

# Alberta Hatching Egg Producers



Spring 2018

Circular

- **APO Period 61: April 2/18 – May 27/18**

The current saleable chick price for APO 61 is \$0.5781 (100% pd).

- **Upcoming Chick 'n Chat Meetings**

June 20 – Westlock, AB (Westlock Inn)

June 21 – Strathmore, AB (Days Inn)

- *a draft agenda will be sent out closer to the meetings*



### Contact Information

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

[www.ahep.ca](http://www.ahep.ca)

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## **2018 Annual General Meeting Highlights**

This years Annual General Meeting was well attended with 90% of our membership in attendance, along with several government and industry partners. Reports were received by the membership on matters relating to the AHEP budget, audited financial statements, and Jack Greydanus from CHEP gave an update on CHEP activities. The election was unique, in that we experienced a tie vote which resulted in a draw between the two incumbents. Gary Van Klei was successful in the 2018 election of directors.

The afternoon session received reports on production matters, provincial labor law changes and their impacts to producers.

During the Alberta Poultry Industry (API) banquet, a charity auction was held, with proceeds going to STARS Air Ambulance. Over \$2500 was raised for the charity, and the API group hopes to build on the success in years to come at the annual API banquet.



*On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Chairs of the poultry Boards presented STARS with a cheque.*

## **Allocation Review (National)**

From the CHEP Ottawa March 2018 meetings, there was a recommendation from the advisory council to set allocation for 2018 and 2019 as follows:

2018 - 1261 Kilo tonnes

2019 - 1293 Kilo tonnes (2.5% increase over 2018)

These allocations were set based on input from all stakeholders.

Organization	2018	2019
CHF	1257	1295 (up 3.0%)
CPEPC	1250	1252 (up 2.0%)
CFC	1261	1296 (up 2.8%)
Ag Canada	1246	1246 (up 2.5%)
FPPAC	1261	1286 (up 2.5%)
CPHEPA	1261	1298 (up 3.0%)

Further, the Alberta Chicken Producers are recommending an increase of 3.0% for 2019 over 2018, slightly higher than CFC due to differential growth components.

**2018-** AHEP flow projections show that we should be balanced for 2018 (with no disruptions in production).

## **Provincial Allocation Review**

The Alberta Hatching Egg Producers board met with the Alberta Hatchery Association (AHA) on April 16, 2018, to review Alberta's broiler hatching egg needs for 2018 - 2020.

With Alberta's current egg flow projections for 2018, our industry should be on target. Moving forward into 2019, our current breeder placements will be approximately 2% below estimated needs and approximately 5% below estimated needs for 2020. This is assuming a 3% growth for 2019 and 2% growth for 2020.

The AHA supported and confirmed these targets.

Given the foregoing, there will be:

**A 2% increase in total provincial allocation** scheduled for January 7, 2019.

A further review will be conducted in mid-summer.

## **Pricing Appeal**

The AHEP office received a request on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for "Appeal of the Decision of the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers in the Matter of Applications for Review by the Alberta Hatchery Association regarding Alberta Pricing Orders for the APO 58 and APO 59 periods" dated April 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Alberta Hatchery Association has requested an oral hearing format for the Appeal, which must be opened within 120 days of receipt of the application by Marketing Council (in this case, by August 14, 2018). It is recommended by Marketing Council that we establish a date before the end of the August timeline. Further, the AHA has given notice to review APO 60 under the same grounds as the applications for APO 58 and 59.

All of the applications for Appeal are seeking retroactivity for all periods.

## **Trade Update (as of the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>)...courtesy of CHEP**

### **NAFTA:**

- Ministers met again in Washington DC last week. Minister Freeland arrived Tuesday and while initially scheduled to travel to Brussels on Thursday, extended her stay through to Friday.
- Ministers met both bilaterally and trilaterally and some of their meetings included only ministers and one political representative to support each minister. This is an unusual negotiating format largely driven by Lighthizer.
- Chief negotiators did not meet this week and were in town mainly to support ministers.
- A number of the negotiating groups were meeting mainly at the "lead" level.
- The focus continued to be on autos rules of origin which is seen as the most critical issue to unlock discussions on other important issues such as the

sunset clause, chapter 20 (enforceability) and chapter 19 (review and dispute settlement in antidumping and countervailing duty matters).

