

Egg Industry

News for the Egg Industry Worldwide

WATT

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Optimistic projections for 2008 corn and soy harvests

By Dr. Simon Shane, Editor

The USDA released encouraging updated projections for the 2008 harvests of corn and soybeans in mid-August. Farmers expect to harvest 79.2 million acres of corn with an anticipated yield of 155 bushels per acre contributing to a near record crop of 12.2 billion bushels. Soybeans will be harvested from 73.3 million acres with an average yield of 40.5 bushels per acre contributing to a crop of 2.9 billion bushels (Table 1-page 3).

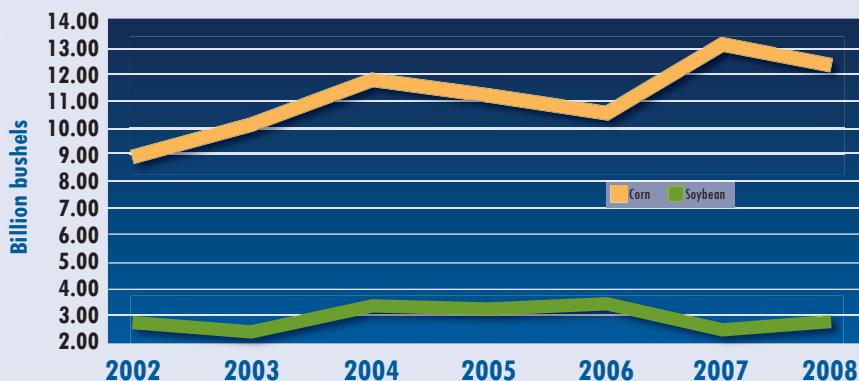
The updated forecast is based on a survey of nearly 30,000 producers during the period July 23-August 6. There has been considerable concern over the magnitude of the 2008 corn crop as the 350,000 acres planted was 7 percent lower than in 2007. Planting was delayed by heavy rains and development was retarded by cool temperatures during March and April.

Flooding adds to concerns

The situation was exacerbated by prolonged precipitation and flooding in the Upper Mississippi valley and Eastern corn belt through the second week of June. Fortunately warmer weather returned and rainfall was appropriate to crop development.

As of August 3, 66 percent of corn was rated in the good-to-excellent range in the 18 major corn-producing states. The crop is lagging in development in some areas as determined by the attainment of the silking and dough stages

U.S. CORN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION



Source:USDA

USDA figures indicate an inverse relationship between the production of corn and soybean crops.

respectively. This does create some concern for the possibility of an early frost which would lower yield from the current forecast. Industry commentators have however questioned the validity of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) projections which they regard as optimistic.

Favorable prices for soybeans per-

sued many farmers to increase the area planted to this crop by almost 18 percent compared to 2007.

Impact on soybean crop

As with corn, sowing of soybeans was impacted by wet and cool weather in April. By the beginning of June, 70 percent of the intended acreage of



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TABLE 1. PROJECTED 2008 CORN AND SOYBEAN HARVEST AS OF AUGUST 15

	Area Harvested 1,000 acres		Yield Bushels/acre		Production 1,000 bushels	
	2007	2008*	2007	2008*	2007	2008*
Corn	85,542	79,290	151.1	155.0	13.1 billion	12.3 billion
Soybeans	62,820	73,341	41.2	40.5	2.9 billion	2.9 billion

*Projected value, Source: USDA ERS

Heavy rains and cool temperatures adversely affected the 2008 corn crop as the 350,000 acres planted was 7 percent lower than in 2007.

soybeans had in fact been planted. The situation was complicated further by heavy rains in early June in the upper Mississippi valley.

By August 3, 78 percent of the crop was blooming although this is approximately 10 percent behind normal for the beginning of the month, and only

ation was less serious than first envisioned, there has been a 34 percent decline in price from the peak. As of August 7, September and December corn was quoted at \$5.22 and \$5.42/bushel respectively.

The USDA estimate of the farm price for corn during 2008-2009 will

It is noted that a \$1/bushel increase in the price of corn raises the cost of egg production by 6 cents per dozen

37 percent of the crop was setting seed compared to the 5-year average for 58 percent.

The delay in planting was reflected in corn spiking to \$7.75/bushel on June 14 and again on June 26. The unprecedented rise from \$6.00/bushel on May 15 was based on the projected disparity between production and demand including livestock feed, a 32.3 percent diversion of the crop to ethanol production and for export.

Prices decline from peak

Recognizing that the harvest situ-

be \$4.90 to \$5.90/bushel. It is noted that a \$1/bushel increase in the price of corn raises the cost of egg production by 6 cents per dozen since escalation in corn generally results in increases in the prices for other grains and also soybeans.

Soybeans down 27 percent

Soybeans declined 27 percent from a peak of \$16.27/bushel on June 28 to a low of \$11.75/bushel on August 7. The USDA projects the average farm price of soybeans will be \$12.00 to \$13.50/bushel during 2008-2009. The Decatur

TABLE 2. AVERAGE MONTHLY PRICES OF CORN AND SOYBEAN MEAL 2007-2008

Month	Soybean Meal \$/ton	Corn \$/bushel
May 2007	198.66	3.60
June	229.70	3.70
July	222.05	3.08
Aug	217.63	3.17
Sept	254.41	3.18
Oct	260.55	3.21
Nov	280.76	3.60
Dec	314.78	4.01
Jan 2008	331.28	4.58
Feb	345.88	4.87
Mar	331.57	5.14
April	329.94	5.58
May	325.48	5.61
June	370.92	6.56

Source: USDA-ERS Livestock, Dairy & Poultry Outlook.

