

# 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>	Colony F/R	£1.20 £1.50	90p £1.40	80p £1.30	
<b>English Wholesaler</b>	Colony F/R Colony F/R	£1.40 £1.70 £1.25(-5p) £1.60	£1.25 £1.50 £1.00(-5p) £1.55	£1.00 £1.20 85p(-5p) £1.40	75p 85p 60p(-5p) 85p
<b>Packer / Producer Contracted average Price</b>					
		<b>Organic</b> £1.20/£1.45	<b>FreeRange</b> 90p/£1.15	<b>Barn</b> 75p/95p	<b>Colony</b> 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	95p(-5p) £1.60	75p(-6p) £1.50	70p(-5p) £1.40	55p(-5p) £1.10
<b>Imported Continental Prices in Bulk</b>					
<b>Dutch Eggs</b>	Colony Barn	86p 90p	69p 73p	65p 67p	58p 58p
<b>German</b>	Barn		77p	70p	

The market it is a bit peculiar, Central Egg and some wholesale/Packers are pulling down the price of Colony, but nobody seems to have surplus eggs, one wonders why, as everyone that we have contacted are talking of storerooms being empty and bringing forward grading schedules to cover, but there are more Colony about especially Mediums which are a bit slow in moving through lack of demand.

Northern Ireland has reduced Colony slightly and put a smidgeon on Free Range we think all these changes are more in anticipation of surpluses post- Christmas rather than the usual supply and demand, there are a lot of old hens going out right now with a quite a big increase in pullet placements January and into February which might weaken prices it all depends on demand and egg consumption increasing?

In Scotland members have told us there has been an increase in demand in local shops which is not particularly surprising with the appalling weather we have been experiencing but the increase in demand might also be linked to the cut back in special offers in the supermarkets, but it is still most likely weather.

We have a pet theory that naming of storms in the way that Americans name hurricanes is not such a good idea as since we have been on first name terms with these storms they seem determined to become hurricanes and are generating an ever increasing trail of destruction.

Avian Influenza, frightening times right now and for the next few weeks, as part of the increased levels of Bio-Security it is recommended to eliminate any contact that ranging hens have with water areas such as lochs, burns, ponds ETC to try and eliminate contact with wetland birds species, right now that is nigh on impossible as most of Scotland and the North of England is water coast to coast.

AI again it has now been decided that in the event of an exotic disease outbreak, on top of the 5 k red zone (no movement) and the 15 k (only movement with licence) there is to be a 50 k zone (allowing ranging birds to be shut in their houses for 7 days to allow the authorities to assess the situation and the source) without losing your Free Range/Organic status, this sounds very sensible.

We now recommend you identify every poultry enterprise in a 50 k radius of your own, so that you can quickly assess that you are in a lock down area or not, if in doubt we are sure that our Scottish officials will be willing to help.

## S.E.P.R.A.

After 2 days of meetings in London trying to represent our Scottish poultry industry and 2 nightmare journeys on the train (let the train take the strain is wrong in these weather conditions) I was somewhat surprised to receive a letter from Robert Thompson saying that he had organised a meeting in his home town of Forfar on the 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Finavon Hotel 12.30 for 1.00pm and with the meeting chaired by our much loved and respected chairperson of many years ago Moira Henderson.

The meeting has been called by Robert to discuss the future of SEPR and passes doubt over our chairperson and committee and that nothing was happening, our elected chairperson is Shona Arthur and that is recorded with our Scottish authorities, the British Egg Industry Council and in Poultry Worlds A to Z of people and everything in our UK industry.

Like most organisations most of what is going on is not heard about, in the last few weeks our chairperson Shona was intending to meet with me in London at a BEIC council meeting yesterday but had to apologise because of a result of the severe flooding from storm Desmond in Southern Scotland and Cumbria she chose to distribute eggs and cardboard outers to the emergencies centres on both sides of the borders to assist in making up food parcels for the families that had lost everything in the floods, Shona and Paul farm only a few miles North of the border and were very well aware of the devastation.

