

# 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	£1.30(+10p)	90p(+5p)	80p(+5p)	
<b>English Wholesaler</b>	Colony	£1.50(+5p)	£1.05(+5p)	90p(+5p)	69p(+5p)
		£1.55(+5p)	£1.45(+5p)	£1.35(+5p)	79p(+5p)
	F/R	£1.40(+5p)	£1.15(+5p)	95p(+5p)	65p
		£1.55(+5p)	£1.55(+5p)	£1.45(+5p)	75p
<b>Packer / Producer Contracted average Price</b>					
		<b>Organic</b>	<b>FreeRange</b>	<b>Barn</b>	<b>Colony</b>
		£1.20/£1.45	85p/£1.05	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	£1.01	90p	80p	55p
	F/R	£1.45	£1.35	£1.20	87p
<b>Imported Continental Prices in Bulk</b>					
<b>Dutch Eggs</b>	Barn	92p(+9p)	75p(+9p)	68p(+7p)	60p ( ? )

Price doesn't come into it; it appears if you have eggs you can ask any price on the wholesale market especially in England the comment is that supplies are not just tight but almost impossible.

The surprising thing is Central egg saying no change, but they too have very few eggs, there reasoning is that there are increasing quantities of eggs coming in to Southern England from Southern Europe.

Although there has been a cut back in production on the Continent and prices have increased there too, with the Euro decreasing in value the exchange rate makes Continental eggs competitively priced.

Last week we included the piece on the low carbon footprint of our poultry industry, it has been pointed out to us that mussels which were listed as the lowest only requiring a piece of string to grow on, we did not point out that they were produced in Shetland.

We think that our Scottish cockles have an even lower carbon footprint, they don't require even a piece of string and can be harvested in our estuaries at low water requiring only a plank of wood, a rake and a strong back, but the main market for both mussels and cockles is the Mediterranean in seafood dishes, with the haulage required does that not make eggs and chicken the best!

The piece on Nestle and their decision to only use alternative system eggs shows how susceptible to lobbying big business conglomerates are even more so as governments with any perceived threat to their product sales, and once again it is agriculture that is being used to improve their image, but at no extra cost.

We have included the piece and letter from the British Poultry Council as it could so easily apply to our egg industry, where the press pick on a problem and blow it out of all proportion, Campylobacter is a problem which is being dealt with.

As long as you wash your hands and don't eat your chicken raw there isn't a problem!

The piece on Russian turkey production shows how important European technology and equipment is to them but the most important factor is European financial assistance, are sanctions having more of an effect than we appreciate and think.

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## Nestlé bans layer cage use in its supply chain

Nestlé has announced a major pledge to improve the welfare of the farm animals in its supply chain, following the signature of a partnership agreement with NGO World Animal Protection.

The agreement means that the hundreds of thousands of farms that supply Nestlé with its dairy, meat, poultry and eggs will have to comply with tighter animal welfare standards. Nestlé, with its global purchasing footprint, also becomes the first major food company to form an international partnership with an animal welfare NGO.

The new program will eliminate standard practices from Nestle's supply chain that are controversial, including:

- Confinement of sows in gestation crates
- Confinement of calves in veal crates
- Confinement of layers in cages
- Forced rapid growth of chickens used for meat products
- Cutting of horns, tails and genitals of farm animals without painkillers

Nestlé has some 7,300 suppliers from whom it buys animal-derived products directly - everything from milk for its range of yoghurts and ice-creams, to meat for its chilled foods and eggs for its fresh pastry and pasta.

Each of these suppliers, in turn, buys from others, meaning that Nestlé's Responsible Sourcing Guidelines apply to literally hundreds of thousands of farms around the world.

"We know that our consumers care about the welfare of farm animals and we, as a company, are committed to ensuring the highest possible levels of farm animal welfare across our global supply chain," said Benjamin Ware, the company's Manager of Responsible Sourcing.

World Animal Protection has been working with Nestlé on how to specifically tighten and improve the [Nestlé Responsible Sourcing Guideline](#) (pdf, 2 Mb), which all suppliers must adhere to as part of the [Nestlé Supplier Code](#) (pdf, 2 Mb). Both of these build upon the [Nestlé Commitment on Farm Animal Welfare](#) (pdf, 2 Mb).

Nestlé has commissioned an independent auditor, SGS, to carry out checks to ensure the new standards of animal welfare are met on its supplying farms. In 2014, several hundred farm assessments have already been carried out worldwide. Some of these checks are also attended, unannounced, by World Animal Protection representatives whose role is to verify the auditors.

When a violation is identified, Nestlé will work with the supplier to improve the treatment of farm animals to ensure they meet the required standards. If, despite engagement and guidance from Nestlé, the company is unable or unwilling to show improvement, it will no longer supply Nestlé.

Nestlé's multiple commitments, include, for example, a pledge that by the end of next year, 40% of the company's key commodities - including meat, poultry, eggs and dairy will be fully traceable.

World Poultry

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## BPC stands firm against newspaper allegations

The British Poultry Council has issued a firm response to an article in the Guardian newspaper which questioned health and hygiene standards in the UK poultry sector.

The article [Your Sunday roast chicken should carry a health warning](#) by John Allan and Stephanie Lavua was published on 16th August.

In response to the allegations in the article the [BPC](#)'s veterinary advisor sent the letter below for publication on 20th August and addressed the inaccuracies in the piece.

