

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	Colony F/R	£1.15 £1.50	90p £1.40	80p £1.30	
English Wholesaler	Colony	£1.36(+6p)	£1.06(+6p)	96p(+6p)	76p(+6p)
	F/R	£1.60	£1.50	£1.30	80p
	Colony	£1.50(+5p)	£1.20(+5p)	£1.20(+5p)	85p(+5p)
	F/R	£1.40	£1.40	£1.20	75p
Packer / Producer Contracted average Price					
		Organic	FreeRange	Barn	Colony
		£1.20/£1.45	90p/£1.15	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	£1.10(+5p)	95p(+5p)	85p(+5p)	65p(+5p)
	F/R	£1.35(+5p)	£1.25(+5p)	£1.15(+5p)	90p(+5p)
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	85p	73p	66p	60p
German			76p	69p	

The market, we said last week that we thought the move would be up, well prices are moving and fast, starting with Colony which are fairly tight in supply and are starting to pull up Free Range as well, there is still a bit of Free Range available in England but there are signs that the market is coming into balance.

In Scotland the Edinburgh and Glasgow fairs are now over, and the Edinburgh festival starts this weekend for the next 5 weeks and already we are hearing reports of increasing demand for our good value eggs, July was a bit shaky market wise but held on well despite the AI scare and we have now been told that DEFRA have started easing restrictions which is a good sign that they have suppressed the outbreak.

There is a new outbreak of AI in Germany and like the one in Lancashire which started in the Free Range but DEFRA cleared the site before it could be confirmed in the Colony system.

The outbreak in Germany and Lancashire appear to have no logical source, previous outbreaks have been linked to wild bird migration and we note that the US is now monitoring wild birds as a source, it is probably being done in the EU as well but we can't find any official information on this.

We suspect that our industry's Achilles heel for AI will be the handful of hens running about the farmyard which is becoming more popular and if a few die or are taken by predators no-one will be all that bothered, whereas commercially operated laying units are constantly updating their Bio-Security and flock health.

More efficiency in poultry sector needed – Prof Fresco

Players in the agribusiness have to grow both in size, land as well as in productivity in order to be able to deal with the challenges of the future.

That was one of the main messages of Prof Louise Fresco, president of the Executive Board at Wageningen University, at the 2015 Cargill Animal Nutrition Seminar held recently in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

Addressing an audience of 250 delegates, representing 35 countries, she touched on the well-known projection that by 2050 there will be another 2 billion added to the global population. Hence, twice as much food will be needed and demand for protein will double. And there will be further demands on food producers such as food safety and environmental issues.

Global population's food needs

She said that meeting the global population's food needs was even greater. "There's a billion who still haven't got enough food, another billion lacking sufficient vitamins and minerals and 1.6 billion with obesity problems – that's 3.6 billion from a current 7 billion people globally with another 2 billion in 35 years, which is just a generation and a half away.

Producers are faced with meeting this increased demand for food both economically and efficiently. And there are added demands. "The food production industry faces increasing food safety, animal welfare and environmental pressures from consumers," said Fresco. "The whole dynamics of food production has changed."

Great potential to increase efficiency

Fresco said she believes though that producers have great potential to increase efficiency. Although for some it will be a quantum leap, she named two key areas that would play a big part in achieving this; information technology and labour efficiency.

"In many countries too many are leaving the land for the city – farming isn't respected. It's a real worry. We need to create a new generation of farmers by enticing young people to stay on the land and produce food."

Technology will help improve labour productivity, through new mechanisation and particularly important will be hand-held devices that can gather data and provide information. "This 'big data' will improve efficiency right through the food chain," she added.

Producers may need to grow

Also, albeit potentially controversial, Fresco believes that small isn't beautiful in many cases. "Producers may need to 'grow' – to increase herd size and land – to be more efficient."

She stressed the need to optimise productivity. "There's not one solution here - people need to understand that," adding that there is still potential in single celled organisms, algae and even insects in the animal food chain.

Meeting global demand for food

Hopeful that this global demand for food can be met based on progress in the past 50 years in terms of producing more calories globally and reducing the world's starving population, Fresco said she encourages a move to reduce food losses. The food chain currently wastes 30% to 40% that could be recycled back into animal production.

"The real challenge is to achieve optimal solutions to food production at local levels," she concluded, adding that every citizen has a right to safe food, whether they are from poor or rich countries.

By [Vincent ter Beek](#)

Layers culled following AI outbreak in Germany

An avian influenza outbreak, subtype H7N7, has been reported at a commercial layer farm near the city of Herzlake in Lower Saxony, located in the north-western part of Germany, local agriculture officials have confirmed.

