

B.C. Egg Industry 2021

2021 QUICK FACTS

- 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 licenced with the B.C. Egg Marketing Board (the Egg Board) and hold quota.
- In 2021, 149 B.C. egg farms raised approximately 3.3 million layer hens that produced 90.2 million dozen eggs valued at \$246 million in farm cash receipts.
- B.C.'s egg industry farm cash receipts represented an estimated 5% of B.C.'s total farm cash receipts.
- B.C. egg production was distributed between the Lower Mainland (81%), Vancouver Island (6%), the Interior (11%), and the North (2%).
- 29% of B.C. production was specialty eggs (free range, free run, organic) and 71% was conventional.
- B.C. leads the nation in specialty production.
- The average B.C. egg farm raised an estimated 22,100 layers and produced 605,659 dozen eggs.
- There are 20 egg grading stations in B.C. and one processor, which is located in the Lower Mainland.
- 98 registered small lot producers in B.C. raised between 100 and 399 layers per year without quota.
- B.C. is Canada's third largest egg-producing province.

Canadian Egg Production (2021)

Prov.	Dozens	%
ON	282,136,556	35.7%
QC	160,806,261	20.4%
BC	96,246,222	12.2%
AB	81,341,298	10.3%
MB	73,465,884	9.3%
SK	35,945,564	4.6%
Atlantic	55,802,194	7.1%
NT	3,671,062	0.5%
Canada	789,414,128	100%

Adapted from Egg Farmers of Canada

MARKET TRENDS

A shift towards protein-driven diets is increasing egg demand. In 2021, Canadian egg consumption hits 253 eggs per person per year.



*Layers in nesting area of enriched housing.
Photo: BC Egg Marketing Board*

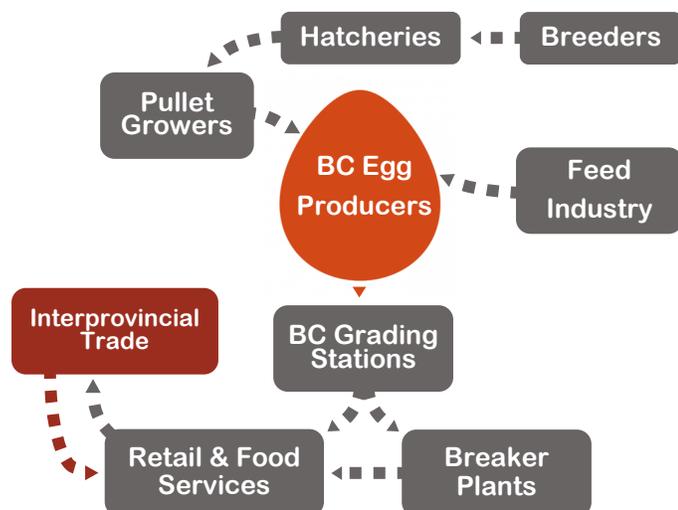
TRADE

In 2021, 28 million dozen table eggs were imported into Canada, valued at \$41 million while exports reached 1.7 million dozen valued at \$2.7 million. In 2021, 9.6 million kg of processed eggs valued at \$28 million were imported into Canada, while exports reached 6.5 million kg, valued at \$18 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.

In 2022, \$85 million dollars were delivered to farmers to offset the impact of the Canada United States Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) by the Federal Government.

INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN



B.C. egg farmers buy their hens from pullet (female chicken raised for egg production that is less than 19 weeks of age) 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 26.5 dozen eggs a year. The eggs are shipped to one of 19 grading stations in the province. Over 80% of the eggs are sold as table eggs and the remaining eggs go to processing. There is 1 egg processor in B.C..

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 food safety programs, 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. All hens in Canada are on schedule to be raised in enriched, free run/aviary, or free range housing by 2032 – 4 years ahead of EFC's 2036 deadline.

As of 2021, the Egg Board achieved this milestone since 50 % of production in B.C. is cage free (enriched housing, free-run, free-range, and organic).

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

The B.C. 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

www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfarmindustryreviewboard

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