

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 F/R	£1.40(+4p) £1.70(+10p)	£1.10(+4p) £1.50	£1.00(+4p) £1.40(+10p)	80p(+4p) 80p
	Colony F/R	£1.50 £1.40	£1.20 £1.40	£1.20 £1.20	85p 75p
Packer / Producer Contracted average Price					
		Organic £1.20/£1.45	FreeRange 90p/£1.15	Barn 75p/95p	Colony 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	£1.73/£2.25	£1.31/£1.91	£1.15/£1.45	95p
Central Egg Agency	Colony F/R	£1.13 £1.45	98p £1.30	88p £1.20	68p 95p
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	89p(+4p)	75p(+2p)	69p(+3p)	62p(+2p)
German			77p(+1p)	71p(+2p)	

The market, demand is certainly firming up in Scotland, we have a lot more tourists plus the Edinburgh Festival and all our own holidaymakers are returning.

South of the border demand and prices are also picking up, with the comment there might just be a steady rise until Christmas, there will be extra pullets coming into lay especially Free Range but with rising demand they might just slot into the market requirements.

Avian Influenza

DEFRA are suggesting that the cause of the Lancashire was a large duck pond with wild ducks nesting that the Free Range flocks had access to the water, with autumn getting ever closer with the migration of wetland birds coming down from Siberia it would be wise to deny any Free Range flocks access outside sources of open water, as wild ducks are mostly nocturnal and come visiting at night.

So Scotland is going GM free, not sure if this is good news or not with so much of our compound feed coming from England etc., but it is certainly a good PR move by our government.

Scotland to prohibit GM crops

Published 09 August 2015

Growing genetically modified (GM) crops will not be permitted in Scotland, Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead has announced as he moved to protect Scotland's clean, green status.

Mr Lochhead has confirmed that the Scottish Government intends to take advantage of new EU rules allowing countries to opt out of growing EU-authorized GM crops.

The Scottish Government will shortly submit a request that Scotland is excluded from any European consents for the cultivation of GM crops, including the variety of genetically modified maize already approved and six other GM crops that are awaiting authorisation.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

“Scotland is known around the world for our beautiful natural environment - and banning growing genetically modified crops will protect and further enhance our clean, green status.

“There is no evidence of significant demand for GM products by Scottish consumers and I am concerned that allowing GM crops to be grown in Scotland would damage our clean and green brand, thereby gambling with the future of our £14 billion food and drink sector.

“Scottish food and drink is valued at home and abroad for its natural, high quality which often attracts a premium price, and I have heard directly from food and drink producers in other countries that are ditching GM because of a consumer backlash.

“That is why I strongly support the continued application of the precautionary principle in relation to GM crops and intend to take full advantage of the flexibility allowed under these new EU rules to ban GM crops from being grown in Scotland.

“The Scottish Government has long-standing concerns about GM crops - concerns that are shared by other European countries and consumers, and which should not be dismissed lightly.

“I firmly believe that GM policy in Scotland should be guided by what's best for our economy and our own agricultural sector rather than the priorities of others. I recently kicked off a national discussion on the future of Scottish agriculture, and welcome views from all sides of the GM debate.”

This is David Spackman's calendar on AI—(so far) let's hope the genie stays in the bottle and keep your Bio-Security at maximum and more as we do not wish to witness what happened in the USA.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

The H7N7 HPAI outbreak in North West Germany on 24th July, in 10,000 layers, follows the pattern of this serotype throughout Europe in recent months.

Both low pathogenicity and high pathogenicity has been seen in the H7N7 outbreaks. This latest outbreak tested negative on 11th June when LPAI was confirmed on another premises 1km away.

Other H7N7 outbreaks have been the February LPAI in Hampshire, 2 LPAI outbreaks in the Netherlands in March and June, as well as the June HPAI in Germany and the HPAI in the UK in the Preston area in July.

This last one has revealed a mutation event following an incursion of LPAI. This change in pathogenicity is exactly the reason why flocks showing LPAI are culled, before they can mutate.

