

Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

MARKET REPORT

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	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
Farm to Shop	Prices	£1.49	£1.25	£1.15	80p
Scottish Wholesaler	Prices	£1.20	85p	75p	
English Wholesaler	Colony	£1.35(+5p)	90p(+2p)	80p	60p
	F/R	£1.43	£1.33	£1.23	70p
	Colony	£1.25	£1.00	80p	65p
	F/R	£1.40	£1.40	£1.30	70p
Packer / Producer Contracted average Price					
	Organic	FreeRange	Barn	Colony	
	£1.20/£1.45	85p/£1.10	75p/£1.00	70p/95p	
Producer / Consumer		V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
- Colony	Prices	£2.00	£1.85	£1.40	90p
- Free Range	Prices	£3.00	£2.35	£1.93	£1.05
Free-Range to Farm Shop	Prices	£1.75/£2.25	£1.31/£1.91	£1.15/£1.45	95p
Central Egg Agency	Colony	95p	80p	70p	52p
	F/R	£1.30	£1.15	£1.05	77p
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	78p	62p	58p	

Prices virtually no change, but there is not a lot of surplus about, a few weeks ago we were convinced the price was being manipulated down with stories of vast surpluses which are now showing not to be there. It is the big supermarkets that are consistently pressurising for price reductions in their attempt to try and compete with the so called discounters, do they not realise in their quest for lower prices it affects the entire market with the discounters reducing prices as well, with our industry paying the price.

Central egg as an example are discounting their quoted price, but have very few supplies, which is also what most people are saying, that supplies are fairly tight, with not a lot of surplus about. Our Scottish schools go back next week which usually improves egg uptake as the parents have to be back too and after the holidays are seriously watching the pennies, eggs are excellent value.

British egg week is the 6th to the 12th of October.

BEIC's theme for this year is "eggs make a meal out of anything" to emphasise the fact that eggs are a brilliant vehicle to make a meal out of leftovers and cut down on food waste.

Salmonella in eggs, the figures show that in the period 1997 to 2011 there was a 99% drop in the levels of Salmonella Enteritidis in England and Wales and it is almost down to zero, in Scotland we have had no positive tests in our laying population for many years, the few incidences of Salmonella infections linked to eggs in the human populations have been traced to imported eggs!

Last week we put in the piece about the EU looking to extend the Best before dates on eggs to try and cut back on food waste, this is following a request from Sweden who has a zero incidence of Salmonella. The EU to look at any change, have to look to the worst scenario and there are still to many countries with high levels of Salmonella in their laying flocks, when you look at the bacterial increase in infected eggs at 40 days and 50 days it shows very clearly the high risks from imported eggs.

The UK is still only 87% self-sufficient increasing very slowly, there are still imports of shell eggs with most ending up in catering, consumers should be made aware of this fact, there is also liquid egg and products coming into the country, unless supermarkets and retail organisations are persuaded to only use home produced products this will continue.

The only really safe option is home produced and with SCO on the shell.

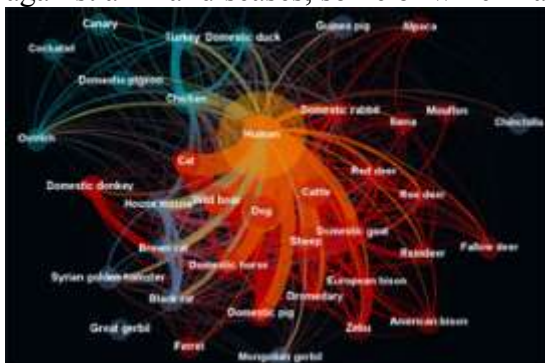
The piece from Phillip Clarke on the proposed strike by FSA Inspectors in abattoirs if it goes ahead could affect our egg industry with difficulties in the disposal of end of lay hens.

Poultry Club of Scotland

It is now in count down time to the annual dinner in the Dunblane Hilton Friday 24th October

BBSRC fights animal diseases with vaccinology network

BBSRC has funded a new multidisciplinary network of veterinary vaccinology experts to help in the fight against animal diseases, some of which have the potential to spread to humans.



The relationship between diseases of domestic animal and humans. Circle size represents the number of pathogen species found for each host; the arrows linking these circles represent the number of pathogen species shared by each pair of hosts (the thicker the arrow, the greater the number of pathogen species they share). The colour of the circles is related to the type of host (humans, other mammals, birds, rodents). - Photo: Copyright: Dr Maya Wardeh, Liverpool University Climate and Infectious Diseases of Animals team. Data from EID2.

The UK Veterinary Vaccinology Network will draw together major UK research players to enhance the uptake of new technologies in order to design, develop and deliver safe and effective next-generation vaccines against new and (re)-emerging diseases.

Vaccines represent one of the most cost effective ways of preventing and eradicating diseases and they are an important tool in the armoury against infectious diseases. With approximately 60% of animal diseases having the potential to cause human infections, these vaccines protect public health as well as enhancing animal welfare and sustainably improving livestock production to meet growing food demands.

While vaccination campaigns have had success, such as the eradication of rinderpest and reducing the usage of antibiotics and other drugs (e.g. aquaculture), new diseases (e.g. schmallenberg), exotic (e.g. avian influenza) and re-emerging diseases (e.g. Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome), have highlighted the need to re-think the current methods for developing vaccines.

Building on the UK strength in veterinary science, advances in biotechnology, and the biological revolution in new technologies (such as next generation DNA sequencing and synthetic biology), there are opportunities for researchers to create new veterinary vaccines and increase efficient development pathways for them.

Dr Bryan Charleston, head of the Livestock Viral Diseases Programme at The Pirbright Institute, and Network Coordinator, said: "There is huge potential to improve animal welfare, human health, and the economic performance of the UK livestock industries by developing new vaccines for widespread infectious diseases caused by parasites, bacteria and viruses. The network will facilitate and promote coordination of research in this important field to generate the scientific knowledge and discoveries needed for a step change in veterinary vaccinology."

World Poultry

Strike could prompt meat scarcity in UK supermarkets

UK supermarket shelves could be void of poultry meat, pork and red meat, if a planned strike by meat hygiene inspectors goes ahead, trade union Unison has warned.

The union has received 63% support for strike action in a ballot of meat hygiene inspectors, vets and support staff employed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), over a long-running pay dispute.

The FSA has offered a 0.75% pay rise, while Unison is calling for "an above inflation pay increase that would begin to make up some of the 15% that has been lost from the pay packets of FSA staff under the coalition government".

If a strike goes ahead, it is claimed that more than 130 slaughterhouses in England, Wales and Scotland will be affected, hitting red and white meat supplies to butchers and supermarkets.

Dave Prentis, general secretary of Unison, said: "Meat inspectors and vets are a vital link in the food safety chain, protecting the public by keeping contaminated meat off our plates.

"The strike may well clear supermarket shelves and butchers' shops of meat and threaten summer barbecues. It is down to the FSA to come up with a fair offer.

"Working in slaughterhouses is an extremely messy and stressful job and our members will not accept another cut in the value of their wages."

In response, the FSA said the union had not yet announced what action would take place as a result of the vote.

"Should Unison decide to take strike action, our contingency plans will minimise any disruption to meat supplies," it added.

According to Unison, its members have prevented three million chickens contaminated with faeces from entering the human food chain in the past two years, as well as 5.5 million birds with ascites – a build-up of fluid caused by heart or liver diseases.

From Philip Clarke / Poultry World

Why did the hen jump in the Loch?

Because the cockerel egged her on!

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