

# Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

## MARKET REPORT

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	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
<b>Farm to Shop</b>	Prices	£1.49	£1.25	£1.15	80p
<b>Scottish Wholesaler</b>	Colony F/R	£1.15 £1.50	90p £1.40	80p £1.30	
<b>English Wholesaler</b>	Colony F/R	£1.30 £1.60	£1.00 £1.50	90p £1.30	70p 80p
	Colony F/R	£1.45(-5p) £1.40(-5p)	£1.15(-5p) £1.40(-5p)	£1.05(-5p) £1.20(-5p)	80p(-5p) 75p(-5p)
<b>Packer / Producer Contracted average Price</b>					
		<b>Organic</b>	<b>FreeRange</b>	<b>Barn</b>	<b>Colony</b>
		£1.20/£1.45	85p/£1.05	75p/95p	65p/85p
<b>Producer / Consumer</b>		<b>V. Large</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Small</b>
<b>- Colony</b>	Prices	£2.00	£1.85	£1.40	90p
<b>- Free Range</b>	Prices	£3.00	£2.35	£1.93	£1.05
<b>Free-Range to Farm Shop</b>	Prices	£1.75/£2.25	£1.31/£1.91	£1.15/£1.45	95p
<b>Central Egg Agency</b>	Colony F/R	£1.05(-5p) £1.30(-10p)	90p(-5p) £1.20(-10p)	80p(-5p) £1.10(-10p)	60p(-5p) 85p(-10p)
<b>Imported Continental Prices in Bulk</b>					
<b>Dutch Eggs</b>	Barn	90p(-10p)	77p(-8p) 81p(-9p)	70(-10p) 74p(-10p)	60p

## Severe warning

Avian Influeza has been confirmed in Lancaster, information at present is 170,000 colony is involved with 20% mortality, DEFRA are playing low key until they get the Calvary all lined up and go for official confirmation.

**Max all Bio-Security do not let anyone near your production.**

Our own feelings is the only connection has to be human with the highest probability being Egypt as the World Health Organisation has declared that Avian Influenza is now endemic there and Egypt is a very popular holiday destination.

The market, prices are back a bit more, but depending on what happens in the next few days, All hell could be let loose, depending on official announcements and the media reaction. On a good note Germany and Spain have been given licences and contracts to export to the USA.

This makes it highly unlikely that there will be any cheap eggs coming into the UK.

Scottish poultry industry.

The latest statistics show that the big are getting bigger, more organised and integrated with 2% of holdings producing 98% of eating eggs, there are 134 holdings with more than 1000 laying hens but 4836 holdings with fewer than 20 laying hens (eat your heart out EU regulations) many years ago every farm had some hens scratching about in the stack yard which with modernisation had almost died out now having a few hens about the farm is fashionable but also tax deductible!

Egg production is now valued at £100 million to the Scottish economy with a 37% increase between 2004 and 2013 with an additional £18 million in 2014.

As we say Lang may yur lum reek!

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## Disease-resistant poultry solution for virus issues

Developing animals resistant to disease may be one of the long-term solutions for poultry diseases. University of Georgia researchers in the Regenerative Bioscience Center have spent the last four years gathering data that could make the process a reality.

The team, which includes Steven Stice and Franklin West in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Claudio Afonso at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory of the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, used a technology platform called shRNA - single strands of RNA that fold back on themselves - to selectively stop the production of nucleic acids that cause disease, such as the Newcastle disease virus. Newcastle disease is a worldwide problem and is caused by one of the most deadly of all viruses that spreads between birds. Exotic Newcastle virus, the most devastating form of the virus, has been eradicated in the US and Canada. The milder forms of Newcastle are kept under control using vaccines.

### **Better way of disease protection than vaccination**

The research team's tooling process for enhancing disease resistance, published recently in the Journal of the International Alliance for Biological Standardisation, is potentially a much better way of disease protection than vaccination, because it introduces permanent genetic resistance that is transmittable to a bird's offspring, the researchers said. In contrast, many vaccines provide protection for a given period of time and must be re-administered periodically.

"With this technology, we can target specific regions used by the Newcastle disease virus that are critical

for its survival," said Stice, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and director of the Regenerative Bioscience Center. "Preventing these lethal viruses from replicating in individual chickens may in the end reduce the overall level of virus transmission from one chicken to the next."

## Never vaccinate again

Multiple types of animals and disease could be targeted. This technology could also be applied to avian influenza and swine flu.

"Ultimately, you could have birds that are both avian influenza resistant and Newcastle disease virus resistant," said West, an assistant professor in the animal and dairy science department. "Theoretically, you may never have to vaccinate again."

Organised distribution of vaccine products can also present problems, especially in countries where farmers may not have a refrigerator or other means to store the vaccines at the temperature needed to keep the vaccine alive. This is particularly true in rural areas where backyard flocks may be a farmer's main source of income.

Shipping disease-resistant chickens produced here in the US could be the best possible solution for many countries, Stice said. "We've taken many years to prove that this technology is viable," he continued, "and we're now ready to expand our work to the next stage."

*Source: University of Georgia*

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## Russia fears spread of AI from Siberia

An outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza (AI) has been detected in the Republic of Tuva in the Siberian part of Russia, reports the country's veterinary watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor, Russia fears that the virus may spread to the European part of the country, where the largest poultry farms are located.

Large numbers of wild birds may be infected with the highly virulent strain of AI and it is almost impossible to fully eliminate the possibility of them coming into contact with poultry on farms. - Photo: Theo Tangelder

"There is a particular high risk of of the virus spreading to Novosibirsk, Tomsk, Omsk, Kurgan Oblasts, the Altai Territory and the northern part of Yakutia," according to Rosselkhoznadzor.

