

Alberta Hatching Egg Producers



Winter 2017

Circular

Board News

- **APO Period 59: Dec 11, 2017 – Feb 4, 2018**

The current saleable chick price for APO 59 is \$0.5652 (100% pd).

Contact Information

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

www.ahep.ca

- **Flock Life**

Flock life remains at 58 weeks.

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- ***Merry Christmas!***

The AHEP Board and staff would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season.

- **Please note that the Board office will be closed from December 25, 2017 till January 2, 2018.**



Allocations

National

CHEP fall meetings were held in Ottawa this past November, with the recommendations for 2017 to 2018 kilograms of chicken for Canada expressed in Kilo Tonnes:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>2017 (Final)</u>	<u>2018</u>
CHF	1200 KT	1254 up 4.5%
CPEPC	1200 KT	1248 up 4.0%
CFC	1200 KT	1261 up 4.9%
Ag Canada	1200 KT	1243 up 3.5%
FPPAC	1200 KT	1261 up 5.0%

CHF – Canadian Hatchery Federation

CEPEPC- Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council

CFC- Chicken Farmers of Canada

Ag- Canada – Agriculture Canada

FPPAC – Further Poultry Processors of Canada

Recommendations from the Advisory

2017 – 1200 Kilo tonnes (Final)

2018 - 1261 Kilo tonnes (Revised)

These projections have no net change from the CHEP advisory meeting in July. Changes occurred by lowering 2017 from 1207 KT to 1200 KT and applying higher increases to the base to yield an unchanged allocation increase for 2018 of 1261 KT.

Provincial

The Alberta Chicken Producers have forecasted 6.56 % increase in production for 2017 over 2016 (2017 – 156,710,932 live kgs. Vs. 147,059,990 in 2016).

For 2018 ACP is recommending a 5.0 % increase over 2017.

2017 – In late 2016 Alberta Egg Flow projections forecasted that Alberta would, at a 28-week flock life, over supply domestic eggs by 3.7% in 2017. It was anticipated that we would require a reduction in flock life to 57 weeks by mid-2017 in order to achieve the domestic/import blend of 82.57%/17.43%. As the year progressed, the hatcheries utilized less imports, in Alberta, than anticipated therefore flock life has remained at 58 weeks to date. With only a few weeks of hatchery activity yet to be recorded it is estimated that Alberta will end the year at a blend of 85%/15%.

2018 - AHEP supply projections show that we should be balanced for 2018 if requirements and flock performance proceed as plan with no disruptions in productions. If there are any misfortunes in the province or changes in productivity, an adjustment in flock life may be necessary.

2019 - AHEP flow projections indicated that to achieve production, assuming a 3% increase in 2019 over 2018, there was a need for an increased adjustment in allocation. This adjustment came into effect on December 1, 2017. Currently our barn capacities need to be reviewed and we are encouraging production through the new entrant program and pro rata.

If producers would like to discuss further details on the foregoing, please contact our office.

Growth

With respect to growth, as referenced in the allocation section above, our allocation adjustments in December 2017 along with the new entrant program, should accommodate the chicken demand for Alberta going forward to 2019. For our industry, we need to forecast at least 18 months in advance. As well, it is noted that in the forecasts we target the domestic import blend of 82.57/17.43.

Pricing Review

The Alberta Hatching Egg Producer (AHEP) have received a request from the Alberta Hatchery Association (AHA) to review the pricing for APO 58 (October 16, 2017 through December 10, 2017) as per the Marketing of Agriculture Products Act Section 36(1).

A hearing for the review will be established within the next 60 days.

Upcoming Events

WPC: The Western Poultry Conference will be held on **Monday February 26th, 2018**, the day before the AHEP Annual General Meeting. Registration will open later this month. For more information, check out <http://westernpoultryconference.ca/>!

AGM: Mark your calendars! The Alberta Hatching Egg Producers Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 27th, 2018** at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta. See you there!

