

Egg Industry

News for the Egg Industry Worldwide

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Egg producer operates innovative nutrient recycling system

Pearl Valley Eggs has 1.1 million layers and an innovative wastewater treatment system.

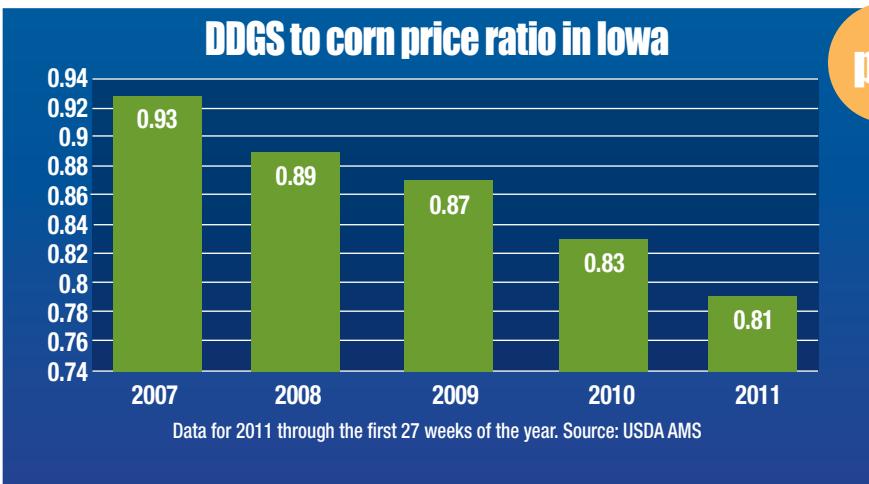
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United Egg Producers president explains welfare agreement

Gene Gregory, president and CEO, UEP, said that enriched colony housing provides an economically sustainable alternative to cage-free housing for layers.

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As ethanol production has more than doubled in the last five years, the price ratio of DDGS to corn has fallen.

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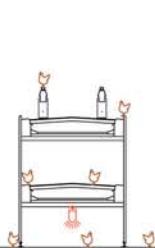
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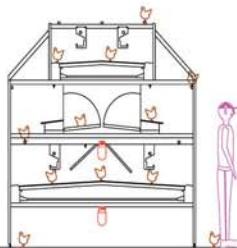
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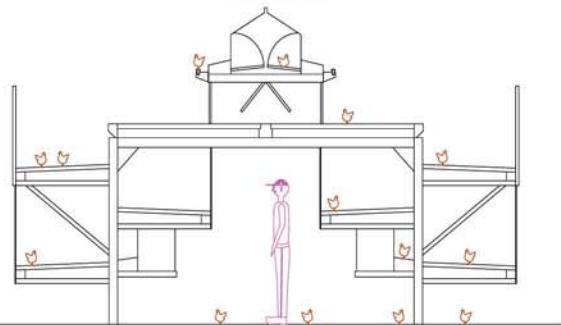
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EDITORIAL

BY TERENCE O'KEEFE

Welfare legislation facing uphill struggle

The stunning July announcement of a layer welfare agreement between the United Egg Producers and the Humane Society of the United States included a pledge by both groups to lobby Congress to enact legislation turning the



Terrence O'Keefe

agreement into the law of the land. Agreeing to try and do something is one thing, but actually accomplishing the task could be an entirely different matter, so I asked some Washington, D.C., lobbyists whether or not they thought legislation encompassing the key points of this agreement could be passed by Congress.

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While there may be thousands of lobbyists in Washington, there are not that many who are dialed into animal agriculture issues. The lobbyists whom I spoke with are familiar both with welfare issues and the poultry industry and asked not to be identified. The unanimous sentiment expressed was that getting legislation through this Congress codifying the UEP-HSUS agreement "is definitely going to be pushing a huge boulder uphill."

One lobbyist suggested that while a tough sell, UEP and HSUS do have a chance at getting legislation passed, eventually. "I think UEP has a compelling argument relative to the patch-

work of state laws that are out there. Their job is to convince Congress that it is necessary for Congress to preempt state law to fix the problem. Preemption is always difficult; it generally requires a demonstration of significant ongoing harm and disarray in the states that is causing either economic or social problems." He went on to explain that preemptive legislation usually takes more than one Congress and that the egg industry has not suffered economic harm, yet.

Could it pass?

One lobbyist laid out what he termed the perfect scenario for UEP. "In a perfect world, what would happen is that UEP and HSUS would put forth their arguments to Congress, there would be no objection or at least everyone would be neutral on it. Members of Congress absent that objection would look at this and do it quickly and easily since there are no objections. That scenario is so unlikely, because it is a scary thing for producers."

There has already been negative response to the announcement of the intention to seek federal legislation from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Pork Producers Council and the National Turkey Federation.

Considering the likelihood of the UEP-HSUS agreement becoming law a lobbyist said, "It is a tall order, but these are also strange times."

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Egg producer operates innovative nutrient recycling systems

Pearl Valley Eggs' wastewater treatment and manure composting systems allow this Illinois egg producer to operate in an environmentally friendly manner.

