

# Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

## MARKET REPORT

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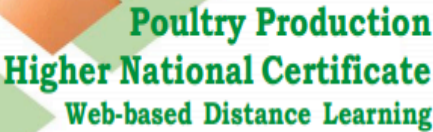

	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
<b>Farm to Shop</b>	Prices	£1.49	£1.25	£1.15	80p
<b>Scottish Wholesaler</b>	Prices	£1.15 £1.50	90p £1.40	80p £1.30	
<b>English Wholesaler</b>	Colony F/R	£1.30 £1.60 £1.45 £1.40	£1.00 £1.50 £1.15 £1.40	90p £1.30 £1.15 £1.20	70p 80p 80p 75p
<b>Packer / Producer Contracted average Price</b>					
		<b>Organic</b>	<b>FreeRange</b>	<b>Barn</b>	<b>Colony</b>
		£1.20/£1.45	90p/£1.15	75p/95p	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	£1.05 £1.30	90p £1.20	80p £1.10	60p 85p
<b>Imported Continental Prices in Bulk</b>					
<b>Dutch Eggs</b>	Barn	85p(-1p)	73p(+1p) 76p(+2p)	66p 69p(+1p)	60p

The market is quiet but eggs are finding a home, the opinion is that prices will start to go up starting with Medium which are fairly tight with good demand from caterers (must be a lot of people holidaying at home plus there seems to be more tourists this year) also all the big supermarkets are putting on special offers.

Aldi, an interesting piece of PR this week, also good news for their suppliers when they announced there would be no deductions for Late deliveries, damage by customers and doing away with over riders, saying that the price negotiated by their suppliers would be what they get, (let's hope this is catching)

As it looks like DEFRA have done their stuff in containing, isolating and sterilising the confirmed case in Lancaster (fingers crossed) and there has been no major media pressure to panic consumers, for although demand is not brilliant there has been no big drop in consumption.

AI in the USA, with the major production areas being decimated they are talking of a 100% increase in retail prices and no eggs to export but this will be short lived as their industry is pretty organised.






### Why Study Poultry Production at SRUC?

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### Entry Requirements

For the HNC the normal requirements are: 2 Highers (CC) or 1 A-level pass or completion of: SWAP Access to Science, or appropriate level 2 Vocational Qualification or poultry industry experience. Mature applicants without formal qualifications are also invited to apply.


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- Report-Based Graded Unit



\*\*Applicants can choose to study individual modules as Continued Professional Development

LogMeIn - Remote Session



**For further information contact**

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 Tel: (0)1292 525230  
 or visit [our website](#) for more details

Received the above details from Auchencruve, brilliant idea you can improve your management skills or anyone interested in a career in our fast changing industry can get the qualifications to progress and as an industry we need them.

This article was taken from the Sunday Mail and is another piece of good news for our industry and blows holes through some old bad science. And you can actually eat up to 8 eggs a day; imagine what that would do for national demand.



# health

By Sarah Stacey

## CHOLESTEROL: THE BIG FAT LIE

**F**OR THE PAST half century, high cholesterol has been held responsible for coronary heart disease. We have been told to forgo cholesterol-rich foods – eggs, cheese, shellfish – and take statins to reduce cholesterol levels in our blood. All this was on the basis of virtually no real evidence, as a growing cohort of dissenting experts has pointed out. Until now they have been ignored, but that is changing.

Far from being harmful, cholesterol is essential for life. 'It is so vital that all cells, apart from neurones, can manufacture cholesterol, and one of the key functions of the liver is to synthesise it,' says Dr Malcolm Kendrick, author of *The Great Cholesterol Con*.

Two key things have been established this year: first, eating foods that contain cholesterol is not dangerous and doesn't raise your blood cholesterol. The 2015 Scientific Report of the US Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee states that 'available evidence shows no appreciable relationship between consumption of dietary cholesterol and serum (blood) cholesterol'.

In fact, the liver makes 85 per cent of the cholesterol that the body needs to function. 'You would need to eat six to eight eggs a day to produce enough cholesterol for your body's needs,' says Dr Kendrick, 'which you're unlikely to do. But if you did eat four eggs a day, the liver would adjust the amount it produced.'

The second more contentious finding is that, in Dr Kendrick's words, 'research confirms that if you have a high cholesterol



level you will live longer'. A report in the *Annals of Nutrition and Metabolism* claims high cholesterol does not lead to heart disease and indeed protects against many illnesses, including cancer. The exception is in people under 50 with extremely high cholesterol due to the genetic condition familial hypercholesterolaemia. 'While they are more likely to die from heart disease, they are much less likely to die of cancer, so life expectancy is essentially unaltered,' says Dr Kendrick.

