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WATT Egg Industry

115th ANNIVERSARY

News for the Egg Industry Worldwide

Inside

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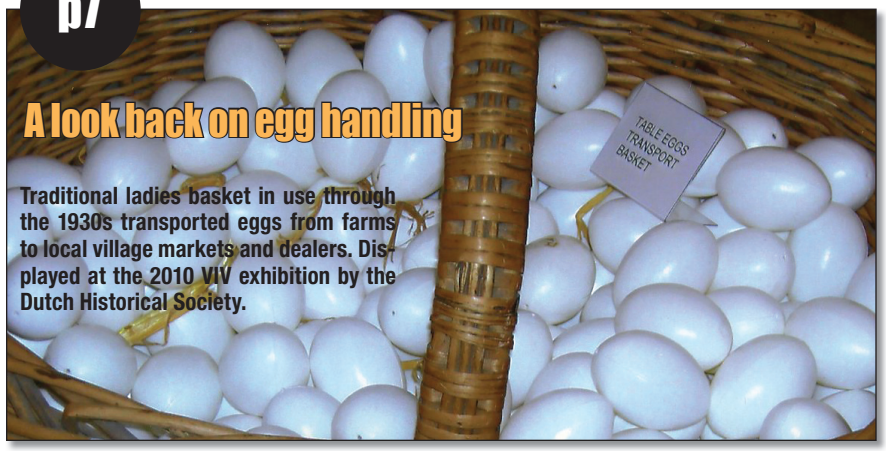

A look back on egg handling

Traditional ladies basket in use through the 1930s transported eggs from farms to local village markets and dealers. Displayed at the 2010 VIV exhibition by the Dutch Historical Society.

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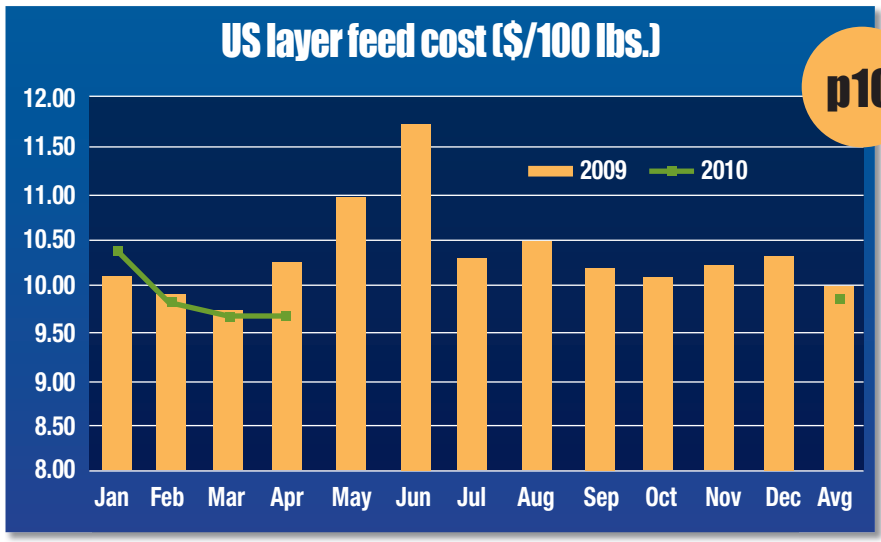

Feed costs dropped in February and remained steady through April. The average feed price is based on a 67% corn, 22% soybean meal, 8% limestone and 3% other ingredients diet. Courtesy of Egg Industry Center.

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New EU housing for free range hens

Gardengrass, which is vacuumed at regular intervals to remove droppings and feathers, covers the surface of outside areas in the Rondeel egg production system.

EDITORIAL

BY DR. SIMON M. SHANE

UB prices appearing to stabilize

Won't see triple digit prices until November

The post-Easter decline in the UB price has been sharper and more rapid than in previous years reducing margins for generic eggs to break even or below in some regions. Fortunately at the time of writing there appears to be some indication of stabilization. According to projections by the Egg Industry Center, we will not achieve triple digit prices until November.

Simon M. Shane

The summary of statistics represents the lead article in this issue. The need for voluntary restraint in expansion and careful management of placement and depletion programs is self evident. The establishment of the Egg Industry Center has extended the sterling efforts of Don Bell over decades and will be invaluable in future planning chick placement and depletion cycles.