- It was reported that the U.S. is insisting more than ever to have a sunset clause, which created heated discussion at the ministerial level.
- Ministers are trying to accomplish as much as possible during their time together but it continues to be unclear how much progress has actually been made.
- SM5 contacts in Washington have reported that they are getting close on autos but the Mexicans need to return to their capital in order to analyze the proposal with their experts and get direction in order to be able to make more progress. This is consistent with what we are hearing from Canadian officials.
- Specifically on agriculture, discussions took place over the past weekend however following a discussion between the Canadian and US agriculture leads further talks on agriculture were tabled given it was unlikely that any additional progress could be made on text until additional political direction is provided. The agriculture table did not discuss the issues related to supply management nor market access.
- Ministers returned home on Friday and may come back the week of the 7th (Lighthizer is travelling to China on May 1 and is expected to be back in Washington for May 7).
- While Lighthizer is in China, several negotiating groups will be meeting either via teleconference or in person, but the agriculture group is not scheduled to meet this week.
- Chief negotiators are also expecting to gather in Washington later this week for a couple of days to get debriefed by the various negotiating groups and to prepare for yet another Ministerial gathering.
- Ministers are currently scheduled to reconvene on May 7. While there is no official deadline, the discussions around timeline continue to indicate that there is an intent to try to reach an agreement by mid to late May.

**TPP:**

On January 23, 2018, Canada, together with the remaining Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) signatory countries (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam), announced the successful conclusion of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The Signing of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership – CPTPP took place on 8 March in the city of Santiago and the agreement will enter into force 60 days after at least 6 or at least 50% of the signatories, have notified the Depositary in writing of the completion of their applicable legal procedures

The existing market access concessions under TPP-12 was maintained for each of the five supply management sectors and will be granted through the creation of new quotas (TRQ) phased in over six equal increments over the initial five-year period, followed by yearly increases over the following 13-year period.

For broiler hatching eggs, the additional access will be provided through a new TRQ totaling 1 million dozen broiler hatching egg equivalents (or 12 million hatching egg equivalents) in six equal increments over the initial 5-year period. This would be followed by a yearly increase of 1% (of the 1 million dozen egg equivalents) for the following 13-year period. Following the completion of the 19-year, the new TRQ will total approximately 13.6 million broiler hatching egg equivalents (the breakdown of hatching eggs and chicks has not yet been determined).

**WTO:**

World Trade Organization's (WTO) 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11) did not produce a decision on any of the major topics of the Ministerial Conference agenda i.e. public stockholding for food security purposes (PSH), export restrictions and prohibitions, or trade distorting domestic support. Members have only managed to "deliver" a minimal set of issues composed of a moratorium and a work programme for e-commerce, a moratorium on TRIPS (trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights) non-violation and situation complaints. Consequently, countries like the U.S. will continue to provide significant support to agriculture through their domestic and export assistance programs. Several Members including the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group ACP, have, however, started brainstorming possible avenues with the aim to explore "fresh perspectives and new pathways" that may help move the WTO negotiations forward.

Meanwhile, Canada filed a complaint over U.S.'s "certain systemic trade remedies measures" and by doing so formally initiates a dispute with the World Trade Organization (WTO). The request for consultations, which was circulated to the full Membership on January 10, 2018, was in fact communicated to the U.S. and the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body on December 20, 2017. Canada claimed that the U.S. maintains "measures relating to anti-dumping or countervailing duty investigations, reviews or other proceedings, which are inconsistent with its WTO obligations."

The recent regular agriculture committee meetings featured several questions on Canada's milk classes and wine restriction policy. Australia, New Zealand and the US continue to question Canada's new milk class 7 created to price milk ingredients like protein concentrates, skim milk and whole milk powder, which they said go against WTO rules as it represents – along with the creation of class 6 milk (diafiltered or ultra-filtered milk) – "import substitution policies" that hinder the imports of milk products into Canada.

