

Agriculture

New egg regulations threaten small producers

by RENNIE MacKENZIE
Thomson News Service

OTTAWA—The federal government has put a Grade A Large crack in the operations of many of the country's small egg producers with new regulations introduced this year.

And some producers and spokesmen for major farm organizations say smaller egg operations may be forced out of business by the regulation that prohibits the sale of ungraded eggs beyond farm gates.

The new regulation requires small egg producers to construct a grading station with a refrigeration room and a separate grading area with hot and cold running water. The

alternative is to ship their eggs to an inspected grading station, which adds about 15.5 cents to the cost of a dozen.

Unless they comply, farmers will not be permitted to sell eggs as Grade A federal standard.

The new regulation has no effect on large producers—those with more than 500 laying hens—who are members of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency and have had to comply with stringent federal standards for a number of years.

But an increasing number of small producers are concerned the cost of installing the grading station or shipping eggs to another station for weighing, siz-

ing, washing and inspection could force them out of business.

Many have gone out of business already, said Bruce Henderson who has 499 layers at his egg and sow operation at Fenelon Falls, Ont.

Henderson, a Victoria County director of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, will try to maintain his egg production and has applied for a permit to construct a grading station attached to his house. His preliminary cost estimate on the project is \$5,000.

But other cost estimates of an on-site station range from a federal agriculture inspector's modest \$2,000 to one farmer's sky-high figure of \$60,000.

If Henderson's total cost exceeds the \$5,000 estimate because of revisions to the preliminary plans, he isn't sure if his egg operation will remain worthwhile.

The government insists cleanliness and consumer safety are the reasons behind the new regulations. It wants to ensure that the "farm fresh eggs" that are on the market are precisely that.

But the small producers will still be allowed to sell to anyone at their gates and Henderson is convinced that a black market in eggs is already developing just a month after the regulations were applied.

Some restaurants are phoning orders to small producers because they require fresh eggs with better cooking qualities than those that have been in storage for three to six weeks, he explained. Consumers raised in rural areas also have a preference for fresh eggs, he added.

"A lot of people know what a fresh egg looks like when it hits the frying pan."

In the end, he predicted, the government's effort to enforce the standards will fail.

"The whole thing will be a net failure because they will compound the problems they're trying to solve."

Community Service Bulletins

CSBS

If you are a non-profit organization, service club or charity or church group and would like us to publish your community service announcement of community interest, call us at 877-2201 during regular office hours. There is no charge for this service to Halton Hills community groups. The deadline for submissions is Friday at Noon for publication for the following Wednesday. Deadlines will not be extended under any circumstances. Although we will do our best to print all announcements, space is limited and there are no guarantees of insertion.

second Thursday at the Canadian Cancer Society, Milton Branch, 751 Main St. E. at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 877-5228 or 878-1876.

The Halton Hills Community Chess Club meets every Wed. from 7:10-30 p.m. in the Library of Georgetown District High School. Casual and tournament play available. For further information contact the school.

Acton Lions Club meet the 2nd and 4th Wed. of the month at 8 p.m. at Legion Branch 197, Acton. For more information contact Dave Pyke at 853-3410.

Lioness Club of Georgetown meet at the members homes on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. For more information contact Louise Giffin at 877-8888.

Kiwanis Club of Georgetown meets every Wednesday at the Halton Golf and Country Club for a noon luncheon. For information contact John Schallio at 877-5206.

Halton Hills Toastmasters meet Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at Glen Williams Town Hall. For more information call Dymna in Georgetown at 873-2981 or Mike in Acton at 853-7918.

Kinsmen Club of Georgetown meet every other Wednesday at the McGibbon Hotel at 7 p.m. For more information call Ron Lefebvre at 877-2370.

Lion's Club of Georgetown meets every Tuesday at the Lion's Hall on Mill St. behind the Arena at 7 p.m. For more information call Bill Mason at 877-7901.

The Rotary Club of Acton meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Wooden Hearth Restaurant. For more information call Brian Robertson at 853-1653.

Optimist Club of Georgetown meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the club, Hwy. 7. For more information contact Sandy Booth at 877-4569.

Volunteers

Georgetown Vintners are looking for amateur winemakers. For more information call 877-5302.

Red Cross Georgetown and District requires volunteers to assist in Finance and Publicity, driving and First Aid instructions. For more information call Bernice at 877-5233.

Alcoholic Anonymous can help. Call 877-1211 for more information. The Salvation Army will pick up appliances in working order. For more information call 853-3321.

Volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown Unit, needed to transport patients to and from the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. Reimbursement for mileage will be paid. Please contact the Georgetown Unit's office at 164 Guelph St., Georgetown, between 1-4 p.m. daily, or call the cancer office at 877-1124.

Halton Support Services is looking for mature individuals who are interested in contract positions working 4-15 hours per week teaching life skills to children with developmental handicaps. Instruction takes place in the child's home. If you are 18 or older call (416) 849-8000 for more information.

Big Brothers is looking for men 18 years or older to volunteer 4 hours a week to a young boy from a father-absent home. For more information please call 847-7267 or 876-4756.

Attention Seniors and Disabled. Help with snow shovelling available, for more information call North Halton Distress and Information Center at 877-1211.

Do you have expertise in fundraising, planning, writing or program evaluation? Are you interested in a variety of mental health issues? The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Halton Region Branch is accepting applications for a number of its committees. Contact Pearl Wolfe at 845-5044 for information.

Happenings

Georgetown Optimist Club are now planning Bang-O Rama Victoria Day weekend. If interested in getting involved contact Optimist Sandy Booth 877-4569.

Big Sister Awareness Month Girls 6 to 16 are invited to enlist for a Big Sister. Parents just call 878-0378 or 878-7772.

A networking group workshop for abused women will be held every Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at Georgetown District High School. For further information contact either Pam Johnston 877-8877 or Connie Karlsson 877-2436.

Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch will host a special production of "Well Hello Folies", at Theatre Sheridan on Feb. 13, 1992. \$15.00 per person, call 845-5044.

Sweetheart Dance Sat. Feb. 15, 1992, 9 p.m. - 1 p.m. Ballinacree Community Centre, cash bar, music by S and S Sound. Pot luck menu. Pot prizes, door prizes. \$7.50 per person. Tickets available at the Ballinacree General Store.

The North Halton Literacy Guild is offering orientation tutor training at the Milton Community and Information Center on the following dates at 7:30 p.m.: Tuesday, Feb. 4, Wed., Feb. 12, Thursday Feb. 20. For more information please call Ave Edington 873-2200 or 876-4756.

EUCHRE - All Calibre of Players Welcome! Every other Thurs-

day, beginning, Thursday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. Ballinacree Community Centre. \$3.00 per person. Prize for top male and top female player. Refreshments served.

Dance for Heart A fundraiser is being held to raise dollars for research and education for our local chapter of The Heart and Stroke Foundation. All the money that is raised from this dance will be given to the Heart and Stroke. Dance held at Holy Cross Church Hall, Maple Avenue, Georgetown on February 28, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$15.00 and will be accepted. Tickets may be purchased from UP and Away and at Work That Body Fitness Programs. For further information please call Laurie at 877-0771.

The Halton Hills Chapter of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario is pleased to announce a joint fundraising venture with local branches of the Bank of Montreal throughout the month of February.

Residential and business donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation can be made at any branch of the Bank of Montreal where official receipts will be issued at the time of the donation.

CRAFTABLE RENTAL Craft and sale - St. George's Anglican Church Hall, April 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call 877-3031 if interested.

Meetings Living With Cancer groups meets every

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