The VIV Exhibition in Utrecht provided a valuable insight into trends in the EU. It is important to follow their research and practice as there is an obvious trans-Atlantic movement of technology, regulatory issues, consumer needs and welfare considerations.

Foreknowledge of influences which may potentially change our industry will be critical to strategic decisions on future production practices. Issues which will be on the front burner include the potential in the U.S. for enriched cage systems, the eradication of salmonella, the role of independent egg producers and directions in breeding.

The imminence of the FDA Final Rule is of concern to the entire industry. Failure by the agency to issue a guidance document promised since late 2009 denotes a lack of competence on the part of administrators and does not auger well for the implementation of the program. Issues with the Final Rule will be considered in a subsequent edition of *Egg Industry*.

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BPA WORLDWIDE

american business media

2010 VIV a success despite travel challenges

Significant industry interaction and communication continued for attendees in Utrecht.

By Simon M. Shane

Attendance at the 2010 VIV Europe Exhibition was severely limited by restrictions on travel as a result of the eruption of the volcano in Iceland. When normal attendance should attain 15,000 on each of the three days of the event, there were only 4,000 visitors and 2,500 exhibitors on the first day with a slight increase on the second.

Disruption in travel favored the exhibitors and the attendees accessing the event by road and rail. The many empty booths, especially from China and the U.S., confirmed the impact on the exhibition.

The semi-annual VIV Europe Exhibition provides an interesting perspective on egg production in the EU since the equipment and services offered reflect the prevailing and future legislative environment and consumer needs. Egg production in the EU is declining with Western Europe deficient but Southern Europe demonstrating a surplus. There is considerable inter-country trade in addition to export beyond the EU which is critical to maintain market stability. Generally per capita egg consumption in EU countries ranges from 150 to 210 per capita, below the approximately 250 per capita in the U.S. Only Hungary and Denmark stand out as nations with high consumption in the EU. In round figures the EU flock comprises 310 million hens with the 10 leading countries holding 85% of hens.

How does type of housing affect flock health? Research offers insights.
www.WATTAgNet.com/14876.html

All considerations regarding expansion and production technology are dominated by the impending 2012 ban on conventional cages. Since 2003 space allowance in cages has been at 85 inches² and in 2012 enriched cages will be allowed with a space allowance of 116 inches². These cages must be equipped with a nest, perches, and a "surrogate floor" area.

Colony, enriched cages dominate

Although conventional cages were on display, mainly for export, colony and enriched cages dominated product offerings. In reviewing the products of at least ten manufacturers there were very little differences in either design or arrangement of components other than the relative position of the perches, feeders and doors. All systems incorporate on-belt manure drying and removal.

Alternatives to cages include conventional floor systems with the nests and the plastic slats as used in the U.S. Aviary systems are popular, and are mostly retrofitted to barns after the removal of conventional cages.

It is noted that in the EU eggs are classified according to production system and are individually stamped with one of three numerals:

1. free range;
2. non-confined in barns or aviaries;
3. conventional, enriched or colony cages.

Since the EU authorities, supermarket chains and welfare groups regard all confined systems as Category 3, there is no premium for enriched or colony cages. In Germany, many supermarket chains refuse to stock eggs produced according to categories 1 and 2. This has deprived farmers who have invested in colony and enriched cage systems from any premium and in some cases has resulted in loss of their markets.

In the EU eggs are conveyed from production farms to off-line packing plants using plastic flats and pallets which are decontaminated after each use as a biosecurity procedure.

Continued mechanization needed

Labor is a major consideration with the cost for plant employees exceeding $12 per hour. Most egg production units are family-owned and operated and are seldom larger than 100,000 hens.

Virtually all production is off-line

with transport of eggs to central packing plants operated by horizontally-owned cooperatives or integrators. Since off-line systems are used, there is a need for mechanization at the farm level, more sophisticated transport using plastic flats and pallets and trace back systems which are mandated by national and EU regulations.

Individual plants are generally larger than the U.S. in-line units. The major grader suppliers offer 500cph installations with a high level of mechanization extending from inventory control through to delivery.

... transfer of technology will benefit U.S producers.

This is reflected in the specialized robotic installations for preloading, case packing and palletization.

Eggs are not washed in the EU. Accordingly grader installations to detect dirt on shells, abnormalities, and cracks for both white and brown shell product are more advanced than in the U.S.

