

Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

MARKET REPORT

www.scottisheggs.co.uk

sepramail@gmail.com

Date: 19th June 2015

	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
Farm to Shop	Prices	£1.49	£1.25	£1.15	80p
Scottish Wholesaler	Colony F/R	£1.15(+5p) £1.50	95p(+5p) £1.40	90p(+10p) £1.30	
English Wholesaler	Colony F/R	£1.30 £1.60	£1.00 £1.50	90p £1.30	70p 80p
	Colony F/R	£1.55(+5p) £1.50	£1.25(+5p) £1.50	£1.15(+5p) £1.30	90p(+5p) 85p
Packer / Producer Contracted average Price					
		Organic	FreeRange	Barn	Colony
		£1.20/£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	£1.10 £1.40	95p £1.30	85p £1.20	65p 95p
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	£1.05	90p	82p	66p
German	Colony		87p	79p	

The market, we said it would get interesting, didn't think we would see Colony dearer than Free Range, again it is the old supply and demand, a lot of Colony out and a lot of new Free Range in.

It will all sort it's self out over the next few months, but right now Irish packers are still pushing prices up blaming the demand on the Continent linked to the USA, but things are more settled and we have heard of some cheaper parcels of eggs available there, opinion is that any movement will be down, demand is very quiet with a lot of people taking early holiday's to avoid the high prices at peak times.

Heard an interesting story from a member who was tight for eggs and purchased some from Ireland to discover they had bought them through Central Egg from another Scottish producer/ packer.

The problems in USA continue to get worse and today we heard of another 1 million hens lost to AI, it is completely altering the world egg market, which is altering the EU market with exports to countries which were traditionally supplied by the US and that effects our market especially eggs for processing.

For that reason most of this week's report is linked to the US problems an awful lot of which is linked to appalling Bio-Security and high densities of production in relatively small areas of a vast country.

In the USA it appears they have been hit by both the Autumn migration going south and now the spring migration going North of wetland wild birds, our own next high risk time will be in the Autumn when the wetland birds which summer in Siberia return to our shores and numbers will depend on how severe the Continental winter will be and note that the American NFU is stating that climate change did and is affecting distribution of agricultural products, no-one can be complacent over mother nature.

Bird flu prompts first shipment of EU eggs to US in decades

Egg markets face disruption across Europe as the US seeks to replace supplies lost from outbreaks of bird flu, traders have warned.

It has lost about 35 million laying hens – 10% of its national flock – to avian influenza since January, creating an acute supply shortage. As a result, it has granted access to the Netherlands for egg product sooner than expected. It is understood that Germany may also be sending egg to the US. On 1 June, the United States Department of Agriculture granted approval for five Dutch companies to export their egg for the first time since 1987.

Disrupt domestic and intra-European trade

Hubert Andela, president of ANEVEI, the Dutch Association of Egg Traders, said the country had been trying to sell to the US for some time. "Prices for egg white powder in the US have been around double that of the EU for two years; that is why we began the process to gain market access." That sudden granting of access was welcome, he added, but it would disrupt domestic and intra-European trade. He urged caution to producers thinking of expanding, suggesting it was difficult to tell when normal production would resume in the US, and that other countries could win access.

Facing a true crisis

Cory Martin, of the American Bakers' Association, which campaigned for access to the Netherlands, said it was a "big step" but more needed to be done to alleviate supply issues. He called on the US government to seek out more markets for egg product. "We are facing a true crisis, and without additional actions to increase supply, bakers and many other food manufacturers face dire situations in the coming weeks and months," added Mr Martin.

Dutch egg producers normally export two-thirds of their output, with the main market being Germany. One estimate suggested about 1% of its output – equivalent to 100m eggs – could be shipped to the US. The US is not the only country looking to Europe for egg products, with Spain and Portugal enjoying buoyant trade to third countries as a result of their AI-free status.

UK is pretty short of colony

Andy Crossland, of the British Central Egg Agency, said domestic colony prices had improved in the past few weeks, largely because of demand outside Britain. "The UK is pretty short of colony at the moment," he said. "A few birds went early around Easter because prices were falling, and retailer demand was not strong." Prices had since rallied, he added, with some noting "enquiries" on the Continent for UK eggs.

US egg prices to hit record high due to bird flu

Meanwhile, The average price of a dozen eggs in the United States will climb to a record high this year due to the nation's worst-ever outbreak of bird flu in poultry, US Department of Agriculture data issued last Wednesday showed. The USDA, in a monthly supply and demand report, increased its forecast for the price of Grade A large eggs in New York in 2015 to \$1.60 to \$1.66 per dozen. That is up from its May estimate of \$1.30 to \$1.36, and tops last year's average price of about \$1.42, which was a record high, according to USDA data.

