



THE FARMERS' TIMES

EIGHTH EDITION—ISSUE VIII

CANADA'S NATIONAL FARMERS' WEEKLY

MAY 2023

INSIGHT - INDUSTRY FACTS



More than **4,500** poultry and egg farmers provide access to fresh, local, high-quality food for Canadians.

Canada's poultry and egg sectors:



SUPPORT
144,016
JOBS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY



CONTRIBUTE
\$2.7B
IN TAXES



DELIVER
\$11.1B
TO CANADA'S GDP

Message from the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Sustainable farms, sustainable future

On a global scale, Canada is recognized as a leader in sustainable agriculture. This recognition should be attributed to our 200,000 farm families across the country who take great care of their land and animals.

It is only fitting that this year's edition of The Farmers' Times highlights the tremendous advances in sustainability on our poultry and egg farms.

Over the past 50 years, Canadian egg, chicken and turkey farmers have reduced their environmental footprint by up to 50 per cent—while boosting their production. And they are not stopping there, as the entire agricultural value chain will play a key role in helping Canada achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

One of the factors that contributes to environmental, economic and social sustainability on Canadian poultry and egg farms is supply management.

Our government remains committed to supporting supply management, which was introduced over 50 years ago to help ensure the vitality of our rural communities. To mitigate the effects of free trade agreements on these sectors, we have committed more than \$800 million in federal funding over the coming decade to support on-farm investments to boost efficiency, sustainability and competitiveness. Already, this funding is helping producers to invest in new housing, lighting and ventilation systems to improve animal welfare and save energy.

Despite avian influenza and other significant challenges they have faced over the past three years, Canada's poultry and egg producers continue to meet growing demand for their quality products, while safeguarding our environment. Our Government will continue to support a sustainable future for this pillar of our food security, our economy and our rural communities.



The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.



How Chicken Farmers of Canada is investing in the next generation of farmers



Chair of Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia and Young Farmers Program graduate, Amy VanderHeide, on her family's farm in Nova Scotia.

Investing in the next generation is essential to the resiliency of any sector, including Canadian chicken farming. Established in 2019, Chicken Farmers of Canada's Young Farmers Program aims to secure the sector's longevity by bringing together future industry leaders from across the country to facilitate knowledge sharing and empower the next generation of Canadian chicken farmers.

Each year, Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) selects five young farmers from across the country to participate in the program. Over 18 months, these young farmers learn about the sector's governance, succession planning and personal branding, while also working with and meeting key agriculture and government stakeholders.

"We want to ensure the sustainability of the sector and for CFC that means investing in the next generation of leaders," says Tim Klompmaker, Chair of Chicken Farmers of Canada. "By providing young farmers with the tools and resources they need to thrive in our sector, we're also ensuring Canadians have access to trusted, preferred and sustainable chicken for years to come."

One recent graduate of the CFC Young Farmers Program is Amy VanderHeide, a chicken farmer from Nova Scotia. Amy married into a chicken farming family in 2006 and began working on the farm full-time in 2008. Since then, she has been involved with many agricultural organizations, including Atlantic Poultry Inc. and Do More Ag Foundation—a charity focused on mental health in agriculture. Since graduating from the Young Farmers Program, Amy sits on the Board of Directors of Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia and has most recently been elected Chair. Amy has also co-founded the Maritime Ag Women's Network, which connects women in agriculture throughout Atlantic Canada.

Alongside Amy's career in farming, the Young Farmers Program has provided Amy with the necessary tools to succeed in the chicken sector.

"The program has been a stepping stone for me to become more involved in the industry and has given me the surety in myself to accept a position with my provincial chicken marketing board," says Amy VanderHeide.

"I will forever be thankful for the opportunity to participate at a point in my life when I can use these skills in real-time and carry them with me throughout my career in the chicken sector."

CFC is pleased to be currently working with its third cohort of the Young Farmers Program. Representatives from provinces across Canada, including Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, met for the first time in Ottawa at CFC's Annual General Meeting in March 2023.

"We are looking forward to engaging with the next group of young farmers and championing their success in the sector," says Klompmaker. "The program has been incredibly valuable, creating lasting support systems while encouraging graduates to step up in big ways by taking on additional leadership roles in the sector and in their communities. The future is bright for agricultural leadership within the Canadian chicken sector."

To learn more about chicken farming in Canada and the Young Farmers Program, visit chickenfarmers.ca.

Canadian Hatching Egg Producers: A focus on quality for a thriving sector

While many are familiar with the eggs you buy in the grocery store, did you know there is another type of egg that is produced in Canada? That type is, fertilized eggs, which are the eggs that become healthy baby chicks raised by chicken farmers. When it comes down to it, every single chicken starts as a hatching egg, making these farmers the essential first step of the Canadian chicken supply chain.