The most likely source of the last UK outbreak was probably contact with wild birds, there being nesting wild waterfowl on two ponds on the premises, and the symptoms showing in free-range chickens first. The colony birds were slaughtered out before any signs were seen.

H7N7 virus is continually circulating in wild waterfowl. The jump from duck and goose species to chicken, followed by the repeated passage of the virus through them may be the trigger to mutate from LPAI to HPAI.

In the last 10 years, there have been four documented instances of such mutations in Europe: UK in 2008 from mallard ducks to free-range laying hens; Spain in 2009, wild waterfowl on a reservoir which supplied drinking water to a poultry unit; Italy in 2013, again appearing first as LPAI in free-range layers and the UK outbreak in Preston in 2015.

It emphasises, particularly to free-range producers, the dangers of having ANY water sources which may prove attractive to wild waterfowl on the premises, no matter how lovely it appears to the general public.

The US outbreaks, on the other hand, were caused by HPAI H5N2 serotype virus. Studies by APHIS have produced several conclusions.

The virus moved slowly through complexes. This was probably due to the fact that almost all the layer outbreaks were in cage units, where bird to bird contact is not as widespread as free-range.

The most noticeable early signs were a decline in feed and water consumption, accompanying a fall in egg production.

A house of 200,000 birds, infected with the virus, was exhausting 400,000 cubic feet of contaminated air per minute.

It became clear that screening tests had to be repeated over several days before a pullet rearing flock could be declared free of infection.

Public opinion may severely influence advice given by Defra for ventilation shut-down, as a form of mass euthanasia. However, it is agreed that rapid euthanasia is required to prevent disease build-up and dissemination.

It has been found that heat is widely accepted as an adjunct to virucidal compounds in achieving effective decontamination.

On 24th July, APHIS confirmed that of the 211 commercial premises with positive HPAI H5N2 diagnosis, 90 had completed cleaning and disinfection. Restrictions of control areas have been relaxed in 67 cases and 62 premises. Less than one third of the farms have been approved for restocking.

Michael Foods suffered some of the biggest losses with 4.9 million hens and pullets on 5 complexes in Nebraska being affected. This represented some 25% of Michael Foods egg liquid capacity.

Nationally, between late April and mid-June, some 11% of the US laying flock were depleted, bringing remaining stocks down to 270 million. There were disproportionately large losses in bigger in-line breaking complexes.

Combined imports of egg product from Mexico, Canada and the Netherlands, ranges from 75 and 100 loads composed of 34,000 eggs/load.

If 75, this is equivalent to output of 5.6 million hens and if 100 loads, it equals 7.5 million hens.

This is a long way from the loss of 35 million hens suffered in the recent HPAI outbreaks, so breakers are going to be severely short for a long time to come.

Prices have risen 18% in the US as a result of the shortage.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, said he was "not yet ready to declare the MidWest bird flu outbreak over," although there have been no confirmed outbreaks since 17th June.

39 of 109 premises in Minnesota have been approved for restocking, as well as 5 out of 10 in South Dakota, both of 2 farms in Missouri and North Dakota and a single unit in Arkansas.

Among backyard farms positive, 6 affected in January and February, before the major commercial outbreaks, have been approved for restocking in Washington and Oregon.

The NPD Group in the US have surveyed customers attitudes to the HPAI outbreaks and their feelings regarding possible human infection:

50% showed some degree of concern and 17% were "extremely" or "very" concerned.

Other notable recent HPAI outbreaks have been:

H5N1 in turkeys in Israel

H5N1 in Palestine

H5N1 in 40,000 layers in Turkey

H7N3 in wild birds in Mexico

And least 10 HPAI outbreaks in West Africa.

By David Spackman

AI causes ‘staggering’ impact on US exports

Although no detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza have been recorded in the US for more than seven weeks, the toll the virus has taken on the US poultry and egg industry this year is staggering.

