

Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association

MARKET REPORT

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Date: 27th November 2015

	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 95p(-5p) £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/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 F/R	£1.00(-5p) £1.60	81p(-5p) £1.50	75p(-5p) £1.40	60p(-2p) £1.10
Imported Continental Prices in Bulk					
Dutch Eggs	Colony Barn	90p 95p(+2p)	72p 76p(+1p)	67p 69p	60p(-1p) 60p(-1p)
German	Barn		79p(+1p)	72p	

The market a much bigger split between Free Range and Colony, if you have any surplus Free Range especially Lion Code say it very quietly or you will be trampled to death in the rush, they are simply not there and it is getting worse, a lot of flocks are being depleted with pullets coming in January/February.

On the other hand Colony is just not moving, with all the supermarket promotions we have had on Free Range it appears consumers have gone in that direction and have got used to it, unless a big price differential appears on the supermarket floor there is no incentive to purchase Colony.

Price wise we have heard of Medium Colony at 52p and 1 London wholesaler's delivery price only 49p on the other hand Ireland has put 5p on Free Range for next week.

Continental prices have also stalled a bit as has their business to the US and ex US customers this we find not particularly surprising as we have heard a lot of complaints on quality particularly about Italian and Spanish eggs, it would have made more sense to have sent the best, rather than rubbish for a quick killing.

Add to this that the US is slowly getting back into business following their AI disaster, although the USDA gave a figure of -4% egg production for 2015 they are predicting +2% increase in normal production figures for 2016 and the US know the business of exporting well.

AI yesterday's confirmation of AI in France is the first new case in the EU this winter, let us hope that this is not the start of the nightmare scenario, linked to wild fowl migratory movements that everyone has been dreading, let us hope that it is a mild winter in Germany and Holland as if it is particularly cold this pushes vast numbers of waterfowl to cross the North Sea for our much milder winters and that would dramatically increase the risk factor,-----maximum Bio-Security and eliminate any connection to waterfowl.

Beak trimming, well England has decided that it is premature to bring in a ban as it would generate a blood bath and greatly increase production costs we suspect the latter is the most important rather than the usual of the politicians, throwing the problem at industry and saying deal with it.

We would also like to point out that our own minister of agriculture Richard Lockhead and our poultry industry officials came to the same decision over a year ago.

France discovers case of AI

The French department of agriculture has confirmed a case of the highly pathogenic strain H5N1 of Avian Influenza at a hobby farm in Piras near Périgueux, Dordogne. The infection was found after 22 of the 30 animals at the premises had died.

According to the department, the virus involved is the European rather than the Asian type. : "The case has no consequences for the consumption of poultry, poultry meat or any other products from poultry," minister Stéphane le Foll says. He has ordered his services to activate the national plan for AI, which included the usual surveillance and protection zones around the infected farm, and will take further steps if necessary.

You may also find interesting:

[AI vaccination, a valuable tool](#)

With an avian influenza virus strongly embedded in the world's wild bird population, mutated from known prevalent subtypes into strains that caused havoc in poultry production during the spring bird migration, every countermeasure that exists is of great value to the industry.

The authorities will also check wild birds in the area. The remaining birds have been culled and a disinfection of the premises is ongoing. The case is the first of H5N1 Avian Influenza in France since some

isolated cases in 2007. After the discovery, some countries including Egypt and Japan, have announced a temporary ban on poultry and poultry meat from France.

Ruud Peys

We wonder if this is the start of a swing back to white eggs in this country, Noble Foods snow white egg promotion worked well and they are continuing the theme, add to this the more docile less aggressive behavioural characteristics of the white hen and the push still on for a ban in beak trimming in the future.

500 eggs in 100 weeks

Breeding companies worldwide are striving continuously to bring the production results of laying hens to a higher level. Dutch poultry farmer Simon van Loon realised 500.5 eggs per hen housed in 100 weeks.

The flock Dekalb White hens in an aviary system at Van Loon reached 100 weeks of age and produced 500.5 eggs per hen housed. [Photos; Dick van Doorn]

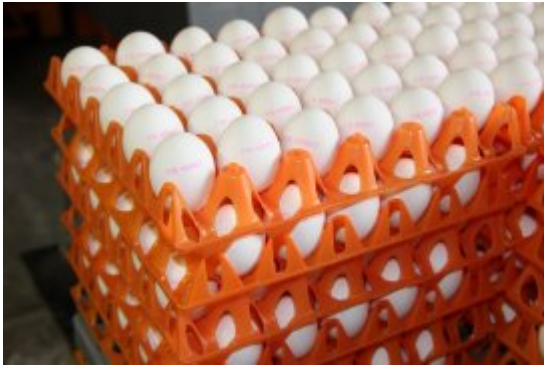
Only a few years ago ISA, the layer Business Unit of Hendrix Genetics, envisaged an unheard of increase in layer performance. “We were confident that layers would be capable of producing 500 Grade A quality eggs by 2020,” says Jeroen Visscher, Senior Geneticist at Hendrix Genetics. Today, five years earlier than predicted, field results from a commercial layer farm show that this was not a dream, but a realistic objective. Some flock performances are already reaching the target number of 500 eggs.