By Terrence O'Keefe & Andrea Saladino

It shouldn't be too surprising that Dave Thompson, owner of Pearl Valley Eggs, employs some unconventional technologies for waste manage-

ment on his Illinois farm. Thompson, a former elementary school teacher, has grown his company over the last two and a half decades to include 1.1 mil-

lion hens, an egg packing facility and an organic fertilizer operation.

Pearl Valley uses a reed bed biofilter to remove biosolids from the wastewater stream and convert them to plant material, and a manure composting system to convert layer waste into organic fertilizer products used coast to coast. Thompson has accomplished all of this in spite of the fact he comes from a non-farm background and his introduction to poultry husbandry

Watch Dave Thompson give a tour of his egg farm's wastewater treatment system
www.WATTAgNet.com/25321.html



Read more about egg farm composting operations at www.WATTAgNet.com/24537.html



Photo credit: Andrea Saladino

Pearl Valley Eggs has 1.1 million layers and an innovative wastewater treatment system.

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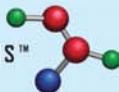


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came with an incubation project for his students.

From contract grower to business owner

The incubation project ultimately produced a backyard flock of hens for Thompson, which first led to a job with an egg producer, then later to a contract to produce eggs on his own farm, and finally a buyout that put him in the egg packing business. In 2001, Thompson was raising eggs for the Mallquist Butter and Egg Company and the owners wanted to retire. Thompson decided

of the system. He said that he went through several septic systems trying to find one that worked. Thompson wanted a treatment system that would remove the BOD easily and economically without generating odor or insect problems.

SBR and reed bed biofilter

Pearl Valley Eggs' wastewater treatment system begins with a flow equalization tank that accumulates water throughout the day. At the end of the processing day, 3,000 to 4,000 gallons of wastewater is pumped into one of

two sequential batch reactor tanks. The SBRs are aerated, and retention time in the SBR is two days. Aerobic bacteria in the SBR removes most of the BOD from the water. At the end of the treatment cycle, the aeration is turned off in the SBR and suspended solids are allowed to settle out. Water with a BOD of around 10 milligrams per liter is decanted out of the tank where it is pumped to the septic drain field in cold weather, or to fields for crop irrigation in warm weather. About once a week the aerators are turned off in the SBR, and, after settling, some of the biosolids are pumped off the bottom of the SBR to the 14,000-gallon solids tank. The solids tank is aerated, and every 10-14 days water with approximately 2% solids is pumped out of the solids tank to the reed bed. The reed bed is basically a concrete tank with rock and sand on the bottom where the reeds are planted. The reeds utilize the nutrients in the biosolids and the water is filtered by the sand and rocks until it drains to the bottom of the bed where it is pumped back to the SBR tanks.

Project and operating costs

The new treatment system has been operating since 2009, and Thompson reports operating costs of around \$1,500 per month. An engineering firm designed the system, which cost around \$1 million to build. Thompson served as the general contractor on the project to help keep the cost down, and a grant was obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program to offset \$441,000 of the expense.

Thompson said that if he were starting from scratch, he would rebuild the same type of wastewater treatment system that he has now. The only change he would make is to cut the size of the reed bed by about a third. Thompson also said he might try using a reed bed to filter all of the decant water from the SBR before sending the water to the drain field. He said that the polishing done in the reed bed would remove more solids and BOD and would likely



Photo credit: Andrea Saladino

Egg wash water with a BOD of 2,000-3,000 (left jar) is treated in an aerobic SBR tank (center jar) until the decant water has a BOD of 10 (right jar).

to buy the business and move the egg packing equipment to his farm.

Processing eggs includes washing the eggs, and this introduced the need to return 3,000 to 4,000 gallons of water back to the environment each day in an environmentally friendly manner. Initially, Pearl Valley Eggs employed a septic tank and drain field to return the used process water to the environment, but there were problems.

Thompson said that the egg wash water has a biological oxygen demand of between 2,000 to 3,000 milligrams per liter, and not all of the solids settled out in the septic tank. Solids transported by the water to the drain field can clog the holes in the pipes and shorten the life

of the system. He said that he went through several septic systems trying to find one that worked. Thompson wanted a treatment system that would remove the BOD easily and economically without generating odor or insect problems.



Photo credit: Andrea Saladino

Rocks, sand and reeds inside a concrete structure work as a biofilter removing and digesting solids.



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extend the life of the drain field. Native prairie grasses and wildflowers are grown on the one acre drain field.



Photo credit: Andrea Saladino

Much of the manure at Pearl Valley Eggs is composted and sold under the Healthy Gro brand.

Healthy Gro fertilizer

Between 60% to 70% of the Pearl Valley Eggs' layer manure is composted on the farm and packed in bags, totes or sold in bulk as an organic soil amendment under the Healthy Gro brand. The business has been developed over a number of years, and golf courses as far away as Connecticut and California use Healthy Gro products.

All of Pearl Valley Eggs' houses employ belt systems for daily manure removal. Five of the nine houses have overhead drying systems for the manure. The other four houses produce non-dehydrated manure with a moisture content of 60% to 70%.

