

Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

MARKET REPORT

www.scottisheggs.co.uk

sepramail@gmail.com

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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	£1.20 £1.50	90p £1.40	80p £1.30	
English Wholesaler	Colony F/R Colony F/R	£1.40 £1.70 £1.30 £1.60	£1.25 £1.50 £1.10 £1.55	£1.00 £1.20 £1.00 £1.40	75p 85p 70p 85p
Packer / Producer Contracted average Price					
		Organic	FreeRange	Barn	Colony
		£1.20/£1.45	90p/£1.15	75p/95p	65p/95p
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 F/R	£1.05 £1.60	86p £1.50	80p £1.40	62p £1.10
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Colony Barn	90p 93p	72p 75p	67p 69p	61p
German	Barn		78p	72p	

The market, a smidgen quieter this week, which is allowing everyone to catch up a bit. Northern Ireland has put 2p on Large and Medium for next week which is a good sign.

One of the reasons that demand is quieter we forgot to factor in the credit card turn round time midmonth and with most consumers being maxed out on the Christmas buying spree it has been store cupboard or cheap pizza's.

Crying wolf might have a new meaning, we have some lunatics rushing about saying all the sheep should be taken off the hills and replaced with natural forestation plus the reintroduction of wolfs!!! Which they say would boost the tourist industry, personally we would have thought the reverse as who is going to go walking or mountain biking if there are wolfs in the woods!!!!

Then there is the lynx thing now, more lunatics! they even think lynx would be good for Free Range/Organic hens, as the lynx would kill the fox's, who are they trying to kid, if you are a lynx and the choice is fox or chicken you don't need to guess what one they would go for!!!!

2 of the chosen areas for this crazy experiment are Aberdeenshire which will go down well with Robert Chapman and Co, (we don't think!) and the most favoured area Argyll which has a lot more wild rugged country and we think that the bridge over the Atlantic on the road to Balvicar might end up as part of Ewan and Flo McCaskills Bio-Security.

"With eggs, we are sitting on a gold mine"
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(We think that this statement is so good we are saying it twice after all Christmas is coming)

Ben Dellaert has been instated as the new chairman of the International Egg Commission (IEC) for a two year term. This makes him the standard-bearer for global egg producers and processors. "With eggs, we are sitting on a gold mine. We just have to make even better use of it."

Ben Dellaert: "Many will say that the production of eggs is very sustainable and they are absolutely right."

Ben Deallaert proudly took over chairmanship from Mexican Cesar de Anda during the recently held IEC Global Leadership Conference in Berlin. Up until that moment, Dellaert had been involved with the organisation for some time as vice-chairman and general member. "I remember my first IEC conference well. I attended it in 1999 as sector director for eggs of the Dutch Product Board PPE. The organisation has become more and more professional. At present, no one can ignore us. At least, as far as eggs are concerned."

Can you explain how the organisation has changed and what that means in practical terms?

"Firstly, the existing members have done much missionary work to promote the IEC's growth. At present, the organisation represents more than 300 members from 79 countries. We have traditionally had a strong presence in North America and Europe, but growth has been strongest in China and Latin America in recent years. The IEC has become a sort of 'umbrella' for sub organisations that have spoken with one voice, starting this year in the World Egg Organisation. That name actually says it all: a global egg organisation that represents everything that has to do with eggs. In addition to the IEC, which includes egg producers, organisations of countries, researchers and the related industry, there is the EPI, which counts egg processors as its members. The International Egg Foundation stimulates the production and consumption of eggs in developing countries and the Egg Nutrition Consortium collects and shares knowledge about the nutritional aspects of the egg and raises awareness about them. As the World Egg Organisation, we have become the most important discussion partner for leading institutes such as the United Nations/FAO, the World Health Organization, the OIE, the World Wildlife Fund and several other NGOs and GOs."

How does the IEC contribute when it talks to these institutions?

“Initially, people ask us about our skills and know-how. For example, we founded the Task Force Avian Influenza within the IEC, initially to distribute knowledge among our members and country members. All available Dutch knowledge about monitoring, prevention and control is shared here to help other countries. Governments and organisations are curious about, for example, closing borders when outbreaks occur. Also, the World Health Organization and the agricultural development branch of the FAO are especially interested in our ability to produce cheap animal protein. As a result, we raise money to set up egg chains in developing countries. Simply put, we do not supply fish, but rather we educate people on how to catch them. Practically speaking, we have the Canaan project in Swaziland and, in December of this year, the first eggs will be laid. These will be boiled and brought to schools and children’s homes. In places where the annual consumption of eggs per capita varies between 0 and 1, we do good for society and for the industry’s future. These projects are also very valuable to FAO.”

You recently planted the proverbial seed for a new initiative concerning the sustainability of eggs. Was that necessary?

“That is correct, I have initiated the ‘Global roundtable for sustainable egg production’. Many will say that the production of eggs is very sustainable and they are absolutely right. Yet we must ask ourselves whether we promote this enough. After talking to Carlos Saviani, vice-president of food sustainability of the World Wildlife Fund, we came up with a plan for a so-called ‘roundtable’, after the example the beef sector had previously set. We would like to establish criteria with all players in the chain, from producer to retail, in the areas of animal health, food safety, animal welfare, the environment and economics. In addition, we want to make these as concrete as possible. We need global consensus on these topics and they also need to be quantifiable. This is the only way to improve further and convey this to the public. We have a beautiful and valuable product, but it can always be better.”

On what other areas do you want to focus as chairman?