Australia also requested a WTO consultation with Canada on the latter's restrictions on sale of wine on January 16. Australia's complaint goes beyond separate requests initiated by the US last year, which was only targeting restrictions on the sale of wine in the province of British Columbia. The Australian complaints meanwhile target both federal and provincial sale of wine policies, including that of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

## Continuous Improvement

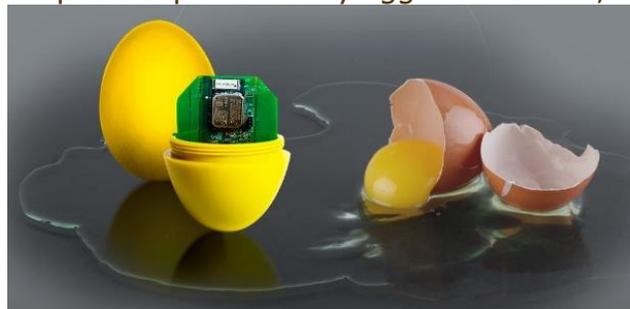
Continuous improvement initiatives continue to be a focus and priority for 2018. As presented to producers at the AGM in February, there is a need to obtain on-farm flock data from producers. Separate spreadsheets are being developed for each of the pullet/rearing phase and lay phase of a flock. The templates will have several data points that the board believes we can work toward obtaining from each flock. Initially, producers will be required to submit bird numbers on a weekly basis along with egg production numbers (settable and non-settable eggs). Producers are asked to review the data being requested to determine if their current recording methodology will suffice or if these new data sheets can be implemented into their daily routine. AHEP will be providing support to any

Data Collection Goals	
Pullet Phase	Laying Phase
Weekly mortality/culls	Weekly mortality/culls
Feed allocation	Feed allocation
Body weight	Body weight
Notes Re: vaccination etc	Eggs - Total
	Eggs- Settable
	Hours of light

producer who might like assistance with data recording and submission as well as a demonstration of how data can be graphed to assist with management decisions. Once collected, this data can also be useful in reviewing past flock performance. AHEP will use the data to identify areas in which further

support may be valuable to a producer's future flocks. More details will be provided at the Chick 'n Chat meetings in June.

A "Crackless Egg" has been ordered from MASITEK Instruments Inc. This device will provide real-time measure of the impacts experienced by eggs at the farm, during transport and at the hatchery. Using the tablet that comes with the system it will be possible to identify the location and severity of an impact. While one impact may not be significant, repeated small impacts can accumulate and result in damage to the egg shell integrity.



During the past several months Shoshannah Graff, a University of Alberta student, has been working on an independent study project to develop a standard practice booklet for performing on-farm fertility testing to help evaluate male mating activity. This booklet will be provided to all producers at a hands-on workshop to take place later in the year.

Mark your calendars! Dr. Jeanna Wilson, from the University of Georgia, will be in Alberta the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>. Jeanna has been working in the broiler breeder industry for over 30 years and is well known for her knowledge on male management. It is anticipated the Jeanna, together with representatives from Aviagen and potentially COBB, will attend sessions in two locations during her stay. The main focus of Jeanna's visit will be today's male. However, producers are encouraged to contact the board office if there are other specific topics they would like addressed.

## **CHEP Animal Care Program Training and Roll-Out**

Training for delivery agents and auditors for the CHEP Animal Care Program was held at the BC Hatching Egg Commission office in Abbotsford on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. Two members from the AHEP office attended, as well as our auditor. Aubrie, the animal care officer from CHEP, facilitated the training session. All attendees are now certified to implement and audit the new Animal Care Program. Aubrie is travelling to each province to introduce the Animal Care Program to producers over the next few months. She will be giving a presentation at both the Strathmore and Edmonton Chick n' Chat meetings in June. She is also hoping to visit some farms in Alberta while she is here to get a better idea of hatching egg facilities in each province. If you are interested in having Aubrie (and Jesse) tour your farm around June 19<sup>th</sup>, please contact Jesse at the board office.