After scrutinising all the research data, the authors state 'all-cause mortality is highest in the lowest cholesterol group'. This was based on large studies in Japan but they also found that 'elderly people with the highest cholesterol levels have the highest survival rates irrespective of where they live in the world'.

### WE NEED CHOLESTEROL FOR...

- Connecting brain cells: the crucial links (synapses) between the nerve cells (neurones) in our brains are made almost entirely of cholesterol.
- Producing vitamin D, which we need for strong bones and protection against diseases, including some cancers. Vitamin D is synthesised from cholesterol by the action of sunlight on our skin.
- Creating cell membranes, the coating that keeps our cells' structures intact.
- Building sex hormones (oestrogen, progesterone and testosterone).
- Producing bile, which helps with food digestion.
- Fighting infection: lipo-proteins, which carry cholesterol, bind to viruses and bacteria and deactivate them.

### DR KENDRICK'S ADVICE FOR PREVENTING HEART DISEASE

- ♥ If you smoke, stop immediately.
- ♥ Take exercise. Walk everywhere. Get a dog.
- ♥ Go out in the sunshine.
- ♥ Reduce areas of negative stress at work and at home.
- ♥ Eat more fats (including some saturated fats), fewer highly processed foods and less sugar in all forms (see Website of the week, above).

### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

[THATSUGARFILM.COM](http://THATSUGARFILM.COM)

Engaging Aussie actor and director Damon Gameau, a born-again health nut, spends 60 days eating sugar-laden but so-called healthy foods to see what happens to his body (it's not good), and investigates corporate power. It's compelling, informative and absolutely everyone should see it.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT STATINS

- The lead author of a new study into statins, Dr Tomohito Hamazaki, previously supported the cholesterol hypothesis and promoted the benefits of statins. 'Terrible, unforgivable mistakes given what we clearly know now,' the report says.
- These drugs are now recognised as having multiple debilitating side effects, notably muscle weakness, fatigue and memory loss, as well as more serious conditions.
- As well as blocking cholesterol, statins block the production of co-enzyme Q10, an antioxidant that is vital for releasing energy from our cells and powering muscles.
- Dr Kendrick recommends that patients suffering side effects take a holiday from statins for two months. 'Many feel much better and choose not to go back,' he says.

Email your questions to [sarah@sarahstacey.com](mailto:sarah@sarahstacey.com)

# Welfare campaigners renew call to ban caged hens

Animal welfare body, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), is stepping up its campaign to ban enriched colony systems of egg production, describing them as “fundamentally flawed”.

The organisation has released new footage, filmed on 10 colony units in France, Italy, Czech Republic and Cyprus, in which it claims the birds are still unable to perform their natural behaviours.

## Feather pecking

Campaigns director Dil Peeling added that the enrichments were "little more than window dressing", with barely enough space for birds to stretch their wings. Feather pecking was widespread and birds had their beaks severely trimmed.

"On some farms the perches, which are meant to simulate a tree branch for roosting, were barely a few centimetres off the ground. In other cases, if a hen was on a perch, she could not stand upright because the roof of the cage was so low."

## Legislation criticised

As well as perches, the organisation has criticised the legislation in relation to scratch areas. "The Directive does not set a minimum area per hen, so the areas of litter provided are quite minimal, or the material used is unsuitable for key behaviours such as dust bathing."

It also claims some farmers circumvent the rule banning wire mesh floors in nest boxes by simply applying a plastic coating to wire.

CIWF is now launching a campaign, encouraging supporters to fill out an online form, which will trigger an automatic letter to their agriculture minister calling for enriched cages to be banned.

Source: [Poultry World](#)

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# US study identifies methods of salmonella transmission

A US graduate student is analysing how salmonella is transmitted within a chicken flock to find a way to

prevent the spread of the major foodborne pathogen.

Despite salmonella being recognised as a major foodborne pathogen, the mechanism by which the bacteria are transmitted within a poultry flock is still poorly understood.

"My research work focuses on drawing an exact picture of how salmonella is transmitted when it is introduced into a chicken," Yichao Yang, a graduate student at the University of Arkansas' Department of Poultry Science said. "If we are able draw this picture very clearly, we can stop salmonella at an early stage, ensuring the safety of poultry products."

Yang used genetically identifiable strains of the bacteria, allowing her to trace them as they spread from chicken to chicken and found that contrary to previous research, chickens can be infected by multiple strains at the same time.

