BC egg MARKETING BOARD

BC Egg

Small Lot Producer

Guidelines

Updated:	December 2022

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Section 1- Introductions

Introductions

Small Lot Program

The Small Lot Program is a permit program for unregistered producers/farmers who keep between 100 and 399 laying hens that produce organic eggs, heritage breed eggs, free-range eggs or free-run eggs. Section 3, Subsection (3) of Part II of the Consolidated Order defines the program as:

(3) A Producer who keeps or maintains not more than three-hundred and ninety-nine (399) and not less than one-hundred (100) Layers in aggregate, whether in a single facility, or in concert with another Person or Persons, or in facilities that are contiguous to, or a part of, each other, and who:

(a) is at least nineteen years of age;

(b) is not a holder of Layer Quota and whose Spouse is not a holder of Layer Quota;

(c) has applied annually for, and been issued, a written, non-transferrable "Unregistered Small Lot Producer Permit" expiring on the death of the Producer or on the cessation of the production of eggs for a period exceeding 36 weeks;

(d) produces organic eggs, heritage breed eggs, free range eggs or free run eggs, in accordance with the applicable requirements of a certification program established under the Agri-Food Choice and Quality Act or other provincially, nationally or internationally recognized standards accepted by the Board as a qualifying certification program;

(e) markets their ungraded eggs directly to the end consumer at the farm gate or farmers markets, or markets their eggs that have been graded by a Registered Shell Egg Station directly to the end consumer; and

(f) is compliant with all applicable provisions of the Egg Grading and Standards Regulation where ungraded eggs are direct-marketed at the farm gate or farmers markets;

If you have not done so already, we recommend that you apply/renew your permit yearly by completing the appropriate form and send it, along with the $250 fee, to the Operations Assistant at BC Egg (application form or renewal form).

BC Poultry Sector

The poultry sector in BC is supply managed under the *Natural Products (BC) Act* and is comprised of the BC Egg Marketing Board (table eggs), the BC Chicken Marketing Board (meat/broiler chickens), the BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (fertile eggs for broiler industry), and the BC Turkey Marketing Board (turkey meat). Farm sizes vary from large production units with quota to small backyard flocks kept for personal use.

Egg Production

Laying hens (layers) are chickens raised for table egg production and have a smaller body frame and weight than chickens grown for meat (broilers). Layers have been bred for maximum egg production rather than meat yield and can produce approximately 318 eggs per year, depending on the housing type.

Day old chicks are purchased from hatcheries that specialize in hatching egg-producing chickens. The majority of pullets (young hens) are grown locally, however some are brought in from neighbouring provinces and the US. Pullets are reared to 19 weeks of age by egg producers or pullet growers and then transferred to layer barns, as they are now ready to begin laying eggs. The egg production cycle lasts about one year.

There are multiple production systems for eggs, with BC being the leader in specialty egg production in Canada:

Caged	
Conventional	The previously standard cage system. As of July 1, 2016 no new construction, retro-fits, renovations or add-ons of conventional cages are allowed. Conventional systems are being phased out by no later than July 2036.
Enriched	The new cage system that provides amenities such as perches, nest boxes and scratch pads.
Specialty	
Free Run	A system where laying hens are allowed to roam free inside a facility. Free run birds are raised in an environmentally controlled barn, but are not raised in cages.
Free Range	A system where laying hens are allowed access to an enclosed pasture or range area as well as the freedoms of the free run system.
Organic	A system where laying hens are allowed access to an enclosed pasture or range area and which must meet the Canadian Organic Standards. Barns are accredited by a certification body.

BC Egg Marketing Board

The BC Egg Marketing Board (BCEMB, BC Egg) is a non-profit organization that oversees and manages the province's egg farming industry including the production, grading, packing, marketing and transportation of all regulated eggs in BC. BC Egg works with approximately 149 family owned and operated egg farms to bring fresh BC eggs to the table.

The BCEMB was established in 1967 at the request of many farmers in order to stabilize the volatile marketplace and increase confidence for the future of egg farming. The BCEMB is committed to supporting BC egg producers in supplying safe, nutritious and high quality eggs to BC consumers at prices that are fair to both parties while encouraging innovation in the production and marketing of eggs.

The Board of Directors is supported by the BC Egg Marketing Board staff. It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that policies and directives are carried out and that the Consolidated Order is being applied

consistently and fairly. Staff also administer programs such as the Start Clean-Stay Clean, Animal Care and BC Poultry Biosecurity programs.

Staff is available Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 4:00 to answer any questions producers may have and look after everything from promoting eggs as a healthy source of protein to administering the quota system and ensuring producers understand and comply with Board and on-farm programs.

Vision

Sustainable, wholesome BC eggs are British Columbians' go-to protein.

Sustainable: BC Eggs are produced in safe, ecologically responsible conditions, in an economically vibrant and transparent industry that supports regionalization, diversity, and affordability.
Wholesome: BC Eggs are a high quality, nutritious, locally grown, whole food, produced to the highest ethical standards.
Go-To: Eggs are an obvious daily dietary protein choice for British Columbians. They are versatile, easily prepared, convenient, and portable.

