

B.C. Egg Industry 2019

2018 FACTS & STATS

- B.C. egg production is regulated at the federal and provincial levels under supply management. Farmers with 400 laying hens (layers) or more must be registered with the BC Egg Marketing Board (the Egg Board) and hold quota.
- In 2018, 138 B.C. egg farms raised approximately 3.1 million layer hens that produced 84 million dozen eggs valued at \$200 million in farm cash receipts.
- B.C.'s egg industry farm cash receipts represented an estimated 6% of B.C.'s total farm cash receipts in 2017.
- Together, the Lower Mainland (77%), Vancouver Island (9%), and the Thompson Okanagan (9%) account for 95% of B.C. egg production. The rest of the province accounts for the last 5%.
- In 2018, specialty egg production (free range, free run, organic) represented 27% of B.C.'s production and 30.6% of the industry's value. Conventional production accounts for 73%.
- B.C. leads the nation in specialty production.
- The average B.C. egg farmer has close to 23,000 layers.
- There are 21 egg grading stations in B.C., and one processor, which is located in the Lower Mainland.
- There are 65 registered small lot producers in B.C. who raise between 100 and 399 layers per year without quota.
- B.C. is Canada's third largest egg-producing province.

Canadian Egg Production (2018)

| Prov. | Dozens | % |
|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| ON | 269,605,125 | 38% |
| QC | 141,712,350 | 20% |
| BC | 85,439,415 | 12% |
| MB | 72,183,135 | 10% |
| AB | 66,754,530 | 9% |
| SK | 27,411,435 | 4% |
| Atlantic | 50,373,165 | 7% |
| Canada | 713,479,155 | 100% |

Adapted from: Egg Farmers of Canada

MARKET TRENDS

National per capita consumption of table and processed eggs (e.g. egg whites or packaged hard-boiled eggs) has been growing, and as a result, B.C.'s egg industry has been growing since 2008. In 2018, national growth in egg consumption was 6%. This trend is due to a shift toward more protein-driven diets, where eggs offer an affordable protein source.

There is strong growth across all egg varieties (e.g. omega, free range, free run, organic), with classic white and brown eggs representing 86.5% of eggs sold in Canada.



Layers in nesting area of enriched housing.

Photo: BC Egg Marketing Board

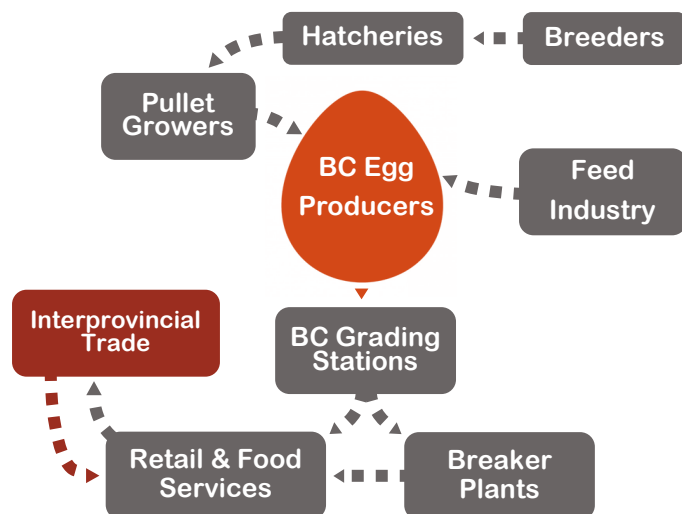
TRADE

In 2018, 53.6 million dozen table eggs were imported into Canada, valued at \$77.4 million. Exports reached 1.5 million dozen valued at \$2.3 million. In 2018, 8.7 million kg of processed eggs valued at \$37.2 million were imported into Canada, while exports reached 5.2 million kg, valued at \$14.9 million. Imports include quantities imported for further processing and re-export under the federal Import for Re-export Program.

B.C. imports more eggs than it exports from other Canadian provinces and countries.

Recent trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will result in increased egg imports into Canada, on top of already existing trade agreements that grant market access. It is expected that, once ratified, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) will increase access. In the long-term, these new agreements may result in decreased domestic production.

INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN



B.C. egg farmers buy their hens from pullet (female chicks) growers. Laying hens produce unfertilized eggs that are graded and sold as table eggs or are sent to a breaker for processing.

Laying hens each lay about 25 dozen eggs a year. The eggs are shipped to one of 21 grading stations in the province. Over 80% of the eggs are sold as table eggs and the remaining eggs go to processing. There is one egg processor in BC.

BIOSECURITY & ANIMAL CARE

Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) and Avian Influenza (AI) are significant concerns. To prevent disease and ensure a stable and safe supply, the B.C. egg industry participates in audited safety program, like the Egg Farmer's of Canada's (EFC) Start Clean-Stay Clean program. B.C. poultry farmers lead the country in their AI emergency response program.

B.C. egg farmers adhere to EFC's Animal Care Program, which is based on the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens.

EFC launched a national hen housing transition strategy in 2016. By 2036, all hens in Canada will be raised in enriched, free run, aviary, or free range housing. B.C. is ahead of the layer housing transition at 24 % cage-free compared to 3-10% in other provinces. Approximately 3% of B.C.'s layers are housed in enriched cages.

GOVERNANCE

Canada's egg industry is supply-managed. It operates under federal and provincial legislation and agreements.

At the federal level, Egg Farmers of Canada is responsible for the orderly production and marketing of eggs in Canada and is supervised by Farm Products Council of Canada.

At the provincial level, the BC Egg Marketing Board is the first instance regulator of egg production in B.C. under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* and the British Columbia Egg Marketing Scheme.

The Egg Board is responsible for orderly production and marketing through promoting and regulating the volume of production, transportation, packaging, storage, and marketing of eggs. It sets the price producers receive for eggs.

The BC Egg Producers Association represents the interests of B.C. egg producers. Graders and processors are represented by the BC Egg Processors Council.

The BC Farm Industry Review Board is responsible for ensuring the Egg Board meets its responsibilities in an effective, strategic, and accountable manner that results in sound marketing policy.

SOURCES

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BC Farm Industry Review Board

www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard

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