# Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

# MARKET REPORT www.scottisheggs.co.uk sepramail@gmail.com

Date: 26th October 2015

	Size	V. Large	Large	Medium	Small
Farm to Shop	Prices	£1.49	£1.25	£1.15	80p
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Scottish Wholesaler	Colony	£1.20 £1.50	90p	80p f1 30	
	F/R	21.50	21.40	21.50	
English Wholesaler	Colony	£1.40	£1.20	£1.05	75P
	F/R	£1.70	£1.45	£1.20	85P
	Colony	£1.30(-15p)	£1.10(-10p)	£1.00(-15P)	70P(-5P)
	F/R	£1.60(+15p)	£1.55(+10p)	£1.40(+20P)	85P
Packer / Producer Contracted average Price					
		Organic	FreeRange	Barn	Colony
		£1.20/£1.45	90P/£1.15	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	£1.05	87P	77P	60P
	F/R	£1.48	£1.38	£1.28	98P
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Barn	89P	70P	65P	59P
German			/4P	68P	

The market, the word is expectant, as it looks like prices are moving up, even when it is no change, the discounting has stopped, we expect more changes next week, there is no Lion code Free Range spare!

#### The clocks change this Saturday night

How kind of the government to bring the date forward a week and to follow the Poultry Club of Scotland Dinner to allow an extra hours sleep the night after to recover, (good forward planning for once).

Free Range and Organic producers in particular will be pleased to see the girls going in at a more respectable time, as Barry Thorp ( the vet) was saying that at the height of our Scottish summer with the very short summer nights Free Range hens in the North of our country are staying out playing till 11.30 at night which was affecting egg numbers and size, which is just another problem on top of the higher feed price the further North you go, there is a slight advantage less disease problems and some beautiful eggs.

The debate on GM goes on but this latest proposal from Brussels is a whole new can of worms especially since our Scottish government has put a ban on GM crops in Scotland already, when we are still dependent on tonnage and ingredients from other countries.

Leading on from that we are interested in the experiments on the feeding of live insects, looking to the future insects might very well be a valuable source of protein in feed, but live insects might give day old chicks that all important start in life with a more natural high protein boost.

And has nobody informed Free Range hens that it is illegal to eat live insects, as that is the very reason they want to stay outside into the dark on summer nights to get that evening hatch of insects, which is the problem with our long Scottish summer evenings again!

The debate is still on going for production systems, it is still science over heart and sense over market forces which sometimes over rule engineering and cost of production!

### Environment MEPs oppose national GMO import bans proposal Published 14 October 2015 - 08:37

A draft EU law that would enable any member state to restrict or prohibit the sale and use of EUapproved GMO food or feed on its territory was opposed by Environment Committee MEPs on Tuesday 13 October.

Members are concerned that the proposal might prove unworkable and lead to the reintroduction of border controls between pro and anti-GMO countries. The recommendation will be put to a vote by Parliament as a whole at the 26-29 October plenary session in Strasbourg.

"A clear majority in the committee does not want to jeopardize the internal market. For us, the existing legislation should remain in place, and member states should shoulder their responsibilities and take a decision together at EU level, instead of introducing national bans" said Environment Committee chair Giovanni La Via (EPP, IT).

"This proposal conflicts with the principles of "better regulation" and transparency which the new European Commission has taken on board. After we spent so many years getting rid of internal barriers, this proposal could fragment the internal market and lead to a return to border inspections, which we all worked hard to get rid of at the time", he added.

The recommendation was approved by 47 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions. It will be put to a plenary vote at the 26-29 October plenary session in Strasbourg.

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## Supplementary feeding of live insects

ForFarmers has launched a trial, together with the Department of Entomology at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, to explore the impact of live insects as a source of protein in the broilers' diet.

Groups of broilers are given 5%, 10% or 15% live fly larvae, which replace up to 75% of soy protein.

Leon Marchal, Nutrition & Innovation Director at ForFarmers, commented, "The most important research question is whether the chicks are growing healthily and at a sufficient rate in comparison with a traditional diet. We also want to look at whether the broilers' natural behaviour will improve as a result of the addition of live insects. If this project proves to be a success, it will be an important step towards further sustainability within the industry."

### ForFarmers' experimental farm

The trial is being conducted at ForFarmers' experimental farm in Nijkerk, the Netherlands, where a total of 1,000 chicks are being fed in four different groups. A control group will be given a traditional diet, while the remaining three will be given 5%, 10% or 15%, respectively, of black soldier fly larvae. The high protein content of these larvae replaces up to 75% of a protein like soya.

"The larvae from this species are truly omnivorous and are relatively easy to grow," according to Albert Dijkslag, Poultry Innovation Manager at ForFarmers. "This will also result in profit for the farmer and increased sustainability. These larvae are grown on residual flows from the food industry. These residual flows and the protein within them would otherwise end up in biomass (fuel), but now they are available as feed. And if the trial proves successful, we will have found an alternative source of protein."

### Natural nutrition and behaviour

The trial with the broilers started in the summer. The initial results are expected in September. The various parties involved think it will be some time before the large-scale supplementing of diets with live insects can be introduced in practice. "The application is currently quite expensive. But it's definitely a good first step and mind-set. If we see positive results, we will continue with the further optimisation and development of the trial," Dijkslag explained. Marchal added, "The nice thing here is that chickens in the wild are naturally omnivorous and insects would feature as part of their diet. The outcome of the project, therefore, could be to help birds further express their natural behaviour."