Mission

Maintain and enhance the successful, trusted, supply-managed egg industry, operating to meet the best interests of stakeholders throughout British Columbia.

We are stewards of an industry that is already celebrated for its successes and trusted by the public and industry stakeholders across the province.

We gratefully support the supply management system that delivers British Columbians world-class quality eggs at affordable prices.

We act diligently to pursue the interests of producers and consumers throughout the Province, ensuring a thriving, stable industry, with diversity (across gender, age, ethnicity and region), and food security (including equitable access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious BC eggs).

Guiding Principles

The following principles or values inspire us and guide our planning, our decision-making, and our daily work. At BC Egg, we aspire to show up with PPURE intentions.

People: We have faith in our people and take pride in our work, understanding that we contribute to a bigger picture.
Passion: We are committed and caring, and we do what we do because we love it, remembering not to take the sunrise on our farm for granted.
Understanding: We listen to our stakeholders and are open to new perspectives.
Resilience: We embrace change and persevere in a complex industry with significant odds, meeting our daily challenges with a positive attitude.
Encouragement: We actively advocate for change provincially and nationally, mentor new entrants, and embrace diversity.

BC Egg Board of Directors

The Board is charged with the stewardship of the BCEMB and its operations. The Board's principal "service" is to administer, under the supervision of the provincial board, regulations for the promotion, control, and regulation of the marketing of a regulated product in BC. The Board is vested with provincial and federal authority to impose and collect levies from its registered producers.

The Board of Directors is composed of four elected/appointed directors and an independent Chair appointed by the provincial government via an Order in Council. The directors must be registered producers and are elected for three-year terms.

The Chair is responsible for ensuring effective governance within BCEMB. The Chair also ensures that Board policies achieve industry growth and development through the creation of strategies and result-oriented, effective and efficient decision-making.

BCEMB has four committees to fulfill specific responsibilities:

- Audit & Finance Committee
- Production Management Committee (PMC)
- Egg Industry Advisory Committee (EIAC)
- Marketing and Communications Committee (MarComm)

BC Egg Management

The management team is focused on providing strategic guidance to BC egg farmers and determining the many new opportunities opening up in the marketplace.

Title	Direct Phone Number
Executive Director	(604) 854.4490
Manager, Operations & Logistics	(604) 854.4491
Manager, Finance	(604) 854.4497
Director of Marketing & Communications	(604) 854.4498
Executive Assistant	(604) 864.2603

Consolidated Order

The BC Egg Consolidated Order formally defines the mandatory and enforceable directions and policies to which all egg producers must comply and by which BC Egg operates and regulates the provincial egg industry. The Consolidated Order is backed by provincial and federal legislation governing the production, transportation, packing, storage, and marketing of all eggs in BC.

To view the most up to date version and any amending orders, visit the BC Egg website:
https://bcegg.com/our-story/consolidated-order/

Types of Egg Producers

There are three types of producers in BC:

Backyard Flock Producers: Farmers with 0-99 hens.
To become a Backyard Flock Producer, simply register through the Backyard Flock Program Form. Backyard Flock Producers do not require quota.

Small Lot Producers: Farmers with 100-399 hens.
To become a Small Lot Producer, simply register through the Small Lot Program. Small Lot Producers require a permit but do not require quota.

Registered Producers: Farmers with 400+ quota hens.
To become a registered producer, you must be issued quota from the BC Egg Marketing Board. There are three ways to obtain quota and become a Registered Producer:

Purchase through the Quota Exchange
A Quota Exchange is conducted quarterly and provides registered producers with a chance to sell some of their quota if they choose. Notice of a pending Quota Exchange is published on the BC Egg website (click here) at least 21 days in advance of the date on which the Quota Exchange is to be held. The process is held in accordance with Part VI of the Consolidated Order.

Purchase a Going Concern Sale
When a registered producer wants to sell their farm and quota, it is conducted through a Going Concern Sale. This process is completed privately between the seller and buyer and then the quota transfer is brought to the Board of Directors for conditional approval. Going Concern Sales can occur any time of the year and are not posted on our website.

New Producer Program
The New Producer Program (NPP) was established with the intent to provide BC residents who have an interest in egg production and agriculture but are from outside the regulated supply chain, an opportunity to contribute to the sustainability and renewal of the regulated egg sector in BC. The program was reviewed and amended with revisions implemented in June, 2021. Additional information on the current program is available on the BC Egg website (click here).

Visit from BC Egg

BC Egg's goal is to visit each Small Lot Producer yearly to provide program and standards information, conduct a Salmonella Enteritidis (Se) test, and complete an assessment. The results from the test and the final assessment are shared with you once the information is finalized and the test results received. A copy of the assessment can be found in the Appendix.