In the farm's two compost buildings, dehydrated and non-dehydrated manures are mixed with other materials according to formulas depending on the product being made. No water is added to the compost mixes. Thompson said that around 90 acres of wheat are raised on the farm and that wheat straw is one of the other ingredients utilized in the compost. Equipment is used to turn and aerate the compost each day prior to packaging.

There are around 400 acres of crop land at Pearl Valley Eggs' farm, and this is amended once every three years with composted manure. Dehydrated manure is also sold to neighboring farmers for fertilizing crop land. **EI**

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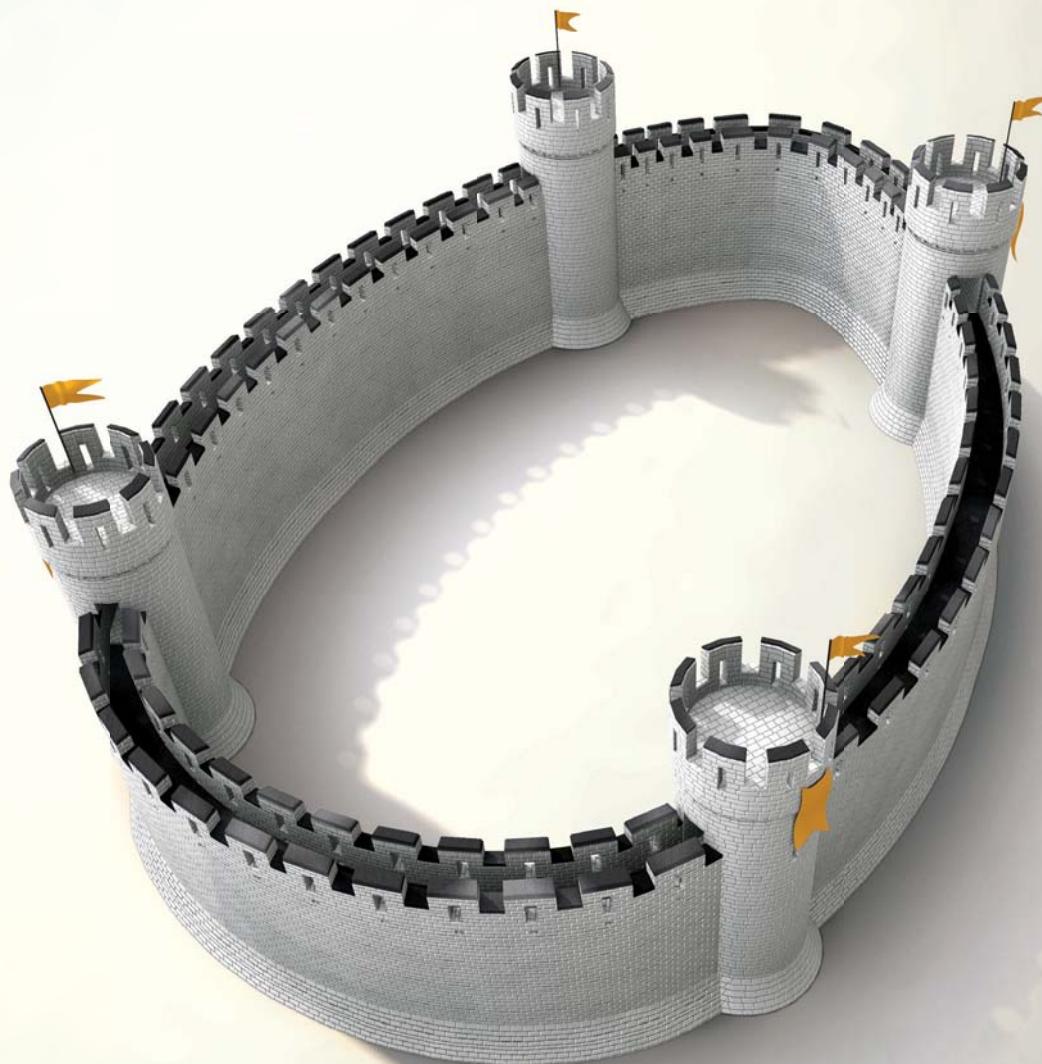


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United Egg Producers president explains welfare agreement

The next 12 months will be challenging for UEP and the egg industry as they lobby Congress to enact the HSUS-UEP agreement as law.

By Terrence O'Keefe

The United Egg Producers have set a target of getting the egg products inspection act changed by Congress by June 30, 2012, to include the key points of UEP's agreement with the Humane Society of the United



Gene Gregory, president and CEO, UEP, said that enriched colony housing provides an economically sustainable alternative to cage-free housing for layers.

States. The next 12 to 18 months could determine the type of housing systems used in the U.S. for layers for the next several decades.

Gene Gregory, president and CEO, UEP, answered *Egg Industry's* questions about how UEP will face what could be the most interesting and challenging period the U.S. layer industry has experienced.

