

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	£1.30(-10p)	90p(-10p)	80p(-10p)	
English Wholesaler	Colony	£1.10(-30p)	90p(-30p)	70p(-30p)	55p(-20p)
	F/R	£1.60(30p)	£1.40(-30p)	£1.10(-40p)	80p
	Colony	£1.30(-16p)	£1.10(-21p)	£1.00(-21p)	80p(-1p)
	F/R	£1.70	£1.65	£1.40(-15p)	85p
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	£1.00(-10p)	85p(-10p)	75p(-10p)	60p(-5p)
	F/R	£1.45(-25p)	£1.35(-15p)	£1.20(-15p)	85p(-10p)
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	82p(-13p)	74p(-8p)	69p(-8p)	

A happy and prosperous new year to all our friends and members

Don't panic don't panic don't panic that is the change from the 19th December (three weeks).
Yes prices have weakened mostly because it is traditional for post-Christmas and New Year.

But there is not a great deal of surplus eggs about, opinion is that Colony is coming back into balance and Free Range is starting to get tighter, note that small are getting pretty scarce and will get more so as less pullets come into lay linked to the drop in chick placing's in August and September, some people have medium due to the lack of demand from caterers over the festive period.

Well it looks like Britain has got the all clear for Avian Influenza but nobody should get complacent as the risk is still there and there is still the on-going investigation on how the virus arrived.

California has brought in it's welfare regulations which are very similar to our EU regulations, but they have also brought in a degree of protection for their egg producers, which is interesting as the Americans are objecting to the protection status trying to be gained by the EU because of our higher cost of production resulting from our higher welfare standards.

S.R.U.C

Victoria Sandilands workshop on feather pecking in laying hens (**Perth 23rd January**)

Have you booked your place yet? This could well be a very important meeting as the ban on beak trimming is still proposed for 2016, our own minister for agriculture Richard Lockhead has told us this date is possibly premature as industry is not ready yet and might trigger a severe welfare problem. But Westminster is delaying a decision until after the parliamentary elections this year, but as politicians follow the votes and lobbyists, there are very few votes in the poultry industry and as everyone is too busy delivering the goods to the urban population, which is where the lobbying and votes are.

Book your place:

Space is limited at the workshop, so you must register for this event
Please email margaret.fagan@sruc.ac.uk, with 'feather pecking workshop' in the title of your email.
Or phone Margret on 01292 525 100
Venue details
The New County Hotel
22-30 County Place
Perth
PH2 8EE

International team explores evolution of avian influenza

An international research team has shown how changes in one of the older strains of avian influenza helped create the novel H7N9 strain that has killed more than 100 people in China since 2013.

Led by scientists at St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Tennessee, and the China Agricultural University, Beijing, the work focused on the H9N2 chicken virus, which causes egg production to drop and leaves chickens vulnerable to fatal co-infections.

Researchers used whole genome sequencing to track the evolution of H9N2 between 1994 and 2013.

The analysis showed that the genetic diversity of H9N2 viruses fell sharply in 2009. Thereafter, it emerged as the predominant subtype, thanks to its genetic makeup that allowed it to flourish, despite widespread vaccination of chickens against H9N2 viruses.

Evidence in the study suggests this set the stage for the emergence of the H7N9 avian virus that has caused two outbreaks in humans since 2013, with 375 people falling ill and 115 confirmed deaths.

The infected chickens likely served as the "mixing vessel" where H9N2 and other avian flu viruses from migratory birds and domestic ducks swapped genes, researchers said. The resulting H7N9 virus included six genes from H9N2.

"Sequencing the viral genome allowed us to track how H9N2 evolved across time and geography to contribute to the H7N9 virus that emerged as a threat to human health in 2013," said Robert Webster from St Jude's Department of Infectious Diseases.

"The insights gained from this collaboration suggest that tracking genetic diversity of H9N2 on poultry farms could provide an early warning of emerging viruses with the potential to spark a pandemic," he added.

The analysis also pointed to the role of vaccines, which lost effectiveness over time and made it easier for the virus to escape detection.

