

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(+10p)	£1.00(+10p)	90p(+10p)	
English Wholesaler	Colony	£1.40(+10p)	£1.20(+15p)	£1.00(+10p)	70p(1p)
	F/R	£1.90(+20p)	£1.70(+10p)	£1.50(+15p)	80p(+1p)
	Colony	£1.50(+10p)	£1.25(+10p)	£1.05(+10p)	75p(10p)
	F/R	£1.70(+15p)	£1.65(+10p)	£1.55(+10p)	85p(+10p)
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	£1.10(+5p)	98p(+5p)	88p(+5p)	65p(+5p)
	F/R	£1.70(+5p)	£1.60(+5p)	£1.45(+5p)	£1.05(+5p)
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	96p(+2p)	77p(+2p)	70p(+3p)	57p(+2p)

WOW-----and that's not all, the market is literally in shock, there has been a big increase in demand with the wetter colder weather, plus the change in the clocks which has triggered a degree of panic as the eggs are just not available.

Under these circumstances this usually brings in a lot of Continental eggs to fill the demand in the cheaper wholesale market, but our friend over there is saying that egg supplies are tight and getting tighter.

The big retailers will be desperately trying to hold down egg prices as they are one of the commodities being used in their price wars, for as long as the big packers have the eggs to supply them.

For unfortunately when the wholesale price goes high because of supply and demand (shortage of eggs as is happening now) and the supermarkets suppress the price, the cafés and restaurants simply buy from them, increasing volume to the supermarket and cash and carry suppliers.

The question is where are the big packers going to get the eggs from?

Already we hear of packers experiencing drops in production from contracted Free Range producers.

Is it the cold weather?----- Or is it white van man with cash in hand and Christmas coming?
Feed prices are moving up again with a good bit more to come.
Raw grain prices have shown quite a steep increase since harvest, with arable farmers loathed to sell at below cost prices, the lack of volume coming on to the market plus a very sizeable export of wheat to the USA of all places (coals to Newcastle comes to mind) but it is cheaper to ship grain across the Atlantic to east coast mills as trans America.

Our congratulations to David and Helen Brass and the team at the Lakes Free Range on winning the Farmers Weekly Poultry Farmer of the year award for the second time, although based in Penrith they have production in Scotland which is marketed as SCO eggs.

Journal of health visiting

We are privileged to receive from Madeleine Murphy (editor) the article dealing with eggs in pregnancy and weaning, this problem goes back to the panic in 1988 (Edwina Curry) and the then advice that because of the risk of Salmonella that all vulnerable people should avoid eggs.

Since then with a policy of heavy vaccination this problem has been all but eliminated in eggs produced in this country.

The new advice is that it is perfectly safe for pregnant ladies and infants in weaning to use eggs in modernisation (eggy in a cup is back) this also applies to our senior citizens.

It will take some time and effort to restore confidence as it is the daughters of the ladies panicked in 1988 that are now having babies and that fear has been transferred to them.

We thank Madeleine for the article and she has abbreviated it for us, if you have the time the full article is well worth reading and she has authorised free download until the end of the year.

Abstract: Eggs are a nutrient-dense, relatively inexpensive and convenient food, suitable for consumption by pregnant and breastfeeding women and infants. However, there appears to be some confusion among the public regarding the safety of egg consumption by these groups. Some evidence suggests that delayed introduction of potential food allergens such as eggs during weaning may be counterproductive for allergenic risk, and that introduction of the allergenic protein during a proposed ‘critical window’, at 4–7 months, may be necessary to induce tolerance. This hypothesis is currently being tested by two major studies, while two expert committees (Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment) are also reviewing evidence on complementary feeding and allergic risk, respectively. This article discusses historic and current advice on egg consumption during pregnancy and breastfeeding and in complementary feeding. It examines the evidence base for the advice in the context of both the microbiological safety of eggs and risks of egg allergy in these groups, presents a new analysis of nationally representative infant feeding data and reviews the latest nutritional composition data for British eggs in the context of the maternal and infant diet. It appears that historic concerns about food safety and allergy may have resulted in unnecessary avoidance of eggs during the introduction of complementary feeding.

Link to full article: <http://www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/full/10.12968/johv.2014.2.4.198>

Madeleine Murphy

Editor, Journal of Health Visiting

Germany facing first case of H5N8 bird flu

A highly pathogenic H5N8 strain of avian influenza has been isolated on a turkey farm in the north east of Germany – its first confirmed case on the European continent.

According to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the outbreak occurred in Heinrichswalde, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, north-east Germany. The OIE confirmed 31,000 turkeys for fattening had been culled.

Local media has said all poultry within a 50km radius is to be kept indoors and extensive testing of animals in a 3km radius is underway.

The report stipulates that symptoms of H5N8 were first identified over the weekend, and tests confirming the strain led to the culling of the flock on the 6th November.

The OIE notification says movement controls have been placed on poultry in the country. Further details are expected to emerge in the coming days.

[Poultry World](#) 7th November 2014

Preventing severe feather pecking

What can laying hen farmers do to prevent severe feather pecking (SFP)? In all segments of the egg production chain, from egg to layer, there are possibilities to decrease SFP.

"It's all about the chain approach", concludes [Wageningen UR](#) researcher Elske de Haas. "From genetic choices to housing: avoid excessive fear in the birds, as high fearfulness is a big risk factor for SFP."

From 2018 onwards, it will be forbidden by law to cut the beaks of laying hens, which is presently a preventive measure against SFP. But, what are the consequences of imposing such a ban, and what can farmers otherwise do to prevent SFP? To find the answers to these questions Wageningen UR researcher Elske de Haas investigated the causes of SFP, paying special attention to the genetics and maternal and early life influences.

A study with parental stock (PS) indicated differences between flocks in sensitivity to stress. Based on her experimental works she found between-group differences in fearfulness and stress sensitivity. For example, a stressful hen can influence other hens. Meaning, as De Haas observed, that certain groups, particularly on farm, develop SFP due to high fear and stress levels.

On top of that, she found that PS had an effect on behavioural development in their chicks, without mother hens being in close proximity (PS and rearing flock are completely separate from one another). These maternal effects were found only in a commercial white hybrid when compared to a commercial brown hybrid. Specifically, it was found that high levels of maternal corticosterone, feather damage and serotonin were related to offspring SFP and fearfulness at one and five weeks of age. "These findings have long been neglected in addressing SFP in commercially kept laying hens", she writes, and offer potential opportunities to reduce SFP by addressing stress and fear in PS flocks.

Housing and litter

Next to the genetic sensitivity for SFP, De Haas discovered that housing and litter conditions are also influencing factors. Problems with feather damage in the laying phase can have their origins in the preceding rearing phase, when young chicks are raised to pullets soon to lay eggs. For example the housing system and litter availability are important issues in SFP. If during the early weeks of life, the young chicks experience a discontinuity in litter supply SFP can develop, and also feather damage and high fearfulness. De Haas found that the commercial brown hybrid is more sensitive than its white counterpart. De Haas: "these results are important for designing measures to prevent the development of SFP, which may require a different approach in brown and white flocks."

However, for both crosses it was found that large group housing, floor or plateau housing may provide risks during the rearing and laying phase, while an amended management incorporating variable pecking options and fear reducing measures (i.e. radio, introduction of roosters) can reduce SFP. With her practical solutions De Haas provides farmers with tools to limit the development of SFP in all segments of the chain in preparation for the ban on beak trimming in 2018.

World Poultry

Why does a hen stand on one foot?

Because if she lifted the other one she would fall over!



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