***Egg Industry:* Why not a voluntary agreement setting a new housing standard for layers instead of seeking federal legislation?**

Gene Gregory: The real reason is that UEP and some egg producers have a major antitrust lawsuit filed against us where the primary complaint is that the UEP Certified animal welfare program was put in place only to restrict the supply of eggs and fix the price of

eggs. That is foolish, since our guidelines came from an independent scientific committee and were endorsed by the Food Marketing Institute and the National Council of Chain Restaurants, and our farms are audited by the USDA. The complaint is bogus, but a big-time plaintiff law firm has brought this case. We are spending millions of dollars to try and defend ourselves. Because of this, our attorneys will not let us enter into any agreements setting industry standards on our own in a voluntary way until this litigation is settled.

We had talked about adding enriched colony housing as a third option for producers that wanted that, but our attorneys wouldn't allow us to do this.

EI: Isn't the Humane Society of the United States providing the money behind the lawsuit?

GG: I can't acknowledge who we think is involved in any public way.

EI: Washington, D.C., lobbyists who work on animal agriculture issues have suggested that it will be a tough uphill struggle to try and get legislation passed which sets federal standards for housing laying hens. Can this legislation get through Congress?

GG: We were not so naïve to think that this would be easy. We don't know if it is possible to do this, but we have to explore this.

EI: What would you say to other animal

agriculture groups who have expressed reservations regarding UEP and HSUS asking for federal legislation addressing layer housing?

GG: My only regret is, we wish that you had waited until you knew more about the details, wished you had waited until you heard our story, wished you had waited until at least a bill was written; then you could lobby against it at that time if you wanted to. But instead, they immediately came out in opposition to this without even knowing the details or reasons of why we need to do this.

That is my regret; UEP would never do that against some other animal agriculture association or industry. Each of us has to do some things to protect our own industries.

We have taken great care to make sure that there are no other animals added to the legislation that we would like to pass. I think that even if you talk to HSUS they would acknowledge that they can't pass any federal legislation for any farm animals unless they have the support and endorsement from those animal species organizations as well. When the other animal agriculture groups express their fear about this I think it is unfounded.

EI: If the legislation passes, what is to keep HSUS from coming back for another bite of the apple five years down the road?

GG: We are proposing this legislation as a change in the egg products

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inspection act. We don't think that they can get that legislation changed or get new legislation without our help. With state legislation and federal legislation we have fought them several times and won every time. It is only when we have had the voter referendums or ballot initiatives when we have lost.

EI: Has UEP looked at what will happen next if the legislation doesn't pass?

GG: We have not, and the reason we have not is the litigation. If the legislation doesn't work, and if the litigation wasn't an issue, UEP would probably add enriched colony housing as a third option in the UEP Certified program. I worry that if the legislation doesn't pass, welfare organizations may get even more aggressive against the in-

ard of 67 square inches). UEP wanted 116 square inches like the EU. Eventually, the parties agreed to 124 square inches after a long negotiation. This agreement provides a pathway to the future where we know what kind of houses to build. This agreement gets rid of ballot initiatives, gets rid of lawsuits and does a lot of other things. We had to go to 124 inches per bird to get it.

EI: In order to get legislation passed, it would be best if the egg industry presented a united front, but there is a potential for this housing agreement to cause some UEP members to leave the group. What is next?

GG: We are concerned about that. UEP has a history of not being vanilla; we are always out front and doing

government telling you how you are going to operate your business. Those are things that producers have deep concerns about.

We worry that we will have some members that are so adamantly against this that they may drop their UEP membership, but UEP is about a whole lot more than just animal welfare and this. We do all kinds of things for them in other areas. We undertook this knowing that it was going to be quite controversial, but we knew that we had a conflict here that we had to try and resolve. That is why we are exploring this option.

When you see your members in states like California, Oregon, Washington, Michigan and Ohio being affected like this and you sit by and don't do anything to try and resolve this, are you being the kind of association you should be?

EI: Whether or not the housing legislation passes, the industry will have to sell consumers on the benefits of enriched colony housing because as far as the welfare groups are concerned, it still isn't cage free.

GG: That is the market place; we will produce whatever the consumer wants. If they want organic, or if they want cage-free, we will produce it. If consumers want cage-free, the industry will produce it, but enriched colony production will replace production from traditional cages. We think the enriched colony housing will be affordable and will not price consumers

► ***This agreement provides a pathway to the future where we know what kind of houses to build.***

dustry than they have been in the past. There are 24 states with the ballot initiative option. There are lots of states that could have ballot initiatives pass and each have their own standard for housing hens. This can lead to a big market disruption.

EI: Why 124 square inches for white layers instead of 116 square inches like they are using in the EU?

GG: This is one of my disappointments. I have always said UEP would not make any changes unless justified by science and recommended by our scientific advisory committee. The new standard of 124 square inches for white layers and 144 square inches for brown layers at this time has no justifiable science to warrant this, but like in any negotiation there is sometimes a middle point that you have to reach.