Section 2 - Standards

All egg farmers are committed to the well-being of their hens and are held to high Canadian operational and animal welfare standards. As a Small Lot Producer, you must meet the following operational standards for on farm programs:

- Operate in accordance with the Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets, Layers, and Spent Fowl by the National Farm Animal Care Counsel.
- Operate in accordance with the Biosecurity for Non-Supply Managed Poultry Program

Code of Practice

The Code of Practice for egg layers has been relied on in Canada for more than a decade. This Code, which utilizes the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) science-informed and consensus-based process, establishes firm guidelines to which pullet growers and egg farmers will be held accountable. In addition to advancing welfare requirements in key production areas such as barn environment, health and husbandry practices, transportation, and euthanasia, this Code mandates the phase out of conventional housing systems so that hens may have more freedom of movement and the ability to perform a variety of natural behaviours.

The Code serves as our national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended practices. It has also been included in the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* as the expected standard of care in BC.

To view a copy of the Code of Practice, click here. More information is included in Section 2 - Flock Management.

BC Poultry Biosecurity Program

Biosecurity planning and implementation reduces the risk of infectious disease transfer within and among poultry flocks. Enhancing a farm's biosecurity protects both the producer's economic interest and that of the poultry industry. Furthermore, it reduces the risk to public health that may result from certain poultry diseases.

- Biosecurity Guide for Non-Supply Managed Poultry
- Food Safety and Biosecurity Self-Assessment Guide

Microbiological Sampling

Regulated Canadian egg farmers follow important protocols and standards to ensure their eggs are produced according to some of the highest standards in the world. They take part in programs that have successfully made diseases, such as Salmonella Enteritidis (Se), a very rare occurrence on Canadian egg farms. Field staff also regularly test barns throughout the year to ensure that the hens' environment is free from Salmonella contamination. When food borne illness does occur, it is often caused by poor food handling practices. Consumers can reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses by taking special care when storing and preparing eggs.

During BC Egg's yearly visit to Small Lot Producers, an Se test will be completed. The swabs are sent to the Province of BC's Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford for testing and results will be provided to the farmer once received.

Premises Identification (Premises ID)

Premises identification links livestock and poultry to their geographic locations for planning and managing emergencies that threaten animal or public health. Premises identification is a unique alpha-numeric identifier number that is assigned to commercial farms in BC. A unique sub-premises identification is assigned to each individual airspace, which may be a barn or each of two floors within a barn. The numbers are regulated and managed by the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. In British Columbia premises identification numbers start with either BC33 or BC44 and are followed by 5 randomly generated alpha-numeric characters. For example, BC4437GX9. Premise IDs are the bright orange signs posted at the entry to each farm or barn.

Premises Identification:

- allows for rapid notification of livestock and poultry stakeholders
- helps prepare for animal health, natural disaster and food safety emergencies (e.g. livestock disease)
- facilitates rapid evacuation of animals in a natural disaster emergency (e.g. flood, fire)
- helps track animals in an emergency
- reduces the impact of an emergency
- helps maintain or provide for greater market access

A premises is considered to be identified when the following information is complete, accurate, and current:

- Legal land description
- Geo-coordinates
- Emergency contact information
- Premises type (e.g. farm, community pasture, abattoir etc.)
- Animal type (e.g. list of all animal types on the premises)
- Maximum animal capacity (e.g. maximum number of birds housed on premises)

Start Clean-Stay Clean

The Start Clean – Stay Clean™ (SC-SC) program is based on the latest research, developed by leading experts, and is recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The program is maintained by Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) and is a requirement for all registered producers (not Small Lot Producers). The program ensures egg farmers monitor critical control points, follow best management practices, and keep extensive records related to barn temperate, air quality, cleanliness, egg collection, egg storage, and Salmonella Enteritidis testing. Under the Start Clean-Stay Clean program, regulated egg farms are inspected by provincial and national field inspectors. Reports are provided to farm owners and the appropriate provincial egg boards. In the event problems are found, inspectors follow up to ensure they are corrected.

Animal Care Program

As part of the Animal Care Program (ACP), trained field inspectors visit the farm to ensure that hens have a comfortable environment, a well-balanced and nutritious diet, fresh water and clean surroundings. This program includes not only annual inspections of the barn and surrounding area, but is also audited by a third party every three years to ensure standards set under the ACP are being met and that the animals are well treated and good records are being kept. The program is maintained by Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) and is a requirement for all registered producers (not Small Lot Producers).

Specialty Egg Production Program

In 2016, BC specialty egg producers and BC Egg started the process to develop the BC-specific specialty egg production standards. The program ensures that all free range producers within the province of BC adhere to the same animal care standards. The new standards were developed using the drafted revised code of practice as a starting point. The Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) Animal Care Program, EFC Start Clean-Stay Clean Program, and the BC Poultry Biosecurity Program were utilized as much as possible in order to reduce duplication between the programs. The program is maintained by BC Egg and is a requirement for all registered specialty producers (not Small Lot Producers).

To view the Specialty Egg Production Manual, click here.

Section 2 – Flock Management

Care and Handling

Code of Practice

The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens (click here to view) outlines the standards that all egg producers must follow by law, no matter how many hens you have.

The Code of Practice is the result of a rigorous Code development process, taking into account the best science available for each species, compiled through an independent peer-reviewed process, along with stakeholder input. The Code development process also takes into account the practical requirements for each species necessary to promote consistent application across Canada and ensure uptake by stakeholders resulting in beneficial animal outcomes. Given its broad use by numerous parties in Canada today, it is important for all to understand how the Code is intended to be interpreted.

