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# Special EFP- STMQRQ Program

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Program Description

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March 29, 2022

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## **Background:**

Traditionally, the processed eggs market has been supplied through the domestic surplus of table eggs with supplements being provided by the US. At this time, the Canadian table egg industry is currently facing a chronic shortage of both table egg and processor supply due to both increased consumption and the current AI crisis in the US.

In order to ensure that the breaker egg market continues to be supplied with the necessary eggs while the US recovers from AI, Egg Farmers of Canada has implemented a Special Temporary Market Requirement Quota (SMTRQ). While we are expecting the program to be approved and launched officially in May 2022, in the interim BCEMB is going to utilize its EFP quota, giving our province the ability to house up to 100,000 hens for additional production to go to the processing market. During this transition period, the allotment will be called the Special EFP-STMTRQ Program.

## **Objective:**

Based on a Rate of Lay of 26.54 dozens per hen, BCEMB aims to ship 3,000 boxes of 15 dozen eggs per week to Vanderpol's Eggs extending the lay for current flocks in production. This may be accomplished by either a producer choosing to decrease their planned downtime and maintain the hens in their current facility or by moving hens to an alternate facility.

BCEMB is subject to quarterly audits by EFC and must be able to keep track of the STMTRQ eggs by volume and weight. BCEMB must ensure that the eggs produced in these dedicated barns are shipped directly to the processor.

Once the STMTRQ Program is finalized by EFC, the Special EFP-STMTRQ Program hens will become STMTRQ Program hens.

## **Methods:**

On March 25, 2022, staff sent an email to producers to determine if there were any additional barns that could be used for this Special EFP-STMTRQ Program. There are approximately 10 producers that have whole barns available, with space for approximately 105,000 hens. Empty facilities must be in good condition and must be able to pass the SC-SC audit and Barn Fitness audit if required.

The producer receiving the birds will be responsible to coordinate the movement and assume all costs associated with movement and disposal. Producers considering to soft-molt their flocks must get Board approval prior to conducting the soft-molt, and it must also be conducted according to the attached EFC Guidelines.

## **Special EFP-STMTRQ Distribution**

Special EFP-STMTRQ will be distributed on a first barn available, first barn filled basis. This will provide the producer with the ability to place the additional production for a specific time period. This will ensure

that we provide the market with the eggs in the quickest manner possible and ensure that the processor is still receiving product while its required.

## Producer Payments

Vanderpol's has agreed to pay the BCEMB the calculated price average of the Urner-Barry and feed based prices for the relevant size and grade of eggs as posted by EFC for the EFP program. This price would be transferred to the producer, less any costs incurred by the Board. At this time we do not anticipate that there will be any additional costs incurred so we expect that there will not be any deductions. The recent historical pricing for the EFP product is as follows:

	Nest Run 24		
Week	Urner Barry	Feed Blend	Average
Week 12	\$1.08	\$0.79	\$0.935
Week 13	\$1.10	\$0.79	\$0.945
Week 14	\$1.54	\$0.79	\$1.165

Resulting in NR pricing which would have been calculated as follows in these weeks:

	Nest Run								
Week	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Week 12	0.615	0.615	0.615	0.685	0.740	0.775	0.810	0.900	0.935
Week 13	0.620	0.620	0.620	0.695	0.750	0.785	0.820	0.905	0.945
Week 14	0.765	0.765	0.765	0.850	0.920	0.965	1.005	1.120	1.165

As one can see the price is quite volatile and the risk of this price volatility rests fully on the producer that is participating in the program. Premiums on specialty product on a weekly basis is as follows:

EFP Premiums	CAGE-FREE	ORGANIC
	Price per doz	Price per doz
BC Large	0.450	1.250
Egg Size		
NR24	0.450	1.250
NR23	0.430	1.200
NR22	0.390	1.105
NR21	0.375	1.060
NR20	0.355	1.010
NR19	0.325	0.925
NR18	0.295	0.840
X-Large	0.485	1.345
Large	0.450	1.250
Medium	0.380	1.060
Small	0.290	0.800

Note: at this time there is no organic product required.

## **Administration:**

### **For the BCEMB**

BCEMB will track the STMRQ program information by keeping an excel workbook, updated on a weekly basis, of all Special EFP-STMRQ bird placements, counts, production, payments and fees.

### **For Producers**

The producer will be required to label Special EFP-STMRQ product and keep it separate from all other production.

### **For the Processor**

The processor will be required to report all Special EFP-STMRQ product received in the same format that the IP product is reported.

## **Agreement:**

With my signature below, I affirm that I have read and understand the above program description and I agree to comply with the program policies as required.

Farm Name:

Producer Signature:

Date:

## Non-feed Withdrawal Molting Guidelines

Guidelines for molting laying hens in Canada are as follows:

1. Only non-feed withdrawal molt methods will be permitted.
2. Hens should be provided with a feed source that is suitable for non-producing hens.
3. Water must be provided at all times.
4. The light period should be reduced to no fewer than 8 hours for the duration of the rest period, and returned to normal once hens are back on the layer diet.
5. During the molt period body weight loss should be sufficient so as not to compromise hen welfare in the subsequent laying period.
  - a. 20 - 30% body weight loss should occur within 7-10 days, with accompanying feather loss to be deemed successful
  - b. Total mortality during the molt period should not substantially exceed normal variations in flock mortality.
  - c. A basic principle is to feed a high protein, low energy diet to reach the preferred body weight
6. It will be important to gain input from feed suppliers and/or poultry specialists/nutritionists to ensure the diet will result in a successful molt, as each breed may have different requirements.
7. Egg producers in the US have been using non-feed withdrawal methods for almost a decade, so making contact with US colleagues would be recommended.
8. The following<sup>1</sup> are two options proven in scientific studies to be successful:
  - a. **Barley or alfalfa**
    - i. Feed barley or alfalfa diet for day 1 – 10, with 16 hr/day light
    - ii. Feed layer feed day 11 – end of cycle with 16 hr/day light
    - iii. Shown to be at 50% production by 30 days
    - iv. Shown to reach peak (70-74%) by 77 days
  - b. **Corn and Wheat Middlings split 50:50**
    - i. Feed corn/wheat diet for 28 days
    - ii. Feed layer diet after
    - iii. Specific lighting program was followed

<sup>1</sup> Full scientific studies available for review and by request. The information provided in this memo is paraphrased and summarized from the full studies. Each study is specific to the breeds used in the study, and may not be as effective in different breeds.