We would like to commend Shona for her humanitarian efforts on all of our behalf's.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November we were asked to attend the rural affairs, climate change and Environment Committee and meet with our minister of agriculture Richard Lockhead we progressed something put forward by Barry Thorpe that in our extremely long summer days in the North Free Range and Organic hens were foraging till 11.30 at night missing evening feeds and this was effecting egg production. We added that one of the effects of global warming was the breakdown of the ozone layer in the Northern hemisphere with large holes appearing allowing ultra violet light to stream through without the protection of the ozone layer which acts as a filter this will cause sunburn problems in any foraging hens with feather loss which is quite normal in laying hens and hens do suffer from sunburn.

This makes rain shelters and ground cover more important.

To emphasise this problem the current recommendation particularly for children is that they should not be exposed to direct summer sunlight for more than 20 mins without sunscreen protection in the Northern half of Scotland or at altitude. This also explains the ice lost in Siberia the Polar Ice Cap and the Greenland Glaciers.

We were more interested in meeting Richard Lockhead in trying to get some finance to promote our Scottish industry, but were told that he did not think it was necessary right now as he thought that we were all doing fairly well and to carry on doing the good work of promoting our Scottish industry. I have spoken to Shona about Roberts meeting, unfortunately because of short notice and other commitments neither of us will be able to attend otherwise we would, I have also contacted 2 committee members so far neither of whom could be in Forfar for that time of day.

I explained this to Moira on the telephone earlier today she commented that she had not been receiving the newsletter for a few weeks I explained that due to a computer glitch many names had been wiped off our mailing list unbeknown to us at the time and until members got in touch to say that they had not received the newsletter in the past few weeks so we have been adding their names back onto our lists.

Any SEPRA member is entitled to ask for a meeting, the normal procedure is to contact our chairperson direct or request through sepramail as we state in every newsletter, no request has been received.

There has been no request for membership subscriptions for many years since going electronic as SEPRA has no paid staff and the main cost was in posting the newsletter in the past. All communications have been by telephone or email at members own expense therefor any member receiving the newsletter is deemed to be a member of SEPRA.

We had already planned to hold 2 meetings round about Easter time when hopefully the weather would have improved and travelling would be easier, 1 to cover the North and the other the South to meet with as many members as possible.

The attachment is the correspondence received from Robert Thompson if you fill in the attached questionnaire you can email it direct to Moira Henderson at [ringfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:ringfarm@hotmail.com)

We apologies for the lateness of the report this week we hope it is understandable and wish Robert and Moira well for their meeting and look forward to any ideas which will improve or progress SEPRA.

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## More AI outbreaks reported across Europe

Avian influenza has been detected in as many as five poultry flocks in France, one in Germany, and one in Italy.

France had earlier reported three avian flu outbreaks, the country's first in 8 years, with Germany reporting an outbreak earlier this year.

## Location of outbreaks in France

The outbreaks in France were in the southwestern part of the country, in Dordogne department, an area that saw the three earlier outbreaks reported, and in Landes department, located southwest of there on the Atlantic coast.

According to a statement from the French agriculture ministry, three new highly pathogenic outbreaks were detected in Landes, affecting Guinea fowl and ducks, and in Dordogne, affecting ducks. Officials said the outbreaks were detected during enhanced surveillance triggered by the earlier outbreaks.

Earlier outbreaks in Dordogne, detected at the end of November, involved a mutated H5N1 strain closely related to European low-pathogenic avian flu strains, an initial assessment found. Another was caused by H5N2, the country's first detection of the subtype, according to a report last week from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

## H5N2 in Southern Germany

In Germany, meanwhile, district agriculture officials reported a low-pathogenic H5N2 outbreak at a poultry farm near the Bavarian city of Cham, located in the southeast part of the country. Culling operations are reported to be under way.