Requirements - These refer to either a regulatory requirement or an industry imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices and are fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. Requirements represent a consensus position that these measures, at minimum, are to be implemented by all persons responsible for farm animal care. When included as part of an assessment program, those who fail to implement requirements may be compelled by industry associations to undertake corrective measures or risk a loss of market options. Requirements also may be enforceable under federal and provincial regulation.

Recommended Practices - Code recommended practices may complement a Code's requirements, promote producer education, and can encourage adoption of practices for continual improvement in animal welfare outcomes. Recommended practices are those that are generally expected to enhance animal welfare outcomes, but failure to implement them does not imply that acceptable standards of animal care are not met.

Flock Removals

Small Lot Producers are responsible for their own flock removals. Section 7 of the Code of Practice outlines approved methods that minimize or eliminate pain and distress (click here to view).

Other Helpful Resources

The Biosecurity Guide for Non-Supply Managed Poultry
The Small Flock Poultry Health Manual

Reportable Diseases

Reportable diseases are diseases that are foreign to Canada and are either immediately notifiable or annually notifiable to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The complete list of these diseases can be found here.

Managing Pests

Control of Rats and Mice on Poultry Farms

Source: BC Ministry of Agriculture

Economic damage from rats and mice

A few rats and mice can very quickly multiply into several hundred in a few months. Rats produce six to seven litters per year, have eight to 10 young per litter, and reach sexual maturity in 2.5 to 4 months. The gestation period is 21 to 23 days. Mice reach sexual maturity at six weeks of age, have a gestation period of 16 to 18 days and bear five to eight young per litter.

Rats and mice cause major economic damage to poultry operations. Losses include damage to wiring that may result in fires, malfunctioning equipment and alarms, and damage to buildings and doors. A rat eats 10-20 kilograms of feed a year, while a pair of mice eat two kilograms. Rodent control is particularly important when feed prices are high. Rats and mice spread many diseases including dysentery, ratbite fever, Leptospirosis, Salmonellosis, Hantavirus, Mareks Disease, and Pasteurella.

Types of rodents on farms

The Norway rat is a large, aggressive, burrowing rat found around dumps, sewers and buildings, close to food and water. The rat has a travelling range of approximately 30 to 50 metres.

The roof rat is a smaller, agile climber, who lives in the upper floors of buildings, but sometimes in sewers. It also has a travelling range of around 30 metres.

The house mouse is found in buildings, nesting in walls, cabinets and furniture. It has a travelling range of three to 10 metres.

Evaluating the rodent population on a farm

There are several indicators of a rodent population on a farm:

a) **Seeing**: Rodents are nocturnal, their absence from view is not indicative that a farm is free of them.
b) **Sound**: By standing quietly in the barn you may hear gnawing, scratching or running in the walls.
c) **Droppings**: This is one of the best indicators of rodent populations. The number of rodents can be determined by the amount of fresh droppings. The greatest quantity of droppings will appear on runways, near harborage sites, in secluded corners and near food supplies. Norway rat droppings are 19 mm long and 6 mm in diameter. Roof rat droppings are smaller and more regular in form. Mouse droppings are generally 3 mm in diameter. Fresh droppings are black and moist; old droppings, dry, fragile and grey. Old droppings are not indicative of present infestations. A rat produces in excess of four droppings per day.

d) **Runways, tracks and rub marks**: Rats and mice use the same path over and over. They develop paths 5-8 cm wide in soil areas. In dusty areas, tracks and a wavy line resulting from a dragged tail can sometimes be seen. The age of a rat or mouse run gives you more important information. A

fresh run over earth will generally be hard packed and free of dirt and litter. Heavy use may give it a shiny appearance. Cobwebs across a path indicate the run is no longer in use. Baby powder up to 3 mm deep placed on a suspected path will allow you to determine if the path is in active use.

Tracks can be seen around mud puddles and by shining a flashlight along a dusty floor in seldom used rooms. Rat tracks are 1.9 cm to 4 cm long. The front imprint is four-toed while the back imprint is five-toed.

Rats and mice also leave rub marks on objects or entrances they pass regularly. Rub marks are often found around gnawed holes, along pipes and beams, on the edges of stairs and along walls. Rub marks made by rats passing under floor joists along a beam indicate the presence of roof rats. Norway rat runs are more often near the floor. House mouse runs may be anywhere. Search behind vertical pipes near walls for evidence of rub marks. Small vertical pipes and columns are a favorite means by which rats and mice change floors. Fresh rub marks are indicative of present infestation and are soft when scratched. Old marks are brittle and flake off and may not be indicative of the presence of rodents.

e) **Gnawing**: Recent gnawings through wood appear light colored and small chewed pieces or cuttings may be observed in the vicinity. As the opening ages, the edges get smoother as the rodents remove the sharp edges which offend them as they pass by.
f) **Burrows**: Norway rats live in burrows in the ground around buildings, embankments, and under heavy brush and plant growth. Rat burrows are around 7.5 cm in diameter. Dirt pushed out in a fan shape indicates recent use. Burrows are shallow and complex and often have several entrances. Mice usually live in buildings but will burrow in fields. Their burrows are smaller with 3.5 cm entrance holes.
g) **Nests**: Rat and mice nests are often found concealed in piles of debris or stored material, between double walls, under floors, or in hollow trees. The roof rat will build a ball shaped nest in a tree or dense bush. Unless young are present or the rats are seen coming and going, nests generally are a poor method of determining current infestations.
h) **Feeding locations**: Rats will drag food scraps to the entrance of the burrows and other locations where they feed. Gnawed bones, food wrappers, and other debris will be evident at these locations.