The research appears in the online edition of the scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Source: [Poultry World](#)

Philip Clarke

Californian egg welfare ruling comes into effect

As of January 1st 2015, egg producers in the US state of California need to comply with the requirements of California's Proposition 2, which voters passed in 2008. The initiative, backed by animal rights activists, was designed to move farmers away from traditional battery cages for laying hens.

The measure, which voters passed by more than 63%, requires egg-laying chickens to have enough room to lie down, stand up, sit down, turn around and fully extend their wings by Jan. 1, 2015.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, which generally inspects egg facilities, has stated that it will not be in charge of enforcing Prop 2 but rather local law enforcement will oversee this as the measure makes it a misdemeanour to place hens into small cages.

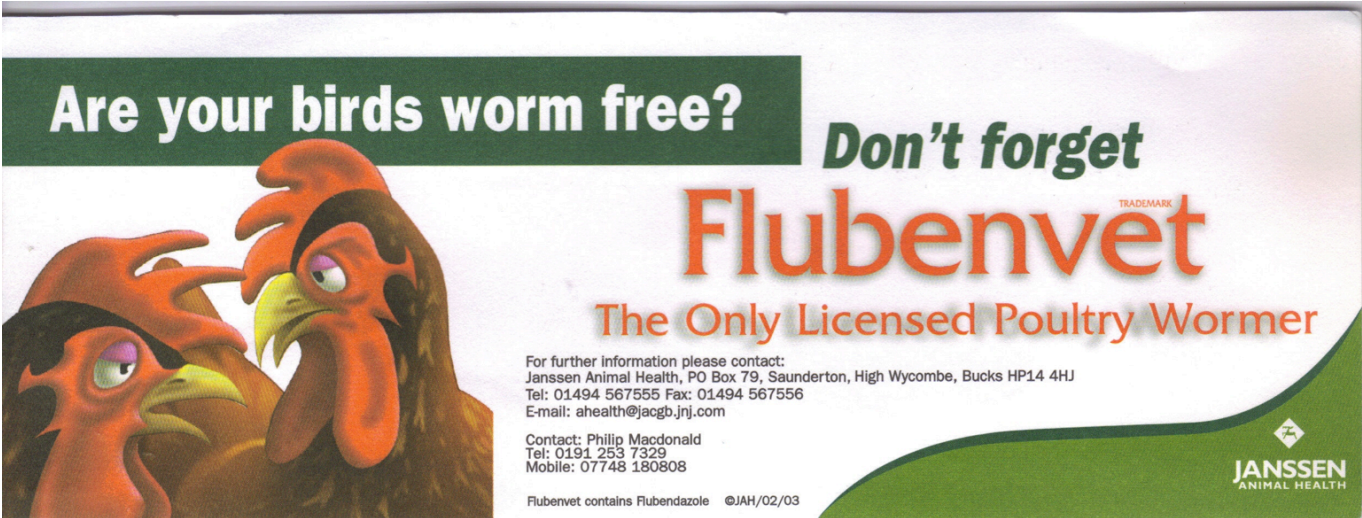
To become compliant with the ruling many US egg suppliers including NestFresh, have updated their brand packaging with the hope of communicating the movement for increased humane practices of hens across the country.

Previous NestFresh packaging showed the iconic mountains home to Colorado, the company's birthplace. Several of the new labels showcase photos taken at NestFresh farms across the country, incorporating cage free barns and the natural living conditions the hens enjoy every day. Further, organic labels show the free range hens in the beautiful outdoor area provided on the farm. "With increased product awareness about humane animal treatment and Proposition 2, we're hoping to communicate our leadership in this movement, and showcase the hens and their environment as the center of our industry," the company said in a statement.

As a part of the Hidden Villa Ranch brand family, NestFresh eggs are certified cage-free and include products that are Non-GMO Project Verified as well as pasture raised.

World Poultry

Don't look for a joke as you will be pleased to hear that we have run out of jokes unless we are able to find some more or you have any that you think are good or bad enough to be included.
Email the editor if you think it is good enough or up to our usual standards ---hee hee



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