“Increasing the number of members, especially from developing countries, is a priority for me. As an organisation, we specifically want to show Asia and Latin America what we can do for them in terms of production and marketing eggs and egg products. We want to present ourselves more through our offices in Bangkok and Beijing and we want to reach people through regional conferences that focus on technical aspects. At the end of the day, it is all about trust and showing what we can do. I want to show people our added value, just as I do for our current members. Whether the focus is on avian influenza and its control or the switch from traditional to alternative housing systems, within our organisation there are always people and countries available with experience in these fields.”

Eggs on the global centre stage through the IEC

The International Egg Commission, founded in 1964, speaks for global egg producers and processors. The organisation represents more than 300 top decision-makers from more than 79 countries. The IEC plays an important part in giving the egg industry a voice in globally operating organisations such as the WHO (human health), OIE (animal health) and FAO (agriculture). It also facilitates the sharing of knowledge between all its members. The organisation’s office is located in London and it has offices in Bangkok and Beijing. Director General Julian Madely supervises all daily affairs from London. IEC changes chairmen every two years. Before Dellaerts, Mexican native Cesar de Anda was the face of the organisation. He succeeded the American Joanne Ivy, the first female chairman. The last Dutch chairman was Willem Enthoven, in the 1980s.

Ben Dellaert

Ben Dellaert worked as secretary of the Dutch Product Board Poultry Meat and Eggs (PPE) for years. After PPE's discontinuance, he became secretary for Avined, Pluimned and Ovoned, the collective organisations for the national poultry and egg sectors. For Ovoned, he is involved with the International Egg Commission, for which he has served as chairman since September with a term of two years.

[Fabian Brockotter](#)

Disinfection during lay keeps birds healthy

Disinfection of the poultry house is normally carried out between rounds. Within the production cycle the options to tackle micro-organisms are limited, especially during the long cycles in laying. Disinfection during lay is a viable option to keep birds healthy.

Hygiene and disinfection during the production cycle results in better performance. - Photo: Ton Kastermans

Layers face all kinds of harmful bacteria and diseases during their life. Starting a production cycle with a super clean house, cannot always prevent problems caused by coccidian, Salmonella, campylobacter, clostridium and others. On top of that poultry farming very often faces antibiotic resistant strains of micro-organisms. The need of additional treatments increases too, mainly for performance stimulation with vitamins, micro, macronutrients, and other feed additives.

To battle the increased and unregulated application of antibiotics and the subsequent sharp increase in antibiotic resistance of the micro-organisms on the one hand and the significant increase of food safety criteria on the other lead to the inclusion of strict rules for antibiotic use and residues in chicken meat and eggs. With this regard Stalosan F, produced by Stormoellen – part of Vilofoss Group, Denmark was tested in a laying hen farm, during a production cycle. The product gave farmers the opportunity to control of a broad spectrum pathogens – bacteria, viruses, fungi and the fly population with an exceptional activity in the presence of organic matter. Furthermore have a significant positive impact on environmental conditions by neutralising ammonia and hydrogen sulphide as well as moisture in the litter in poultry houses. In this way Stalosan F plays a significant role in biosecurity, animal welfare, providing round the clock protection against diseases during the whole production cycle.

Farm with a problem

A field experiment on an egg producing farm was conducted to get the farmer out of a negative spiral. The farm had encountered multiple challenges and undertook efforts to battle them one by one. The main problem was an increased mortality. From the beginning of the year high mortality was observed. Lab tests isolated E. coli O78. Based on the test, two antibiotics were administrated, Enrofloxacin and combination of Enrofloxacin + Colistin followed by vitamins. However, the efficacy of the treatment reduced mortality for about 10-14 days, then it returned high again. This continued throughout the period (about 4.5 months) before starting, the use of Stalosan F powder. On top of that the flock battled with a persis-

tent parasitic infection with *Ascaridia gali*. The farmer periodically applied Vermitan premix for 5 days in the feed as a treatment against parasites.

Quality of the feed was also tested. Poor quality sunflower meal was found. Immediately the meal was replaced with a better quality and inclusion rate reduced from 8% to 4%. However, the change did not affect mortality. Another stress factor was the infestation of the litter with mealy mites. On the upside; water was also tested and showed it meets the standards for human consumption. Water treatment began with organic acid mixture for additional sanitation of drinking lines and tanks and improvement of bird's digestive system. This treatment did not show any results.

Stalosan F application

After the antibiotic treatment for 5 days Stalosan F application started. It was applied for the first 3 days and once per week later on for a period of 10 weeks. The product was spread across the entire floor area, especially in wet and damp areas as well as along the edges of the house. Total quantity used was 500 kg for 12 applications at 50 gr/m². The birds showed an immediate response. The mortality decreased significantly without any antibiotic treatments or other medication, egg production performance increased and litter quality improved. There was a significant reduction of fly and mealy mite population and consequently there was no reoccurrence of E.Coli infection, thus no need of antibiotic treatments. In fact all additional treatments were terminated such as deworming, water treatments and BioZink medication. Stalosan F application helped to minimise the production cost.

Key role in biosecurity

The use of Stalosan F during the production solves infection problems and blocks the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria. It plays a key role in maintaining the health status of the birds and the ability of hens to overcome more easily the stress. It also shows a significant impact on animal welfare. The Stalosan F application showed its efficacy, which can be used for disease prevention and its safety for the birds and equipment. Birds showed adequate response to Stalosan F treatment and the conclusion is, that it is a product of choice needed to optimise their life comfort. Additionally Stalosan F can be considered as a product which helps poultry to overcome more easily the stress situations. Stalosan F plays a key role for the poultry farm biosecurity, directly linked to the animal health and welfare, capable to reduce antibiotic treatments, as well as additional stimulating treatments.

Plamen Bochukov, Vitfoss, Denmark