With the harvest situation less serious than first envisioned, there has been a 34 percent decline in price of corn from the peak; soybeans declined 27 percent.

price for 48 percent Soybean meal has declined by 32 percent from \$380/ton in late July to \$350/ton the first week in August.

The reduction in ingredient prices is welcome news to the egg industry which is constantly faced with increased feed costs and until recently, prospects of a short term declining market realization. August values suggest higher margins from beneficial changes in both sides of the equation. **EI**

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VICE PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR OF CONTENT

Bruce Plantz: bplantz@wattnet.net

PUBLISHER

Greg Watt: gwatt@wattnet.net

EDITOR

Simon M Shane: sshane@ncrr.com

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Ed Clark: eclark@wattnet.net

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Sue Roberts: sroberts@wattnet.net

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sarah Lanenga: slanenga@wattnet.net

MANAGING ART DIRECTOR

Tess Stukenberg: tstukenberg@wattnet.net

TO ADVERTISE CONTACT: US/CANADA

Pam Ballard: pballard@wattnet.net

Sue Snyder: ssnyder@wattnet.net

Denise Slager: dslager@wattnet.net

TO ADVERTISE CONTACT: INTERNATIONAL

Michael van den Dries: driesmvd@xs4all.nl

Bram Westers: bwesters@xs4all.nl

Frans Willem van Beeman: beemanfw@xs4all.nl

Tineke van Spanje: spanje@xs4all.nl

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please report change of address to EGG INDUSTRY, WATT, 303 N Main St Ste 500, Rockford, Illinois 61101-1018 USA, Fax: (815) 968-0513, E-mail: jwessel@wattnet.net. Give BOTH old and new address.

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➤ INDUSTRY NEWS

Dr. Hiram N. Lasher honored

Dr. Hiram N. Lasher, the doyen of poultry vaccinologists, was recently awarded the University of Delaware Medal of Distinction. The award was in recognition of contributions of both time and creativity and his generosity to the University of Delaware and the Delaware Technical and Community College System. The accompanying citation recognized the contributions of Dr. Lasher to youth development and public service in addition to ground-breaking innovations in development and manufacture of vaccines critical to the productivity and profitability of the poultry industry on the Delmarva Peninsula and the United States.

Rationalization between Diamond and MOBA

Following the acquisition of Diamond Systems (www.diamondsystem.com) by FPS Handling Systems b.v. of Barneveld,

Holland, the parent company of MOBA, rationalization of product lines will occur in the near future. The egg-breaking and liquid egg processing products of both companies will be combined into an existing entity, OvoPro (www.ovopro.com). This decision is based on applying the technology and resources of both companies to create a more competitive and flexible approach to markets which will be beneficial to egg processors worldwide.

Offer made for Alpharma, Inc.

King Pharmaceuticals, based in Bristol, Tenn., have made a second bid in a month to purchase Alpharma, Inc. The prospective purchaser has offered \$1.4 billion in cash to acquire the company representing a 37 percent premium over the \$24 share price at market close on August 21. Alpharma reported 2nd Quarter 2008 revenue of \$167 million (\$133 million in Q2 2007) and a net loss of \$7.4 million (\$13 million in Q2 2007). Animal Health operations generated quarterly sales of \$86 million (\$91 million in Q2 2007)

representing 51 percent of the business and comprising feed additives, anticoccidials and antibiotics directed to poultry and other intensive livestock. The Animal Health activities of Alpharma generated an operating profit of \$11 million for Q2 (\$17 million Q2 2007) and recorded a decline in margin from 17 percent to 12 percent reflecting the extent of competition in the U.S. Animal Health Industry.

➤ Proposition 2 News

New California veterinary organization to oppose Proposition 2

Following a contentious decision by the California Veterinary Medical Association to support Proposition 2, the Association of California Veterinarians (ACV) was formed to oppose the initiative. The ACV has circularized all California veterinarians with the background to Proposition 2 which has no scientific or factual basis. Veterinarians specializing in the care of egg-producing hens together with avian scientists oppose Proposition 2. The



