

# THE FARMERS' TIMES

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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

In the years since my wife Frances and I ran our seed potato and dairy operation back home on Prince Edward Island, farming has changed—both in the technology producers are using and the challenges they face, but one thing has not—the sense of pride folks feel knowing that they're producing top-quality products.

Our farmers hold themselves to very high standards, and because of that, Canadians know that the chicken, turkey and egg products they feed their families are the best we have to offer. All told, Canada's poultry and egg farmers deliver almost \$7 billion in sales to Canada's economy, while supporting thousands of jobs in communities right across the country. Demand for our exceptional Canadian products continues to grow thanks to their strong record on quality, animal welfare, food safety, and sustainability.

Here in Canada, our supply management system helps our world-class egg, poultry and dairy producers deliver a stable supply of local, sustainable, high-quality food to Canadians. This system supports farms and rural communities across our great country, and ensures our producers get a fair return for their work. It's the envy of the world, and I will always stand up for and defend supply management.

To continue to keep our food supply and economy strong, we need to attract the next generation of farmers. As always, our supply-managed industries are keeping an eye on the future, supporting passionate and innovative young leaders from right across the country. Their ideas, skills and enthusiasm are vital to the future of farming and our food security.

I hope everyone has a chance to sample some of the delicious all-Canadian poultry and egg products at Downtown Diner 2024, taking place on Sparks Street in Ottawa—brought to you by our hardworking farm families. As Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, I am working hard on all fronts to ensure a strong future for everyone working in our agriculture sector, and I'm so pleased to work with our supply-managed industries to make sure we have a strong and stable food supply for Canadians for years to come.



*The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.*



# Chicken Farmers of Canada's commitment to community: Promoting healthy living with Swimming and Skate Canada



Tim Klompmaker, Chair of Chicken Farmers of Canada, Trennt Michaud, Canadian Pair Figure Skater and CanSkate Program participants.

In fact, Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) has maintained a partnership with Swimming Canada for over a decade and has more recently partnered with Skate Canada. It's the stability of the Canadian chicken sector—thanks to supply management—that creates an environment where the country's nearly 2,900 chicken farmers can reinvest in their farms and communities with confidence, making these partnerships possible.

## Celebrating over ten years of supporting an active lifestyle with Swimming Canada

A nutritious, protein-rich diet is fundamental to any sport, especially swimming. For more than ten years, CFC has supported and partnered with Swimming Canada, the national governing body for competitive swimming.

*"We know that a balanced diet, rich in lean protein like chicken, can bring out swimmers' full potential and help our athletes lead a healthy and active lifestyle," says Tim Klompmaker, Chair of Chicken Farmers of Canada.*

CFC is the premier National Partner of Swimming Canada, representing a significant commitment to competitive swimming and aquatic safety for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

## Helping Canadians achieve a healthy lifestyle with Skate Canada

Another community partnership that CFC takes great pride in is its work with Skate Canada. As the national governing body for figure skating, Skate Canada is known for its learn-to-skate program, CanSkate. CanSkate has helped hundreds of communities across the country and is recognized for its strong curriculum with world and Olympic figure skating champions and even some NHL stars among its alumni.

*"At the root of it, CanSkate is teaching and helping people live a healthy lifestyle, which is also what the Chicken Farmers of Canada do," says Trennt Michaud, Canadian Pair Figure Skater and two-time Canadian national medalist.*

## Supply management's role in community engagement

This level of community support from CFC and the farmers they represent is possible thanks to the stability provided by supply management. Supply management helps regulate the amount of chicken produced by Canadian farmers to ensure there is enough product to meet demand, therefore consistently contributing to Canada's GDP and creating jobs

in every province. Supply management also provides Canadians with access to high-quality, safe chicken raised with care, and allows farmers to make a difference in communities, including swimming pools and skating rinks across Canada.

To learn more about chicken farming in Canada, visit [chickenfarmers.ca](http://chickenfarmers.ca).



Tim Klompmaker, Chair of Chicken Farmers of Canada.

When you think of Canada's chicken farmers, you likely think of the hard-working people who put fresh, safe, high-quality protein on your plates, but they are so much more. Raising Canada's number one meat protein, Canadian chicken farmers are passionate about investing in local communities and supporting nutritious and active lifestyles.

# Turkey Farmers of Canada celebrates 50 years

This year marks a significant milestone for the Canadian turkey industry, as the Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) celebrates its 50th anniversary. Established on February 14, 1974, Federal Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whelan, announced the formation of the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency created by Parliamentary Proclamation. The eight member provinces created a vision for the future. This milestone is a testament to the combined efforts of turkey farmers, provincial boards, along with provincial and federal governments, and partners throughout the supply chain.