With the recent acquisitions and mergers in the egg packing and processing segments of the allied industry, it is to be expected that transfer of technology will benefit U.S producers.

Impression of US legislation

An interesting observation from discussions with producers and suppliers is a total preoccupation with the results of the 2008 California Proposition 2 ballot. This event has been taken out of context with their perception that we will follow their situation with an U.S.-wide ban.

They appear not to be aware of the 2009 ballot in Ohio and initiatives in individual states to establish boards to determine standards of welfare based on scientific principles.

In recognizing the declining production levels in Northwest Europe and noting the unfavorable return on investment from systems which are operated at low density with small flocks, many producers are pessimistic and recognize the inevitability of importation of shell eggs and egg products to supply demand. EI

Advanced technology emerges at VIV EGGS!

Speakers review research and innovations to help meet nutrition needs of the world's growing population.

By Simon M. Shane

The EGGS! program sponsored by WATT during the 2010 VIV exposition drew an excellent crowd from the attendees who managed to travel to Utrecht.

The EGGS! program arranged by VIV and sponsored by WATT included presentations by leading international experts in the areas of economics, egg quality and genetics. The comprehensive common theme was the interrelationship of nutrition, economics, disease and management in achieving optimal efficiency.

Ir. Albert Vernooij, of Rabobank and Ir. Peter van Horne of the LEI Institute considered the economic future of the egg industry from their respective commercial and academic perspectives.

Their important messages included the increasing need for balanced protein in diets to feed a burgeoning world population.

The reality is that future rates of expansion will be higher in Asia and Latin America compared to Europe and North America. International trade in shell eggs will be confined to specific regions. The factors influencing expansion will include considerations such as sustainability, welfare, food safety and production costs.

Researchers report on sustainability, consumer hot buttons and more
www.WATTAgNet.com/15325.html

Causes of shell abnormalities

The causes of shell abnormalities were reviewed by Drs. Jac de Wit of the Animal Health Service Deventer. These included nutrient deficiencies, exposure to disease, mismanagement and improper housing. Many factors interact synergistically exacerbating shell abnormalities and the presence of fecal staining. The need for appropriate and diligent diagnosis using advanced technology was stressed in relation to determining the causes of problems and their resolution.

Ir. Frans van Sambeek of the ISA Division of Hendrix Genetics provided an update on genetic selection for improved performance. Recent emphasis reflects industry trends to longer egg production cycles. Accordingly geneticists are adjusting their criteria for selection to include persistence in egg production, livability, behavior in both confined and non-confined housing and egg quality.

Selection of lines is now based on the application of DNA markers to identify individual birds and families with a genetic predisposition for desired traits. Genomic selection will expedite progress in attaining enhanced performance from egg-production flocks at the commercial level.

Incubation, modules increase harvest

The Circadian Incubation concept was described by Dr. Marleen Boerjan of Pas Reform. Subjecting embryos to a short period of elevated temperature (103F) on each of three days during the hatching phase increases live weight of broilers at harvest. Given accumulated field data it is calculated that an additional 1,200 tons of processed meat could be harvested each year by an integrator producing 1 million broilers per week.

The commercial advantages of the Patio system for broiler production were detailed by Ir. Lotte van de Ven of Vencomatic. This system is effectively a multi-tier broiler growing module capable of being retrofitted to existing units to increase output per unit of floor area. The uniqueness of the system is that eggs are conveyed directly from the hatchery at the time of transfer and transported to the broiler house. Eggs hatch in the trays and chicks then develop to maturity in the growing modules. The system has been

tested over 42 cycles in three locations in Holland and has been ordered by an integrator in Russia.

Innovations fine-tune efficiency

The contribution of the Catholic University of Leuven to production efficiency was demonstrated in the papers delivered by Prof. Eddy Decuypere on embryonic development and Dr. Kristof Mertens on egg shell structure.

Many innovations based on the work of scientists at this institution have been applied commercially including integrated control of carbon dioxide, humidity and temperature during incubation and circadian regulation of temperature during hatching.

> ***Their important messages included the increasing need for balanced protein in diets ...***

Dr. Koen de Rue of the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research in Belgium compared the levels of microbiological contamination of eggs from conventional and enriched cages and from barn housing. Based on a review of literature and structured field trials it was concluded that there is no inherent risk of foodborne infection from alternative systems but refinements in the design of nest modules are required to optimize shell cleanliness and bacterial quality.

