

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	£1.40	£1.00	90p	
English Wholesaler	Colony F/R	£1.44(+4p)	£1.24(+4p)	£1.05(+5p)	75p(+5p)
		£1.90	£1.70	£1.50	80p
		£1.56(+6p)	£1.31(+6p)	£1.21(+6p)	81p(+6p)
		£1.70	£1.65	£1.55	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	£1.15(+2p)	£1.03(+2p)	93p(+2p)	70p(+2p)
	F/R	£1.70	£1.60	£1.45	£1.05
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	£1.00	84p(+1p)	77p(+1p)	60p

Prices in England are still spiralling up, there are virtually no spare eggs anywhere, we have had several comments of, if we had any spare eggs they would be £3.00 per dozen.

Colony eggs are pulled up price wise by the shortage of free range, but both now are getting customer resistance to the sudden price rises, we are also hearing of supermarkets receiving short orders.

We suspect everything is balanced on a knife edge with Avian Influenza being the problem.

We have had one confirmed case in Ducks in East Yorkshire, if DEFRA manage to isolate the problem and no other outbreaks occur prices will hold and possibly firm up, but if there any other outbreaks, the media would go mad and demand and prices would go down the plughole.

We hear of DEFRA inspectors casually wondering in as if there was no problem (this would not happen in Scotland) and there recommendations for Bio-Security are somewhat pathetic and out of date with our modern industry, when you compare them with the standards required by the authorities in Holland.

This Avian Influenza outbreak has been a bit of a surprise but it shouldn't have been. It all comes back to Siberia and waterfowl, the hot bed of AI is the far east China and Vietnam, but waterfowl that over winter on the coast there go to the vast wet lands in Siberia, which cover the roof of the world from Asia to Europe for the summer, where they obviously meet up with the waterfowl that over winters in Holland and our East coast hence the out breaks in Germany, Holland and now our East coast.

Bird X and Pigeons Out supply an oil based gel that can be applied to roofs of buildings, branches of trees or posts that is repellent to wild birds, under the circumstances this is a product that might be of interest.

There is an invitation from Victoria Sandilands of Scottish Rural University Colleges to attend a conference on injurious feather pecking in Perth in January, at the end of this report.

With the UK government sitting on the fence listening to who lobby's the most on whether to bring in a beak trimming ban in 2016 and Holland already deciding on 2018 this will be an important meeting.

Third case of AI discovered in the Netherlands

Another poultry farm in the Netherlands has been found infected with avian influenza (AI). This time, a 10,000 head multiplication farm in the eastern province Overijssel was struck.



Photo: ANP / Jeroen Jumelet

According the European regulations, all birds on the farm will be culled as soon as possible.

It is the third farm with confirmed avian influenza. Earlier, farms in [Hekendorp](#) (Utrecht) and [Ter Aar](#) (South Holland) were found to be infected. At the two other farms, the virulent strain H5N8 was confirmed – trials are currently been conducted to establish whether or not this highly pathogenic AI is also the pathogen on the third farm. Analyses should give clarity later today.

Just like with the other two farms, a zone with a 10 km radius around the farm is being made. Within this zone, there are 34 other poultry farms. All these farms will be sampled and researched. In addition, a standstill will be put in place for transport of poultry, eggs, bedding and manure.

The virus, which originally comes from Asia, has also been confirmed [in the UK](#) and [Germany](#) earlier this month.

[Vincent ter Beek](#)

New: Powder AI vaccination with dead virus particles

Dutch researchers have developed an avian influenza vaccine that can be applied on a large scale on poultry farms by using dead virus particles inside a powder.

The vaccine has been developed on the basis of the strain H5N1, explained Dr Erik Frijlink, professor in pharmaceutical technology and biopharmacy at Groningen University, the Netherlands.

The idea of the vaccine is to create resistance amongst poultry flocks against infections by migratory birds, often a source of avian influenza.

On Dutch radio, Frijlink explained, "The new vaccine only includes dead virus particles, making it harmless to humans." Similar viruses did exist, but only through injection, which is difficult on modern large poultry farms. The new virus will be distributed through condensation in the air – the vaccine will be distributed in the farm air as a very thin powder. The flock will then just breathe it in.

The innovation would mainly be important for solutions in Eastern Asia. Massive vaccinations might help there to subdue outbreaks of hazardous strains of avian influenza.

For countries inside the European Union, the drawback of this development is that vaccination might make poultry meat not eligible for exports. Some countries don't wish to import eggs and meat of vaccinated chickens as it is not possible to tell whether carcasses carrying traces of antibodies have been infected or vaccinated during their lives.

Still, the research serves a good purpose, even in the EU. Frijlink added, "The massive culling of poultry is not socially acceptable in the long run."

The new development might help to vaccinate on a large scale quickly if necessary. It is, however, possible to apply the technique to the new H5N8 strain, which has been found in Germany, the UK and the Netherlands this month.

The vaccine has been developed with support of the ministry of Economic Affairs, including agriculture. Apart from Groningen University, also the University Medical Centre Groningen, the Central Veterinary Institute in Lelystad and the University Utrecht cooperated.

[Vincent ter Beek](#)

HPAI: Severe losses for Dutch poultry sector

As a consequence of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak, the Dutch cannot export poultry meat to markets beyond the European Union (EU) for the next three months. Losses could be up to €100 million.

