

# Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

## MARKET REPORT

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	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
<b>Farm to Shop</b>	Prices	£1.49	£1.25	£1.15	80p
<b>Scottish Wholesaler</b>	Colony F/R	£1.10 £1.50	80p £1.40	70p £1.30	
<b>English Wholesaler</b>	Colony F/R Colony F/R	£1.14 £1.60 £1.30 £1.50	84p £1.50 £1.00 £1.50	76p £1.30 90p £1.30	56p 80p 70p 55p
<b>Packer / Producer Contracted average Price</b>					
		<b>Organic</b> £1.20/£1.45	<b>FreeRange</b> 85p/£1.05	<b>Barn</b> 75p/95p	<b>Colony</b> 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 F/R	90p £1.45	75p £1.35	65p £1.20	55p £1.00
<b>Imported Continental Prices in Bulk</b>					
<b>Dutch Eggs</b>	Barn	83p	66p(+1p)	61p(+1p)	56p
<b>German</b>	Colony		63p(+3p)	57p(+3p)	

The market is quiet (one comment it is like February) but stable and looks like it is going to get very interesting, speaking to our Continental friends they tell us that prices are firming up, Holland and Germany supplies are tight, France and Portugal virtually nothing available, this means probably less imported eggs available and they will be a more realistic price.

This is all linked to the AI problems in the USA, the attached article gives some idea of the scale of the problem, the Americans have developed vast production complexes with cheap production costs linked to their cheaper grain, the EU has been most concerned of the risk of product particularly from the USA coming in and decimating our industry, as because of our higher welfare standards our cost of production is dearer and only the EU protective import tariff barriers are our protection, which were up for negotiation under the World Free Trade negotiations.

Who would ever have thought that the EU would have been exporting to the US but that is exactly what is happening because of the AI problems in the States, resulting in the price for processing on the Continent jumping from 70 Euro cents per kg to 85 Euro cents per kg this explains the sudden shortage of eggs on the Continent which should firm up prices here, but it sounds like coals to Newcastle.

The turkey industry in the US is also badly hit and they are suggesting a shortage for Thanksgiving, we also note that Bernard Mathews is looking for 10million pounds investment to improve their business will they be filling the turkey gap in the US, it's a funny old world, this and who would have thought that political correctness would be a request in our industry and especially from the World Health Organisation.

The piece from the USA shows just how close to disaster we were with the outbreak of AI in ducks in Norfolk last Autumn, although it hit Cherry valley badly, if it had not been for the efficiency of our ministry officials in isolating and dealing with the outbreak and it had moved onto commercial egg production the consequences would have been horrendous and reduced consumer confidence back to Edwina's levels.

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## AI losses grow to \$310 million in US state of Minnesota

Losses in poultry production and related businesses due to avian influenza are estimated at \$309.9 million in the US state of Minnesota, according to a newly released emergency economic impact analysis from University of Minnesota Extension.



Photo: Scott Olsen / Getty images / AFP

Using economic modelling, analysts determined that for every million dollars in direct losses, the estimated ripple effect leads to \$1.8 million in overall economic losses, including \$450,000 in wages. Ripple effect losses stem from factors including reduced wage-earner and business-to-business spending.

The Extension analysis put losses of poultry production - both turkeys and egg-laying chickens - at \$113 million as of May 11.

## Losses have the potential to double

"These projections represent where we stand as of May 11," said Brigid Tuck, Extension senior analyst, who led the study. "If the virus affects more farms, as we have seen since May 11, the impact levels will rise. If barns stay empty for another cycle of poultry production, these numbers could potentially double".

Poultry production and processing is a \$3 billion industry in the state; overall, poultry growers represent about 7% of the agricultural and forestry economy. The study focuses on the state's 80 non-metro counties, where nearly all poultry production occurs.

The extension also concluded that the industry that produces feed for poultry and other animals will be hardest hit by poultry production losses. For every \$1 million of lost poultry production, nearly \$230,000 of demand for poultry feed is lost.

Source: [University of Minnesota](#)

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## Politically correct diseases:

The World Health Organisation calls for ban of phrases like 'bird flu' & 'swine flu'

In a move likely to be welcomed by the pig and poultry industries, the WHO (World Health Organisation) called for terms such as 'bird flu', and 'swine flu' to be outlawed, which have unintended negative impacts, by stigmatising certain communities or economic sectors.

The health body, a UN agency, issued guidelines for naming new human infectious diseases and said the terms could have a "negative impact" on travel, tourism or animal welfare.

