

# Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

## MARKET REPORT

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Date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

	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 £1.60	£1.25 £1.50 £1.00 £1.55	£1.00 £1.20 85p £1.40	75p 85p 60p 85p
<b>Packer / Producer Contracted average Price</b>					
		<b>Organic</b>	<b>FreeRange</b>	<b>Barn</b>	<b>Colony</b>
		£1.20/£1.45	90p/£1.15	75p/95p	65p/85p
<b>Producer / Consumer</b>		V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
<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 £1.60	75p £1.50	70p £1.40	55p £1.10
<b>Imported Continental Prices in Bulk</b>					
<b>Dutch Eggs</b>	Colony Barn	84p(-2p) 92p(+2p)	68p(-1p) 75p(+2p)	63p(-2p) 70p(+3p)	58p 64p(+6p)

The market is somewhere between confusing and messy, although Scottish and UK prices are showing a no change there seems to be a lot of Colony sloshing about and looking for a home, there is always a bit of this pre-Christmas but we have heard of Medium Colony 45p South of the border.

Free Range are still fairly tight and there seems to good demand particularly for Large.

On the Continent there is a lot of change after exporting 200 million eggs to the USA everything seems to have stopped in that direction and the big processers seem to have stopped buying as well.

With the ban on beak trimming coming in in Germany and Holland there is a big swing towards white layers as they are thought to be a lot more docile and less aggressive making management easier, this is giving problems in the marketing of eggs with fewer brown eggs which are customer preference and now

getting a surplus of white eggs which are tending to be exported to the middle East and Africa at discounted prices, looks like musical chairs again, again, again,?

We take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

As normal there will be no reports over the festive period.

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We have just received an email from Moira Henderson which we are including in this report. Any further information from Moira will be emailed in due course.

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## Number of cases of AI in France rises to 15

The number of cases of high pathogen avian influenza in the south east of France has risen to 15.

The epidemic has now spread from farms near the border with Spain to Limoges, a distance of over 400 kilometres. So far, tens of thousands of ducks, chicken, guinea fowl and other poultry have been culled while 15 non-EU countries have banned either all poultry and poultry products, breeding material from France.

The French service for animal health Anses has stressed that the serotypes involved can't infect humans. "The serotypes here are European and very different from the ones in Asia which have mutated to people. Therefore, eating chicken, foie gras or other poultry products doesn't pose any risk to human health," Anses said during a press conference at the department of agriculture at just over a week before Christmas.

The development of the various serotypes puzzles the authorities. At the infected farms, three different kind of AI are discovered, H5N1, H5N2 and H5N9. "It has not happened before that avian influenza has spread so rapidly and with so many different serotypes at the same time," Dr Bernard Vallat, director general of the World Organization for Animal Health OIE said earlier.

According to Vallet, one possibility is that the virus has mutated from an undiscovered low pathogen serotype to various highly pathogen ones. Another possibility is that different serotypes had an exchange of genes.

Ruud Peys

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# New EU ruling tackles transmissible poultry diseases

New European legislation seeking to better prevent and control animal diseases are set to enter into force in the new year.

This has been determined by the Council of Agriculture Ministers in Brussels, after formally approving the new EU Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases.

## One regulation

"The animal health sector is particularly pleased to have one regulation dealing solely with transmissible animal diseases, that reflects our current knowledge of animal diseases, and addresses urgent and societal concerns, such as antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare," says Roxane Feller, IFAH-Europe's Secretary General.

"For the first time, the regulation will list the specific diseases that are subject to the disease prevention and control measures across the Union, and puts forward particular measures on how to tackle them. This common approach on critical tasks such as early detection, surveillance, animal identification and information-sharing is crucial, as animal diseases don't respect borders," Feller continues.

## Emphasis on prevention

The emphasis on prevention is particularly important, as it is essential to maintaining the health and welfare of animals as well as safeguarding food safety, and public health.

The new Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases (previously known as the Animal Health Law) aims to put in place a single overarching legal framework of standards for animal and public health in the EU, and is the result of roughly three years of negotiations between policy-makers. It will also clearly outline the responsibilities of animal keepers, veterinarians, traders and national authorities.

## Facilitating the eradication of animal diseases

IFAH-Europe, the federation representing the manufacturers of veterinary medicines in Europe, welcomes the EU's first framework legislation on animal diseases, and believes it will go a long way to facilitate the eradication of animal diseases in Europe.

The EU Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Transmissible Animal Diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ("Animal Health Law") was formally adopted by the EU's Agriculture and Fisheries Council on Monday 14 December. This follows a political agreement on the text, agreed by the EU institutions on 1 June 2015, and confirmed by the General Affairs Council on 14 September 2015.