HSUS wanted 144 square inches for white layers like the standard for cage-free, we wanted 92 square inches. Then they wanted to be able to say they doubled the space to 134 square inches (from the current UEP Certified stand-

things. We were the first animal agriculture group to develop science-based animal welfare guidelines back in 2002 and have third-party auditing and certification.

Years ago, when we first started working on this, we had people in the industry who were opposed to this who said that this would divide the industry and destroy UEP. But our board felt strongly that this was something that we needed to do; well, instead of dividing the industry, it actually increased

► ***We undertook this knowing that it was going to be quite controversial, but we knew that we had a conflict here that we had to try and resolve.***

our membership. We wound up with 80% of eggs in this country being produced under these guidelines.

Now we enter into an even more controversial area, because in this case we are talking about major capital investments; we are talking about gov-

out of the market; it will be considerably less costly than cage-free eggs. We know that cage-free production is not economically sustainable (for the industry as a whole), and we know that it doesn't improve the welfare of the animals. **EI**



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Economics of DDGS use in layer rations improves

The price of DDGS relative to the price of corn has fallen as ethanol production has increased, and research suggests egg producers can benefit by feeding DDGS.

By Terrence O'Keefe

Corn prices have been driven to new heights by increased demand from the U.S. ethanol industry. According to some estimates, U.S. ethanol production in 2011 will consume an amount of corn equal to nearly 40% of last season's corn crop. The price of a commodity will rise as demand for the item increases or as supply of the item decreases. As supply of corn in storage dwindled this summer, users of corn not only had to pay higher prices for the corn



Photo credit: Andrea Saladino

Read more about research on DDGS inclusion in layer diets at www.WATTAgNet.com/21817.html

but also had to move corn greater distances to reach their mills.

To combat the high price and scarcity of corn, many egg producers in the Midwest have turned increasingly to distillers dried grains with solubles to replace a portion of the corn and soybean meal in their birds' rations. DDGS have been around for centuries as a byproduct of the production of beer and distilled spirits. Each 56-pound bushel of corn will produce 2.8 gallons of ethanol and 17.5 pounds of DDGS. Production of DDGS in the U.S. has more than doubled since 2007, along with the production of ethanol for fuel. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, 13.2 billion gallons of ethanol was produced in the U.S. last year along with approximately 41 million tons of DDGS, nearly one quarter of which was exported outside the U.S.

Each 56-pound bushel of corn will produce 2.8 gallons of ethanol and 17.5 pounds of DDGS, which may offer an opportunity for all U.S. egg producers to lower cost of rations in the wake of high corn prices and increasing production of ethanol.

The price ratio for DDGS and corn in Iowa has fallen each year since 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service data. The decline in the ratio of the price of DDGS to corn from 0.97 in 2007 to 0.81 in 2011 has increased the economic incentive to substitute DDGS for corn in layer rations. Typical inclusion rates for DDGS

in layer rations is 5% to 12%, but research suggests that higher inclusion rates can be used without harming bird performance.

Feeding higher concentrations of DDGS

The percent of protein in DDGS is about three times that of corn because fermentation uses the starches and

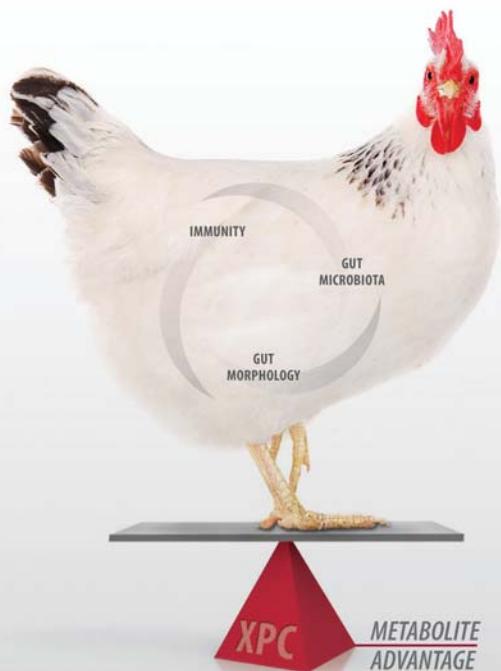
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sugars and concentrates the protein, fiber and fat. DDGS are high in total phosphorous and nitrogen compared to corn, so the amount of inorganic phosphorous added to hen diets can be reduced if DDGS are included.

Dr. Sheila Purdum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, reported on her research on DDGS and enzyme inclusion into layer diets at the Midwest Poultry Federation Convention this year. She said that exogenous enzymes, such as phytase and combinations of amylase, protease and carbohydrase, are incorporated more frequently into poultry diets, especially during times of high commodity prices. The focus of her research has been on the action of these enzymes in diets with a high level of DDGS.

Purdum said that in experimental diets with DDGS, synthetic lysine and a fat blend were added and dicalcium

phosphate supplementation was decreased. In the initial studies, results indicated that feeding diets with DDGS at levels of up to 25% had no negative effect on egg production parameters.