The impact of lost exports alone – the result of a flurry of AI-related trade restrictions imposed on imports US poultry and egg products – reached nearly \$390 million during the first half of 2015.

14% drop in US poultry exports

In precise terms, the combined value of US poultry and egg exports for the first half fell by 14% from the same period last year to \$2.4054 billion, a decline in value of \$386.3 million, according to trade data compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

This sharp drop in export value, one of the largest ever for a January through June span, is a graphic example of the economic effect this year's multi-state outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza has had on the industry.

Import restrictions lifting

The good news is that some countries have begun lifting their import restrictions on poultry products originating in certain states, now that more than 90 days have passed since affected farms were cleaned and disinfected, as is recommended by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Hong Kong, in fact, just this week announced that it has lifted restrictions on 10 previously banned counties in the states of Arkansas, Washington, Oregon and California. Some US trading partners have been slow to remove restrictions, however, including Mexico, the industry's largest export market. Japan and Singapore have also recently removed restrictions.

Poultry industry braced for return of AI

While the HPAI virus is on somewhat of a hiatus during the warmer months of summer, the US industry is bracing for its possible return this fall, as migratory birds – thought to be the primary vectors of the virus – head south for the winter. State and federal officials worry that wild birds will carry the virus into the Atlantic flyway that cuts through the heart of the main poultry-producing areas of the mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

US poultry export values

Exporters, meanwhile, hope for the best after a disheartening first half of the year. Poultry meat exports for January through June plummeted by 9% to 1.84 million metric tons, while value fell by 15% to \$2.241 billion. The impact goes beyond exports, as more product on the domestic market means lower prices that add to the losses.

Likely cause of spotty liver in layers identified

Research has isolated a type of campylobacter bacteria that may cause spotty liver disease in chickens, offering the hope that more tailored treatment for the condition may soon become available.

UK veterinarian Tim Crawshaw was able to identify a novel bacteria strain in the liver of laying hens in five separate outbreaks of spotty liver. He subsequently was able to grow the campylobacter in-vitro, something that has proved a challenge for scientists in the past.

Similar degradation

When this campylobacter was experimentally administered to other poultry, their livers showed similar degradation to spotty liver. This was taken as strong evidence that the specific strains were the cause of the disease.

Crawshaw was working for the Animal and Plant Health Agency while completing the research.

Findings to play key role in future control

He said: "We are very excited to have identified a likely cause of spotty liver disease in chickens after many years of research. We believe this finding has the potential to play a key role in control of the disease in future."

The next stage, added Crawshaw, would be to confirm the bacteria causes the disease in layers in peak lay, with a view to identifying effective treatments. The ultimate outcome could be a vaccine that creates immunity against the condition.

Source: [Poultry World](#)

By Jake Davies

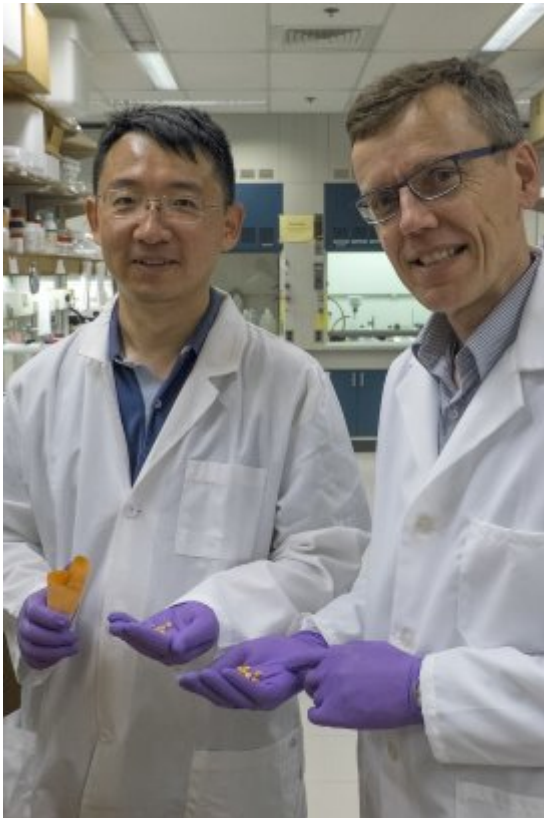
Research: Making animal vaccines safer with sweetcorn

Animal vaccine manufacturers could benefit from the work of two Purdue University researchers who are testing biomaterial made from sweetcorn to make vaccines safer.