This weekend, a 150,000 layer farm about 50 km south of Amsterdam was found to be infected with H5N8. This similar strain was also found this month on farms in [Germany](#) and the [UK](#).

In the Netherlands, prices for poultry meat and breeding eggs are likely to go down on the short term. Exports to markets outside the EU will be cancelled for the next three months, Jan Odink, chairman of the Association of Dutch Poultry Processing Industries (Nepluvi) told Dutch agricultural title *Boerderij*.

According to protocols, a country reports an outbreak of avian influenza at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris, France – after which countries do not import from this particular country. Approximately 25% of the total Dutch exports is exported to destinations outside the EU, Eurostat figures show.

Exports *within* the EU will be cancelled for only as long as [the standstill will last in the Netherlands itself: 72 hours](#). It is however the case that no meat can be exported to countries inside the EU from a farm that is within a 10 km radius around the infected farm.

Total damage may be as high as €100 million, said Gert Jan Oplaat, chairman of the Dutch Union of Poultry Breeders.

South Korea

South Korea, recently hit very hard by H5N8, already announced to close its borders for Dutch breeding eggs and live broilers, and more countries are expected to do so. Tjeerd den Hollander, spokesman for the Dutch Organisation of Breeding Egg and Broiler Exporters (NVE), said: "Experience tells us borders will close."

There had been talks with Japan and China to resume breeding egg and poultry exports as these had been cancelled due to an earlier low pathogenic AI outbreak. These discussions will remain frozen for some while now. Annually, the Netherlands export 3 billion breeding eggs and 12 million broilers to countries outside the EU.

Spread

There are reasons to believe that the outbreak in the Netherlands will only remain limited to this one farm in the village of Hekendorp. Immediate research on farms in the vicinity of the infected farm showed that other farms had not been infected. The 72 hour standstill is partly meant to figure out whether other farms in a 10 km radius around the farm have been infected.

Another reason to believe that the outbreak will not spread further is related to the farm's location. The density of poultry farms in this area in the west of the Netherlands is relatively low. A high density is necessary for the disease to develop into a massive outbreak.

UK outbreak

It looks likely that the outbreaks in the Netherlands, Germany and the UK are related. The British Chief Veterinary Officer as well as the British Poultry Council have stated there is likely a connection between the outbreaks in these countries – and both point to migratory birds as being the most probable source of infection.

[Vincent ter Beek](#)

Study: Preparing for 2018 beak trimming ban

Researchers at Wageningen University are involved in the development of simple yet reliable protocols that will allow farmers and advisors to monitor the effects of non-beak trimming, in preparation for the September 1st 2018 ban.



Beak trimming is a common practice, except for organic layer flocks. However, the practice is decreasing gradually as farmers prepare for the law change in 2018 plus alternations in market demands.

'One of our aims in this research was to support farmers to cope with a future ban on mutilations', researcher Ingrid de Jong explains. 'Some farmers have started to leave beaks intact in their flocks on a voluntary basis.'

Developed monitoring protocols

Alongside monitoring of intact flocks (broiler breeders and laying hens) and performance testing, the researchers have also developed monitoring protocols that can be applied on a large scale in practice. 'This has been aimed at the analysis of risk factors and performance and the effects of not trimming', adds De Jong. 'Work with turkeys still has to be initiated to identify management measures that can prevent injurious pecking behaviour.'

Initial results

Initial results from the monitoring, have been positive. There have been no problems with injurious pecking, so far, in the broiler breeder and laying hen flocks monitored by researchers. 'We have had no indications of problems in rearing with 6 additional laying hen flocks', reports De Jong. Not trimming even improved the technical results in female broiler breeders: better flock uniformity and lower mortality. De Jong adds that there were no (substantial) negative effects on behaviour, feather condition and other technical results i.e. egg production and fertility. Researchers did see a difference in pecking behaviour in fe-

male broiler breeders: more object pecking in beak trimmed birds, more aggressive pecking in non-trimmed birds, but the latter did not result in more feather damage or injuries.

Usability

The monitoring protocol is an application intended for large scale farms. It can be performed by non-researchers, in a reasonable time span with a reliable result. These protocols address similar aspects: general information, technical performance, management, behaviour, feather scoring and wounding. 'The details are sector specific.' De Jong indicates that the monitoring will start in the broiler breeder sector. 'Together with the poultry sector we intend to develop an app for smartphone and tablet and a link to a sector database with general farm information.'

[*\[Source: Wageningen UR\]*](#)

Received this invitation from one of our top Scottish poultry scientists to a conference on injurious feather pecking to be held on Friday 23rd January in the new County hotel Perth.

Can you afford not to be there?----- This might be essential information with the proposed ban on beak trimming----- Full details and speakers next week.

Hi,

SRUC (formerly SAC) is hosting a workshop for Scottish egg producers in January, and attendance at it is free thanks to funding from the Scottish Funding Council.

Kind regards,

Vicky

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Dr Victoria Sandilands

Senior behaviour and welfare scientist; AEC Chairperson

**PLEASE NOTE I do not work on Fridays**

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Why was the hen thrown out of the England /Scotland football match?

They suspected there would be fowl play!

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