Benefits of enzyme use

In further studies using exogenous enzymes such as phytase and combinations of amylase, protease and carbohydrase, inclusion rates of up to 30% DDGS in layer diets were shown to support good levels of production. Purdum concluded DDGS can be included at relatively high levels in diets for pullets and laying hens when the diet is formulated to balance amino acid requirements. She said dicalcium phosphate addition to layer diets can be reduced with DDGS inclusion to further reduce feed cost. Exogenous enzyme supplementation can significantly reduce the cost of diets for lay-

ing hens with or without DDGS inclusion.

DDGS availability

A number of reasons have been cited in the literature why poultry producers might choose not to utilize DDGS in rations. Some of them are variability of nutrient values in the product, distance from DDGS source, concerns over mycotoxin concentration in DDGS, and concerns about shelf life of DDGS. According to RFA data, nearly one quarter of U.S. DDGS production was exported in 2010, and the price of DDGS has fallen relative to the price of corn over the last five years. With corn prices expected to be high for at least another 12 months, DDGS may offer an opportunity for all U.S. egg producers, not just those in the Midwest, to lower the cost of their rations compared to the cost of a traditional corn and soybean meal ration. **EI**

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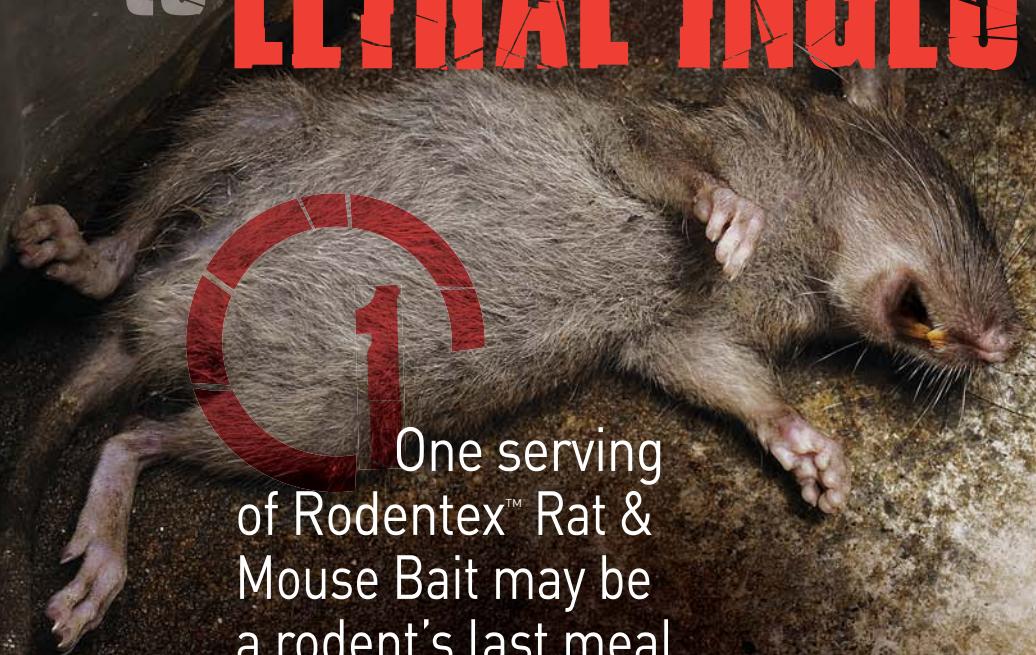
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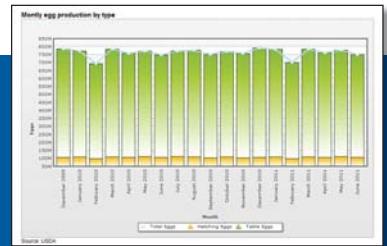


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WATTAgNet's Market Data section offers a quick collection of statistics for the U.S. poultry industry, including this chart on monthly egg production by type.

Poultry market data available on WATTAgNet

The new Market Data section of WATTAgNet, www.wattagnet.com/marketdata.html, offers a snapshot of statistics for the U.S. poultry industry.

The statistics can be viewed on a single page for easy reference, and the charts can be made larger by simply clicking on them. Figures shown include:

- ✓table egg prices
- ✓egg production
- ✓broiler-type eggs set
- ✓broiler-type chicks placed/hatched
- ✓grain prices
- ✓grain futures
- ✓broiler prices (whole birds/parts)

The data is updated as available on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

Cage, free-range eggs show no nutritional difference

A significant nutritional advantage of eggs produced by chickens housed on range versus in cages could not be established, according to a recent study published in the July 2011 issue of *Poultry Science*. However, the cholesterol levels in all eggs were found to be lower than U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines, prompting the USDA



Chickens forage at the free-range facility.

to review and revise downward its estimates for average cholesterol levels in eggs.

Data for the study was collected in 2008 and 2009 by Dr. Kenneth E. Anderson, a professor in the Department of Poultry Science at North Carolina State University.