At the end of April, a gene of highly pathogenic avian influenza was detected in curly pelicans, in the Ikryaninsky district of the Astrakhan Oblast. It is said that large numbers of wild birds may be infected with the highly virulent strain of AI and it is almost impossible to fully eliminate the possibility of them coming into contact with poultry on farms.

At the same time, according to the Russian veterinary experts, the situation can become more complicated if the virus would spread to the European part of Russia, where the largest poultry farms are located. A

spreading of the virus to poultry farms in Siberia, with its small population, would be far less dangerous to humans than an outbreak in the central part of Russia.

By [Vladislav Vorotnikov](#)

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## Bird flu threat escalates as virus mutates

Controlling avian influenza, both locally and globally, is becoming increasingly difficult, with the virus keeping one step ahead of scientific understanding.

Wild birds certainly played a role as a primary source of the disease, but the actual spread is often down to things like live bird movement, trade in contaminated product and vehicle movements - Photo: Koos Groenewold

"Despite massive investment, there are still some key gaps in our knowledge," according to Prof Ian Brown, head of virology at the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). "We have endemic infection in six regions of the world – China, Vietnam, Indonesia, parts of India, Bangladesh and Egypt – where we can no longer track and monitor effectively the spread of this infection. We cannot bring it under control," he told the Global Alliance for Research on Avian Diseases conference at King's College, London.

Even in places like Europe and Japan, where huge efforts had been made to contain AI, it still had a habit of coming back.

A major difficulty in containing the disease was that it was often hard to detect.

### **Trade barriers are themselves damaging**

Governments that place countrywide bans on trade from countries where HPAI has been reported, could be doing themselves a disservice, UK chief vet Nigel Gibbens told the conference. "We must not kill off trading routes. This is an over-reaction to the disease breaking out. It depressingly, predictably happens that it causes trade barriers that are themselves damaging and possibly perverse in their outcomes. You might shut off the trading route from a safe trading partner because of avian influenza, and open up a different trading route with a new partner who will bring you a whole host of different endemic diseases that you'd rather not have."

### **Changing epidemiology of H5 virus**

Since the so-called Guandong strain of HPAI had emerged in China in 2004, there had been waves of infection, exacerbated by the extensive trade in live poultry and the fact it can replicate in free-range ducks, without any symptoms showing, said Prof Brown.

"The evolution and changing epidemiology of the H5 virus over time has also made it really difficult for us to select and use the right vaccines. In the mid- to late-1990s we had relatively little variation, but over

time we see more genetic diversity. That's because we've had truly global spread, we have a virus that becomes established in the ecosystem and evolves independently. The epidemiology has become more complicated because of this virus's ability to pick up genes readily from other strains."

## Live bird movement

Wild birds certainly played a role as a primary source of the disease. "But sometimes this gets out of perspective and they are blamed for spreading an outbreak when there is no epidemiological evidence to support that." The actual spread was often down to things like live bird movement, trade in contaminated product and vehicle movements.

Source: [Farmers Weekly](#)

By Philip Clarke

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## 181 cases of Salmonella in US tied to live poultry

181 people in 40 states in the US have recently been infected with Salmonella associated with live chicks and ducklings bought from feed stores and hatcheries, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Thirty-three people have been hospitalised, but no one has died, the agency said. Alabama has the most cases, 17, while most states have fewer than 10. Illness onset dates ranged from Jan 6 to Jun 13. The CDC said the 181 cases actually represent four separate outbreaks involving different Salmonellaserotypes: Enteritidis, Hadar, Indiana, and Muenchen.

### Contact with live poultry before they got sick

Of 95 people who have been interviewed about their exposures, 82 (86%) reported having contact with live poultry before they got sick. Sixty-four people who had purchase records reported buying poultry from 17 different feed supply stores and hatcheries in multiple states. "Ill people reported purchasing live poultry for backyard flocks to produce eggs or meat, or to keep as pets," the CDC said. "Many ill people in these outbreaks reported bringing the live poultry into their homes, and others reported kissing or cuddling with the live poultry. These behaviors increase a person's risk of a Salmonella infection."

The CDC said it tested Salmonella isolates from seven patients infected with one of the outbreak strains and found no resistance to any of the antibiotics included in the testing program. Testing of additional isolates is ongoing.

The CDC and its partners are using the PulseNet system, a network of labs that conduct DNA fingerprinting of pathogens, to identify cases in the four outbreaks. Basic information on the outbreaks includes:

- Salmonella Enteritidis: 40 cases in 16 states; 3 hospitalisations; illness onset dates ranging from Jan 6 to Jun 13

- Salmonella Hadar: 69 cases in 30 states; 19 hospitalisations; with illness onsets from Feb 24 to Jun 11
- Salmonella Indiana: 56 cases in 16 states; 9 hospitalisations; illness onsets from Feb 20 to Jun 11
- Salmonella Muenchen: 16 cases in 8 states; 2 hospitalisations; illness onsets from Apr 4 to June 5

## Sellers of live poultry should provide health information

As it has during similar past outbreaks, the CDC cautioned that those who keep backyard poultry should wash their hands thoroughly after touching the birds or anything in their living area. The agency also said sellers of live poultry should provide health information, including information about Salmonella, to customers before they buy.

The CDC has tracked a number of salmonellosis outbreaks linked to live poultry in recent years. Last year, for example, 363 people in 43 states and Puerto Rico were infected with Salmonella attributed to poultry bought from a mail-order hatchery in Ohio.

*Source: CIDRAP (Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy)*

This is the reason behind our heavy vaccination program in the UK which has all but eliminated Salmonella; we care for our hens and our customers.

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We have run out of jokes again unless anyone out there has any we haven't printed before and remember they have to be cleanish.



**joice and hill** 

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