Dr Keiji Fukuda, Assistant Director-General for Health Security at the WHO said:

"In recent years, several new human infectious diseases have emerged. The use of names such as 'swine flu' and 'Middle East Respiratory Syndrome' has had unintended negative impacts by stigmatizing certain communities or economic sectors.

"This may seem like a trivial issue to some, but disease names really do matter to the people who are directly affected. We've seen certain disease names provoke a backlash against members of particular religious or ethnic communities, create unjustified barriers to travel, commerce and trade, and trigger needless slaughtering of food animals. This can have serious consequences for peoples' lives and livelihoods."

Source – *NFU Farm Business News Desk*

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# UK: £5M boost to superbug researchers

Nearly £5 million has been awarded to two flagship research projects into antimicrobial resistance (AMR), in one of the largest UK public grant investments in this area, according to the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).



The grants will go to leading lights at the University of Warwick (£3.19M) and the University of Cambridge (£1.58M) and will involve multi-partner collaborations in order to tackle the growing threat of superbugs. The money has been awarded by the cross research council war cabinet on AMR, an initiative established in 2014 as a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary effort to fight the rise of superbugs.

## **The bacterial cell wall**

At the University of Warwick, Prof Chris Dowson and his team have won over £3M of public money to investigate a vital link in the chain of antimicrobial resistance – the bacterial cell wall. The main component of the wall is called peptidoglycan, which is the key target of penicillin and other similar antibiotics. Despite its important role, little is known about how peptidoglycan is made and how antibiotics interfere with it at the biochemical, structural and cellular levels. Without this knowledge we're unlikely to understand how to develop new, effective antibiotics.

This landmark project will pull together a unique group of world leaders in bacterial chemistry, genetics, physics and physiology in the area of peptidoglycan metabolism, structure and architecture. Academia, the pharmaceutical industry and charities will work hand in hand, on a global scale, in the hope to unlock new types of antibiotics.

## **Animal gut flora**

At the University of Cambridge, lead researcher Dr Mark Holmes will look into the effects of antibiotic use on the entire population of animal gut flora, not just the disease causing bacteria. His work, using research in pigs, will help us to understand the evolution of antibiotic resistance and help to make better choices about how to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance on farms. This is important not just for human health but also in our farming industry, which has a high dependence on blanket treatments of antibiotics, increasing the chances of developing resistance.

## **A cross-academia, cross-industry, and cross-continent approach**

Dr Des Walsh, Head of Infections and Immunity at the Medical Research Council (MRC), said: "If AMR is the problem, then research is the answer. It's only with the best researchers working together on the highest quality research, with the financial muscle to make it all happen, that we will truly make headway in the battle to stop the spread of superbugs. It's exciting that the UK houses such scientific talent and the

skills to bring them all together. Looking at how superbugs affect our lives across the chain, from our farms to our pharmacies, is really important. This needs a cross-academia, cross-industry, and cross-continent approach."

Prof Chris Dowson at the University of Warwick, said: "Antibiotic resistance needs to be viewed as a long-term problem with no quick fix. It will be with us for many generations to come. To 'beat the bug' we need to accelerate discovery activities in partnership with industry. Our multidisciplinary team will develop new insight to key targets to help accelerate this discovery and will provide a platform upon which to train the next generation of researchers."

## **Threat to human and animal health**

Dr Mark Holmes at the University of Cambridge, said: "The rise of antibiotic resistance is clearly a threat to human and animal health. While increasing agricultural efficiency has delivered ever cheaper food it has also led to greater levels of infectious disease on farms requiring antibiotic treatment. The use of antibiotics to treat groups of animals inevitably leads to the selection of resistant strains of bacteria on farms. By understanding how antibiotic resistance evolves, we hope to be able to inform smarter use of the drugs and stem, and even reverse, the tide of resistance."

The UK research councils have ring-fenced £33.5M from the current spending round in an initiative to improve our understanding of resistance, and ultimately, our ability to develop new drugs and therapies. These grants have been awarded, under theme one of the cross council initiative 'Understanding resistant bacteria'. The grants will run for 4-5 years.

By World Poultry

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This is a piece of new technology which might be useful also in our egg industry.

## **A better climate for broilers from day one**

In his search to replace existing lighting in his broiler houses Bernard Wolters selected ionisation lamps by chance. Now he is delighted with this choice.



The lamps have normal E27 fittings, making them easy to be installed.