The virus killed 50 of 10,104 susceptible birds, and the remaining birds were culled immediately, and poultry from three non-commercial farms in a 1-kilometer radius around the outbreak location were also culled as a preventive measure.

Source of virus unknown

An investigation into the outbreak is under way, and so far the source of the virus isn't known. No poultry or poultry meat from the farm has been sent to other locations, and eggs have been moved within Lower Saxony but not to other countries.

Besides the recent UK outbreak, the H7N7 strain has been responsible for a handful of outbreaks in Europe over the past few years.

Poultry production region

Lower Saxony is a leading poultry production region in the country. Outbreaks of the H5N8 strain were reported there in December, as well as cases of the milder, low pathogenic form of the H7N7 strain in March and June this year.

By World Poultry

US AI outbreak made worse by poor farm auditing

Many of the turkey farms affected by H5N2 highly pathogenic avian influenza in the US this year had biosecurity in place, but the protocols were not being audited properly, according to an updated epidemiological study by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Aphis).

In total, the agency has surveyed 81 turkey farms, averaging 46,000 birds apiece, and found that most followed basic biosecurity.

Properly following biosecurity procedures

This included things like spraying vehicle tyres with disinfectant, making visitors wear protective clothing and footwear, using footbaths and rodent control.

"Importantly, only 43% of case farms reported that biosecurity audits were conducted by the company [they produced for] or a third party," it said. "Farms can decrease their HPAI risk by verifying that biosecurity procedures are being followed properly."

Vaccine on the way

US researchers have developed a vaccine which is said to be 100% effective against HPAI in chickens, and testing is under way to see if it works on turkeys. According to a report by the Associated Press, the authorities are planning to issue a licence for widespread production and to stockpile it nationally, in case the virus strikes again later in the year.

But whether it would actually be used is uncertain. Broiler growers in particular, who export some US\$5bn of chicken meat a year, are worried that deploying a vaccine would trigger even more damaging export bans. Particular weaknesses included equipment-sharing and exposure to wild birds.

Shared equipment a factor

"In the majority of cases, feed trucks, live haul loaders, pre-loaders and other items were shared by multiple farms," said the study.

"Wild birds, another possible route of disease transmission, were observed inside barns on 35% of the farms."

Aphis also observed a possible age predilection for contracting HPAI. Almost half of the stags affected by the outbreak were 13-16 weeks old, and half of the hens were nine to 12 weeks old. "Extra vigilance may be indicated when birds are at these life stages," the report suggested.

In total, some 223 farms have been hit by HPAI in the US this year, leading to the loss of 48m birds.

Source: [Poultry World](#)

By Philip Clark

USDA updates surveillance plans for AI migratory birds

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released two updated interagency plans related to the surveillance of avian influenza in wild birds.

Photo: EPA/Adrian Bradshaw

As part of USDA's on-going preparation efforts for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), these updated plans will help USDA with further monitoring of wild birds for the HPAI virus during the fall migration.

41,000 samples

Between now and March 2016, HPAI surveillance in wild birds will increase as APHIS Wildlife Services biologists and their State partners collect approximately 41,000 samples from apparently healthy wild birds from targeted areas throughout the United States.

The first updated plan— [US Interagency Strategic Plan for Early Detection and Monitoring for Avian Influenzas of Significance in Wild Birds](#) — describes a unified national system for migratory wild bird sampling involving Federal, State, university and non-governmental organizations. The second updated plan— [2015 Surveillance Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Waterfowl in the United States](#)— outlines specific wild bird surveillance efforts for 2015-2016. These efforts were led by the Interagency Steering Committee for Surveillance for HPAI in Wild Birds.

This committee is comprised of experts from USDA APHIS, the Department of the Interior's US Geological Survey and US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Flyway Council.

Early AI detection

"The early detection of avian influenza remains key to controlling its spread and minimising its effects," said Dr John Clifford, USDA chief veterinary officer. "Many of the activities outlined in these plans are already being implemented and help warn us of any re-assortments or changes in low or highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses in wild birds which could be detrimental to our domestic flocks."

Samples will be collected primarily from live-captured and hunter-harvested dabbling ducks, such as American black duck, American green-winged teal, mallard and Northern pintail. Additionally, environmental fecal samples from waterfowl and samples from morbidity and mortality events of all wild bird species also will be collected. Results from the surveillance effort will be incorporated into national risk assessments as well as preparedness and response planning efforts so that HPAI risks are reduced in commercial poultry, backyard poultry, game bird farms, wild birds, wild bird rehabilitation facilities, falconry birds, and captive bird collections in zoos/aviaries.

By Rosie Burgin