A novel approach to pasteurization of egg liquid was detailed by Dr. Roberto Colavitti of Sanovo Technology. The Wave system heats liquid to pasteurization temperature by inducing molecular friction when product is subjected to cycles of polarization and depolarization at a frequency of 27MHz. The resulting product has a shelf life exceeding 17 weeks and retains all the inherent functional properties of fresh eggs due to the fact that the configuration of proteins in albumen are unaffected as compared to conventional heat pasteurization.

The EGGS! program sponsored by WATT provided an opportunity for interaction among participants representing production, research and development of equipment, benefitting progress through the exchange of knowledge. EI

A look back on egg handling

At times, egg handling practices from past generations can offer instruction for today.

In the middle of the most comprehensive assembly of sophisticated equipment and installations in a single venue, the Dutch Poultry History Society organized a display of artifacts from the inception of the poultry industry. The collection was presented in the EGGS! pavilion at the 2010 VIV and attracted a considerable amount of attention amid 500cph graders and breakers, robotic egg handling installations and computerized traceability systems.

Sometimes it is instructive to see how eggs were produced and handled many generations ago when consumption was lower, labor was less expensive but product was proportionally higher in cost. Despite the inclinations of "purists" we cannot afford to operate free-range farms and reduce egg production to a family enterprise. We need to supply a growing world population and provide an economical and inexpensive food product conforming to the highest standards of safety.

It is true that there is a niche market for the affluent with sufficient disposable income to indulge their desires for the bucolic. Nostalgia is expensive and free-range and organic eggs are not necessarily either safer or more nutritious. Present demand is able to support a limited number of free-range operations in the U.S. and possibly only a fraction of a percent of our national production. For the remainder, considerations such as sustainability, return on investment, profit over the long term and logistics dictate intensive production.

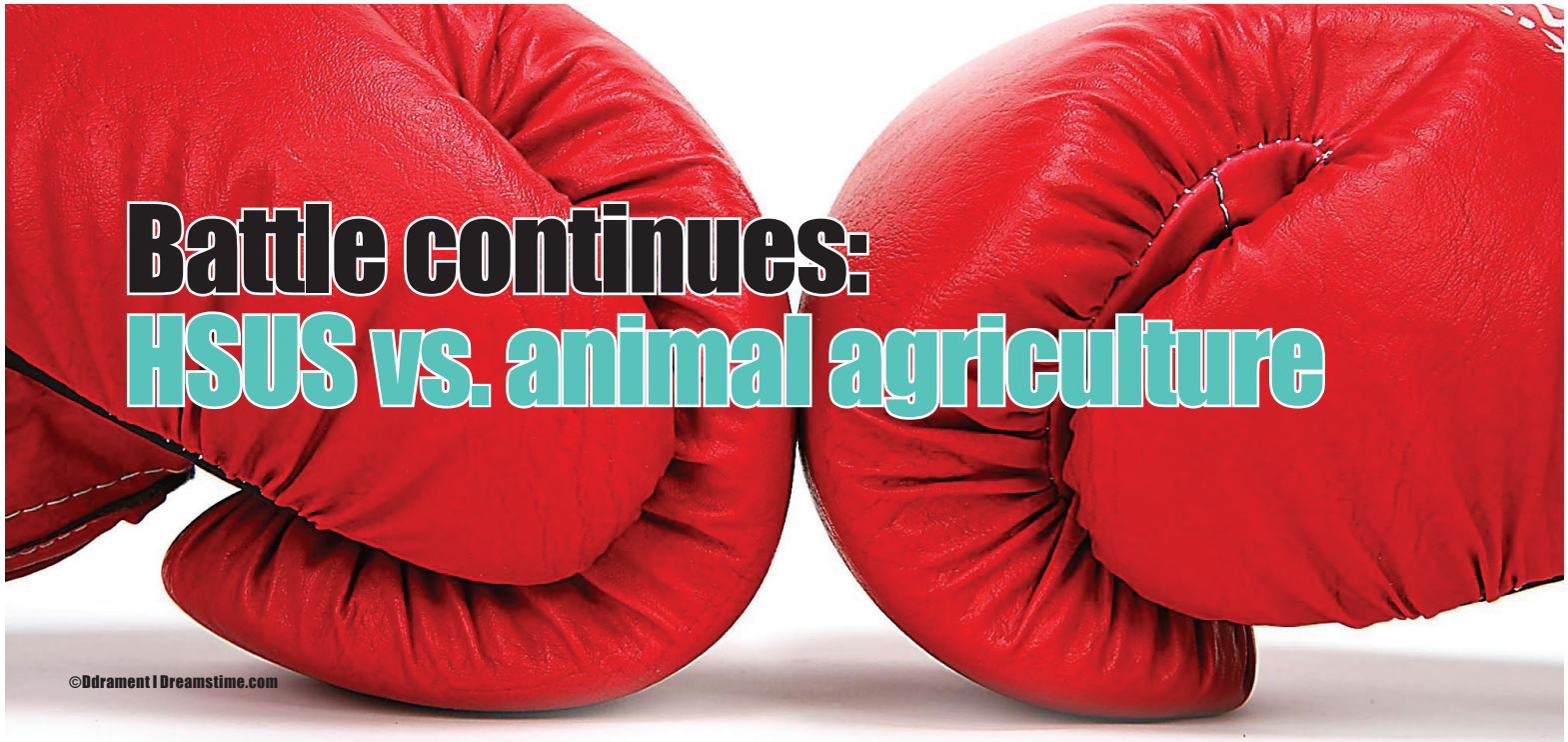
Still and all it is somewhat comforting to feel and look at artifacts from a bygone era and reflect on how far we have progressed from an earlier era. EI

