

service boards. We have just been advised the application was turned down, as funds have been redirected to the "On-Farm Solar PV Project – supporting on-farm solar photovoltaic (PV) installations for producers." We've been trumped by the GOA's climate change strategy. So it's back to the drawing board and the project team is now working on an alternate strategy.

We have been however, unofficially advised our that our application to the Alberta Watershed Environmental Program will be approved in the amount of \$45,000 to fund both riparian assessments of the two watersheds and communication materials. Egg Farmers of Alberta will administer this grant for us!

The project team has just circulated a spring newsletter to all stakeholders in both watersheds and is attached in the circulation e-mail as a separate document.

BOW RIVER PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION

The BRPMP Implementation Committee (IC) has assigned the livestock/poultry industry the task of identifying areas contributing the most runoff and phosphorus associated with manure production, and then implementing BMP's to mitigate those risks.

The BRPMP IC has agreed with the ILWG that the first step is to confirm proof of concept in the process of identifying "Critical Source Areas" (areas contributing the most runoff and phosphorus) which is being piloted by our sub basin project. The second step will be to transition to some of the larger tributaries of the Bow, such as the Sheep, Highwood and Little Bow.

The basic components of identifying critical source areas is the mapping of land layers that include geographic factors (slope), drainage channels, precipitation and livestock inventories into a Geographic Information System (GIS). All identified critical source areas will then be ground truthed to verify level of risk. Those areas classified as high risk will then be prime candidates to have operations assessed by the "risk assessment tool" developed by our sub basin project.

AOPA REVIEW

Regarding the ILWG request to the Minister not to proceed with a legislative review of AOPA, his response was "AF staff continue to meet with key AOPA stakeholders to reaffirm that the issues identified in 2012 are still valid, as well as to determine if there are new or more pressing issues that stakeholders have with the legislation. The feedback from these meetings, combined with your (ILWG) input, will be taken into consideration by the government of Alberta in making the decision on the AOPA review process." No further communication has been received.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLANNING

As the regional planning process matures, water quality and scrutiny of the livestock/poultry industry's impact on that quality will intensify. It is important to continue building our knowledge of the issue and its implications so we can be proactive. The following summary should help in establishing a basic understanding of how source water protection plays into the overall strategy of water quality management.

Within each regional plan a "water quality management framework" is developed that monitors water quality, mostly on the main-stem rivers, against a set of quality thresholds/triggers. When

negative trends are identified, or thresholds exceeded, a verification process is implemented and if substantiated, management actions must be developed and implemented to resolve water quality issues.

A critical component of any water quality management strategy is prevention and an important component to this approach is a source water protection plan. It acts as a decision support tool to identify and manage risks to water sources. The South Saskatchewan Region is currently developing a plan that will act as a bridge between watershed management and local initiatives that are aimed at protecting water sources, particularly for drinking water supplies.

Source water protection is commonly described as part of a multi-barrier approach to protect lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, and groundwater that serve as sources of drinking water. The multi-barrier approach is an integrated system of procedures, processes and tools that collectively prevent or reduce the contamination of drinking water from source-to-tap in order to reduce risks to public health. The components or 'barriers' of this approach include:

- Protecting the water source
- Treating the water
- Maintaining the distribution system
- Monitoring the water quality and quantity
- Implementing management and emergency response plans

These barriers are supported by legislation, policy, guidelines, standards and objectives based on research, science, technology and community input. The government sees public awareness and involvement in decision-making an important component of this approach.

We'll continue to build our information base on this issue over the next year or so.

Board Positions 2016

Chair: Ashley Rietveld
 Vice-Chair: Vern Crawford
 CHEP Director: Gary Van Klei
 CHEP Alternate: Cora Scheele
 ACP Advisory: Ashley Rietveld
 PRC: Cora Scheele, Natasja van der Rijt
 AFAC: Cora Scheele
 ILWG: Cora Scheele
 Growth Policy Committee: Gary Van Klei, Vern Crawford
 Chick Quality Committee: Cora Scheele, Natasja van der Rijt
 Ag Coalition: Vern Crawford, Cora Scheele
 Emergency Management: Ashley Rietveld, Staff
 MOU Chick Pricing Committee: Vern Crawford, Ashley Rietveld
 Vaccination/Catching Committee: Ashley Rietveld, Natasja van der Rijt

Staff

Bob Smook, General Manager
bob@ahep.ca

Nancy Robinson, Assistant Manager
nancy@ahep.ca

Chelsea Kamprath, Office Coordinator
chelsea@ahep.ca

Lorrie Kadylo, OFFS Delivery Agent
kadylo@poultryhealth.ca

Board of Directors

Chair: Ashley Rietveld
 Tofield, AB
ashley.rietveld@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Vern Crawford
 Three Hills, AB
crawford.v@gmail.com

Directors

Gary Van Klei
 Coaldale, AB
garyvanklei@gmail.com

Cora Scheele
 Linden, AB
corasch64@gmail.com

Natasja van der Rijt
 Bowden, AB
vanderrijt@xplornet.com