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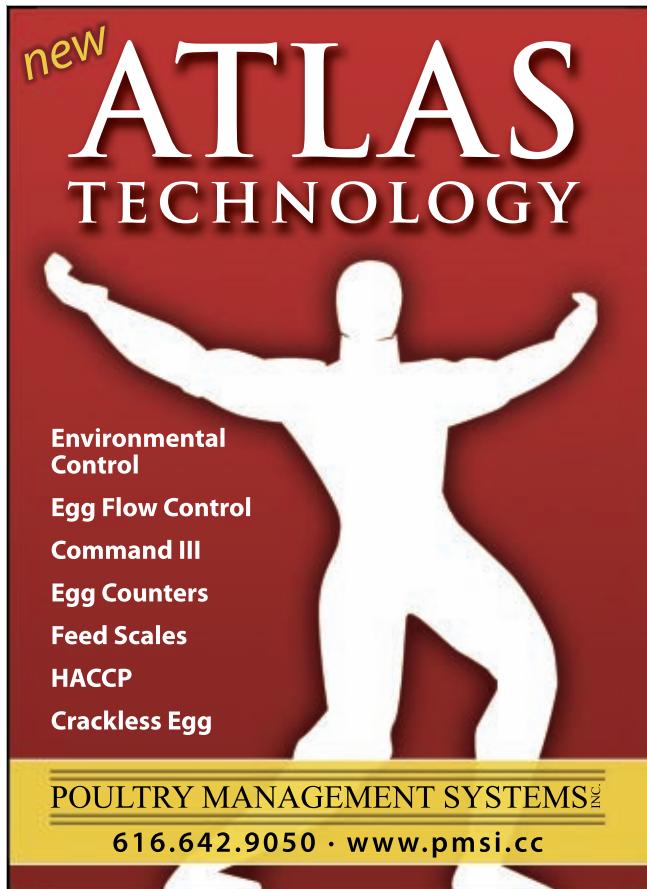
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communication to California veterinarians from the president of the ACV can be accessed on the Californians for SAFE Food Web site, www.safecaliforniafood.org. The Association of California Veterinarians Web site is www.calanimalvet.org.

Legislative review of Proposition 2

A press release by Californians for Safe Food, the organization opposing Proposition 2 reported on a joint meeting of State Assembly and Senate Committees on Agriculture held in San Luis Obispo. Expert testimony was delivered by Dr. Bruce Charlton, Branch Chief of the University of California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System. Charlton commented that floor eggs have 15 times the bacterial load on the shell surface compared to eggs derived from caged hens. Dr. Carol J. Cardona of the University of California informed the committees of the dangers associated with extensive management systems which potentially expose flocks to avian influenza in comparison to confined flocks.

Ryan Armstrong a third generation California egg farmer stated that Proposition 2 would destroy his and other family-operated egg farms if the Proposition is passed. Previous reports in *Egg Industry* have highlighted the results of the University of California-Davis economic impact study on Proposition 2 which would cost the State in excess of \$615 million annually in economic activity.

Opposition to Proposition 2 intensifies

Significant support is being offered to Californians for Safe Food, the coalition of public health and food safety experts opposing Proposition 2, which will be decided by ballot in November. The California Congress of Seniors representing more than 500,000 members statewide oppose the initiative. A statement issued by Hank Lacayo, the State President of the organization avers, "Proposition 2 which will eliminate egg production in the state and result in higher egg prices and very real food safety issues, is simply a bad deal for California seniors." Lacayo added, "Seniors who often rely on a fixed income can ill afford to pay significant more for their eggs; and more importantly, are the group whose health is most

susceptible to dangerous food safety risks like Salmonella."

The General Assembly of the National Latino Congreso has expressed opposition to the ballot initiative sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States. The Mexican American Political Association also added their support to the coalition opposing Proposition 2. The National Latino Congreso resolution stated, "The organization represented by delegates of

the 2008 National Latino Congreso is opposed to Proposition 2 as it will drive the egg producing industry out of California and eliminate jobs for working families, specifically jobs held by USCW 8 workers at the New Laid Foods plant in Rippon, Calif. Both Latino groups oppose Proposition 2, based on the adverse affect on the economy of the State including the elimination of jobs at a time of high unemployment. **EI**



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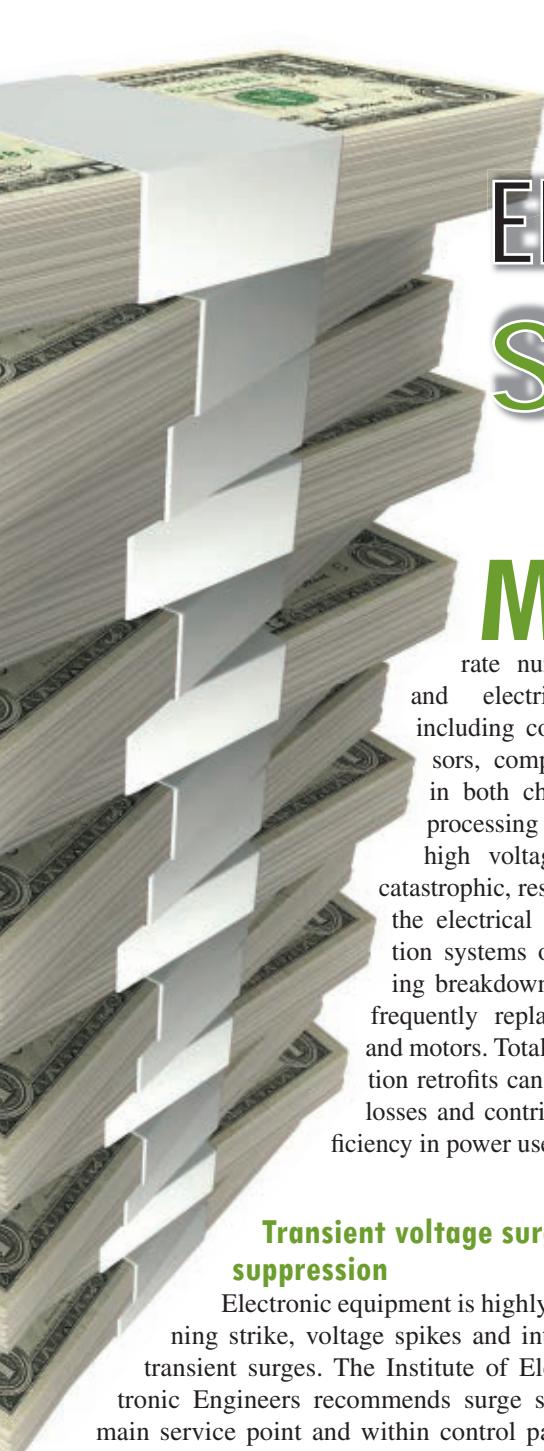
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Electrical retrofit can save money