Tips for rodent prevention

- Construct concrete floors to restrict rodent access.
- Construct barns to seal out rodents from easy access.
- Keep home and farm yards free of debris, long grass, rotting food scraps and other materials that create conditions which encourage rodents. Clean up bird feeder waste, secure pet food and other food materials, and manage compost in properly built boxes for ongoing control.
- Clean up exposed or spilled feed immediately. Install rodent baits and traps on all poultry farms and maintain them in operational condition. Rodent baits are particularly effective in reducing rodent populations when the feed is removed from the barn after each flock.
- Keep on-farm feed mill areas clean of feed and feed input materials.

The Factsheet can be found here.

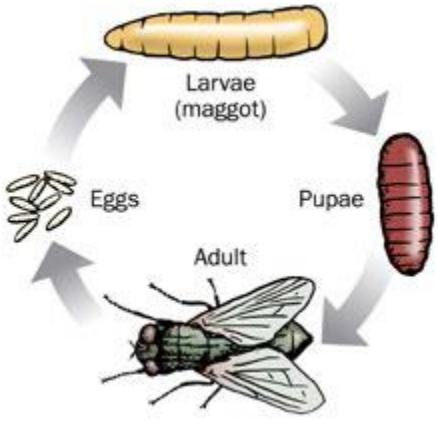
Managing Flies

Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Controlling fly population is important in maintaining a healthy poultry barn environment. Large numbers of flies can negatively impact poultry farms operations including:

- some loss of poultry production
- increased biosecurity risk
- uncomfortable work environment
- increased time and cost for fly control
- damage to equipment
- extra cleaning costs between flocks, to remove fly excrement from equipment and building surfaces

Flies can sometimes act as vectors of food-borne diseases such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli* bacteria, as they are able to transfer pathogens from one location to another when they land to feed, rest or defecate. Flies are known carriers of avian influenza (AI). Flies have a maximum flight radius of over 20 kms. Any wild bird and/or the bird's droppings or bodily fluids are attractive for flies, leading to flies becoming carriers of AI. Flies are also attracted to poultry farms due to the smells that indicate food and breeding opportunities.



Unfortunately, the presence of large numbers of flies in an area creates a strain on neighbour and community relations. For example, nearby homeowners may complain that excessive flies are a nuisance and are keeping them from using their decks or hosting family events, etc. Rural retail and food service businesses have received complaints from customers about the high number of flies at their businesses. Although the impact is difficult to measure, this situation represents a problem that may take years to resolve.

It is important to begin fly control on the farm early in the production cycle to prevent the environment becoming conducive for fly breeding. Take the time to locate areas where flies breed and eliminate the source or make the conditions less than ideal for breeding. *Prevention is key.* The longer adult flies are kept out of the barn, the less time they have to lay eggs and produce the next generations.

There is no one specific solution to fly control. It takes an integrated, site-specific program for every farm or even for every barn. Barn management, mechanical control, biological control and chemical control can be used in combination or alone. Although each method may only slightly reduce fly numbers, the cumulative impact of multiple methods will have an overall beneficial result on reducing flies in the barn.

Tips for fly prevention

- Remove moisture sources around buildings that contribute to fly breeding problems, such as poor drainage, high water tables around barn foundations, and leaking roof drainage systems. Slope grades away from the foundation walls to avoid standing water during and after heavy rains. Install roof gutters and down pipes to prevent standing water from collecting around or seeping into buildings and manure storages.
- Manage older buildings with care to avoid fly breeding problems. This is particularly important where high rainfall, clay soils, and poor drainage conditions are prevalent, and in situations

where barns may have been poorly designed with inadequate ventilation to control moisture content in the interior air space and in the manure.
- Monitor waterers daily for leakage and repair or replace leaky waterers immediately.
- Remove wet litter in deep pit cage layer operations or apply hydrated lime biweekly, and mixed with drying amendments to wet spots in the manure before they become areas for intense fly breeding. In free-run barns any wet caked litter around waterers should be removed on a regular basis.
- Use integrated pest management programs (IPM) to keep fly populations as low as possible. Pesticide use and the implementation of parasitoid programs are often essential for adequate fly control. Monitor fly populations weekly to anticipate outbreaks and to incorporate pre-emptive action.

For a factsheet, click here.

Agricultural Structures and Mechanization

The BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has provided many helpful guides to assist with farming operations, which can be found on their website here.