Transport container used by farmers and dealers to convey eggs to market.

A pre-WWII mechanical egg grader, the forerunner of 500cph installations.

Traditional ladies basket in use through the 1930s transported eggs from farms.

A table-top incubator heated with kerosene hatched 50 eggs in the 1890s.



Battle continues: HSUS vs. animal agriculture

If cages are banned 15 million more hens will be needed to maintain current egg consumption levels.

Chad Gregory, senior vice president, United Egg Producers, addressed a capacity audience at the 2009 Midwest Poultry Federation Convention on the implications of California Proposition 2.

The Humane Society of the United States which has an annual budget of $120 million has successfully won ballot initiatives in Florida and Arizona (confined sows and veal calves) and most recently in California which restricts housing of hens in cages.

It is possible that initiatives will be introduced sequentially in as many as 24 states. The HSUS has adopted this approach having failed to advance their vegan agenda through introducing bills into the legislatures of 10 states. Currently HSUS claims to have 10 million members with at least 30,000 in each congressional district of the U.S. and possesses exceptional experience and ability in framing public opinion. Their stated intentions are to ban all slaughter of livestock in the U.S., to stop all hunting and fishing, and ban the use of animals in research or in public exhibition.

The anti-ballot coalition expended $7 million to oppose Proposition 2 and gained the support of Governor Schwarzenegger, 28 major daily newspapers in California and numerous trade unions, professional groups and representatives of ethnic associations. Despite the concerted attempts of the industry to present their case, the Proposition was adopted by a margin of 62% to 38% demonstrating the fact that a selectively worded ballot proposition, promoted by manipulating facts and distortion will inevitably result in adoption by an uninformed electorate voting on emotion and perception.

Call for action

Gregory's presentation addressed the need for concern and called for unified and concerted action.

If cages are banned in the U.S. at least 15 million more hens will be needed to produce the current number of eggs consumed, approximately 700,000 additional acres of corn and soybean production would be required based on inferior feed conversion efficiency.

Expenditure of over $8 billion would be needed for additional land, buildings and equipment to sustain current levels of production. It is inevitable that without cages, the U.S. would become reliant on imported eggs which would impose considerations of food safety and security and result in loss of domestic jobs.

How to reach out

During the past few months, UEP has been reaching out to all segments of agriculture and representatives of consumer groups to acquaint them with the danger of unrestrained and unopposed activities by extremist groups committed to elimination of intensive animal agriculture.