Modern in-line egg production complexes incorporate numerous electronic and electrical components including control panels, sensors, computers and motors in both chicken houses and processing plants. Transient high voltage can be either catastrophic, resulting in failure of the electrical supply to ventilation systems or erosive increasing breakdowns and the need to frequently replace circuit boards and motors. Total Energy Optimization retrofits can reduce the risk of losses and contribute to greater efficiency in power use.

Transient voltage surge suppression

Electronic equipment is highly sensitive to lightning strike, voltage spikes and internally generated transient surges. The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers recommends surge suppression at the main service point and within control panels. In addition, all electrical installations should be grounded to achieve 10 ohms to ground, exceeding the national electric code, which specifies 25 ohms. Surge suppressors must have a fast reaction time, measured in picoseconds and have a voltage clamping capacity to remove spikes of 20 percent over line voltage. Studies have shown that 80 percent of transients are generated within an installation.

These occur when electric motors, relays and other equipment are activated. Frequently occurring internal transients which may last milliseconds degrade electrical equipment resulting in breakdowns, increased maintenance costs and reduced operating life. A second problem associated with transient spikes relates to the inductive loading which is generated. This increases apparent electrical consumption as measured by disk-type watt meters, resulting in higher

costs for power.

Transient voltage surge suppressors are recommended for all breaker panels and motor controllers. Given the harsh operating environment in chicken houses, which are subjected to high humidity, ammonia and dust, surge suppressors should be constructed to high standards, approximating marine or military specifications.

Power factor correction

Electrical equipment operating on alternating current consumes both real power and reactive power. The latter increases the current flowing between the power source and the load, such as a motor. Power is lost through distribution lines on return to the source during each cycle of alternating current. Apparent power which can be measured is effectively the vector sum of real and reactive power.

An egg production complex with a combination of installations with high reactive power values pays more for electricity than an operation with correct design and efficient function of motors and lighting systems. The rate charged by a utility depends on the power factor, which is the ratio of true power measured in kW to apparent power measured in kVA. Under ideal conditions, the power factor is almost equivalent to unity.

For any installation, power factor can be determined from measuring load voltage and current with voltmeters and ammeters respectively and power can be measured with a wattmeter. Reactive power can be calculated from these readings and the appropriate rating of capacitors to be inserted in a circuit can be determined. In most installations 75 percent to 80 percent of energy consumed by motors is actually used to perform work such as lighting, driving an auger or operating motors for ventilation fans and refrigerator compressors. Capacitors cancel the inductive effects of the load applied to working components increasing their efficiency of operation and reducing cost.

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contributes to efficient application of power. Since utilities charge customers according to peak demand multiplied by rate, decreasing reactive power across all electrical components will lower utility bills.

Watch for voltage fluctuation

Problems indicating the occurrence of transient spikes in voltage include flickering lights, the need to replace ballasts and tubes frequently and motors which operate at a high temperature requiring frequent replacement or rewinding. Computer breakdowns and the need to replace circuit boards usually suggest an unstable power supply as these installations may undergo arcing and melting.

In extreme cases breakdowns within control panels can occur, resulting in failure of ventilation systems and catastrophic losses in houses holding 100,000 to 250,000 hens.

A recent retrofit of a Total Energy

Optimization System by V-Blox Corporation (www.vbox.net) on a six-house, in-line unit holding 800,000 hens was reviewed. The total cost of the components including surge suppression and power factor correction extending from the main supply through all panels and motors in excess of 5 HP amounted to \$110,000.

Installation was carried out by a combination of local electricians and maintenance personnel under the guidance of the supplier of components for an additional \$10,000. The initial pre-installation projected a reduction in utility costs estimated to yield a payback of between two and three years.

The first month after commissioning the system it was calculated that the differential in power consumption for the entire complex was equivalent to the consumption of two of the houses, suggesting a more favorable return on the investment. Reports from industrial users including cold storage compa-

nies feed mills, government and military installation and hospitals confirms a reduction in utility payments and maintenance.

In selecting a supplier of components it is necessary to evaluate the capability of supplying a full range of products and to obtain written warranties on the durability of equipment and possible reimbursement for consequential losses arising from equipment failure.