*Sir,*

*The article "Your Sunday roast chicken should carry a health warning" (August 16th) discusses campylobacter, a subject that is rightly of concern. It is a shame therefore that on such an important topic, fundamental errors of fact have been allowed to remain that serve to undermine the case being made.*

*In relation to the farming of chickens, it is stated farmers "pump them full" of enriched feeds and drugs. This is simply not true. Birds can eat as much or as little as they want, without any compulsion, and the feed formulation provided has been specifically designed by specialist poultry nutritionists to match the genetic and physiological requirements of the birds. Antibiotic growth promoters have been banned in the*

*UK for many years, and any medicines administered to the birds are prescribed according to guidelines produced by the Responsible Users of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA). These guidelines state that "Antimicrobial use should not be used simply to prop up poor husbandry or failing management systems. Where required, antimicrobials should be viewed as an acceptable veterinary treatment complementing good management, good nutrition, vaccination, biosecurity and farm hygiene" These guidelines make it clear that antimicrobials are only given to poultry following the advice of a prescribing veterinary surgeon.*

*The comments on the removal of food and water prior to catching are erroneous. Birds have access to water up until the moment of catching. As regards food, it is true that feed is withdrawn prior to catching to ensure that the digestive tract of a bird is devoid of food material at the time of slaughter. This is an important management process to minimise spillage of intestinal contents during the slaughter process. This feed withdrawal time will vary according to the time between catching and slaughter and will be in part dependant on the journey time from farm to the slaughterhouse, but usually the maximum feed withdrawal time would be 8 hours and not the 24 hours that the article implies. It would be contrary to both UK and EU law (The Welfare of Farmed Animal (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010) to withdraw food and water for 24 hours before slaughter and UK broiler producers work within the law.*

*It is also wrong to say that birds are deprived of sleep for 24 hours in advance of catching. The dark period is reduced, as is allowed by EU law, but not eliminated, and birds are able to sleep if they wish.*

*The poultry industry has been working hard to tackle campylobacter and it fully recognises its responsibility to ensure the food it produces is safe. The industry is implementing, together with retailers and regulators, new processes and procedures that should reduce the incidence of campylobacter from farm to fork. This is a leading effort to resolve a challenging and vital issue, and it deserves to be discussed in full knowledge of the real facts.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*C D Parker BA VetMB CertPMP MRCVS*

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## Cherkizovo's Tambovskaya turkey project continues to grow

Cherkizovo Group and Grupo Fuertes announced the creation of the Tambov Turkey joint venture in 2012 and the start of construction of a turkey meat production and processing complex in Tambov Region with capacity 40,000-50,000 tonnes of turkey meat per year and prospects for expansion.



The Tambov Turkey project is being implemented with the support of the Administration of Tambov Region in partnership with the Spanish company Grupo Fuertes, Spain's largest turkey meat producer. The total cost of the project is 7.27 billion roubles. Start-up is scheduled for the end of 2015.

Cherkizovo and Grupo Fuertes have already invested more than 1.2 billion roubles in the project since the agreement was signed.

Full-scale construction of a number of large facilities is currently underway, including a hatchery with capacity of 5.9 million eggs per year, a feed mill with production capacity of 150,000 tonnes of fodder per year, grain storage facilities with capacity of 120,000 tonnes, 4 rearing facilities with 4 units each, 9 fattening facilities with 12 units each, and a slaughtering facility with capacity of 2,000 head per hour.

During an inspection at the construction site of the rearing and fattening facilities of the largest poultry production complex in Tambov Region, Chairman of Cherkizovo Group Board of Directors Igor Babaev said: "Successful implementation of the Tambov Turkey project is extremely important not only for Cherkizovo Group, the Regional Administration and our Spanish partners, but also for ensuring food security as a whole on a Russia-wide scale. In the present situation, with an exchange of sanctions going on, we need to create conditions for European investors so that they do not export food to Russia, as was the case for many years, but instead share modern technologies and make investments for the development of Russian agriculture, which is far more important. Western companies should manufacture products in Russia."

Babaev particularly stressed the importance of federal government support for the international project: "When we reached an agreement with Grupo Fuertes on implementing joint projects in Russia, we specified guarantees for business in the form of direct investment subsidies, because Russian loans are much more expensive than those in Europe. It is crucial for projects such as Tambov Turkey to find support at both the regional and federal levels. Unfortunately, the mechanism of federal subsidies was not fully adjusted in our case. In 2012, the project was considered economically significant and received the necessary funds from the federal budget; but in 2013, there were no subsidies for the project. We sincerely hope that this year the situation will be clarified and the project will receive the necessary subsidies from the federal budget once again. Government support and subsidies for projects such as Tambov Turkey are the only reliable guarantee for European partners who may have questions about investing in agriculture in the Russian Federation."

Regional government officials also have confidence in the success of the project. Deputy Governor Nikolai Perepechin, in particular, said: "The project has enormous value. Above all, it means jobs in Pervomaysky District, and additional budget contributions and taxes. We see a fine modern complex. There were several regions where it could have been built, but we're pleased that Cherkizovo chose Tambov. I'm sure the project will be implemented, and that Tambov is firmly behind it."

World Poultry

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Why did the farmer have to separate the chickens and the turkeys?

He sensed fowl play!



**j**oice and hill 

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