"The key takeaway from this research is that an egg, no matter where it's produced, is a very nutritious prod-

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uct,” said Anderson. “Eggs from a range production environment did have higher levels of total fat than eggs produced by caged hens, but they did not have higher levels of cholesterol. Perhaps the most striking finding was that both cage- and range-produced eggs actually have lower cholesterol levels than previously believed, which has led the USDA to lower the cholesterol guidelines for eggs in the USDA Nutrient Database for shell eggs to 185 mg per egg, down from 213 mg.”

Egg samples were collected at 50, 62 and 74 weeks of age during the productive life of the flock and sent to four different laboratories commonly used for egg nutrient analysis. The results showed no influence of housing environment (range or cage) on egg levels of vitamin A or vitamin E. However, beta-carotene levels were higher in the range eggs which, according to Anderson, may have contributed to the darker colored yolks observed in these eggs during the study. The study also found no difference in cholesterol content between range- and cage-produced eggs.

US shell eggs broken up from May



Shell eggs broken were up 3% for the first half of 2011 compared to the same time in 2010.

Shell eggs broken totaled 185 million dozen during June 2011, 6% above the 175 million broken in May and down 1% from June 2010, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report.

During January through June 2011, shell eggs broken totaled 1,029 million dozen, up 3% from the comparable period in 2010. To date, cumulative total

edible product from eggs broken in 2011 was 1,342 million pounds, up 2% from 2010. White and yolk products were both up in June 2011 over June 2010 numbers, coming in at 66 million pounds and 33 million pounds, respectively, compared to 64.9 million pounds and 30.9 million pounds, respectively. Whole egg products were down, at 139.8 million pounds compared to June 2010's 146.6 million pounds.

US corn forecast drops 556 million bushels



Ending corn stocks are expected to sit at roughly 714 million bushels.

U.S. corn production for 2011-2012 is forecast 556 million bushels lower than previous estimates, with a reduction in harvested area and lower expected yields, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recent World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

The national average yield is forecast at 153 bushels per acre, down 5.7 bushels from July's projection as unusually high temperatures and below-average precipitation across much of the Corn Belt sharply reduced yield prospects.

Total projected corn use for 2011-2012 has been reduced by 340 million bushels. Feed and residual use is projected 150 million bushels lower, reflecting the smaller crop and higher expected prices. Corn use for ethanol is projected 50 million bushels lower with tighter supplies and lower forecast gasoline consumption for 2011 and 2012.

Projected corn exports for 2011-2012 are reduced by 150 million bushels, with wheat feeding expected to increase. Ending stocks are projected 156

million bushels lower at 714 million. The stocks-to-use ratio is projected at 5.4%, compared with July's projection of 6.4%. The season-average farm price is projected at \$6.20 to \$7.20 per bushel, up 70 cents on each end of the range.

U.S. wheat supplies for 2011-2012 have also been lowered, by 30 million bushels, as higher forecast winter wheat production is more than offset by lower area and production for durum and other spring wheat, according to the report. Total use for 2011-2012 has been lowered by 30 million bushels with a reduced outlook for exports, more than offsetting an increase in expected feed and residual use. Exports are projected down 50 million bushels with increased competition, particularly from FSU-12 countries, where production prospects are raised.

Projected feed and residual use is raised by 20 million bushels, reflecting a continuation of competitive prices for feed-quality wheat and lower projected corn supplies. Ending stocks are nearly unchanged.

The 2011-2012 season-average farm price for all wheat is projected at \$7.00 to \$8.20 per bushel, up from July's range of \$6.60 to \$8.00 per bushel, supported by higher projected prices for corn.

China corn demand surpasses US estimates

China ordered 21 million bushels of U.S. corn in July, more than the U.S. allotted for exports to China in all of 2011, as the country's pork market and middle class both grow.

China has bought another 2.2 million bushels of corn from the U.S. so far in August, and the country became a net importer of corn for the first time in 15 years in 2010. Some U.S. economists believe that China might become the biggest foreign buyer of U.S. corn within five to 10 years, taking the spot from Japan, which bought 610 million bushels of U.S. corn in 2010. “We think this is the inflection point,” said Brian Schouvieller, a grain marketing executive at CHS Inc. “We believe that, from now, China is going to be a steady buyer.”

Current U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates suggest that China will import 79 million bushels of corn from all sources in the 2011-2012 crop year.

Cargill makes offer to acquire animal nutrition business

Cargill has made a binding offer to acquire animal nutrition company Provimi for €1.5 billion (US\$2.17 billion), and Provimi has agreed to begin the necessary approvals process.

The acquisition, according to Cargill, would expand the company's existing operations and make it a global leader in animal nutrition. "This acquisition would mark a significant step in Cargill's animal nutrition growth strategy and underlines our commitment to continued long-term investment to meet the needs of our customers around the world," said Paul Conway, Cargill's vice chairman.

Cargill was among several companies in June that expressed interest in taking over Provimi.

Ukraine egg producer volume up 51%

Ukraine-based egg and egg product producer Avangardco Investments Public Limited's volume increased by 51%, to 2.875 billion eggs in the first half of 2011, compared to 1.91 billion billion eggs in the first half of 2010.