Watch for tax incentives

Projects should be carefully planned in consultation with an electrical engineer to ensure appropriate sizing and location of surge suppression and power factor connection modules. All installations should conform to National and state codes, preferably with inspection by a qualified engineer at the time of commissioning. The possibility of tax incentives should also be evaluated since many installations qualify in terms of IRS section 179. **EI**



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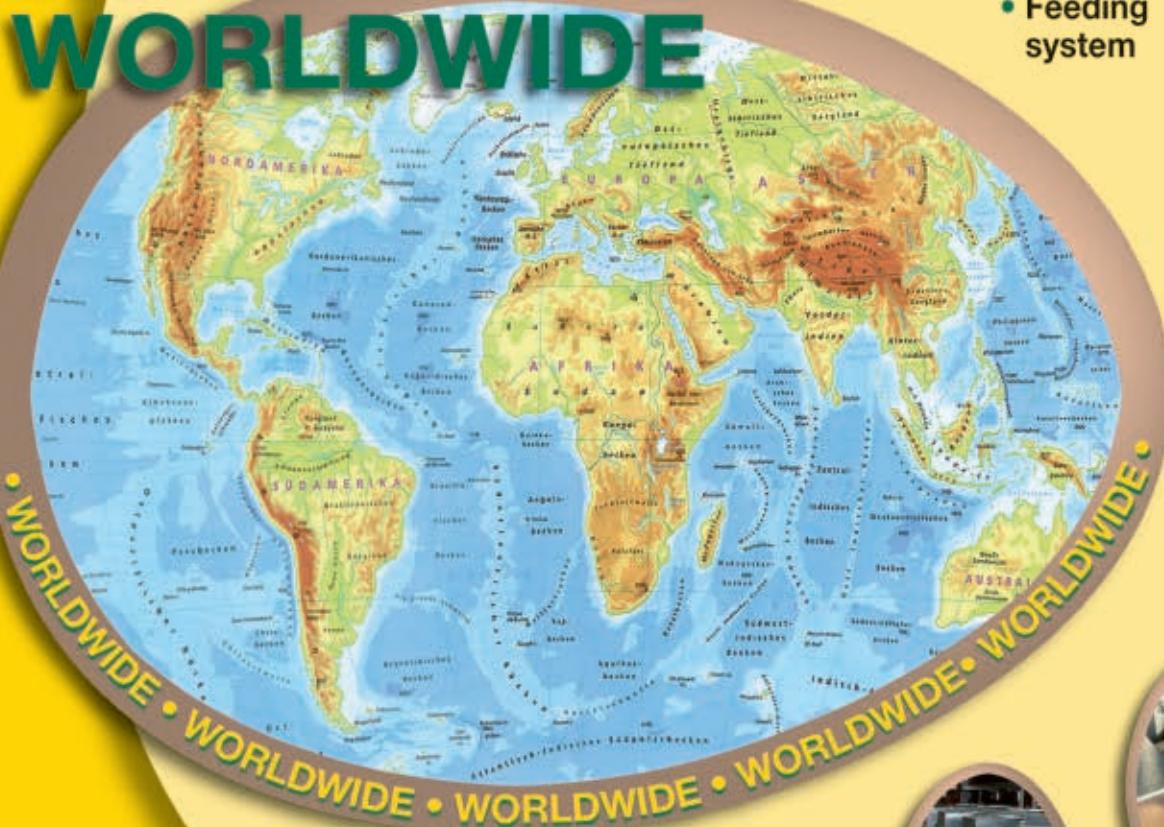
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Producers need to react to market changes

Flock depletion and feed management are key to sustaining industry profitability.

Jacques Klempf is a third-generation egg producer and distributor serving as chairperson of the American Egg Board. He is a past chairperson of the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association. Klempf's involvement with the industry dates back to his 8th birthday when he distributed jumbos purchased from his family business using a red wagon. Dixie Egg, his company founded in 1948, has approximately 2 million hens in Southern Georgia and distribution centers in Jacksonville, Fla.; Dothan, Ala.; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Klempf contributes both time and creativity to our industry and his views are conditioned by his daily involvement with production and marketing of eggs and service on committees representing the interests of all industry stakeholders.

Egg Industry: How do you view the short term prospects of the U.S. egg industry?

➤ **Jacques Klempf:** We have had a tremendous run over the past 14 months with exceptional prices despite the high price of feed. Prospects appear good over the short term if we can react appropriately to market conditions. The predicted increase in hens is obviously of concern although there are a lot of old hens that will be slaughtered.



Jacques Klempf

EI: How do you view recent industry trends?

➤ **JK:** There have been some big changes in our industry over the past two years. Acquisitions and consolidation which we have witnessed are probably a natural progression and in many respects mirror the process of a maturing industry which has also occurred in the broiler industry. This will enable us to react more quickly to market conditions. Fewer decision makers independently evaluating the marketplace and statistics will contribute to more rational decisions on expansion and location of facilities.

EI: Are there any recent trends which you feel are advantageous?

➤ **JK:** The development of marketing cooperatives will be beneficial. This will encourage communication, assist with logistics, distribution of inventory and sales. With increasing costs of fuel, cooperation among producers for distribution and transport within regions is becoming more important. Moreover, the dynamics of the egg industry seem to have changed dramatically, and by that I mean with all of the increased costs like insurance, from health care to liability and workers comp, regulatory compliances on every front, animal welfare to human resources, not to mention the challenges of feed and energy. Today, more than ever, the administration and costs are very real and seem to have no boundaries.

EI: How is Dixie Eggs responding to cost escalation?