Mortality

The BC Government includes information on agricultural waste management (click here) and how to properly dispose of routine mortality (click here). Canadian Poultry Consultants also offer a Poultry Euthanasia Training and more information can be found here.

Additional resources include Poultry Mortality Composting (click here) and Backyard Food Waste Digester Factsheet (click here).

Records Management

Record management is key to maintaining a successful and healthy flock. BC Egg recommends a set of SOPs and logs based on your operation that clearly outlines the steps you take and recordings of key details.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

SOPs are the step-by-step activities conducted in and around the barns on a regular basis. If you go on vacation, these documents will explain to others how to take care of the flock. SOPs must include the requirements in the Code of Practice and can include any additional recommendations in the Code or other documents that you think important for your operation. We recommend having an SOP for the following items:

- Self-Quarantine Procedures
- Egg Gathering Procedures
- Egg Cool-Storage Provisions
- Recall Procedures

- Farm Access Policies
- Driveway Maintenance / CAZ Housekeeping
- Barn Entry / Exit Procedures
- Barn Cleaning / Disinfecting Procedures
- Pest Control Provisions
- Bird Replacement Policies
- Mortality Disposal
- Manure Management

Logs

Logs are the records of what actually happens on your farm with regards to biosecurity and food safety related issues or standards. Your logs must include any requirements from the Code and can include recommendations from the Code or other documents you think important for your operation. We recommend having a detailed log for the following items:

- Visitor Log
- Egg Collection Log
- Temperature of Egg Storage
- Feed / Water Log
- Pest Control
- Bird Movement
- Flock Health
- Mortality Log
- Mortality and Manure Removal
- Barn Cleaning
- Annual Events

Section 4 – Egg Sales

The Shell Egg Grading Regulation provides the legal rules and regulations surrounding the sale of graded and ungraded eggs. The document can be found here.

An ungraded egg is any egg that has not been inspected and graded at a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)-registered grading station. This includes eggs sold at farm gate or at farmer's markets. Producers that wish to sell ungraded eggs have two options. Both options have the producer selling eggs directly to end users (the people who will actually be eating the eggs). The first option is through farm gate sales at producers' premises. The second option is to sell eggs at a farmer's market.

It is illegal to sell ungraded eggs to anyone that is not the end user of the eggs, including restaurants, stores, food banks or even donating them to a community dinner.

If a producer chooses to sell ungraded eggs to end users through farm gate sales, the requirements are as follows:

1. The eggs must be produced on the producer's own farm
2. The eggs must be only for the consumer's own household consumption
3. The eggs must be clean, have no visible cracks, and not be leaking
4. The eggs must be maintained at or below 4 degrees Celsius until they leave the producer's possession
5. The eggs are packed in clean cartons that are marked as "Ungraded" in letters at least two centimetres high.

Appendix III in the following document provides guidelines for the sale of eggs at farmer's markets:

- Guideline for the Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets

The Government has also created a very helpful Egg Handling chart as an easy reference (click here).

Selling to Grading Stations

A Small Lot Producer may not sell eggs to a registered grading station. They may have the grading station custom grade their eggs but the eggs must be marketed by the Small Lot Producers. Alternatively, the Small Lot Producers could construct a grading station and have it registered with CFIA and grade their own eggs.

Section 5 - Contacts

BC Egg Marketing Board

#250 - 32160 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W5
E-mail: bcemb@bcegg.com
Tel: (604) 556-3348
Fax: (604) 556-3410
Website: http://www.bcegg.com

BC Agriculture Council

2650 Progressive Way Unit 1
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6H9
Tel: (604) 854-4454
Toll-free: (866) 522-3447
Fax: (604) 854-4485
E-mail: bcac@bcac.bc.ca
Website: https://www.bcac.bc.ca/

BC Poultry Association

Steve Heppell, President
Christine Koch, Manager
Tel: (604) 866-7600
E-mail: koch.c@telus.net

Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia

747 Fort St
Victoria, BC V8W 3R9
Tel: (250) 940-6150
General inquiries about funding: funding@iafbc.ca
All other inquiries: info@iafbc.ca
Website: http://www.iafbc.ca

BC Ministry of Agriculture

Mailing address: PO BOX 9120 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
To contact the Minister of Agriculture:
PO BOX 9043 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2
Telephone: 250 387-1023
Fax: 250 387-1522
E-mail: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

To contact the Provincial Vet Lab:
BC Ministry of Agriculture

1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford, B.C. V3G 2M3
Phone: 604-556-3003
Toll free: 1-800-661-9903
Fax: 604-556-3010
E-mail: PAHB@gov.bc.ca
Website: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-health

BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB)

Mailing address: PO Box 9129 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9B5
Location: 780 Blanshard St, Victoria BC V8W 2H1
Kirsten Pedersen, Executive Direcotor
E-mail: Kirsten.Pedersen@gov.bc.ca
Telephone: (250) 356-8945
Fax: (250) 356-5131
Email: firb@gov.bc.ca
Website: http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/

Chick Hatcheries

Coastline Chicks
30230 Huntingdon Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 2K6
Tel: (604) 852-6090