"While our sector may not be as well known, our farmers play an important role in feeding Canadians," acknowledges Brian Bilkes, Chair of Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP). "They work hard year-round to not only provide a high-quality product, but they are also continuously improving their operations to become even more sustainable."

CHEP is a national organization that works closely with over 200 hatching egg farmers to foster on-farm innovation alongside a commitment to sustainability while ensuring their product continues to meet the needs of Canadians.

The organization provides guidance on the allocation of hatching eggs, food safety, and animal welfare. And, at the center of these efforts is the system of supply management, which balances demand with supply, while helping to create a more predictable and stable income for farmers so they can plan, invest in and continue to improve their operations and support their local communities.

A dedication to food safety and animal welfare

Food safety and animal care programs are an important part of CHEP's work, which aims to ensure that the hatching egg industry continues to flourish for years to come. The CHEP Animal Care Program (ACP) is a mandatory, audited program that makes certain our chickens have a safe and comfortable environment, and that farmers meet the requirements and follow guidelines for space, water, feed, lighting, air circulation, handling, and so much more. The program supports the continuous improvement of our sector and makes certain farmers are providing the best care possible for their animals.

"We are proud of the work we do, and only want the best for the future of our industry," says Bilkes. "The Animal Care Program provides farmers with the tools and resources they need to properly care for their animals and protects the longevity of the industry."

Meanwhile, The Canadian Hatching Egg Quality (CHEQ™) program is the national standard for hatching egg producers when it comes to food safety. The program provides hatching egg producers with a set of Good Production Practices and enforces detailed record-keeping that guarantees all eggs produced and distributed by Canadian hatching egg farmers are of exceptional quality. These practices also ensure that biosecurity, poultry health, egg handling and storage, pest control and cleaning and disinfection meet and exceed the high standards of food safety, as outlined by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. As a result of CHEP and our farmers' dedication to food safety, animal care, quality, and innovation, Canadian chicken producers can be certain to receive a reliable supply

of high-quality hatching eggs both now and into the future.

To learn more about Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, visit chep-poic.ca.



When it comes down to it, every single chicken starts as a hatching egg, making these farmers the essential first step of the Canadian chicken supply chain.

Turkey farmers in Canada speak to sharing expertise and giving back

Canada's turkey farmers have a passion for supporting their local communities. From the feed and tools they buy to run their farms, to their educational efforts and charitable work, they are continuously working to support fellow Canadians while meeting the demand for made-in-Canada turkey.

An important piece enabling this work is the system of supply management which gives turkey farmers the stability to not only reinvest in their farms but also in their local communities. Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC), the national organization that oversees Canada's more than 510 turkey farmers, plays an integral role by providing these farmers with direction, resources and more.

To better understand the work that turkey farmers are doing within communities across Canada, let's take a look at three farmers who are making a difference.

Clair and Kathryn Doan: Educating the public and improving the industry

Clair and Kathryn Doan wear many hats, working together on their turkey farm while raising a family and working with a variety of boards and non-profits within the agricultural industry. They both love connecting with people and spreading awareness about turkey

farming in Canada. In fact, they have opened their farm up for virtual tours so the public can take a look at their young and fully grown turkeys and answer questions to help dispel misconceptions about farming in Canada. Outside of this work, both Clair and Kathryn do work locally to help educate Canadians about where their food comes from, while continuously lending their expertise toward improving on-farm practices.

Clair for instance is not only a turkey farmer but also Regional Associate Vice President of Agricultural Banking for the National Bank of Canada and a Nuffield scholar where his topic of study is, "Evaluating poultry markets to ensure Canada's supply management system is efficient and innovative." Through his studies, he hopes to examine how other systems around the world are adapting to consumer preferences, as well as unregulated markets and share his insights with other turkey farmers across Canada.

Apart from being a turkey farmer, Kathryn is also the Director of AgCareers.com and CareersinFood.com and Chairperson of the Board for AgScape—a charity focused on classroom-based agriculture and food education. Through her work off the farm, Kathryn helps people find fulfilling jobs in agriculture while educating children about life on the farm.



Kathryn Doan on her turkey farm in Norwich, ON, balances farming with her family and working with a variety of boards and non-profits within the agricultural industry.

Darren Ference: Mentoring the future of the industry

Currently serving his fifth year as Chair of Turkey Farmers of Canada, Darren Ference continued on the family business of turkey farming, starting his own farm in 2001. Since the beginning, he's been passionate about raising the Canadian turkey industry's profile and doing what he can to educate the public about the food on their plate.

One of the ways Darren is imparting his knowledge of the industry is by helping to educate the next generation of potential turkey farmers and turkey eaters. In 2019, he created a 40-bird turkey farm at the Altario School in Alberta to educate youth through hands-on experience. Today, he continues to donate feed and young turkeys to the school program twice a year and collaborates with the teachers to provide guidance. Darren also works with agricultural students who are part of a mentorship program run by an animal science professor at the University of Alberta. As a turkey farmer, Darren recognizes that there is a need to foster trust between the public and farmers, to showcase the care and pride they have in their work.

