

# B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Industry 2021

## 2021 QUICK FACTS

- B.C. broiler hatching egg production is regulated at the federal and provincial levels under supply management. All farmers who produce broiler hatching eggs must be registered with the B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (the Commission) and hold quota.
- In 2021, B.C.'s 58 registered broiler hatching egg farmers produced 123.2 million broiler hatching eggs, valued at \$70 million in farm cash receipts.
- The hatching egg industry supports B.C.'s broiler chicken growing industry and accounts for 2% of BC's agricultural farm gate cash receipts.
- All hatching egg production is concentrated in the Lower Mainland.
- In 2021, the average B.C. farm produced 2.1 million hatching eggs.
- Specialty production represents 6% of B.C.'s total production.
- There was 11 registered hatcheries in B.C. in 2021.
- B.C. is Canada's third largest hatching egg producing province.

## Canadian Broiler Hatching Egg Production (2021)

Prov.	Eggs	%
ON	265,008,000	32%
QC	215,824,000	26%
<b>BC</b>	<b>115,785,000</b>	<b>14%</b>
AB	85,043,000	10%
MB	37,725,000	5%
NS	37,938,000	5%
SK	32,808,000	4%
NB/PE/NL	32,278,000	4%
Canada	822,409,000	100%

*Adapted from: Canadian Hatching Egg Producers*

## MARKET TRENDS

Broiler hatching egg production volumes are directly affected by consumer demand for chicken. Recovery from COVID-related market impacts on chicken demand led to an increase in Canadian broiler hatching egg production in (2021) by 2.1% compared to 2020.

B.C.'s production decreased by 0.6 million eggs (-0.5%), while imports increased by 9.3%, resulting in 1.5 million (1.1%) more eggs set during the year.



*Broiler hatching flock in lay house.*

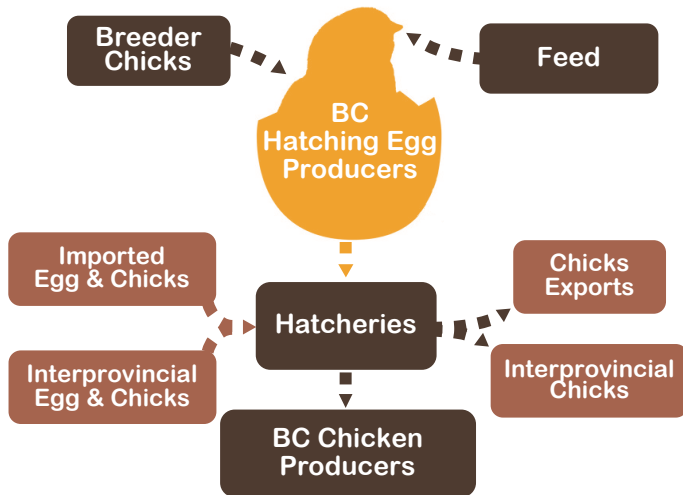
## TRADE

In 2021, broiler hatching egg imports into Canada increased by nearly 18.2 million eggs (15.2%) compared to 2020, while broiler chicks imported into Canada increased by 2 million chicks (12.2%). As a result, 2021 combined imports increased by nearly 20.8 million egg equivalents (14.8%) from 2020.

In B.C., hatcheries are required to follow an “80% domestic—20% import” formula for the fertilized eggs they source, which reflects federal trade ratios. This requirement ensures domestically produced broiler hatching eggs have a market and helps balance competition between hatcheries.

The Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) did not include any provisions for increases of hatching egg imports. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) contains market access for broiler hatching eggs, but the Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP) do not expect the agreement to result in any eggs entering Canada in the foreseeable future.

## INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN



Broiler chickens originate from specialized breeding lines. B.C.'s broiler hatching egg farmers obtain their multiplier breeder chicks from suppliers in the United States. After receiving the fertilized eggs, farmers hatch them. The chicks are placed in grow houses where they develop into pullets (female chickens) or cockerels (male chickens). There are seven registered pullet growers in B.C.

The male and female breeder chickens are transferred from the grow house to the lay house when they are between 18 to 20 weeks of age. The broiler hatching egg flocks produce fertilized chicken eggs. Each breeder hen will typically lay 150 to 160 fertilized eggs over the course of a laying cycle that normally runs 34 to 36 weeks in duration.

B.C.'s 11 hatcheries sell the chicks from these eggs to B.C. chicken growers.

## 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 Canadian Hatching Egg Producers' (CHEP) Canadian Hatching Egg Quality program. B.C. poultry farmers lead the country in their AI emergency response program.

B.C. broiler hatching egg farmers adhere to CHEP's Animal Care Program, which is based on the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens, and Turkeys (2016).

## GOVERNANCE

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

At the national level, the Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP) is responsible for the orderly production and marketing of broiler hatching eggs and chicks in Canada and is supervised by Farm Products Council of Canada.

At the provincial level, the Commission is the first instance regulator of hatching egg production under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* and the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme.

The Commission is responsible for orderly production and marketing of hatching eggs through promoting and regulating the volume of production, transportation, packaging, storage, and marketing of hatching eggs. The Commission establishes an Official Flock Schedule, sets the price producers receive for their broiler hatching eggs, and administers a variety of programs addressing disease, food safety, and animal care.

The B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Association represents B.C. hatching egg farmer interests.

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

## SOURCES

B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Commission. (2022). "2021 Annual Report". Retrieved from [bcbhec.com](http://bcbhec.com).

BCFIRB. (2023) "B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Public Accountability and Reporting Project (PARP) Summary Reports for 2021" Retrieved from [www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfirb](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfirb)

Canadian Hatching Egg Producers. (2022). "2021 Annual Report." Retrieved from [chep-poic.ca](http://chep-poic.ca)



**BC Farm Industry  
Review Board**

[www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfarmindustryreviewboard](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfarmindustryreviewboard)

BCFIRB Office: 250-356-8945