➤ **JK:** Our biggest concern is the unprecedented increase in

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the cost of feed. The egg industry is not for the faint of heart. Addressing a seven-figure feed bill each month requires accurate budgeting and management of cash flow. As with oth-

▶ ***“The outstanding question for the industry is whether we can pass on costs to the consumer.”***

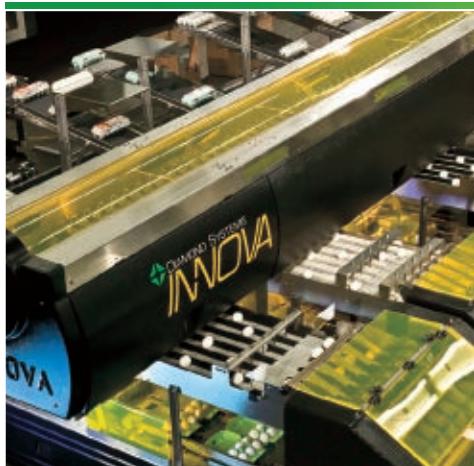
—Jacques Klempf, Dixie Egg, Chairperson, American Egg Board

er producers we are reviewing formulation of our diets on a regular basis. We are attempting to substitute locally available alternative grains for corn and we are using enzymes to reduce feed cost without sacrificing performance. This

is especially important with our organic and non-confined flocks. The outstanding question for the industry is whether we can pass on costs to the consumer. So far we have been reluctant to do so on generic eggs, however other industries have managed to do this and we will be forced to follow as there are limits to cost containment.

EI: Do you foresee any future market opportunities for the industry?

▶ **JK:** The U.S. Poultry and Egg Export Council is optimistic about increasing exports of processed egg products. About a third of our total production is now broken and half of this is from in-line units. An emerging problem concerns diversion of surplus broiler breeder eggs into the market. This however will be short lived as is it is a totally uneconomical measure. Broiler breeders will have to deplete flocks which are excess to requirements. **EI**



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Caged egg production is friendly to the environment

The International Egg Commission recently circulated a study prepared by Dr. Adrian G. Williams of Cranfield University, Sisloe, United Kingdom (U.K.), on the environmental burden associated with various agricultural and livestock products. The study was funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the U.K. equivalent of the United States Department of Agriculture and is designated Public Report IS0205 dated August 5, 2006, available on www.defra.gov.uk/science.

Environmental burdens

Dr. Williams developed a model to

COMPARISON OF THE EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVE EGG PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Impact & Resource Used* (kg 100 year CO ₂ equivalent)	Non-Organic		Free-range	
	Non-Organic	Organic	Non-Organic	Non-Organic
Energy used (MJ)	14,100	16,000	13,600	15,400
Global warming potential (kg /100 year CO ₂ equivalent)	5,530	7,000	5,250	6,180
Eutrophication (kg phosphate ³⁻)	77	102	75	80
Pesticides used (dose/Ha)	7.8	0.1	7.2	8.7
Land use (Ha)	0.7	1.5	0.6	0.8

Source: DEFRA Report IS0205, after Williams, A.G., et al. Based on 20,000 eggs.

Based on 20,000 eggs, global warming potential from caged hens was lower than from free-range hens and organic production was inferior to conventional management and feeding.



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describe the environmental burdens and resources required to produce ten commodities applying the principles of Life Cycle Assessment. All relevant inputs into farm production for each commodity were traced back to primary sources.

Production activities including expenditure of fuel, feed production and

meat. Egg production is associated with significantly lower global warming potential based on emissions and a correspondingly lower potential for eutrophication based on the liberation of phosphate.

The model incorporated assumptions relevant to the U.K. Their domestic egg industry comprises 66 percent non-or-

ganic production in cages, 27 percent non-organic production in floor housing and 1 percent raised according to organic standards.

Lower impact from free-range

The global warming potential from caged hens was lower than from free-

▶ Eggs had a lower primary energy requirement than hogs or red meat and were only slightly inferior to poultry meat.

processing were incorporated into the model. Emissions including carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide were quantified to determine the impact on global warming, eutrophication and acidification.

Lower energy requirement

Eggs had a lower primary energy requirement than hogs or red meat and were only slightly inferior to poultry

meat. Egg production is associated with significantly lower global warming potential based on emissions and a correspondingly lower potential for eutrophication based on the liberation of phosphate.

Alternative systems

The comparisons among alternative egg production systems were based on 20,000 eggs. The significant values derived from the model are indicated in the accompanying table.

range hens and organic production was inferior to conventional management and feeding.

Organic egg production requires 14 percent more energy than conventional systems and imposes an environmental burden 10 percent to 30 percent higher than non-organic production. Similarly, caged systems are more efficient in terms of energy conservation than free-range housing. **EI**

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Comparison of welfare standards for aviary systems

There is concern that alternatives to caged systems should meet current and anticipated welfare standards. It is critical to establish the permissible stocking density, feed and watering space so that equipment manufacturers can design and install aviaries which are compliant with existing standards.

During 2008 standards have been issued by United Egg Producers (UEP) and Humane Farm Animal Care

(HFAC). It is presumed that the American Humane Society will also issue their standards.

Specific values are apparently determined by panels of experts in the field of welfare and management, based on scientific data in peer review journals. The genesis for U.S. standards is apparently European Union Regulation 1974/75 which is the basis of the design of modules from Europe.