In the fourth quarter of 2015, eggs will average \$1.73 to \$1.87 per dozen, up from about \$1.63 a year earlier, the USDA said. Last month, the agency predicted a dozen eggs would cost \$1.33 to \$1.45 in the fourth quarter.

Impact expected to stretch into next year

Nationwide, more than 47 million chickens and turkeys have been killed in the past six months because of bird flu or are set to be culled to prevent the spread of the disease. Most are hens in Iowa, the top US egg-producing state. The impact of the losses is expected to stretch into next year, with USDA raising its estimate for average egg prices in 2016 to \$1.36 to \$1.47 per dozen from its May estimate of \$1.28 to \$1.39.

The USDA says imports may help compensate for reduced domestic production. The USDA pegged 2015 egg imports at 41.4 million dozen, up 32 percent from its May forecast and 26 percent above 2014 imports. Still, total supplies are expected to drop 4 percent from last year to 8.1 billion dozen, according to the agency.

Source: [Farmers Weekly](#) and Reuters

By Jake Davies

Poor biosecurity in US ‘has helped spread bird flu’

Poor biosecurity and airborne infection have played a key role in the spread of high pathogenic avian

influenza in the US this year, a report from the country's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Aphis) has suggested.

Photo: Marcel van Hoorn

Aphis has so far reported 222 cases of avian influenza affecting more than 47 million birds in the US – mostly laying hens and farmed turkeys – since the crisis began last December. It has also just completed a preliminary epidemiological report. "After conducting investigations on over 80 commercial poultry farms, Aphis analysis indicates that there are likely several ways the virus could be transmitted, including lapses in biosecurity practices and environmental factors," said a statement.

Wild birds responsible for introducing HPAI

While scientists are confident wild birds were responsible for introducing HPAI into commercial poultry, "it appears the virus was spreading in other ways. Although Aphis cannot at present point to a single statistically significant pathway for the current spread of HPAI, a likely cause of some virus transmission is insufficient application of recommended biosecurity practices," said the agency.

In particular it points to:

- Sharing of equipment between infected and non-infected farms
- Employees moving between infected and non-infected farms
- Lack of cleaning and disinfection of vehicles moving between farms
- Reports of rodents or small wild birds inside the poultry houses

Analysis by Aphis also found that air samples collected outside infected poultry houses contained virus particles, indicating that the virus could be transmitted by air.

Relationship between high winds and increase in infected farms

"Preliminary analysis of wind data shows a relationship between sustained high winds and an increase in the number of infected farms approximately five days later," said the statement. "Aphis is conducting additional analyses to better characterise environmental factors that may contribute to virus spread."

The report noted that the US department of agriculture was collaborating with affected States and the industry to implement more stringent biosecurity measures.

Source: [*Farmers Weekly*](#)

By Philip Clarke

Portable device for detecting poultry diseases

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) and Veredus Laboratories, a supplier of molecular diagnostic tools, announced the launch of VereVet™, a portable Lab-on-Chip application that can detect, differentiate and identify nine major poultry infectious disease agents in one sample using a single disposable biochip.

Unlike the conventional method of testing which requires different samples for different tests, the portable Lab-on-Chip application should be able to detect multiple infectious disease agents affecting poultry using only one sample. These disease agents include Newcastle Disease virus, Salmonella Pullorum, Salmonella Enteritidis, Campylobacter and Avian Influenza, according to the makers of the chip.

Emergence of new strains

AVA CEO Tan Poh Hong said: "Singapore is free from bird flu. However it continues to plague other countries in the region as well as other parts of the world. With the emergence of new strains, it may be a challenge to quickly identify the strain in question. The new Lab-on-Chip, capable of rapidly identifying multiple poultry pathogens in one sample, enables authorities to take appropriate actions."

Scientific details of VereVet will be presented at the 17th International Symposium of World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians in Canada on Tuesday.

By World Poultry

Disinfection during lay keeps birds healthy

Disinfection of the poultry house is normally carried out between rounds. Within the production cycle the options to tackle micro-organisms are limited, especially during the long cycles in laying. Disinfection during lay is a viable option to keep birds healthy.

Hygiene and disinfection during the production cycle results in better performance. - Photo: Ton Kastermans

Layers face all kinds of harmful bacteria and diseases during their life. Starting a production cycle with a super clean house, cannot always prevent problems caused by coccidian, Salmonella, campylobacter, clostridium and others. On top of that poultry farming very often faces antibiotic resistant strains of micro-organisms. The need of additional treatments increases too, mainly for performance stimulation with vitamins, micro, macronutrients, and other feed additives.