## **Emergency Response Management Initiative**

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 a group simulation involving all the members of the Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (API-EMT), along with other feather board staff members and stakeholders took place in Red Deer. The simulation was designed to test the functionality of the updated Emergency Response Plan, which has been a major project for the four feather boards and the consulting group ERMIC for the past year.

The mock scenario was an outbreak of Avian Influenza on an Alberta farm which had multiple poultry commodities (broiler, table egg, turkey) and the subsequent spread. The API-EMT was split into the different roles defined by Incident Command Structure and used the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to deal with the incident. Three of the AHEP directors came to observe the mock simulation and see how an emergency might be dealt with.

The API-EMT and the feather board staff continue to work on finalizing certain aspects of the project, and maintaining it for the future to ensure the industry can respond quickly and efficiently to an emergency.

## **Geofencing and Trespasser: Technologies to Monitor Intruders**

Trespasser is another technology being developed by BeSeen BeSafe. This technology works together with BeSeen BeSafe to prevent intruders from coming onto your farm unnoticed. Trespasser is a device which monitors the perimeter of your facility and notifies you if anyone using a cellphone crosses your facility perimeter. Trespasser is currently in development but is expected to be ready within the next year. As it will work most efficiently with geofencing, it is recommended to have the BeSeen BeSafe app on your phone and be registered for geofencing.

If you have not yet downloaded the BeSeen BeSafe phone app, you can do so from the Apple or Google Play store:

Apple Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/be-seen-be-safe-ltd/id671036517?ls=1&mt=8>

Android/Google Play:



Be Seen Be Safe Ltd  
Be Seen Be Safe Ltd  
Free

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=beseenbesafe.ca.beseenbesafe>

We encourage all producers to register, as the other boards are encouraging their producers to do so as well during Alberta's two-year trial period with BeSeen BeSafe. Jesse may contact you to help you register or ensure that you do not have any questions about the program.

Geofencing is essentially an electronic visitor logbook and can be very useful in the event of an emergency. The BeSeen BeSafe app can send notifications to all registered personnel if there is a disease outbreak, which can help stop the spread by reducing contact between farms and increasing biosecurity protocols. However, this only works if the majority of the poultry industry and service providers are registered.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jesse at the board office. She may also be contacting producers to ensure that they are able to register.

### **Alberta Farm Animal Care Conference Highlights**

This year, Alberta Farm Animal Care celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their annual conference which was held in Olds, AB. The theme of the conference was reflecting on research and on-farm strategies that have worked in the past and using them as we move forward into a new age of animal care. The keynote speaker was Dr. Temple Grandin. She spoke about the advances that agriculture has made with regards to animal welfare over the past 25 years, but that these advances are not widely known and that industry should not be afraid to show what has been accomplished. Dr. Grandin discussed the idea that "big is fragile", in that while big, standardized farms or corporations may seem productive, they can be brought down by a tiny incident and affect so much around them. She said that we are lucky in Canada to have the diversity of family farms to keep agriculture strong. The conference also included presentations on beef, dairy, lamb, table eggs and swine. AHEP sponsored two students to attend.

### **Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference Highlights**

Celebrating five years in Calgary, this year's AWC West conference was a sell out. Women from all over western Canada gathered to learn, connect and celebrate agriculture in Canada. While the conference was packed with many inspiring speakers, the highlight of the conference was a fireside chat with the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and his wife, Frances MacAulay.

## **SM5 Government Relations Update**

Alberta SM5 is comprised of Alberta's supply managed commodities which includes: dairy, table egg, hatching egg, turkey and chicken producers. As a collective, our industries are known as the SM5. The SM5 works together on joint initiatives to ensure that our industries as a collective are consulted and asked to provide input into any decisions or discussions occurring that could potentially impact supply management. By working together, we are better able to leverage limited resources to advocate on behalf of the supply management system, and our respective industries.

ON March 13<sup>th</sup> SM5 co-hosted a reception style event for Alberta MLA's with the Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Honourable Oneil Carlier. The event was very well attended, with over 40 MLA's and staff, and Government of Alberta staff in attendance.