AFAC: Registration for the 2018 Alberta Farm Animal Care Conference is open! The keynote speaker is the renowned Dr. Temple Grandin, specialist in livestock handling and welfare. The conference will be in Olds, AB on **March 14 & 15, 2018**. You can register at <http://www.afac.ab.ca/livestock-care-conference>

CHEQ Program Update – Jesse Hunter

All of the audits for 2017 have been completed, or scheduled to be completed in the next month.

First off, thank you to the producers for your dedication and work on fulfilling the expectations of the extensive CHEP On-Farm Food Safety Program! For 2018, a great goal would be to reduce the number of repeated Corrective Actions (CARS) on each farm. There were some instances this year where producers received the same CARS for their 2017 audit as in their 2016 audit. Some suggestions are to make sure you have enough bait stations (filled with fresh bait!) and are consistently clearing feed spills, as well as and debris beside the barn, which should give us a 2018 without CARS!

Please contact Jesse at the board office (jesse@ahep.ca) if you are missing any materials, have any questions about your past Corrective Actions or future audits.

CHEP Animal Care Program

The Animal Care Program (ACP) from CHEP was finalized and printed in the spring of 2017, and since then all producers in Alberta have been sent their Animal Care Manuals to review. CHEP has recently hired a new Animal Care Office. Aubrie Willmot-Johnson is a recent graduate of the University of Guelph, and will begin work in early January, 2018. Training will begin in early 2018, and producers will be updated as progress occurs. If producers have any questions about the new program, or did not receive an Animal Care Manual, please contact Jesse at the office (jesse@ahep.ca).

Biosecurity Project

The biosecurity project is underway, with the development of the on-farm assessment tool nearly completed. Brenna Clark from Alberta Chicken Producers has worked extensively on putting the tool together, and has done a great job in revising and working with the other feather boards to fine tune the tool. The on-farm assessment tool has been tested on a number of broiler farms, and continues to be tested and revised as necessary. The tool outlines a system of “Basic, Better, Best” to categorize different biosecurity practices on-farm. The training of assessment personnel will begin in January of 2018, and all visits on Hatching Egg farms will be completed by an AHEP staff member.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Nancy or Jesse at the board office.

Alberta Research Update

In Alberta, poultry research occurs at the PRC (Poultry Research Centre), Ag Canada, Lacombe, Lethbridge and at Alberta Agriculture.

At the PRC the following studies are currently being conducted:

Martin Zuidof continues to work on his “Precision Feeding System” project. Current topics of study include:

Commercialization of the Precision Feeding System in Breeders

Broiler Breeder Male Precision Feeding and Management

Leghorn Shell & Egg Quality using Precision Feeding in Open Aviary Housing

Doug Korver is working on characterizing “Immunity Landscapes” for broiler feeding profiles, and looking at Anti-Microbial Use and Anti-Microbial Resistance successes with regards to broiler feeding programs. Dr. Korver is also working on a project investigating the impact of dry cleaning compared to wet cleaning in broiler barns.

Dr. Eduardo Beltranena and Matt Oryschak from Alberta Agriculture continuing to investigate, enhance and promote Western Feed ingredients and nutrition compared to traditional Corn/Soy diets. They are also relating this data to the Feed Carbon Foot Print in Western Canada.

Ag Canada: Researchers at the Lethbridge research station, Doug Inglis and Doug Abbott are working on microbiomes as they relate to the poultry industry.

Poultry Health Services (PHS): Dr. Tom Inglis and his team continue to work on developing autogenous Poultry Vaccines at the University of Calgary. These vaccines are currently being used by Sofina and will be specific to each poultry industry sector and geographic area.

Alberta Agriculture: Prairie Poultry Science is run by Shannon Park at Alberta Agriculture. She is working on “industry funding leverages models” using 5 different potential approaches.

Trade Updates

NAFTA:

After four rounds of talks, NAFTA negotiations have started to delve into more difficult issues. Significant progress has been made on “modernization” issues such as Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), competition policy, telecommunications and regulatory cooperation. However, on difficult issues such as automotive rules of origin, Chapter 19, dispute settlement, Intellectual Property rights and government procurement, the U.S. has tabled controversial proposals which have made negotiations very difficult.