The increase, according to the company, is largely connected to an increase in poultry stock in the first half of 2011. As of June 30, the company's total flock was 24.4 million head, compared to 18.6 million head in the first half of 2010.

During the first six months of 2011 Avangard processed 534 million eggs, compared to 287 million eggs during the same time in 2010. The average sale price of dried egg product during the reporting period was US\$6.91 per kilogram. Most exports of the product were focused on Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

For the remainder of 2011, Avangard is focusing on expanding production capacity and exports. The company is currently in the process of gaining permission to export product to both the EU and Russia. **E**

Chore-Time Chore-Tronics Ethernet Local Talk Interface



The Chore-Time Chore-Tronics Ethernet Local Talk Interface gives users with Internet access the ability to manage and control house operations from anywhere in the world and remotely monitor his or her farm and make adjustments to control settings as needed. The ELT Interface converts information from Chore-Tronics 2 Controls into a web-friendly format for viewing control settings and house conditions or for making changes. It permits authorized users to view Chore-Tronics 2 Control information via a Web display of the control screen using a Web browser on Java-compatible computers and mobile devices. Authorized users can also use the ELT unit in place of a phone line and modem to view data from Chore-Tronics 1 or 2 Controls using Chore-Time's C-Central Professional Software.

www.choretimepoultry.com

Double L Group Ltd. GC1140 4-directional gravity inlet



The GC1140 from Double L Group Ltd. is a 4-directional gravity inlet. Air enters the inlet from the attic and is evenly distributed in all four directions into the poultry house, resulting in reduced hu-

midity and drier litter conditions, according to the company. Insulated housing prevents heat loss, and the inlet includes a removable lid with adjustable counterweight.

www.doublel.com

Central Life Sciences Starbar Rodentex

Starbar Rodentex pest control products from Central Life Sciences include Rodentex Rat & Mouse Bait Chunks and Place Packs. Rat & Mouse Bait Chunks and Place Packs can be used for control of Norway rats, Roof rats, house mice and Warfarin-resistant Norway rats. Both Rodentex products include the active ingredient, Bromadiolone, an anti-coagulant that provides a fatal dose to Norway rats and house mice in one feeding, the company says. The Rodentex formulations are available in 16-pound containers.

www.centrallifesciences.com

Tulderhof Agrosystems Flash 3300 air inlet



Tulderhof Agrosystems says the Flash 3300 air inlet was developed so that throw (air direction) is not affected by the valve (amount of air). The Flash 3300 is made of plastic, with a standard size. It is ideal for situations requiring extra-high demands for air steering, according to the company, and comes with a five-year guarantee.

www.tulderhof.com

Merck Animal Health Coccivac-D2 poultry vaccine

Merck Animal Health offers Coccivac-D2 poultry vaccine for broiler-breeders and commercial layers. The vaccine is an improvement on Coccivac-D, focusing on *E. tenella*, *E. mivati*, *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima*, *E. brunetti* and *E. necatrix* while eliminating *E. hagani* and *E. praecox*, according to the company. It is currently

available in 5,000-dose and 1,000-dose vials.

www.merck-animal-health.com

Animal Wellness Products Mix-Oil

Animal Wellness Products' Mix-Oil is a concentrated mix of essential oils that not only improves flavoring, but also works as a digestive and stimulant, the company says. Mix-Oil is available in liquid, powder and micro-encapsulated forms. All Mix-Oils are in accordance with EC Directive 1831/2003 and recognized as GRAS from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

www.awpint.com

Bio-Cat Inc. AGF enzyme

Bio-Cat Inc. offers an Alpha Galactosidase enzyme product, AGF, for the digestion of grains and feed in animals. The AGF enzyme is derived from a non-GMO strain of

the fungus, *Aspergillus niger*. It is comprised of a concentrated powder that breaks down non-digestible carbohydrates found in soy-based diets.

www.bio-cat.com

Big Dutchman AVECH II



The Big Dutchman AVECH II is an acronym for Adaptive Versatile Enriched Colony Housing and is designed to offer the egg producer an affordable and easy way to start off with an enrichable system, and then move into a completely enriched system at a later

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www.bigdutchmanusa.com

Kuhl Corp. WEB egg washers

Kuhl Corp.'s WEB egg washers connect directly to any other egg breaking or belt driven system for the use of multiple units. Cleaning capacity ranges from 30cph to 200cph. Special features include: gentle egg shaped, scalloped, horizontal moving nylon strip brushes come standard; fully adjustable brush height and spray wash pressure; patented Traveling Filter System (TFS) provides extended operation time without stopping to clean filter trays. Kuhl says that 99.8% of bacteria and shellborne salmonella are eliminated.

www.kuhllcorp.com

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Ad sizes start at one column by one inch and can be any size up to six column inches. Logos and photographs are acceptable. Add color for an additional \$30 per color per insertion. The rate for EGG INDUSTRY is \$130 per inch per insertion (1-time rate), \$120 per inch per insertion (6-time rate), and \$110 per inch per insertion (12-time rate). The production charge is included except for ads with excessive make-up demands.

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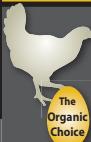
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