The decision of broiler farmer Bernard Wolters' (54) to use ionisation lamps was an unintended consequence of the transition of regular illumination lamps to the use of LED lamps in his houses. This liberated two out of four rows of lighting fixtures. Wolters: "The vendor of the company Freshlight-Agri, which installed the LED lamps suggested to place ionisation lamps in the released fittings. We treated it like a laughing matter at first, as at that time we had no idea what the function of those lamps could be."

### **Normal fitting, so easily placeable**

Initially, at the beginning of 2014 in one house 42 ionisation lamps were placed in the present luminaires (about 55 m<sup>2</sup> surface per lamp) with a production of 5 million units/m<sup>3</sup>/second each. The lamps have normal E27 fittings, making them easy to be installed. Next, weekly measuring's were conducted in order to see the lamps' actual effects.

Wolters: "The first results were incredible. The house's climate was significantly better from day one. We measured a distinct difference in dust production compared to the other houses. We installed even more powerful lamps with a capacity of 25 million units per lamp. It is worth noting the lamps, as odd as it sounds, give no light. The lamps are continuously operational for 24 hours per day with approximately 0.6 Watt power consumption per lamp."

### **Beneficial for environment and the poultry house**

The fact that the poultry farmer was aware of the certain impact poultry houses have on the environment was an important reason for him to choose ionisation lamps. Wolters: "I want to contribute to the reduction of the impact, yet preferably by means of a system which is beneficial to the chickens as well. Not an air scrubber which is beneficial to the outside world, but a system that brings something positive to the house."

Ions wash unwanted particles from the house air

In the ionisation process negative ions are brought into the house by ionisation lamps. These negative ions are air molecules with a negative charge. These negatively charged particles connect to dust fractions in the air and then bond to a ground surface.

Dust and other chemical particles (such as ammonia) in the air are predominantly positively charged and will be as such washed from the air by the negative ions. Scientific research has shown that enriching air with negative ions eliminates particulate matter, ammonia, viruses and bacteria.

The ionisation lamps immediately provided the broiler farmer with a good impression of the climate. Measurements confirmed the initial impression. "At first we thought the house's ventilation levels to be higher with ionisation lamps, in comparison with the other houses, as the climate felt better. However, after we checked, ventilation turned out to be equivalent to the other houses. The effect was clearly caused by the lamps."

Also the dust production was considerably lower than in other houses, when ionisation lamps were used. The dust is deposited on the litter much faster. “Even after three weeks time everything was rather free of dust, in particular compared to the other houses.”

After measuring, the results were clear: 30% less ammonia and 30% less dust in the air. The effect of ionisation is particularly notable in a situation with a minimal ventilation of 30-40%. Wolters: “We must not overlook the fact that this ventilation range is used during at least 80% of the season. This amplifies the advantage of this impact.”



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## **Earn back in three rounds**

The broiler farmer is visibly satisfied with the performance of the ionisation lamps and can list varying positive points. “The chickens are raised in a healthier climate with less ammonia and less dust. This definitely delivers benefits. During the first three rounds we established a continuous 1.5-2% decrease in mortality, spread over an entire round. As a consequence the total mortality per round is only 1.3-1.5%. We also have a clear impression that the flocks have better uniformity. And this reflects in a 1 to 3 points lower feed conversion. Less medication and a delivery weight which is at least 30-40 grams higher than in other houses count as other advantages.” Moreover, it does not only benefit the chickens, but also the caregivers who consider the air more pleasant.

The broiler farmer is satisfied with the performance of the ionisation lamps which established a continuous 1.5-2% decrease in mortality during the first three rounds.

Currently these ionisation lamps are already installed in five out of eight houses. At the earliest opportunity the lamps will be installed in the other houses as well.



Also during the cleaning period the light bulbs are not turned off. The poultry farmer: “We think the lamps should continuously do their job, allowing the animals to enter a clean environment. The investment in the acquisition amounts to approximately €1 per square meter house surface. With the mentioned advantages you may expect the investment to be recouped within three rounds.”

## To the government

Poultry farmers like Wolters are open to new systems that contribute to an improvement for the animals and their environment. Father Bernard Wolters points out another general advantage: “When there will be more clear results on usage of these ionisation lamps, we can take these to the government in order to clarify to them that newly implemented systems in the house, to improve the quality of the ventilating air for instance, benefits both the outside world and the animals inside the house.”

*This article was featured in World Poultry magazine no. 1, 2015. To read more printed articles see our [digital magazine](#)*

By Dick Duindam

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Why didn't the hen cross the road?

Because she was chicken!



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