With respect to supply management, the U.S. introduced a proposal which primarily focused on dairy, including compositional standards for cheese (which was a red line for Canada in the TPP negotiations), Geographical Indicators, and Canada’s milk ingredient Class 7. Various media outlets have also reported that the U.S. negotiators tabled a proposal requesting a complete end to Canada’s system of supply management within a 10-year period.

Round 5 took place in Mexico City from November 17-21, 2017. The U.S. put forward tough proposals during this round and threatened to look at the automatic expiration clause. Round 6 is scheduled to be held in Montreal in January, 2018.

TPP:

The TPP-11 (now excluding the U.S.) senior officials met in Japan from October 30th to November 1st, 2017. TPP- 11 leaders were expected to make an announcement on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Da Nang, Viet Nam on November 10-11, 2017.

It appears that Japan, Australia and N.Z. are pushing for minimal changes to the original TPP text with the hope that the U.S. will re-engage in the agreement. The changes proposed by Japan, Australia and N.Z. include opposition to reopening market forces, which includes schedules on cross-border services and investment.

The Canadian government launched public consultations on the potential TPP-11 agreement. CHEP has submitted a letter to the consultation committee.

WTO:

With only few weeks remaining before the Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires, there is a clearer picture of the agenda. According to officials, the following issues will be discussed: public stockholding for food security purposes (PSH); domestic support; export restrictions; domestic regulation for trade in services; and fisheries subsidies.

Canadian dairy policies continue to be targeted at the WTO Agriculture Committee. The U.S. and Australia are seeking assurance that the new milk Class 7 will be consistent with Canada's WTO obligations, while New Zealand raised concerns about Canada's new programs in the dairy sector where the Canadian government plans to invest \$350 million over five years (beginning 2017-18).

CETA:

The Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entered into force provisionally on September 21, 2017. The provisional implementation will allow for over 90% of the Canada-EU Agreement to take effect. The agreement will enter into force, and apply to all the items excluded from provisional application, once the parliaments in all EU Member States ratify the text according to their respective domestic constitutional requirements.

SM5 Farm Tour

On October 6, 2017 Alberta SM5 hosted an MLA farm tour on Marc and Hinke Therrien's turkey farm. Six MLAS and Jamie Curran, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, attended the tour accompanied by representatives from all the SM5 commodities. The tour demonstrated to the participants why supply management is vital for the dairy and poultry industries within Alberta, and Canada. During the bus ride to the farm, each commodity had the opportunity to present to the attendees. This facilitated some great conversations around the current concerns regarding supply management, and how the government can help make sure that supply management is supported going forward.



Report on the Poultry Service Industry Workshop 2017: Tips for Producers

1. **Disease challenges**
 - a. **Western (Dr. Tom Inglis):**
 - ➔ Noted that Salmonella in breeders has decreased by 14% from 2013-2016, while salmonella in broilers at harvest has increased by 3% during that time. Remarked that broilers are getting salmonella on-farm, not from breeders, so broiler farmers must be vigilant.
 - a. **Breeders:** choryza in spiker males in BC. Drops in hatchability and production mid-flock, sporadic Marek's and Salmonella were common disease challenges throughout western provinces. Improved 1st wk mortality and staph arthritis.
 - b. **Eastern (Dr. Mike Petrik):**
 - a. **Breeders:** Colisepticemia following light stimulation, large bird problems at the end of lay, issues with problem behaviours (feather & vent pecking) in the Eastern provinces.
2. **Gut Health in Antibiotic-Free Production (Dr. John Smith):**
 - a. Nothing as effective as an ionophore yet, but research is on-going.
 - b. Using coccidiosis vaccination as a means of control against necrotic enteritis. Noted that overdosing coccidiosis vaccines is not an issue. However, there is a problem with birds getting missed during the vaccination.
 - c. Some tips to decrease chance of Necrotic Enteritis: avoid feed outages, sudden changes in diet composition, mycotoxins/rancid fats/poor quality protein, over/under cooked soybean meal, tannins, Least Cost diet formulation, low priced/low quality ingredients.
 - d. Successful RWA production is expensive, and a good diet is essential.
3. **Air quality, lighting and water management in barns**
 - a. **Air Quality & Vaccination (Leanne Cooley, laying hens):** Dust particles we are unable to see affect birds and people working in the environment. High levels of dust in a barn can affect effectiveness of a vaccine (if sprayed) because the vaccine binds to the dust particles. Tips for improving titers/birds vaccinated are:

- i. Keep lights on during vaccination (improves titers by 41%), keep a thermometer in the fridge and ensure the water you are using to dilute the vaccine is the same optimal temperature.
 - b. **Lighting (Bernie Beckman, laying hens):** Some tips for lighting in a pullet house: cool temperatures (5000K), broad light distribution (>180 degrees), dimmable lights for lower light intensity. Some tips for laying houses: broad distribution lights to light evenly, more directional lights (BR30, 100-150 degrees) can be used on the scratch area to prevent floor eggs.
 - c. **Water, Litter & pH for Bact. Reduction (Blake Gibson):** Advised using water acidification (eg. LS-PWT, inorganic acid) to help decrease salmonella & E.coli in the crop. Can use for litter acidification too, which decreases ammonia and bacteria proliferation. Chlorine is the most effective disinfectant when used correctly (water pH at 4.5-6.5).
- 4. Animal welfare: challenges with the public and current trends (Robin Horel, CPEPC)**
- a. Discussed his experience as a processor with large food retailers, and interactions with animal rights groups. Activists now target brands, food manufacturers, retail and food service companies.
 - b. Discussed case studies where activists have made demands to large retailers and what they learned (how to manage, how to prepare). Activists gave 5 days to respond if they would go along with standards given by activists, and threatened to blacklist retailers if they did not give in to demands. Examples were (1) Case study: attacks from activists demanding cage-free eggs and (2) Case study: activist demands for broilers (slow-growing).

Emergency Management Response Project Update

Producer information sessions were held in late September in Lethbridge, Red Deer and Edmonton. There will be updated information and manuals soon, and field testing and training of materials will occur in February 2018.

Sections for the emergency management initiative are as follows:

Emergency Response Plan: provides a detailed plan of contacts, procedures and a breakdown of timelines in the event of a crisis.

Personal Protective Equipment: provides an overview of necessary PPE for personnel coming on-farm to deal with a crisis (e.g. firefighters)

Depopulation/Euthanasia: provide a plan for dealing with mass depopulation in the event of a crisis

Crisis Communications: provides a structure of contacts and steps for organizing a team and communicating effectively during a crisis

Biosecurity: a way of observing current biosecurity practices on-farm and recommending better

Geofencing: system which monitors traffic entering and exiting your farm (a virtual visitor logbook)

Please see the following page for more details.

MARKETPLACE

3000 quota units available for sale
Please contact Jim at 780-284-6868

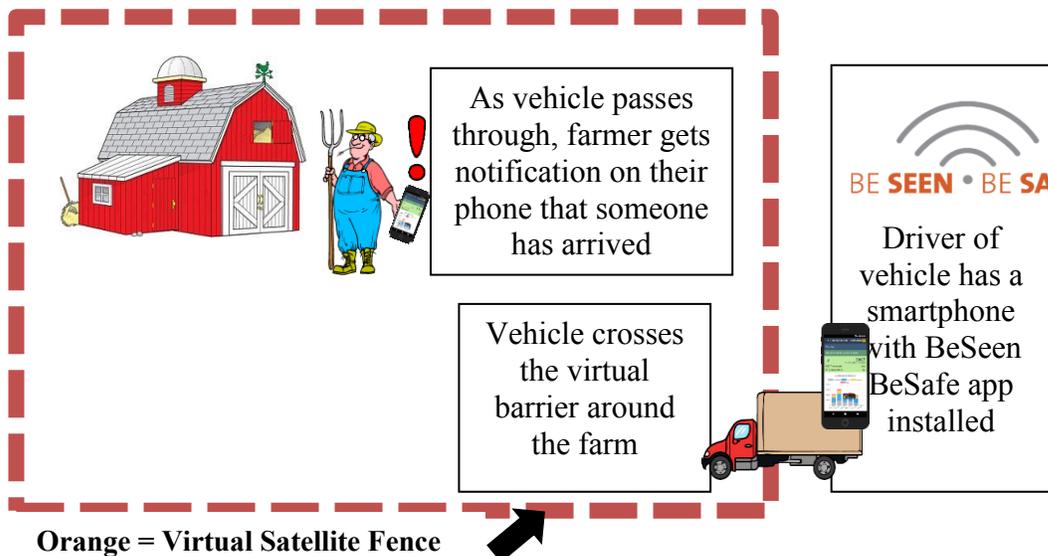
Birds available for lease. If interested, please contact the
board office for opportunities.