ForFarmers wants to be a leader in sustainability, given its position in the food chain. ForFarmers is making a contribution to economically viable and sustainable food production by efficiently producing animal feeds and developing products and concepts which allow the animals to utilise the food in a healthier and better way, i.e. improved feeding efficiency. This trial with live insects indicates ForFarmers is really giving substance to its sustainability ambition.

#### **By Fabian Brockotter**

# Enriched cages most sustainable

Battery cages were developed in the 1930s and their widespread use started in the 1950s. Over the years, this housing system for laying hens has been increasingly criticised in northern Europe for animal welfare reasons. Public concern led to an adjustment of European legislation to favour production systems that allowed hens to express their natural behaviour.

Using equal weights for the indicators showed that, in the Dutch situation, enriched cage egg production was most sustainable. However, following legislation a further ban will start in 2021. [Photo: Michel Zoeter]

Starting in 2012, the conventional cage has been banned and only enriched cages with a minimum space of 750 cm2 per laying hen or alternative housing systems such as a barn, free-range and organic systems are allowed in the European Union.

#### Further ban on enriched cages

In the Netherlands, a further ban on enriched cages starts in 2021. Decisions on changing a production system should be based on a sustainability assessment that incorporates social, environmental and economic dimensions. As sustainability is a broad issue, indicators are usually used for quantification. In this study, the sustainability of enriched cages, barn, free-range and organic egg production systems following a predefined protocol was assessed. Indicators were selected within the social, environmental and economic dimensions, after which parameter values and sustainability limits were set for the core indicators in order to quantify sustainability.

## Enriched cage egg production most sustainable

Using equal weights for the indicators showed that, in the Dutch situation, enriched cage egg production was most sustainable, achieving the highest score on the environmental dimension, whereas free-range egg production gave the highest score on the social dimension (covering food safety, animal welfare and human welfare). In the economic dimension, both enriched cage egg and organic egg production had the highest sustainability score. When weights were attributed according to stakeholder outputs, individual differences were seen, but the overall scores were comparable to the sustainability scores based on equal weights.

E. D. van Asselt, L. G. J. van Bussel, P. van Horne, H. van der Voet, G. W. A. M. van der Heijden, and H. J. van der Fels-Klerx, Poultry Science 94,1742–1750

# PSA publishes findings on egg production sustainability

A group of scientific papers has been published detailing the initial results of a broad study on several areas relating to the sustainability of three different commercial-scale egg production systems (conventional cage, enriched colony and cage-free aviary).

The research, published in the latest issue of Poultry Science, a journal of the Poultry Science Association (PSA), was conducted by the Coalition for a Sustainable Egg Supply (CSES), a multi-stakeholder group comprising more than two dozen members, including food manufacturers, research institutions, scientists, restaurants, food service and retail companies, egg suppliers, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

#### Sustainability of the entire egg production system

"The goal of our project was not to make a determination that one type of layer housing system is better or worse than another. Rather, what we wanted to do was to provide some hard data to stakeholders on the tradeoffs between the different types of housing vis-à-vis key aspects of the sustainability of the entire egg production system. This will enable them to make better informed decisions with respect to questions concerning these systems – decisions that will no doubt reflect the specific values that they bring to this issue," said Dr Joy A. Mench, a professor of animal science at the University of California, Davis, and the co-scientific director of the project, along with Dr. Janice Swanson of Michigan State University.

#### 5 key areas examined

The CSES research was facilitated by the Center for Food Integrity, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building consumer trust and confidence in today's food system by bringing together diverse stakeholders to address the issues most critical to consumers.

The CSES project looked at the effects of the three housing systems on five areas related to a sustainable egg supply:

- Hen health and well-being
- Food safety and quality
- Environment
- Worker health and safety
- Food affordability

Nine papers from CSES detailing the first research results will appear in the latest issue of Poultry Science. Additional results will be forthcoming, said Dr Mench.

"To our knowledge this is the first time that all of the key aspects relating to egg production sustainability have been studied at the same time and at the same place. Due to the growing importance of sustainability debates in our national conversation, we felt it made sense to present these initial findings together as a special section in a single issue of Poultry Science," said Editor-in-Chief Dr Tom E. Porter.

### 9 papers available for download

The nine papers, listed below, are available for download from Poultry Science:

- The Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply project: An introduction (J.C. Swanson et al)
- <u>Comparative evaluation of three egg production systems: Housing characteristics and manage-</u> ment practices (Y. Zhao et al)
- Impact of commercial housing systems and nutrient and energy intake on laying hen performance and egg quality parameters (D. M. Karcher et al)
- Effect of rearing environment on bone growth of pullets (P. Regmi et al)
- An examination of the utility of heterophil-lymphocyte ratios in assessing stress of caged hens (Paul F. Cotter)
- Environmental assessment of three egg production systems–Part I: Monitoring system and indoor air Quality (Y. Zhao et al)
- Environmental assessment of three egg production systems—Part II. Ammonia, greenhouse gas, and particulate matter emissions (T. A. Shepherd et al)
- Microbiological impact of three commercial laying hen housing systems(D. R. Jones et al)
- Effects of housing system on the costs of commercial egg production (W. A. Matthews et al)

World Poultry