[Source: [IFAH-Europe](#) ]

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## Feed additives

### CAROTENOIDS

Being, for a long time, a firm believer in the value of carotenoids, I sat down the other day with Claire Hart, our PR lady, and Sarah Davies of DSM, to run through some of the known benefits.

Together, we put down the following facts to present to readers, in the hope that they will see the value of using carotenoids in their layer ration, not just for colouring the yolk:-

Egg yolk colour has often been used as an indicator of poultry health, since a bright yolk always comes from a healthy hen. Plus it has been proven through surveys that consumers also prefer a darker yolk, deeming it fresher and better quality. So what affects egg colour?

#### **The Importance of Carotenoids**

The yolk consists of fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals and carotenoids. A diet rich in carotenoids gives the yolks their depth of colour but carotenoids in poultry diets are essential for much more than just richly coloured, healthy egg yolks. The presence of carotenoids in egg yolks protects some of the nutrients in the yolk and delivers additional health benefits to the consumer. In addition, they also play an important part in the reproductive cycle of poultry and avian embryonic development.

#### **What Are Carotenoids?**

Discovered almost 200 years ago, the red-orange carotenoid found in carrots was christened beta-carotene. Hence, the name carotenoids. Carotenoids are widely spread in nature and responsible for colour in fruits, vegetables & plants.

Carotenoids are essential anti-oxidants involved in animal health and reproduction. All animals need carotenoids, and as they cannot produce these substances themselves, they have to obtain them from their diet.

#### **Two Types Of Carotenoids**

There are two groups of carotenoids for hen feed. The first group - the so-called **extracted carotenoids** – are produced by using chemicals (alcohols) to extract carotenoid molecules from natural sources such as marigolds and paprika; these extracted carotenoid molecules are then stabilized with sodium hydroxide (NaOH).

The second is created by manufacturing **nature-identical carotenoid** molecules. Canthaxanthin and apo-ester from Carophyll® are nature-identical carotenoids produced by DSM, and their chemical structures and properties are indistinguishable from carotenoids found in plants or animals. They are also cheaper and far more sustainable to produce than those extracted from natural sources.

#### **Yolk Colour as a Health Barometer**

A gut that is not healthy, will not absorb carotenoids (and other lipid soluble vitamins) efficiently. For example, parasites in the intestine of some birds would decrease carotenoid absorption leading to high variability in colour between individual eggs. As a consequence, the yolk will be pale and insipid.

It is clear that carotenoids are good for poultry. Carotenoids are important to the health maintenance of laying hens, including their immune-competence, (ability to respond to antigens). A diet high in carotenoids helps to reduce the severity of microbial challenges, such as coccidiosis and the effect of these conditions on gut health.

### **Role of Carotenoids In Reproduction**

The vitelline membrane is the barrier that surrounds the yolk, and its strength is very important to early embryo survival. It protects the embryo (pH 6) from the high pH of the albumen (pH 9.4). If it breaks and the embryo comes into contact with the albumen, the embryo will die.

The carotenoid Canthaxanthin, as an antioxidant, is particularly effective at supporting hatchability through improved egg quality and strength of the vitelline membrane. Both the breaking strength and stiffness are significantly increased with the supplementation of CAROPHYLL® Red, which achieves much higher deposition in the egg than any other carotenoid source.

### **Sustainability and Safety First**

In addition to offering a more sustainable production method, Canthaxanthin has been recently reviewed and fully approved by The European Food Safety Authority as a feed additive for certain categories of poultry, ornamental fish and ornamental birds. It concurred that “Canthaxanthin is efficacious in pigmenting egg yolk and skin/fat of poultry.”

### **Carotenoids make commercial sense**

In conclusion, carotenoids not only deliver good colour and act as a visible measure of poultry health, they are important anti-oxidants, protecting some of the nutrients in the yolk, thereby delivering additional health benefits to the consumer. Their antioxidant ability will help detoxify free radicals - activated oxygen compounds that attack cells in humans and hens.

Research show that Canthaxanthin safely and effectively delivers a higher rate of deposition in eggs than the nature-extract equivalent. By stabilising the egg yolk and protecting it against oxidation, Canthaxanthin offers a better protection of carotenoids in the egg yolk, and so ensures that a higher level of carotenoids is retained in the egg yolk. This will not only produce a better yolk colour but will improve egg shelf-life and fertility/reproductive viability.

I hope the above will encourage you to approach your feed companies to start using these valuable ingredients.

I hope to bring you further articles about the hidden value of carotenoids, especially Canthaxanthin, in a future Hotwire.

Source David Spackman

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## **Melon based antioxidant for poultry drinking water**

Antioxidant supplementation is highly recommended during growth and key stages of production

involving increased stress (weaning, vaccination, transport, heat stress and reproduction among others). Lallemand Animal Nutrition has developed a product based on melon extract. It is now also available for drinking water.