In preparing feasibility studies for clients and advising equipment manufacturers, it is evident that there is some confusion in defining standards relating to allowances for available floor and perch space, litter area and the level and measurement of illumination.

The preliminary standards prepared by the American Humane Society were derived from UK standards which in turn were influenced by the European

COMPARISON OF WELFARE STANDARDS FOR AVIARY SYSTEMS

COMPONENT	UEP	HFAC "Certified Humane"	Proposed AHS "American Humane Certified"	EU 1974/74
Hen Area Allowance	1 ft ² /hen includes unrestricted floor and walking area on tiers. Excludes perches and nests.	1 ft ² /hen includes unrestricted floor and walking areas on tiers. Excludes perches and nests.	1 ft ² /hen includes unrestricted floor and walking areas on tiers ("available space").	1.19 ft ² /hen* of "usable" floor area, i.e. unrestricted floor area plus walk areas 12" wide with 18" headroom on tiers.
Feed Space	1.5 linear inches of trough space/hen with double-sided access. 26' maximum travel between feeder lines.	2 linear inches of trough space/hen with double-sided access. 24' maximum travel between feeder lines.	2 linear inches of trough space/hen with double-sided access. 15' maximum travel between feeder lines.	2 linear inches of trough space/hen with double-sided access.
Drinker Allowance	1 nipple/10 hens	1 nipple/12 hens	1 nipple/10 hens 20' maximum travel between drinker lines.	1 nipple/10 hens
Nest Space	9 ft ² /100 hens using communal nests.	9 ft ² /100 hens using communal nests.	11 ft ² /120 hens using communal nests.	11 ft ² /120 hens. Communal nests.
Perching	6"/hen with perches placed 16" above floor level. 1' horizontal spacing between perches.	6"/hen Perforated floors with built-in perches allowed. 1' horizontal spacing.	6"/hen Perforated floors with built-in perches allowed.	6"/hen
Litter Area	15% of usable floor area as litter. Free access under tiers.	30% of floor area as litter.	—————	30% of unrestricted floor area.
Lighting	0.5 foot candles minimum.	—————	0.9 foot candles (average minimum)	1.8 foot candles (average minimum)
Tiers	Horizontal separation between tiers under 2.5'. Vertical distance between tiers and floor to 1 st tier, 1.6' to 3.3'.	—————	—————	Maximum of 4 tiers high 18" vertical spacing. * converted from metric value

Union (EU) directive. Similarities between the Certified Humane and the proposed American Humane Certified values can be explained by commonality on advisory panels and the influence of individuals who have worked for both organizations.

Selecting a parameter such as space allowance for hens has a marked influence on the design of equipment, the effective stocking density and hence capital and operating costs.

Floor area opinions

Discussion with representatives of UEP and HFAC in late June provided opinions that both floor area and accessible space on the tiers of the aviary modules should be incorporated into the calculation of available area. This follows the EU practice of defining unrestricted floor areas and walk areas on tiers that are at least 12-inches wide and with an 18-inch head room (dimensions converted from the metric equivalents).

The appended table documents the standards among the three certifying agencies in comparison to the EU directive. There is close similarity in the U.S. standards but extracting the information on which the spreadsheet is based required individual contact with representatives of the three organizations to obtain supplementary explanations to achieve clarity.

It is strongly recommended that complete harmonization should be adopted among the agencies establishing standards

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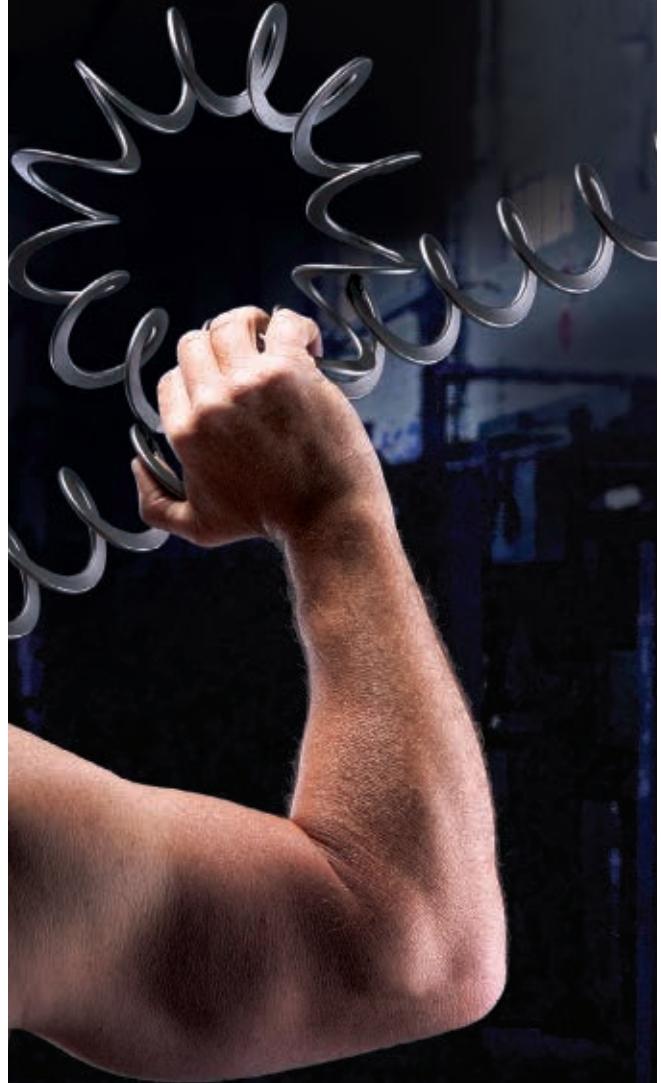
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| Comparison of welfare standards |

to facilitate the design of systems by suppliers and selection by producers.