The journey was paved by a dedicated group of individuals in the turkey industry whose leadership has left a mark on the organization and a strong foundation for the industry's future. This year, TFC celebrated how the Agency has evolved over the decades and adapted to meet the changing needs of farmers, consumers, policy makers and the broader agricultural community.

This anniversary also highlights the critical role of supply management in the turkey sector. Under this system, turkey farmers collaborate to align production with consumer demand, avoiding under and overproduction, building stability in the supply chain. This helps ensure that Canadians have year-round access to local and high-quality turkey products.



Turkey Farmers of Canada's 50th Anniversary Celebration: Senator Rob Black and Turkey Farmers of Canada Chair Darren Ference.

Under supply management, turkey farmers earn fair returns and are in a better position to cover their costs of production and make future plans. This has many benefits, including reinvesting on-farm, upgrading operations and supporting rural communities. Turkey farmers support their local communities in many ways, such as purchasing feed, equipment and other goods within their communities, hiring employees and utilizing local veterinarians on farm.

The celebration of the 50th anniversary also highlights TFC's commitment to future generations, with a donation to 4-H Canada Foundation to mark the anniversary. The donation follows earlier work under TFC's Wishbone Project that included donations to Kid's Help Phone, 4-H Canada, Food Banks Canada, funds to assist with food insecurity and other local initiatives.

Looking forward from this anniversary, TFC is ready to embrace new opportunities and face future challenges. The next fifty years hold promise for further advancements in the Canadian turkey sector. TFC remains committed to our farmers and industry partners, advocating for their interests, and advancement of the Canadian turkey sector.

To learn more about Canadian turkey and turkey farms, visit [turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca](http://turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca).



# Canadian Hatching Egg Producers: Working together to feed Canadians year-round

Canadian hatching egg producers play a crucial but often overlooked role in our food system. These dedicated farmers provide a steady supply of broiler hatching eggs, which are fertilized eggs that hatch into healthy baby chicks raised by chicken farmers. Last year, 243 hatching egg producers delivered nearly 863 million eggs to 2,853 chicken farmers across Canada, making these farmers the essential first step in the Canadian chicken supply chain. When it comes to food security, they know first-hand the power of collaboration, working closely with one another, fellow farmers, and stakeholders so that Canadian families have access to a stable and affordable supply of nutritious local poultry.

**Working together is the key to success for this industry, constant collaboration allows hatching egg producers to thrive.**

By continuously learning and sharing best practices, they keep the industry moving forward. This year, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP) launched the Young Farmers Program, giving farmers the chance to learn more about the industry, exchange fresh ideas, and adopt innovative practices that boost efficiency, productivity, and longevity.

Together, Canadian hatching egg producers are shaping the next generation of Canadian farmers and ensuring a continued supply of local poultry for decades to come.

**Research and development are at the forefront of Canadian hatching egg producers' efforts to address common industry challenges.**

By pooling resources and expertise from farmers and research experts, CHEP can conduct extensive studies on a variety of topics such as feed efficiency, disease prevention, and environmental sustainability. These collaborative efforts lead to breakthroughs that benefit the entire industry, ensuring the long-term viability of hatching egg production in Canada.

**Partnerships with other supply-managed commodity producers further strengthen the resilience and integration of the supply chain.**

Hatching egg producers often collaborate with chicken farmers and Canadian hatcheries to align production schedules, optimize distribution networks, and

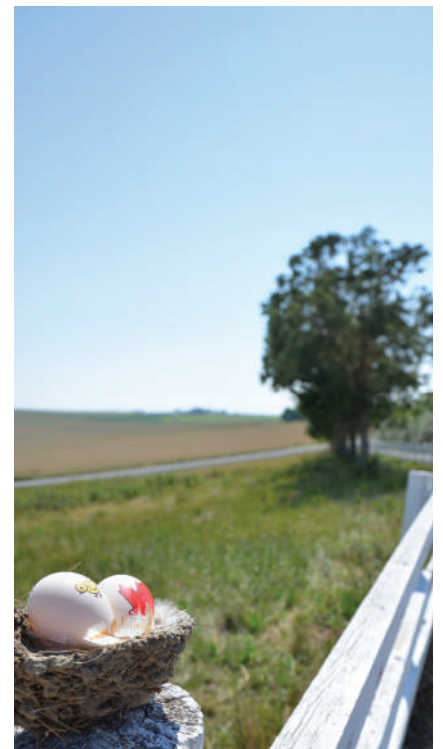
share knowledge and resources. This cooperation allows them to better respond to changes in market demand, ensuring a consistent and reliable supply of poultry for Canadian families.

**At the heart of these efforts is the system of supply management.**

This system balances the demand for Canadian-produced food with supply, creating a predictable and stable income for our farmers and supporting our local communities. It allows them to invest in their operations, conduct research, and collaborate effectively with various stakeholders within the Canadian food system. This collaboration helps prevent food waste, maintain high standards of food safety, and ultimately enhance food security for Canadians.

