

Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

MARKET REPORT

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	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
Farm to Shop	Prices	£1.59	£1.35	£1.25	90p
Scottish Wholesaler	Prices	£1.58(+3p)	£1.18(+3p)	£1.08(+3p)	
English Wholesaler	Prices	£1.54(+4p) £1.64(+4p)	£1.09(+4p) £1.34(+4p)	99p(+4p) £1.24(+4p)	
Packer / Producer Contracted average Price					
		Organic	FreeRange	Barn	Colony
		£1.30/£1.50	95p/£1.15	85p/£1.05	80p/£1.00
Producer / Consumer		V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
- Colony	Prices	£2.10	£1.95	£1.50	£1.00
- Free Range	Prices	£3.10	£2.45	£2.03	£1.15
Free-Range to Farm Shop	Prices	£1.85/£2.35	£1.41/£2.01	£1.25/£1.55	£1.05
Central Egg Agency	Colony	£1.55(+10p)	£1.15(+3p)	£1.05(+3p)	77p
	F/R	£1.65	£1.50(+5p)	£1.30(+5p)	95p
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	£1.25(5p)	£1.04(+5p)	96p(+5p)	

Prices at last are on the move, and upwards!

Yes and we expect to see other increases, and all are extremely necessary to go towards the spiralling cost of feed, which is a world problem, reserves of grain are at their lowest, and it doesn't look like getting better, world production down, population up, and demanding higher standards of living, and more and more grain going towards bio fuels.

But at long last producer prices are rising, even Noble Foods, but to get the maximum increase you have to be big, efficient, have planted lots of trees, and signed a contract, or a promise not to sell any of your eggs to white van men, have they at last realised the plight of their primary producers?

Dennis he is getting on okay, but being Dennis no behaving, or rather in his determination to get things done, he has so far fallen out of his wheelchair, also ended up under his bed instead of in it, and in his determination to clean his own teeth ended up on the toilet floor, our report say's he is being sent to his bed on many occasions (good man more strength to your elbow) and should we be getting him a safety helmet!

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee published their long awaited report yesterday, there is rather a lot of heavy reading and data in it, if anyone wishes to request a full report can be sent to them by email. The consensus of the report is that we are in more need of old fashioned stockmanship and good husbandry, Scotland has come out of the report really quite well, and it states the relationship between our government, research development, veterinary services and our industry were better than other areas of the UK with also more money spent on labour requirements and disease prevention, good old bio security

It did highlight the cut back in laboratory services and the increased cost involved for post-mortems which might well increase the risk and delay the confirmation of notifiable diseases.

The poultry industry was singled out as having the highest standard of housing and trying to give better levels of care to our livestock with our more modern housing and management systems giving our livestock a better standard of life which is a result of our poultry industry being the first to pay attention to, and legislate for higher standards of welfare.

All this legislation has required colossal investment in new houses and systems, which the report highlights.

The one thing that the report misses is that our industry is now driven by the retailers in that their demands for cheaper products or refusing to allow price increases drives our industry to higher efficiency with higher levels of mechanisations and lower levels of staff, (people on the ground) with houses and flock numbers increasing all the time, with numbers of hens being looked after by each member of staff at levels completely incomprehensible not many years ago.

There is also the problem as production units increase in size in the attempt to improve efficiency and reduce cost of production, the horrendous investment involved is pushing them to be run and organised by accountants rather than stock people with more and more systems employing CCTV and automated computerised monitoring systems rather than people on the ground, which is a potential problem as human eyes and ears and the knowledge of knowing what to look for is the best way of spotting or preventing problems before they exist.

One thing the report did mention was the way our industry has evolved into large commercial groupings which have their own expertise and tend to sort out any problems in house and because they are in competition with other organisations tend not to share any information gained, and obviously keep very quite on any problems arising that they are dealing with.

The report does think that there should be higher levels of surveillance for disease and injury at abattoirs, knackereries are not applicable in our industries as any casualties are normally incinerated on site to eliminate any risk of infection.

On that same subject an outbreak of Avian Influenza is reported in Taiwan, you might think that is a world away and not our problem, unfortunately it is with our now global economy and product moving all round the world, not to mention the sheer number of people flying in and out of Taiwan each day the best defence is good old fashion bio security.