What is Geofencing?

A virtual visitor logbook, which records movement to and from your farm.
The system was developed by Be Seen Be Safe Ltd. (<https://beseenbesafe.ca>)

How does Geofencing work?

As the diagram illustrates, a virtual fence is put around the barns and property area the producer wants monitored. Any vehicle or person with a smartphone crossing the border will be recorded on a secure server. The farmer will then get a notification that someone has arrived or left their premise. However, the producer and anyone entering the premise must have the BeSeen BeSafe app installed to trigger the geofencing system.



Why Geofencing?

Biosecurity and disease management are a necessity in modern commercial poultry production. Transmittable diseases cost the poultry industry billions of dollars each year. One way to mitigate these costs is to minimize the transmission that we can control. Geofencing replaces the standard paper logbook with a virtual system that accurately records all movement. In the event of a disease outbreak, these records can help identify the origin of the disease, where it may have travelled, and what extra procedures need to be taken to minimize damage. Geofencing allows this traceability to occur very quickly, compared to a paper logbook.

Questions? Call or email Jesse (jesse@ahep.ca) at the board office

Swabbing Shorts – With Josh

As 2017 is coming to a close, I think now is a perfect time to touch upon some of the great things I'm seeing out in the field. The growth within in the industry is really positive and I can feel your excitement when talking about plans to build new barns or to expand current barns. It's nice to be continuously reminded how passionate producers in this province are and how eager you all are to take on new challenges. Just a reminder that I need to swab all new barns and major barn renovations before birds go in them for the PIE program. If you have any new construction underway and have not heard from me, please give me a call so that I can schedule a time to come out.

It makes me very happy to see that Alberta Hatching Egg Producers have developed a new entrant program to limit the barriers of becoming a producer. I strongly believe that with the correct application process this presents a great opportunity to build a sustainable industry for the future.

I am very pleased to say that in 2017 no 16-week samples taken from pullet barns were positive for *Salmonella enteritidis*. This is a huge feat and is something that the whole industry can be proud of! It is also key in producing a high quality hatching egg. As I've mentioned before, if there is a positive sample on farm, we're here to help make as manageable as possible.

Largely, 2017 was a huge success for the industry. I hope that in regard to growth and PIE sampling we see more of the same in 2018! I very much appreciate being able to work for AHEP and I'm excited to see what continuous improvements 2018 has to offer!

Staff

Bob Smook, General Manager
bob@ahep.ca

Nancy Robinson, Assistant Manager
nancy@ahep.ca

Chelsea Kamprath, Communications and Office Coordinator
chelsea@ahep.ca

Jesse Hunter, Producer Services
jesse@ahep.ca

Josh Perryman, Poultry Risk Program
josh@ahep.ca

Board of Directors

Chair: Gary Van Klei
Coaldale, AB
garyvanklei@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Cora Scheele
Linden, AB
corasch64@gmail.com

Directors

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

Jeff Notenbomer
Monarch, AB
jeffnote@gmail.com

Brian Wassink
Ponoka, AB
brianwassink@hotmail.com