To learn more about Canadian turkey and turkey farmers, visit turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca.

Canadian egg farmers rise to the net-zero emissions challenge



Sustainability is a way of life for Canadian egg farmers like the Lavolettes of St. Isidore, ON who have embraced smart technology, renewable energy and other environmental best practices.

With the effects of climate change becoming increasingly prevalent, the importance of a strong, resilient food supply has become even more important. In Canada, egg farmers have a longstanding track-record of supporting sustainable initiatives and programs with the longevity of both our food system and our planet in mind.

In fact, egg farmers from coast to coast have been advancing sustainability initiatives for many decades through the adoption of new innovations and efficiencies that strengthen their on-farm practices, giving the next generation of egg farmers a strong foundation to build upon.

Underlining this commitment to sustainable egg farming is a holistic approach, meaning egg farmers are finding new ways to produce eggs using less energy and water while also prioritizing the welfare and health of the hens under their care. They're also delivering safe, high-quality eggs to millions of Canadians while helping people in their respective communities both socially and economically and empowering people around them.

"What unites us is a common vision to do our part to better ourselves and our practices, to push harder to lead the way to a sustainable future, and to work collaboratively to get there," explains Roger Pelissero, Chair of Egg Farmers of Canada and an egg farmer from Ontario.

Sustainability is in fact a way of life for Canadian egg farmers who have long embraced smart technology, renewable energy and other practices that repurpose and recycle byproducts of egg farming. For example, farmers use smart technology in their barns to monitor their flocks' health, temperature, feed and water consumption. The data generated by this technology allows farmers to reduce waste while also keeping the barn environment safe and comfortable.

At the centre of all these sustainability efforts led by egg farmers is Canada's system of supply management which offers stability and predictability to farmers who can then reinvest in their farming operations, in their industry and in their communities.

No doubt sustainable agriculture is the way of the future, particularly when it involves a ubiquitous food item like the egg. Over the course of five decades, Canada's egg sector has made an extraordinary achievement: reducing its environmental footprint by half while simultaneously increasing production in order to feed the growing Canadian population. But this is only one chapter of Canada's

egg farmers' sustainability story. Canadian egg farmers have enthusiastically set the course for the next step in the Canadian egg farming industry's sustainability journey with a commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

"Stepping up our commitment to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions is a natural extension of our already established holistic approach to sustainability, which continues to guide our actions today and into the future," says Pelissero.

Canadian egg farmers look forward to supporting this collective move to achieving net-zero and the shift towards a green economy. By harnessing the unique characteristics of their product and supply management, they'll be sure to continue to support the food security of millions of Canadians and a strong, domestic food system for generations to come.

To learn more about Canadian eggs and egg farmers, visit eggfarmers.ca.

Party Central

This past year, poultry and egg farmers organized in-person events, meetings and informal meet and greets with elected officials to talk about their contribution to a strong agricultural sector in Canada. They also always welcome the opportunity to share stories and discuss the benefits that supply management offers to Canadians. While each organization hosts receptions and events for MPs and Senators, one of our favourite events is our Joint Annual Reception organized by poultry and egg farmers. This year, distinguished guests took some time to talk with us about the value of supply management in the agricultural sector. In addition, Chicken Farmers of Canada hosted their annual winter and fall receptions, sharing the many aspects of the chicken sector with attendees. These events are not only a lot of fun, but are also great indicators of the support MPs and Senators have for supply management.



Ontario egg farmer Claire Ross, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau, and British Columbia egg farmer Campbell Woike.



Minister of Veterans Affairs and former Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAuley, Member of Parliament Chris Brittle, and Chicken Farmers of Canada staff Lauren Kennedy.



Member of Parliament John Barlow, Chicken Farmers of Canada Director, Kerry Towle and Turkey Farmers of Canada Director Phil Boyd.



Members of Parliament Philip Lawrence and Dave Epp, Chicken Farmers of Canada Chair, Tim Klompemaker and Members of Parliament Glen Motz and Ryan Williams.



Member of Parliament Andr anne Larouche, Chicken Farmers of Canada Director Yvan Brodeur, Member of Parliament Yves Perron, and Chicken Farmers of Canada staff Yves Ruel.



Nova Scotia egg farmer Pierre-David Cyr, Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia Warren Cox, Manitoba egg farmer Anders Kornelsen, Chicken Farmers of Canada Director Nick De Graaf, Member of Parliament Kody Blois, Dawn Shive, Egg Farmers of Canada Director and Nova Scotia egg farmer Glen Jennings, and Hatching Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia Mike Lightfoot.



Chicken Farmers of Canada staff Yves Ruel, Chicken Farmers of Canada Director Luce B langer, Member of Parliament Yves Perron, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers Vice Chair Gyslain Loyer and Olivier Bourbeau from Restaurants Canada.