

# Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

## MARKET REPORT

www.scottisheggs.co.uk

sepramail@gmail.com

Date: 12th December 2014

	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
<b>Farm to Shop</b>	Prices	£1.49	£1.25	£1.15	80p
<b>Scottish Wholesaler</b>	Prices	£1.40	£1.00	90p	
<b>English Wholesaler</b>	Colony	£1.40(-4p)	£1.20(-4p)	£1.00(-5p)	75p
	F/R	£1.90	£1.70	£1.50	80p
	Colony	£1.56	£1.31	£1.21	81p
	F/R	£1.70	£1.65	£1.55	85p
<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	£1.15	£1.03	93p	70p
	F/R	£1.70	£1.60	£1.45	£1.05
<b>Imported Continental Prices in Bulk</b>					
<b>Dutch Eggs</b>	Barn	95p(-3p)	82p(-2p)	77p(-1p)	60p

The market is quieter which is expected, some people in England are reducing prices slightly on Colony eggs, Free Range are still fairly tight but sufficient for demand, but in Scotland demand has picked up with the weather and we have heard odd reports of empty shelves.

Holland has also reduced prices but that is more linked to the problems that they are having.

There are always two sides to every problem, so we have included the piece from Compassion in World Farming because of the lack of hard evidence (smoking gun) as to how the first AI and subsequent outbreaks occurred, as they have all so far been in house systems with supposedly no access outside.

In Holland AI has been found in wild bird droppings in fields adjacent to positive infections, exactly what the link is, is debatable but most probably a breakdown in Bio-Security.

The incidence of various types of AI in wild birds is a lot more prevalent as most people understand with some species carrying but not affected with the milder forms.

The Green lobby in Germany has pushed most of the major supermarkets into a non GM position which has been transferred to their suppliers; this will push up the price for non GM grain, particularly soya.

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## Are wild birds being made scapegoats for AI outbreaks?

As the search for the source of bird flu in the Netherlands continues, there is a danger that wild birds will become scapegoats, welfare organisation Compassion in World Farming claims.



The Netherlands is receiving more attention than the UK and Germany, where the same H5N8 strain has been found, because it has had the highest number of cases so far with four.

Despite every case so far being found in indoor farms, some are arguing vociferously for all free range flocks to be brought indoors and claiming wild birds are responsible for giving farm birds the disease.

The risk of simply blaming wild birds is two-fold, the welfare organisation states. Firstly, it could divert attention and resources away from other issues, such as the fact that intensive indoor farms are ideal incubators for avian influenza, as the virus can jump between birds that are packed into sheds in such tight proximity.

Secondly, there is a danger that some may call for a cull of wild birds, which would have serious consequences not only for those birds but also for the ecosystems they are part of – not to mention the fact that the significant problem of intensive farms will not have been addressed.

A statement made by the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, which is made up of organisations including Bird Life International, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Royal Veterinary College, appears to side with the above claims, by saying: "Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks are most frequently associated with intensive domestic poultry production and associated trade and marketing systems."

It urges organisations and authorities to: "Ensure there is no consideration of killing of wild birds or negatively affecting wetland habitats as disease control measures; and recognise that focussing attention on wild birds, to the exclusion of other potential viral vectors, can misdirect critical resources away from effective disease control and result in continued spread among poultry populations and economic losses to farmers and national income, as well as negative conservation outcomes and loss of biodiversity."

The International Poultry Council (IPC) has warned that any restriction on movement of breeding stock could affect domestic food production for "months or even years". But not addressing the problem of intensive farms could have a far worse effect on our ability to produce food sustainably.

Compassion in World Farming.

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## Fingers crossed, but well done

The poultry business is a professional global industry. Nothing new, we all know that. Everyone involved does his utmost to contribute to raising and keeping healthy and productive birds. Thus producing good food and earning a living.

But poultry is livestock. And despite all professionalism and stringent biosecurity measures, sometimes a severe disease outbreak can strike the industry. Like in mid-November in Germany, where highly pathogenic AI H5N8 was found on a turkey farm. Immediate action was taken by the authorities; birds culled, transport restrictions, keeping poultry inside, veterinary control measures and so on. Only one week later the same happened in The Netherlands. Also the same immediate action was taken. Then it struck a duck farm in the UK... Same story.

At a certain stage it looked like the disease wasn't spreading any further and that economic losses would be kept within limits. But that euphoria seemed too early. In the Netherlands, it reached a couple of more farms and the already stringent measures needed to be prolonged and even extended, but also solutions to not fully block the entire industry were taken, like dividing the country into four regions with a different 'health status' and creating transport corridors.

'The fire' is still not officially under control, but in the past 12 days, no more new outbreaks have been registered in Western Europe, so fingers crossed and let's hope for the best.

Most likely, wild birds have been the conveyors of the virus. At least it was found in droppings of ducks, in the field nearby an infected farm. However, try and keep that away, no chance!

But the integrated approach and immediate action of all parties involved, seems to have kept the disease under control, no question about that.

Animal rights activists tend to benefit from these incidents to blame the poultry business for their practices. Luckily with only limited success. They don't seem to understand that there's no other way than keeping poultry in a professional way to be efficient and productive and also be better suited to keep diseases under control! Of course stringent biosecurity measures should never be neglected. The recent outbreaks of this avian disease have made that crystal clear again.

There are never any guarantees that such a disease outbreak can be kept away. Of course it can always happen again. It is and has been the integrated approach and strength of all parties involved, to tackle the AI outbreak and not let it spread any further. Well done everyone!

Ad Ball Editor World Poultry

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## German poultry giant moves to GMO-free poultry diets

The chickens under the flag of Wiesenhof, the largest German poultry producer, will no longer receive GMO-soy in their diet as of January 1st.

This decision is a direct result of pressure from the top of German supermarkets. In late August the supermarkets, with a broad consensus, demanded the German Poultry Association (ZDG) to stop using GMO feed for both egg and poultry meat production, starting from January 1st 2015. The German retailers also indicated that they will demand a completely GMO-free feed supply chain in all animal feed sectors, including dairy, pork and beef as a next step that is to follow relatively soon.

In 2013, twelve supermarkets from across Europe signed the Brussels Soy Declaration, stating that they want EU consumers and farmers to have a choice to eat and use non-GMO soy.

Emmy Koeleman

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ANIMAL FEEDS (NORTH EASTERN) LIMITED  
COCK LANE, PIERCEBRIDGE, Co. DURHAM DL2 3TJ  
TELEPHONE: (01325) 374463 FAX: (01325) 374698