ProMED Mail, the online reporting system of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, reported that the facility had about 12,900 poultry, including laying hens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. Earlier this year the highly pathogenic H7N7 virus hit poultry in Germany's Lower Saxony region.

Italy also recently reported an H5N2 outbreak in Emilia-Romagna region, located in the northern part of the country.

Meanwhile there is heightened surveillance in the United States where H5 genetic material was recently found in a mallard duck killed by a hunter in Oregon.

Source: [Cidrap](#)

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## Focus on key traits in layers

Gather an audience of layer distributors and hatchery experts from around the world and you can be assured that, when it comes to the most favourable genetic traits, there will be no consensus. “Well, there is one. Upping the profit per hen housed,” explains professor Rudi Preisinger of Lohmann Tierzucht at the 53rd Franchise Distributor Meeting in Istanbul.

Managing director, professor Rudi Preisinger of Lohmann Tierzucht, explains why his company is focusing on key traits more than on welfare traits. “Profit per hen housed is the name of our game.”

According to the chief geneticist of Lohmann, the layer traits that are at the forefront of the mind differ by region and sometimes even by country. One of the attendees at the distributors meeting even asked the

question of whether there were any prospects that genetic selection could lead to a chicken that is resistant to Avian Influenza. “That is what the industry is dreaming about, especially with the AI threat everywhere around us. But allow me to rid of that dream. There is no such thing as a chicken that is 100% resistant to bird flu. That is just wishful thinking. We have to be honest with ourselves. The virus is far smarter than we are.” Preisinger continued: “And even if we were able to identify certain markers that would help protect our birds, I will never put my trust on that single pillar alone. Improved biosecurity, knowledge about compensation in the case of an individual outbreak to serve as an incentive to report outbreaks, as well as possible vaccination strategies should be in place to mitigate the damage bird flu can do.”

But disease resistance is only one trait sought after, there are many others as well. Birds with less of a tendency to feather peck for countries banning beak treatment, birds with dryer manure for countries with strict environmental legislation or birds with stronger bones for countries where feed composition sometimes lacks the right source of calcium. “We know that these demands are there and we are working on them. But our top priority is to improve key traits. In the end, it is all about the money, the profit per hen housed.”

The selection goals of Lohmann will not focus on current market needs alone, but also on the global market needs of the future. “That means longer cycles, improved FCR, a higher number of saleable eggs, bird welfare and egg quality.”

## **Cage will stay dominant**

It is the focus on these key traits in Lohmann layers that should ensure that the industry is able to cope with the future demand for animal protein. The huge demand is also the reason that cage systems will dominate world egg production for years to come. According to speaker André Brand of Trouw Nutrition, the egg industry doesn't have the luxury on a worldwide scale to venture out into production systems that aren't the most efficient. By citing the axiom of having to provide food for nine billion people by 2050 and showing that the current year-to-year increase of food production is only 2%, he stresses the fact that we are falling way short. “We need to increase production by 70% by 2050 and, at the same time, reduce the environmental impact by 75% to be sustainable. Surging demand and struggling supply means that we need to reinvent ourselves,” says Brand.

Optimising feeding strategies is one of the tools that can be used to increase production with less impact on the environment. “But I am sorry to say that, if you aim for the lowest feed costs only, I am sure you are not going to win this race. Nutrition by the numbers, with good raw materials and exact nutrients, will make a difference. As will fine tuning the feeding of your birds.” According to Brand, split-feeding is one of those strategies. “When you know that the egg yolk is formed in the morning and the shell later in the day, you should tune your feeding strategy and feed composition to the birds' needs so that you waist no valuable ingredients. Experience shows that split-feeding does increase the number of sellable eggs and gives better persistency.”

Lohmann Tierzuchts managing director Javier Ramirez Villaescusa compared the avian influenza outbreak to a meteor strike.