Alberta Milk Chair Tom Kootstra brought greetings from the SM5 and Minister Carlier followed, demonstrating incredible support for Alberta Supply Management. SM5 producers were in attendance, and many positive conversations were had throughout the evening with MLA's from all the political parties in Alberta.

Positive conversations with influencers, such as your local MLA are incredibly important for the future of the supply management system. The Board encourages all AHEP producers to contact their local MLA and garner these meetings. Please contact the Board office if you would like further information, or help in contacting your local MLA.

### **Proposed Legislation - Bill 7 – Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act**

On April 5, 2018 the Alberta Government announced proposed legislation which they hope will grow the Alberta food industry. The proposed Bill has several components to it. A new Local Food Council will be established, which will be tasked with identifying options to help address challenges affecting growth in the local food sector. One of the key deliverables in the proposed legislation would see the province adopt the Canadian Organic Standard for organic foods produced and marketed in Alberta, which would come into effect in 2019. You can find out more about the proposed legislation here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=55709E180F647-B3E6-1FC1-728389A0F743714F>

## **AI Increased Risk Reminder**

Included in this circular is a notice about the increased risk of Avian Influenza during the spring migratory period. Producers are encouraged to look over the notice and contact the Board office with any questions.

## **SE Swabbing – Josh Perryman**

I hope everyone is having a really nice start to 2018. It looks like good weather is just around the corner – I know for lots of you this means that you'll be able to be busy in the fields and get started on lots of the routine barn maintenance that wasn't possible over the winter.

I'm very pleased to say that 2018 seems to be continuing in the same vein as 2017. So far, 27 16-week flocks have been sampled, and all results have tested negative for *Salmonella enteritidis*! Looking back to when I first started working for AHEP, 4 years ago, there was always an apprehension waiting for results. It is nice to see, and be a part, of the positive changes that have helped to guide the industry into *Salmonella enteritidis* reduction. That being said, if a sample does test positive for *Salmonella enteritidis*, we at the office will provide as much support as possible.

As many of you know, I work part time at the University of Alberta Hospital, in Edmonton, and have hoped to go back to school to pursue medical radiologic technology. I have applied to the program and hope to start in September of this year. I have thought very long, and very hard, about my position at AHEP and have decided that it would be best for me to step away from my role. As June is fairly quiet, I will continue to swab up until the end of May and will do whatever I can to help ease the transition. I would like to thank everyone within the industry for the support and encouragement over the last few years. I have really enjoyed my time working for you all. From sharing coffee with you on farm and having lunch at Country Cousins, to my first time driving a tractor and the many conversations we have had – thank you so much. I know that I have made so many great memories over the years that I will carry with me throughout my life. Also, Greg, thanks for being so understanding about me driving all the way to your farm and forgetting the sample kits! You told me that one day I'll look back and laugh at it, and I'm happy to say I think I'm finally there. The people in this industry have been some of the greatest people I have met, and I am very sad to be leaving. I wish everyone all the best going forward, and I hope to keep in touch and to keep this door open for the future.

### **New AFAC Chair**

Cora Scheele has been elected as the new Chair of the AFAC Board. Cora has been a committed ambassador for animal welfare and has been a member of the AFAC board for the past five years. Congratulations Cora!

### **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 Programs  
jesse@ahep.ca

Josh Perryman, Poultry Risk Program  
josh@ahep.ca

### **Board of Directors**

**Chair:** Gary Van Klei  
Coaldale, AB  
[garyvanklei@gmail.com](mailto:garyvanklei@gmail.com)

**Vice-Chair:** Cora Scheele  
Linden, AB  
[corasch64@gmail.com](mailto:corasch64@gmail.com)

### **Directors**

Natasja van der Rijt  
Bowden, AB  
[vanderrijt@xplornet.com](mailto:vanderrijt@xplornet.com)

Jeff Notenbomer  
Monarch, AB  
[jeffnote@gmail.com](mailto:jeffnote@gmail.com)

Brian Wassink  
Ponoka, AB  
[brianwassink@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwassink@hotmail.com)