Hy-Line North America
9097 Upper Prarie Road, Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4
Tel: (604) 556-6728

Pacific Pride Chicks
32870 King Road, RR#5, Abbotsford, BC V2T4X3
Tel: (604) 850-2913

Feed Companies

Bradner Farms Feeds
28670 58 Ave, Abbotsford, BC V4X 2E8
Phone: (604) 856-1227

Canadian Organic Feeds
10665 Standeven Rd, Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4
Tel: (604) 794-3701

Clearbrook Grain & Milling
2425 Towline Road, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6L6
Tel: (604) 850-1108

Hi-Pro Feeds
46255 Chilliwack Central Rd, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1J7
Tel: (604) 702-4500

Otter Co-Op
3600 248th Street, Aldergrove, BC V4W 2V1
Tel: (604) 855-2459

Paragon Feeds Corp
480 Ross Rd, Abbotsford, BC V4X 2M5
Tel: (604) 856-2192

Ritchie-Smith Feeds
33777 Enterprise Ave, Abbotsford, BC V2S 7T9
Tel: (604) 859-7128

Rossdown Feeds
4184 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2E7
Tel: (604) 856-5177

Sure Crop Feeds
6863 Vernon-Sicamous Hwy, Grindrod, BC V0E 1Y0
Tel: (250) 838-6855

Viterra
46255 Chilliwack Central Toad, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1J7
Tel: (604) 702-4500

Top Shelf Feeds
2800 Roberts Road, Duncan, BC V9L 6W3
Tel: (250) 746-5101

Equipment Suppliers

AgPro West Supply Ltd.
34282 Manufacturers Way, Abbotsford, BC V2S 7M1
Tel: (604) 746-5376

B&B Cleanout
3673 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1T1
Tel: (604) 857-5940

Edge Wholesale Direct Ltd
26129 31b Ave, Aldergrove, BC V4W 2Z
Tel: (604) 857-2436

Enviro Poultry Farm Sprayers
PO Box 1449, Aldergrove, BC V4W 2V1
Tel: (604) 308-8388

Jonkman Equipment
28355 Fraser Hwy, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1K9
Tel: (604) 857-2000

P.J's Powerwashing Ltd.
PO Box 405, Duncan, BC V9L 3X5
Tel: (250) 748-5535

Paradigm Maintenance & Farm Services
1839 Dahl Crescent, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4B3
Tel: (604) 866-0203

Precision Farm Supplies Ltd
5555 Interprovincial Hwy, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2P5
Tel: (778) 809-4858

Ridge Valley Cleanout
30974 Burgess Rd, Abbotsford, BC V4X 2A6
Tel: (604) 864-7644

Triple G Cleanout
PO Box 44, Abbotsford, BC V4X 2P7
Tel: (604) 856-7913

United Agri-Systems
2365 W Railway St, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2E3
Tel: (604) 859-4240

Valley Farm Sprayers
24725 Robertson Crescent, Langley City, BC V2Z 2L8
Tel: (604) 856-3922

Valley Pressure Washing
33292 Allen Avenue, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2L4
Tel: (778) 241-6042

Bedding Suppliers

Alray Shavings
5904 Interprovincial Hwy, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2P8
Tel: (604) 823-6296

Denbow

40874 Yale Road, Chilliwack, BC V2R 4J2
Tel: (604) 823-6647

Ground Cover
1702 Foy Street, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6B1
Tel: (604) 850-0220

Healey Hay & Strawdust Supplies
4304 Dixon Rd, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2H3
Tel: (604) 864-3922

Macnutt Enterprises
1820 Schoolhouse Road, Nanaimo, BC V9X 1T4
Tel: (250) 714-1112

Reimer's Farm Service
105 BC-97B, Enderby, BC V0E 1V3
Tel: (250) 838-0111

Triple Five Quality Wood Inc.
12716 King George Blvd, Surrey, BC V3V 3K5
Tel: (778) 867-2275

Valley Pulp & Sawdust Carriers
4491 Gladwin Rd, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1W6
Tel: (604) 853-1075

Veterinarians

Ambrose Poultry Consulting
Tel: (604) 302-1352

BC Ministry of Agriculture Animal Health Center
Tel: (604) 556-3003

Canadian Poultry Conultants
Tel: (604) 854-6600

Water Sampling

Canadian Poultry Consultants
30325 Canary Court, Abbotsford, BC V4X 2N4
Tel: (604) 854-6600

Exova
19575 55 A Ave #104, Surrey, BC V3S 8P8
Tel: (604) 514-3322

MB Labs Ltd.
2062 Henry Ave W, Sidney, BC V8L 5Y1
Tel: (250) 656-1334

North Island Labs
2755 Moray Avenue, Courtenay, BC V9N 8M9
Tel: (250) 338-7786

Terralink
464 Riverside Rd, Abbotsford, BC V2S 7M1
Tel: (604) 864-9044

Appendixes

BC Egg Visit Checklist

BC egg MARKETING BOARD

ON-FARM BIOSECURITY AUDIT CHECKLIST

Farm Name: **Number:** **Auditor Name:** **Audit Date:**

Legend: A = Acceptable, U = Unacceptable, N/A = Not Applicable, NI = Needs Improvement **Number of Birds: 150**