Together, Canadian hatching egg producers are working tirelessly to feed Canadians local, sustainable, and nutritious poultry year-round.

To learn more about the Canadian hatching egg industry, visit [chep-poic.ca](http://chep-poic.ca).



Canadian Hatching Egg Producers work together from coast to coast.

## How egg farmers are embracing innovation

As Canada's population grows, egg farmers from coast to coast are working hard to produce the high-quality and versatile food Canadians need and want. When it comes to the production of fresh, local and nutritious food, Canada's egg farmers stand out.

Their leadership stems from a long-standing commitment to the communities in which they operate; the well-being of the animals under their care; and the health, safety and satisfaction of the millions of Canadians who enjoy and depend upon their product every single day. This approach is exemplified by their use of innovative technologies and on-farm practices. This commitment builds on five decades of progress, during which many farmers have embraced new tools and decreased their environmental impact while increasing the number of eggs produced.<sup>1</sup> Today, for example, some egg farmers use renewable wind and solar energy to power their barns, repurposed waste to fertilize crops and optimize hen housing systems that balance animal care with environmental considerations.

Blake Jennings, a 4th generation egg farmer based in Nova Scotia relays what farming sustainability means to him:

*"Sustainability means we're farming to meet the needs of Canadians while safeguarding resources for future generations. Our family farm has been providing eggs for the community since the late 1940s and our intention is to keep feeding Canadians for years to come."*

A big part of these efforts is Canada's system of supply management which ensures farmers have the resources to invest in their farms and the means to support local economies and communities. Egg farmers purchase from other local businesses, provide jobs within their communities, support food banks and offer skills development to others looking to pursue successful careers.

Roger Pelissero, a 3rd generation egg farmer from Ontario and Chair of Egg Farmers of Canada further emphasizes this commitment:



Blake Jennings, a 4th generation egg farmer based in Nova Scotia uses solar panels to power both of his family's egg barns.

*"We're dedicated to feeding Canada's population with high protein eggs while considering how we can reduce our environmental impact, and supply management is an essential tool in this process. It means egg farmers have the stability to look ahead and invest in their operations so they can deliver on the call for quality food now, and in the future."*

Many egg farmers are already stepping up to the challenge of feeding a growing population amidst changing economic and environmental climates. By supporting important tools for farmers, like supply management, and other legislative matters that strengthen our food system, Canadians and Parliamentarians alike can help build a more sustainable and secure food future for all.

To learn more about egg farming in Canada, visit [eggfarmers.ca](http://eggfarmers.ca).

<sup>1</sup> N. Pelletier, Changes in the life cycle environmental footprint of egg production in Canada from 1962 to 2012, 2018.



# Party Central

This past year, poultry and egg farmers organized in-person events, and meetings with Parliamentarians to talk about their contribution to a strong agricultural sector in Canada. They also always welcome the opportunity to share stories and discuss their sectors and the issues that matter to farmers. One of our favourite events is our Joint Annual Reception organized by poultry and egg farmers. These events are not only fun, but are also great indicators of the support Members of Parliament and Senators have for supply management.



*Joint Annual Reception: Canadian Hatching Egg Producers Chair Brian Bilkes, Turkey Farmers of Canada Chair Darren Ference, Chicken Farmers of Canada Chair Tim Klompmaker, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay and Egg Farmers of Canada Chair Roger Pelissero.*



*Chicken Farmers of Canada Annual Lobby Day Reception: Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay and Member of Parliament Yves Perron.*



*Joint Annual Reception: Egg Farmers of Canada Chair Roger Pelissero, Member of Parliament Kody Blois, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Francis Drouin and Egg Farmers of Canada CEO Drew Black.*



*Turkey Farmers of Canada's 50th Anniversary Reception: Turkey Farmers of Canada Chair Darren Ference, Senator Rob Black and Member of Parliament Kody Blois.*



*Joint Annual Reception: British Columbia chicken farmer Ray Nickel, Member of Parliament John Barlow and BC Chicken Marketing Board Chair Kevin Klippenstein.*



*Joint Annual Reception: Minister Lawrence MacAulay, Chicken Farmers of Canada Chair Tim Klompmaker and Chicken Farmers of Canada CEO Michael Laliberté with past and present Chicken Farmers of Canada's Young Farmers Program participants.*



*Chicken Farmers of Canada Annual Lobby Day Reception: Member of Parliament Alistair MacGregor, Senator Colin Deacon, Senator Kim Pate, Member of Parliament Scot Davidson, Chicken Farmers of Canada Chair Tim Klompmaker and Member of Parliament Dave Epp.*