## **Avian influenza**

Another reason for everyone to get the most out of their flock will be the consequences of the most recent outbreak of Avian Influenza. Preisinger: “The disease has no winners. Some will profit from the harm done to the farmers hit by influenza and get high prices for their eggs, but experience teaches that, after a price hike of about a half year, we will see prices under average for 1.5 years, including record lows, after all farms get back into production. Short-term profits will be far outnumbered by long-term losses.”

Preisinger: "Even so, we should be prepared for more outbreaks. The virus is present in the wild bird population all around us, so it is only a matter of time before influenza strikes again." Lohmann Tierzuchts' managing director Javier Ramirez Villaescusa compared the avian influenza outbreak to a meteor strike. "We didn't see it coming and we will not see it coming the next time. The only thing we can do is ensure we are able to withstand the blast." His organisation felt the effects of the spring 2015 outbreak as no other. "We were used to supplying all our customers from one place, Germany. It took tremendous efforts by our distributors all over the world to keep the business running smoothly while borders were closed. It is only now that we are prepared as a company for the next outbreak on this scale. That is why we have placed grandparent stock on different continents. For us and for everyone else, it's a matter of preparing and bracing ourselves for the arrival of the next outbreak."

[Fabian Brockotter](#)

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## UK poultry sector refutes negative antibiotic claims

Poultry industry leaders in the UK claimed this week that they are leading the way in cutting antibiotics use in the wake of a report saying their use in farming is fuelling drug resistance and should be cut back or even banned.

The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance said global use of antimicrobials in food production at least matched that by humans and that "excessive and inappropriate" deployment, including to stop infection within a flock or herd, or simply to increase the pace at which animals gain weight, was a problem.

### **Denmark as an example**

The report, chaired by economist Jim O'Neill, urged countries to reduce levels of antibiotics use to that of Denmark, which uses an average of 50mg of antibiotics a year for every kilogram of livestock.

But John Reed, British Poultry Council chairman, said the sector was already taking considerable action. Speaking at the BPC awards in parliament on 8 December, Reed said: "We are leading the way on antibiotics use through the BPC chicken antibiotics scheme set up in 2011. We have been collecting and sharing our usage data with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and contributed to the recent Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance report.

### **30% reduction in antibiotic use**

"Our data shows a 30% reduction in antibiotics use in the poultry meat sector during 2013-14. This is a significant achievement and we will continue to collect data, helping us to identify where we can make further improvements. We will be assessing the 2014-15 data early next year."

Earlier this year, 2 Sisters Food Group announced it was removing all antibiotics considered critically

important to human health by the World Health Organisation from its poultry production, to help counter the risk of antibiotics resistance in humans.

The decision saw macrolides removed from use in broilers, in addition to the industry's voluntary ban on the prophylactic use of fluoroquinolones in day-old chicks, and third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins, which are no longer licensed.

Practical approach to antibiotic reduction

Catherine Sayer, National Office of Animal Health chairwoman, said organisations such as Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (Ruma) were taking practical steps towards reducing antibiotics use.

"Farmers and veterinary surgeons in the UK, supported by the animal medicines sector, use antibiotics responsibly – as little as possible, but as often as necessary. The sector will continue to provide the essential medicines that are needed to maintain high standards of animal health and welfare, thus contributing to the continued availability of safe, affordable food for everyone," she added.

## Reduction targets within poultry sector

But the Alliance to Save our Antibiotics said it would like to see the introduction of reduction targets within the poultry sector. Spokeswoman Emma Rose said the targets needed to be set species by species. "In the UK, intensively-reared pigs and poultry account for about 90% of total farm antibiotics use.

"The UK must introduce a ban on the routine preventative treatment of groups of healthy animals. Although growth promotion is now banned in the EU, groups of pigs and poultry continue to be frequently mass-medicated for disease prevention, even before any disease has been diagnosed. Such practices should have no place in any serious strategy to tackle human drug resistance."

Source: [Poultry World](#)

Tony McDougal

(No antibiotics are used in our egg laying industry unless authorised by a VET)

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