## **Traceable strains throughout the flock**

To track transmission pathways, Yang constructed a set of six identical but genetically marked strains by inserting six random nucleotides into the chromosome of *S. enteritidis*, a strain of salmonella recognized for causing foodborne illnesses. The nucleotides made each strain traceable as they spread throughout the flock.

Yang and her adviser, Young Min Kwon, assistant professor in poultry science, designed three sets of experiments to track salmonella transmission. The first experiment introduced salmonella into chicks orally, the second added a low and a high dose of salmonella to the water supply and the third introduced salmonella by infecting the feed with the low and high doses.

## **Mixed infections**

Yang found that the strains were found after seven days in the chicks infected with high dose, whereas at 14 days nearly all the strains were identified in the chicks. Yang's data also showed that culler infection or mixed infection happened in each chick.

"This is a pretty big finding, and I did not recognise it at first because a major theory in the field of salmonella transmission — called the colonisation inhibition theory — says that if one strain of salmonella infects a chick, a second strain cannot infect the chick, suggesting there might be unknown mechanisms involved," Yang explained.

## **Further trials to be conducted**

Yang presented her findings last month at the American Society of Microbiology's 115<sup>th</sup> meeting in New Orleans and plans to continue her research work by conducting bigger trials to study these findings in further detail.

By Rosie Burgin

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# FAO calls for \$20 million to stop AI spread in Africa

Fears are growing that without timely intervention to stem outbreaks of the highly virulent avian flu virus H5N1 across West Africa, further spread across the region and beyond is inevitable, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has said.

To this end, the agency is calling for \$20 million for prevention and response activities.

## **Avian influenza outbreaks in African nations**

The call follows outbreaks of the virus in poultry farms, markets and family holdings in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

The outbreak comes as countries across West Africa are still recovering from, and in some cases still battling, Ebola. Avian flu could trigger a mass die-off of chicken – a nutritious and inexpensive source of food for many people– with detrimental impacts on diets and on the economy of the region, exacerbating an already difficult situation.

## **Death of 1.6 million birds**

While the first incursion of the H5N1 in West Africa occurred in 2006 it was eliminated by 2008. In late 2014, however, the virus was re-introduced in Nigeria, where it spread rapidly in the following three months - to date more than 1.6 million birds have been culled or have died from the virus.

Because the disease can be transmitted to humans and is considered highly lethal, FAO is working closely with the World Health Organization on country assessments, contingency plans, offering technical assistance and investigating potential flu cases and the source of infection.

## **Assessment missions across Africa**

FAO assessment missions to Benin, Cameroon, Mali and Togo – undertaken in collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health, the African Union, and in some cases with the World Bank – have not identified cases of H5N1 in poultry, but these countries and other countries in the Sub-Region need to ensure that prevention and preparedness measures are in place.

"Based on what we do know, there is a real risk of further virus spread. Urgent action is needed to strengthen veterinary investigation and reporting systems in the region and tackle the disease at the root, before there is a spillover to humans," said Juan Lubroth, Chief

of FAO's Animal Health Service Division.

## **Prevention and response**

FAO's appeal for \$20 million for prevention and response foresees bolstering weak veterinary systems, improving the capabilities of local laboratories and putting FAO specialists on the ground in affected and at-risk countries. In the countries that have experienced outbreaks, response interventions include destruc-

tion of infected and exposed poultry, disinfection of premises and markets and the safe disposal of dead birds.

Veterinary officers, meanwhile, are encouraged to use basic techniques like "trace-forward" – which looks at where infected animals have been sold or moved to – and "trace backward" – examining where infected animals were purchased or where they came from – to find sources with the ultimate goal of halting continuous virus introduction or further spread.

## **Challenges to vaccination strategy**

Although quality vaccines are available, the vaccination strategy to be implemented poses certain challenges in some countries and there is always a risk of creating a false sense of security by assuming that the administration of a dose of vaccine will resolve all threats. Instead, behavioural changes – including enhanced hygiene routines, good poultry production, and safe transportation practices of healthy animals – ought to be at the heart of prevention plans, according to FAO.

Poultry production has grown steadily in West Africa over the last 10 years, with some countries, like Cote d'Ivoire, seeing production soar by over 60% since 2006. But regulatory systems have not grown to deal effectively with this increase in production and there is an acute need to make the market chains safer – from production to transporter to seller. At a regional level, these value chains can be across borders and thus require stronger customs controls and greater compliance with product safety norms.

By World Poultry

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