One of the companies that has reached the mark of 500 Grade A quality eggs per average hen is the farm of Simon and Marianne van Loon-Bruekers from the Dutch town of Nederweert. This farm has a total of 42,000 laying hens. The first flock of Dekalb White hens in an aviary system reached 100 weeks of age and produced 500.5 eggs per hen housed.

Van Loon: “The laying rate at that time was still a whopping 73%.” Their current flock consists of the same breed.

Importance of good management

Van Loon didn't set out to pursue the goal of 500 eggs per hen housed, it wasn't a conscious choice at all. “At first, we wanted to moult this flock of Dekalb White because egg prices in the Netherlands remained low for quite some time. But after a while, we saw an increase of the price and flock performance remained relatively high. We decided not to moult, but rather to purchase a new flock.” Because they had to wait for 20 weeks before the new pullets could be delivered, they kept the Dekalb White hens in production for up to 100 weeks. “To our surprise, we passed the magic mark of 500 eggs per average egg-producing hen.” According to Visscher, the high production per hen has to do with the genetic background, in combination with the excellent management capabilities of the poultry farmer. Farmer Van Loon: “An important point in this respect is not to aim for production in the animals too early. Don't focus on extra eggs during the precocity period, so that the young hen can continue to develop. This ensures persistency to up to 100 weeks.”



The flat egg-weight curve of the Dekalb White hen is very good.

It is important to check the flock when it is still at the rearing farm. Van Loon: “I always visit the rearing farm to see how the hens are doing and how they look. I don’t interfere with the management of the farmer there, I only want to have a good feeling about what I see.” Concerning feed, for the last three flocks Van Loon used the same type of compound feed. “For the current flock, I actually use a specific feed to prevent intestinal infections. But that may not have had an impact on the results, because I started using it only recently.” According to Van Loon, the feed management is extremely important to produce that many eggs per hen housed. The poultry farmer ensures that the feed system is eaten empty and remains empty for at least one hour during the day. “This way, I prevent selective eating. This makes for a better uniformity among my hens, which is very important.”

In addition to the management measures already mentioned, there are a number of items to which Van Loon pays extra attention. He is meticulous when it comes to climate control and does his utmost to prevent dust and ammonia by running the manure belt only once a day for only one-third of its total length, instead of the whole belt every three days.

The mortality losses among the 500+-Dekalb White flock amounted to only 6.6%. This is not an exception as Dekalb White hens are known of their docile behaviour, which prevents pecking. The cumulative feed conversion was 2.05. Van Loon: “The feed conversion was very good for hens in an aviary system.” According to the Dutch poultry farmer, the egg weight of the Dekalb White hen is slightly lighter compared with other breeds.



In terms of total egg weight per round, White hens lay as many kilograms per hen housed as their brown counterparts.

100 weeks as the standard

According to geneticist Visscher and Vepymo hatchery sales manager Alex Janssen, the ambition to provide the world market with hens that lay approximately 500 eggs per hen housed by 2020 will be realised. Janssen: “For brown hens, the magic number will be around 480 eggs per hen and, for white hens, even

around 520 eggs per hen.” Flock cycles of 100 weeks will be the new standard in 2020. Visscher: “Currently, 500 eggs in 100 weeks is still a target point, but by 2020 this will be the standard.”

According to Visscher, the Dekalb White hen has lighter eggs, but the shell quality is also better than many other brands. “Other advantages are that the eggs have a very stable egg weight and that the eggs do not become too heavy at the end of the cycle. The flat egg-weight curve is very good.” According to the Senior Geneticist of Hendrix Genetics, more and more poultry farmers in the United States that want to make the switch to cage-free housing think that the best option is to switch to Brown hens. “In terms of total egg weight per cycle, the Dekalb White hens lay as many kilograms per hen housed as brown hens, but with more eggs.” Janssen stresses once more that, for the United States and other countries in the world, the Dekalb White hen is a very good variant for both traditional systems and alternative systems.



Profile

Simon (52), Marianne (50) van Loon-Bruekers Nederweert (The Netherlands)

Van Loon-Bruekers has 42,000 laying hens. His Dekalb White hens of Hendrix Genetics produced 500.5 eggs per hen housed in 100 weeks. In addition to the genetic predisposition of the hens, the good management practices of the poultry farmer contributed to these exceptionally high production results.

Dick van Doorn

Harbro
QUALITY LIVESTOCK NUTRITION

- Compound layer feeds
- Specialised mobile home-mixing for layer feeds