Harm HogenEsch, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Yuan Yao, an associate professor in the College of Agriculture, are developing biomaterial from a non-genetically modified variety of sweet corn to use as an adjuvant in animal vaccines. Adjuvants are substances that are added to vaccines to stimulate an immune response and to improve the performance of vaccines.

Drawbacks of commonly used adjuvants

HogenEsch said commonly used adjuvants like oil emulsions and aluminum have a number of drawbacks. "The conventionally used oil emulsions and aluminum are poorly biodegradable and can induce a long-lasting inflammatory response at the injection site. Especially for food animals, that's an issue," he said. "The corn-derived biomaterial being developed and tested at Purdue may address these issues in a sustainable way."



Yuan Yao, associate professor in Purdue's College of Agriculture, and Harm HogenEsch, professor in Purdue's College of Veterinary Medicine, show samples of non-genetically modified corn that might be used in animal vaccines. Their work could improve the performance of animal vaccines through a sustainable resource. (Purdue Research Foundation photo)

Yao said the adjuvant biomaterial research is being conducted on a naturally occurring variety of corn. "The corn that we are using to generate the biomaterial has been planted for decades without being genetically modified," he said. "The base material from which the biomaterial is made is nano-size and quickly digestible like a starch. Our research with small animals shows that these specifically designed biomaterial particulates act as an adjuvant by stimulating the interactions with immune cells."

Development of corn-based adjuvant

HogenEsch and Yao are looking to develop the corn-based adjuvant with industry partners and the Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialization has applied for a provisional patent on HogenEsch and Yao's work

"When we have talked with companies, the question comes up how it will work in large animals such as pigs, dogs or poultry," HogenEsch said. "We are looking to work with industry partners to do more extensive and expensive research to include more animals and further develop the technology."

The research, funded by the US Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation and Purdue University College of Agriculture's AgSEED funding, was published in the peer-reviewed [Journal of Controlled Release](#).

By Rosie Burgin

WOW! So eating more chicken improves fertility! And eating more eggs improves ability to deliver.

Study: Chicken consumption increases male fertility

Eating poultry meat is good for male fertility, new research from the US suggests.

The aim of the study, conducted at Massachusetts General Hospital from 2007 to 2014, was to assess the relationship between men's meat intake and clinical outcomes in couples undergoing infertility treatment.

It covered a total of 141 men whose female partners underwent 246 IVF treatments over the period. Their total and specific types of meat eaten were estimated from dietary questionnaires.

Poultry positively associated with fertility

"Poultry intake was positively associated with fertilisation rates, whereas processed meat intake was negatively associated with fertilisation rates among couples undergoing conventional IVF," said the report, which was published in the journal *Fertility and Sterility* in early August.

It revealed that men in the highest quartile of poultry intake achieved a 78% fertilisation rate, compared with 65% by those in the lowest quartile – a 13% improvement.

Negative effect from processed meat

The study also found that eating processed meat was bad for fertility in couples undergoing conventional IVF cycles, (but not for those using intracytoplasmic sperm injection).

Men eating the most processed meat achieved just 54% fertilisation, while those eating the least managed 82%. "This, however, did not translate into associations with clinical pregnancy or live-birth rates," the report added.

The researchers found that poultry meat was the most consumed of all meats by men taking part in the study, at 31%, while processed meat consumption accounted for 22% of the total intake.

Source: [Poultry World](#)

By Philip Clarke



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