#	Standard (Bold=Mandatory)	A	U	N/A	NI	Auditor's Comments	Criteria
1. Egg Handling, Cooling, and Pest Control							
1a	**Are the collected eggs maintained at or below 4 degrees Celsius and is the egg storage facility clean and of sufficient size?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Ask to see the thermometer, it should hold 1 week of production.
1b	**How often are the eggs collected?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Minimum once per day - more is better.
1c	**Are the eggs washed?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Must have grading licence or only does on-farm direct to end-consumer sales.
1d	**There is no evidence of a persistent pest problem.**	☐	☐	☐	☐		There should be no evidence of birds, insects, or rodents. Are there bait stations (check for bait in a few) or other control measures visible? Are there methods for controlling flies (zapper, strips, spray, or biocontrols)? There are no areas that provide food or shelter for pests in the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ). Does the owner/operator, employee,

							or outside company assure the area is free of pests?
2. Feed and Water, Housing, and Mortality Management							
2a	**Is the water and feed clean, and in sufficient numbers provided?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Water: 1 bell/100 hens, or 1 nipple/12 birds, or 0.5" (1.3 cm) of trough/bird. Feeder: 2.8" (7 cm) of trough/bird.
2b	**Has there been a bacteriological water test done?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Mandatory if on well water. Must be within the last year.
2c	**Is the feed storage adequate?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Is the area dry, clean, and rodent free? First in, first out system?
2d	**Is there sufficient space per bird available?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Nest Space: 12.9 sq in (83.2cm2)/ bird In systems that are a combination of wire, slats and litter (including dust bathing sites) one of the following must be provided: - A minimum space allowance of 1.2sq sq ft / 172.8 sq in (1,115cm²) per bird *if* perch space of at least 3 in (7.6 cm) but less the 5.9 in (15 cm) per hen is provided. - A minimum space allowance of 1.0 sq ft/ 144 sq in (929cm²) per bird if a minimum of 5.9 in (15 cm) of perch space per hen is provided.

2e	**Is there an acceptable dead stock storage facility and removal protocol in place?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Area surrounding the facility must be kept clean and free of organic debris, and protected from predators and pests; in in accordance to industry standards and government regulations. Include mortality due to heat stress, disease, etc.
3. Quarantine, Bird Replacements, and Cleaning							
3a	**Are you able to clean and disinfect vehicles, people, & equipment if needed?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Farm entrance must have running water and disinfection sprayer and barrier. Assures traffic (vehicles, people, equipment) can be sufficiently controlled in case of disease outbreak.
3b	**Does the barn have a clean, adequate space for an "outside" and "inside" area?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		The CAZ space must be big enough ensure cross-contamination does not occur between the "outside" and "inside". A bench demarcation is more effective than a painted line.
3c	**Does each barn have a change of footwear, outerwear, and handwashing or sanitizing?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Change of boots, coveralls, and handwashing or sanitizing are to be considered a minimum standard.
3d	**How are birds or flocks replaced?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Source of flock? "All in-all out"? Do the health records come with replacement birds? Are additional birds quarantined?
3e	**Are the bird raising areas reasonably clean and tidy?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		The space must be kept orderly. Large accumulations or organic material in a given area must be removed to

							reduce the risk of disease transmission.
4. Disease Prevention							
4a	**Are disease prevention measures followed?**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Ask for knowledge of notifiable diseases, and vet contact, BCMAL, CFIA, etc. Are health related events, management adjustments, and lab submissions and results recorded?
5. Written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)							
5a	**#1 Self Quarantine Procedures**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Where do transport companies wash vehicles? Is pressurized water and disinfectant available
5b	**#2 Egg Gathering Procedures**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5c	**#3 Egg Cool-Storage Provisions**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5d	**#4 Recall Procedures**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5e	**#5 Farm Access Policies**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5f	**#6 Driveway Maintenance / CAZ Housekeeping**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5g	**#7 Barn Entry / Exit Proceedures**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5h	**#8 Barn Cleaning / Disinfecting Procedures**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5i	**#9 Pest Control Provisions**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5j	**#10 Bird Replacement Policies**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Sourcing and introduction; prevention of stress and potential for disease transmission
5k	**#11 Mortality Disposal**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5l	**#12 Manure Management**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6. Written Logs - On-Farm Food Safety and Biosecurity							
6a	**#1 Visitor Log**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6b	**#2 Egg Collection Log**	☐	☐	☐	☐		How many eggs collected? How many not usable, any egg shell problems?

6c	**#3 Tempurature of Egg Storage**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6d	**#4 Feed / Water Log**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6e	**#5 Pest Control**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6f	**#6 Bird Movement**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Movement on or off farm, location to/from, who transported the birds?
6g	**#7 Flock Health**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6h	**#8 Mortality Log**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6i	**#9 Mortality and Manure Removal**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6j	**#10 Barn Cleaning**	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6k	**#11 Annual Events**	☐	☐	☐	☐		Ex. Water test, biosecurity training, update of SOPs