We already know Mother Nature knows best and the best solutions often come from nature. Think of the powerful plant extracts and essential oils that are often used as feed additives. But also the juice extract from some specific kinds of melons (with an extremely long shelf-life) possesses great characteristics and thus potential for animal diets. It was found that some types of melons have extremely high level of antioxidant enzymes, known as superoxide dismutase (SOD). This acts as an antioxidant; an ingredient that has great demand in modern livestock breeding conditions.

## **Improved zootechnical performance**

Lallemand Animal Nutrition has used this knowledge to develop a novel feed additive [Melofeed](#) and together with Bionov released it to the animal feed market. Trials (at INRA among others) have showed great results in different animal species. For example, it can reduce the level of somatic cells count in the milk of dairy cows. In combination with organic selenium and Vitamin E, the melon additive decreased the number of downgraded eggs at farm level, improving the number of hatching eggs and raising the number of pullet sold, as shown in a hatchery trial in France. Also in combination with organic selenium the melon additive reduced piglet mortality.

## **Also available for drinking water**

Initially only available as solid feed additive, Lallemand Animal Nutrition has now added a water-dispersible form of the antioxidant solution for use in the drinking water of all animal species (Melofeed Drink). According to Lallemand, this product is tested in farm trials with poultry, piglets and rabbits. Because this liquid version is stable in water for 24 hours, it ensures homogenous concentration of SOD. "This new solution facilitates a flexible application of the antioxidant source, allowing rapid intervention at times of high oxidative challenges such as heat stress, vaccination, pathogen challenges and more", explains Lallemand.

## **[Emmy Koeleman](#)**

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Anyone wishing to read the full 40 page Beak Trimming Action Group report, can find it at:-

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/480111/Beak-Trimming-Action-Group-Review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480111/Beak-Trimming-Action-Group-Review.pdf)

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## To all those with an interest in the Scottish Egg industry.

As was intimated in last week's Scottish Egg Producers Retail Association ("SEPRA") market report an Extraordinary Meeting of SEPRA was called and held Monday the 14th December at Finavon Hotel, Forfar.

There was a good return of questionnaires and others present at the meeting. I'm sure you will be delighted to hear that the overwhelming voice was that SEPRA should continue. Letters were also read out and it was very clear that no recognised committee has been in place for many years.

At the meeting I was elected to hold the role of "Caretaker Chairperson".

For those of you who don't know me I held the post of Vice Chair and Chairperson of SEPRA for many years but due to illness had to step down. Thankfully I have recovered and for a very short period have "stepped in-to the breach" to clear the way for an AGM to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. I hope that you can all appreciate that with the holiday period upcoming and producers very busy up until Christmas we felt this was the earliest opportunity to hold a meeting.

On your behalf I thank Roy Kerr for keeping us informed over a number of years and appreciate the time and effort that has been taken in producing the weekly Market Report.

The information gleaned from the questionnaire has indicated a number of willing people who would be prepared to form a committee

**The AGM will be held at Gloagburn Farm Shop at Tibbermore by Perth PH1 1QL at 6pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2016** (<http://www.gloagburnfarmshop.co.uk/index.php>). It would be helpful if you could RSVP me at the bellow e-mail address to help with numbers to cater for.

I would be happy to hear from any others who would still consider standing for the committee and would encourage as many as possible to attend. I recognise it may not be possible to attend personally but it is important that your voice is heard, with this in mind I would ask that you contact me with your thoughts and requests.

Email:-ringfarm@hotmail.com

Phone:- 01334828243 OR 07764235673

I will be contacting you again shortly with information on who will be standing for the committee, as some more may come forward.

Also we will be informing you how you can vote if you are unable to attend the AGM.

As of the 6<sup>th</sup> of January it will be the responsibility of the new committee to determine what role SEPRA will play in the national egg industry going forwards and how best for SEPRA to express the views and issues of its members to the Scottish Government.

Until the 6<sup>th</sup> of January I have been given the responsibility to hold the reins.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2015.

Moira Henderson.

Caretaker Chairperson SEPRA 17.12.15

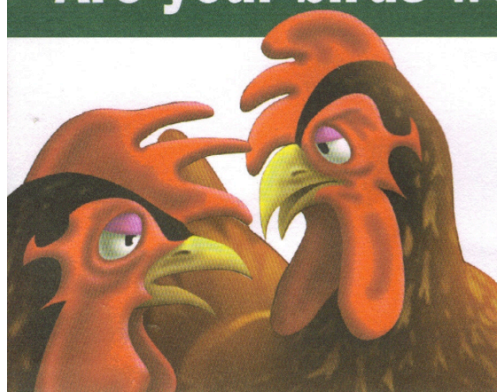
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