Given that the cost of aviary systems together with housing and ancillary structures are in the region of \$30/hen, certification of farms and acceptability by clients will be dependent on a “level playing field”. There is no point in each of the certifying agencies to “out-wel-

fare” each other. There must be consistency in standards and if there is any deviation, this should be based on scientific principles rather than the whim of committees, certifying agencies or auditors.

It is also necessary that the certifying agencies prepare clear, concise and non-ambiguous standards. It is pre-

sumed that the problem with attempting to interpret written standards relates to the fact that the scientific committees are lacking in their individual and collective practical experience and familiarity with the design and construction of housing and equipment and management of flocks at the commercial level.

No non-compliant compromise

There should not be any compromise of standards by grandfathering of existing non-compliant installations. If it is considered inhumane to deviate from a published standard then it is unacceptable to accept a sub-standard unit unless adjustments are made in stocking density or equipment is modified.

It is further suggested that there should be greater transparency in the derivation of standards. Committees should include disinterested scientists and veterinarians involved in production.

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port at www.WATTPoultry.com.

Committees should include term limits to facilitate rotation of membership and as with auditors should be required to conform to ethical and procedural restraints and show evidence of frequent field contact with flocks and production systems. It is critical to avoid conflicts of interest which arise when committee members serve on different panels advising certifying agencies in addition to multinational QSR's.

A further area of concern is represented by individual members receiving research support provided by commercial entities which may benefit from subjective opinions which are translated into standards.

EI

► INDUSTRY CALENDAR



2008 OCTOBER

1-2: NCC's Annual Conference

The Fairmont Washington, D.C., Washington, D.C. Details from the National Chicken Council, 1015 15th Street, NW, Suite 930, Washington, D.C. 20005-2622; Phone (202) 296-2622; Web-site www.nationalchickencouncil.com

2: Facing Today's Challenges for Tomorrow's Changing Industry

Your computer at 2:15 EST; Executives from the USA's four top broiler companies participate in a panel discussion which can be viewed online for free. To register go to www.wattpoultry.com/webinars.aspx.

6-8: National Meeting on Poultry Health and Processing

Sponsored by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, Md. Details from Lori Morrow; Phone (302) 856-9037; Web-site www.dpichicken.com; E-mail morrow@dpichicken.com.

8-9: Center for Food Integrity Food Industry Summit

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis, Ind. Details from Carol Hein, Center for Food Integrity, Phone (816) 880-5360, E-mail Carol.hein@foodintegrity.org, Web-site www.foodintegrity.org.

9-10: Poultry Protein and Fat Seminar

Doubletree Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. Details from U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084-7303; Phone (770) 493-9401; Fax (770) 493-9257; Web-site www.poultryegg.org.

19-22: University of Wisconsin-River Falls Microbiology Symposium

University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, Wis. Details from University of Wisconsin-River Falls Animal and Food Science Department; Phone (715) 425-3704; E-mail foodmicro@uwrf.edu; Web-site www.wurf.edu/food-science.

21-23: National & International Poultry Waste Management Symposium

Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts and additional information at www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/poultry_waste_symposium.html

23-24: Women's Leadership Conference

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville - Riverfront, Jack-

sonville, Fla. Details from U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084-7303; Phone (770) 493-9401; Fax (770) 493-9257; Web-site www.poultryegg.org.

(302) 856-9037; Web-site www.dpichicken.com; E-mail morrow@dpichicken.com.

18-20: Aviana Africa 2008

Nairobi, Kenya. Organized by Vet Expo. Details from www.avianafrica.com; E-mail info@avianafrica.com.

NOVEMBER

11: Delmarva Poultry Industry Annual Membership Meeting

Salisbury, Md. Details from Lori Morrow; Phone

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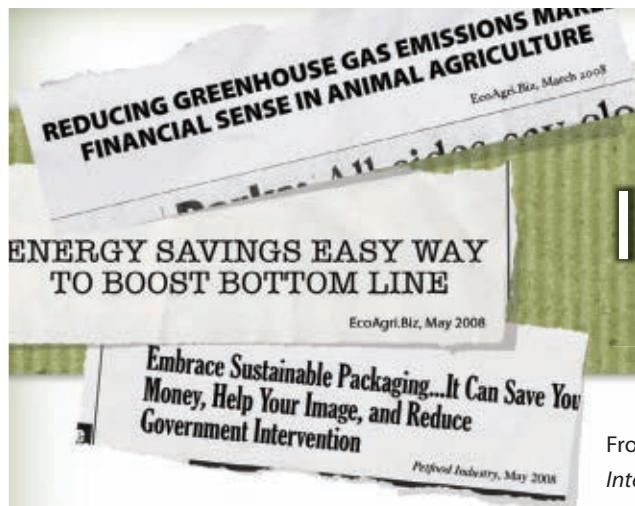
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