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BY E-MAIL

April 26, 2006

Mr. S. Baumel

Further to your April 24, 2006 e-mail...

Do you or CEMA plan at some point to introduce such oversight and transparency to the program? Is there currently any oversight/review by CFIA?

- Inspections under the Animal Care Program are conducted along with administration of the national on-farm food safety program. CEMA's HACCP based quality program has achieved technical accreditation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

...That doesn't sound like a conventional passing grade; or did this occur outside of the Animal Care Program or before its inception?

- Prior to implementation of the Program. "Passing" means just that. The Program is subject to ongoing review and will continue to evolve. Similar to implementation of the national on-farm food safety program I expect the "bar" will continue to be raised to encourage excellence in animal care.

Did I infer correctly that all spent hens in Manitoba are now euthanized on-farm? If not, what percentage are shipped to processors?

- You are correct, euthanasia occurs on farm.

Your readership might be interested to know that egg farmers have responded to consumer desire for a variety of specialty products including; Omega-3, nutritionally enhanced, organic, brown and cage free eggs.

Local grading stations (businesses who sell eggs to retailers, food service customers, etc.) tell us that the market is currently well served with the correct product mix for the demands of the public.

Regardless of the management system (free run, caged) our egg farmers (99%) are inspected under the national on-farm food safety and animal care programs to ensure compliance to meaningful, science-based standards.

Regards

Penny Kelly, P. Ag. MBA
General Manager

