

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 |
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| Scottish Wholesaler | Prices | £1.30 | £1.05 | 90p | |
| English Wholesaler | Colony F/R | £1.25 | £1.05 | 90p | 69p |
| | | £1.55 | £1.45 | £1.35 | 79p |
| | | £1.40 | £1.15 | 95p | 65p |
| | | £1.55 | £1.55 | £1.45 | 75p |
| Packer / Producer Contracted average Price | | | | | |
| | | Organic | FreeRange | Barn | Colony |
| | | £1.30/£1.45 | 85p/£1.05 | 75p/95p | 65p/85p |
| 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 F/R | 98p | 87p | 77p | 52p |
| | | £1.50 | £1.40 | £1.25 | 87p |
| Imported Continental Prices in Bulk | | | | | |
| Dutch Eggs | Barn | 92p(+3p) | 73p(+1p) | 66p(+1p) | 58p |

Demand is quiet according to most sources, but at the same time there appears to be no surpluses. There has been some cheaper French eggs coming into the country mostly in Southern England but some have appeared in Scotland mostly in the very bottom of the wholesale market.

There is being a lot of eggs exported from the EU to the Middle East and Africa.

It's only a week till the clocks change (25th October) this usually triggers an increase in demand when consumers start changing their eating habits to winter, to something warm with eggs being part of it.

Cascading is rearing its head again from Brussels, many Northern European countries especially Scandinavia do not allow cascading but their egg production is predominantly Barn with no need to cascade.

The UK has the highest level of Organic and Free Range production in the EU, if cascading is to be banned this might reduce the alternative systems production as with the higher costs of production no one could afford to have a surplus.

This might affect Free Range sales in particular and could also be deemed as controlling the market.

EU warns UK on egg cascading

The process of cascading [eggs](#) occurs when egg packers have too much of one production method of egg and then place that egg into packs of another production method. Whilst it is illegal to cascade up from a lower welfare egg to a higher welfare egg, cascading of egg down in welfare is quite common. Although the EU stress that this too is illegal and have asked DEFRA to explain why this process is still being used.

The warning came after rumours circulated in the United Kingdom that the European Commission had been approached by someone in the UK - possibly in Scotland - to ask about the legality of cascading free range [eggs](#) into [barn](#) or cage supplies. Such a practice is one possible way of dealing with a surplus of free range [eggs](#) during times of oversupply in the market, although there would appear to be no need for cascading at the moment. Marketeers have been telling the Ranger for the last few months that free range egg supplies are particularly tight. Some have found it difficult to obtain free range [eggs](#) for their customers.

There has been a feeling amongst many in the egg industry that whilst selling cage or [barn eggs](#) as free range would clearly be misleading for consumers and wrong under EU law, cascading free range down to [barn](#) or cage would be acceptable. But a spokesman for the Commission's DG Agri directorate told the Ranger that this was not the case. "Egg cascading is not allowed under EU rules," he said. The practice was completely outlawed by the regulations.

Asked whether there had been an approach about the issue from the UK, he said, "We are not immediately aware of a question from Defra on this issue, or recent correspondence from the European Commission's DG Agri with Defra on this subject," said the spokesman, although he said that there had been an approach from another member state. "Although we are not aware of a recent official request from Defra on this issue, a similar request was made by another member state some time ago and the Commission replied officially that this practice is prohibited as it would mislead the consumers and be contrary to traceability rules on [eggs](#)."

He said in a prepared statement, "The marketing of [eggs](#) is ruled by the provisions of the single CMO Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and the Regulation (EC) No 589/2008 on marketing stand-ards. The EU rules aim to ensure that marketing of [eggs](#) is fully harmonised in the EU and that con-sumers are clearly and correctly informed on the farming method used to raise the laying hens. Ac-cording to Art 12 of Regulation 589/2008, packs containing class A [eggs](#) shall bear on the outer surface in easily visible and clearly legible type the farming method used 'organic', 'free range [eggs](#)', '[barn eggs](#)' or '[eggs](#) from caged hens.'

In addition, class A [eggs](#) shall be marked with the producer code according to Annex VII part VI, III point 1 of the single CMO Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. The producer code starts by a '1' if laying hens are raised free range and a '3' if laying hens are raised in cages. The meaning of the producer code has also to be explained on or inside the pack."

The spokesman said, "The above mentioned rules prohibit de facto the marking of free range [eggs](#) as cage [eggs](#)." He said, "Egg cascading is not allowed under EU rules."

The Ranger understands that officials at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs recently

spoke to egg producers at a stakeholder meeting to obtain their views on the issue of cascading. It is not known whether this was prompted by the approach made to the European Commission about the practice and the Commission's response that cascading is against the rules.

Farming UK

World Class Centre for pigs and poultry

The pig and poultry industries in the UK have joined forces to draw up a concept note for the creation of a world-class centre of excellence.



A stakeholder meeting to be held at Fera, near York on Friday 14 November will explain the concept further and seek support from across both industries.

Those at the meeting will hear from companies which are involved why they are involved and why other stakeholders ought to get involved.

The academic partners will describe new areas of research and how the capital investment in facilities contributes to re-creating global leadership in pig and poultry science.

The key for UK pig and poultry supply chains is how the new structure will radically change how we get research and ideas taken up quickly and broadly in practice.

An expression of interest has been drawn up and is to be submitted to stand a chance of getting part of the Government's £90 million Agri-tech capital funding.

The full submission has to be ready by next June so there is now plenty of time for anybody interested to become involved in helping develop it.

Steering group chairman Stewart Houston said: "By necessity, the steering group has had to move quickly to meet the Government's timescale to submit an expression of interest.

"It is important, however, to ensure that the Monogastric Centre of Excellence is inclusive and genuinely represents the interests and ambitions of the pig and poultry sectors and of all of those organisations and institutions that can contribute, in the broadest sense, to the development and success of the Centre.

"Following the meeting on 14 November, we'll be able to refine and amend our initial concepts before finalising our detailed business plan which needs to be submitted to Government before the June 2015 deadline."

- For further information, [click here](#).
 - [What is the Monogastric Centre of Excellence and How Can it Help Your Business and Your Next Big Idea \(PDF\)](#)
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Why should hens rinse their beaks out with soap?

Because of all their fowl language!!