To battle the increased and unregulated application of antibiotics and the subsequent sharp increase in antibiotic resistance of the micro-organisms on the one hand and the significant increase of food safety criteria on the other lead to the inclusion of strict rules for antibiotic use and residues in chicken meat and eggs. With this regard Stalosan F, produced by Stormoellen – part of Vilofoss Group, Denmark was test-

ed in a laying hen farm, during a production cycle. The product gave farmers the opportunity to control of a broad spectrum pathogens – bacteria, viruses, fungi and the fly population with an exceptional activity in the presence of organic matter. Furthermore have a significant positive impact on environmental conditions by neutralising ammonia and hydrogen sulphide as well as moisture in the litter in poultry houses. In this way Stalosan F plays a significant role in biosecurity, animal welfare, providing round the clock protection against diseases during the whole production cycle.

Farm with a problem

A field experiment on an egg producing farm was conducted to get the farmer out of a negative spiral. The farm had encountered multiple challenges and undertook efforts to battle them one by one. The main problem was an increased mortality. From the beginning of the year high mortality was observed. Lab tests isolated E. coli O78. Based on the test, two antibiotics were administered, Enrofloxacin and combination of Enrofloxacin + Colistin followed by vitamins. However, the efficacy of the treatment reduced mortality for about 10-14 days, then it returned high again. This continued throughout the period (about 4.5 months) before starting, the use of Stalosan F powder. On top of that the flock battled with a persistent parasitic infection with *Ascaridia gali*. The farmer periodically applied Vermitan premix for 5 days in the feed as a treatment against parasites.

Quality of the feed was also tested. Poor quality sunflower meal was found. Immediately the meal was replaced with a better quality and inclusion rate reduced from 8% to 4%. However, the change did not affect mortality. Another stress factor was the infestation of the litter with mealy mites. On the upside; water was also tested and showed it meets the standards for human consumption. Water treatment began with organic acid mixture for additional sanitation of drinking lines and tanks and improvement of bird's digestive system. This treatment did not show any results.

Stalosan F application

After the antibiotic treatment for 5 days Stalosan F application started. It was applied for the first 3 days and once per week later on for a period of 10 weeks. The product was spread across the entire floor area, especially in wet and damp areas as well as along the edges of the house. Total quantity used was 500 kg for 12 applications at 50 gr/m². The birds showed an immediate response. The mortality decreased significantly without any antibiotic treatments or other medication, egg production performance increased and litter quality improved. There was a significant reduction of fly and mealy mite population and consequently there was no reoccurrence of E.Coli infection, thus no need of antibiotic treatments. In fact all additional treatments were terminated such as deworming, water treatments and BioZink medication. Stalosan F application helped to minimise the production cost.

Key role in biosecurity

The use of Stalosan F during the production solves infection problems and blocks the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria. It plays a key role in maintaining the health status of the birds and the ability of hens to overcome more easily the stress. It also shows a significant impact on animal welfare. The Stalosan F application showed its efficacy, which can be used for disease prevention and its safety for the birds and equipment. Birds showed adequate response to Stalosan F treatment and the conclusion is, that it is a product of choice needed to optimise their life comfort. Additionally Stalosan F can be considered as a product which helps poultry to overcome more easily the stress situations. Stalosan F plays a key role for the poultry farm biosecurity, directly linked to the animal health and welfare, capable to reduce antibiotic treatments, as well as additional stimulating treatments.

- [Disinfection during lay keeps birds healthy fgs and tpls](#)

By Plamen Bochukov, Vitfoss, Denmark

US NFU asserts climate-related food security

The US National Farmers Union has expressed concern over the food security implications of climate change.

National Farmers Union (NFU) President Roger Johnson has filed comments on the United States Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) draft report, *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment (Climate and Health Assessment)*. The Climate and Health Assessment will help Americans understand the changing health risks they face as the U.S. continues to experience climate change.

"USGCRP explains many of the challenges agriculture faces due to climate change in the Climate and Health Assessment, including food safety and distribution concerns," said Johnson. "As work on this draft continues, NFU asks the USGCRP to consider the risk to food security posed by food system consolidation. Climate change has the potential to drive farm consolidation, leading to increased reliance on food distribution networks that are vulnerable to climate-related disruption."

Johnson notes that the changes farmers will have to make to adjust to climate change are expected to be expensive, in some cases too expensive for family farmers servicing local and regional markets. As the growing expense of farming in a changing climate drives some farmers out of business, local and regional food systems may atrophy, leaving communities with few alternatives to national and global food distribution systems.

But as the Climate and Health Assessment points out, food shipping is increasingly vulnerable to severe disruption related to climate change. "Communities will learn that the smaller growers nearby – growers who could feed them in the event of an emergency – will be priced out of business, leading to real nutrition crises if extreme weather cuts off shipping," Johnson said. "We need growers of all types and sizes to ensure our food system is adequately climate-resilient."

"This document will be very useful in helping citizens and policymakers understand what we're up against when we talk about climate change," said Johnson. "We are grateful for the opportunity to help USGCRP tell the whole story."