Gregory emphasized that by the time HSUS starts collecting signatures for a ballot initiative, the battle is all but lost. Here are proactive strategies which should be considered:

- Initiate positive pro-industry publicity at a local level.
- Engage local producers.
- Engender the support of state associations, such as farm bureaus, university extensions and veterinary groups.
- Ensure that legislators especially from urban constituencies are aware of the realities of farm production through personal visits and information.
- Apply UEP Certified guidelines to publicity.
- Conduct economic impact studies on banning confined housing systems. EI

Despite challenges, the egg industry continues increasing egg mass and improving livability
www.WATTAgNet.com/14880.html

Introduction of the Rondeel® Egg Production System

The Rondeel non-confined egg production system unveiled

In response to the need for a more sustainable, non-confined, small-scale, egg production system suitable for defined markets in the EU, Rondeel, an affiliate Company of Vencomatic, in cooperation with Dutch research institutions have developed the Rondeel® system. A trial unit has been erected at Barneveld in the Netherlands, to house 30,000 hens. In concept the Rondeel® comprises five modules radiating out like spokes of a wheel from a central core over an arc of 270 degrees. The front 90 degrees serves as access to the central core for delivery of feed and packing material and transfer of farm-packed eggs. The central work area receives eggs from the nests on belts for farm packing and refrigerated storage.

Total area for hens in the Rondeel egg production system, including night quarters and open quadrants is 1.6 feet².

Like spokes of a wheel, the quadrants of the Rondeel egg production system radiate out from a central core used for delivery of feed and packing material and transfer of farm-packed eggs.

The unit is approximately 245 feet in diameter. Hens are housed in each of half of the two adjacent segments which contain nests, feeders and nipple lines arranged as in an aviary installation. The quadrants between the five "night quarter" modules comprise the outside access for the flocks and are accessible to the hens during the day. This area is covered with Gardengrass® (a tufted plastic material) and each quadrant has a semi-circular area for dust bathing and an overhead screen to protect the flocks from contact with free-living birds and from predatory raptors. The use of an artificial turf substrate for the outside access quadrants could be problematic with regard to accumulation of fecal material which may contribute to endoparasites or salmonellosis. Apparently the surface of the exterior access areas will be vacuumed at regular intervals to remove accumulated droppings and feathers. During inclement weather hens can be confined to the night quarters using roll-down doors.

How one U.S. house optimizes feed, labor and overhead
www.WATTAgNet.com/14566.html

An additional 15 feet wide area around the circumference of the Rondeel® has been planted to trees and foliage and is available to the hens if required. The total area for each hen including the night quarters and the open quadrants is 1.6 feet². The Rondeel® concept was developed from a study conducted by Wageningen University, the major Dutch agricultural institute dealing with welfare, nutrition and housing of poultry. A research team evaluated flock welfare, social responsibility, the requirements of laying hens and optimal efficiency for a family-operated egg production unit. The Rondeel® provides an environment suitable for the hen, supplying feed, water, security, and allows for social behavior including interaction, scratching, and dust bathing.

Gardengrass, which is vacuumed at regular intervals to remove droppings and feathers, covers the surface of outside areas.

Sales representatives on the Vencomatic booth at VIV were unable to quote a capital cost either for the completed project or on a per hen basis. Since the first flock had not been placed in the prototype commercial unit at the time of the VIV Exhibition there was no data available on production parameters or cost. Given appropriate management there is no reason why these should be different to more conventional farms of equivalent flock size.

The projected output of 500 cases of eggs per week from the initial Rondeel® installation is committed to the large Dutch supermarket chain Albert Hein and will be sold under their private brand specifying their Rondeel origin. These eggs qualify under law as being derived from "Barn flocks" and are imprinted with the EU Number 2 stamp distinguishing them from the EU Number 1 reserved for eggs from "Free range" flocks which are allowed at least 2.7 feet². The eggs will be assigned a 3-Star rating from the Dutch Association for the Protection of Animals (analgous to U.S. certification by the American Humane Association) and also the quality mark of the 'Miliekeur' attesting to a environmentally friendly and sustainable production system. EI

Production costs remain virtually unchanged

Two dozen points of interest from current statistics indicate basic industry stability.

By Simon M. Shane

Maro Ibarburu, recently appointed program manager for the Egg Industry Center located at Iowa State University, has revised the format and presentation of monthly statistics previously issued by Don Bell of the University of California. Despite his retirement, Bell is still actively associated with the program and has provided valuable guidance in establishing the Egg Industry Center and has assisted Ibarburu in his endeavors.

Highlights from the current report:

1-The U.S. estimated cost of production for April 2010 is 56.6 cents *ex-farm*. The four-month average production cost was 58 cents per dozen, virtually unchanged from the 58.3 cents per dozen recorded during the first four months of 2009.

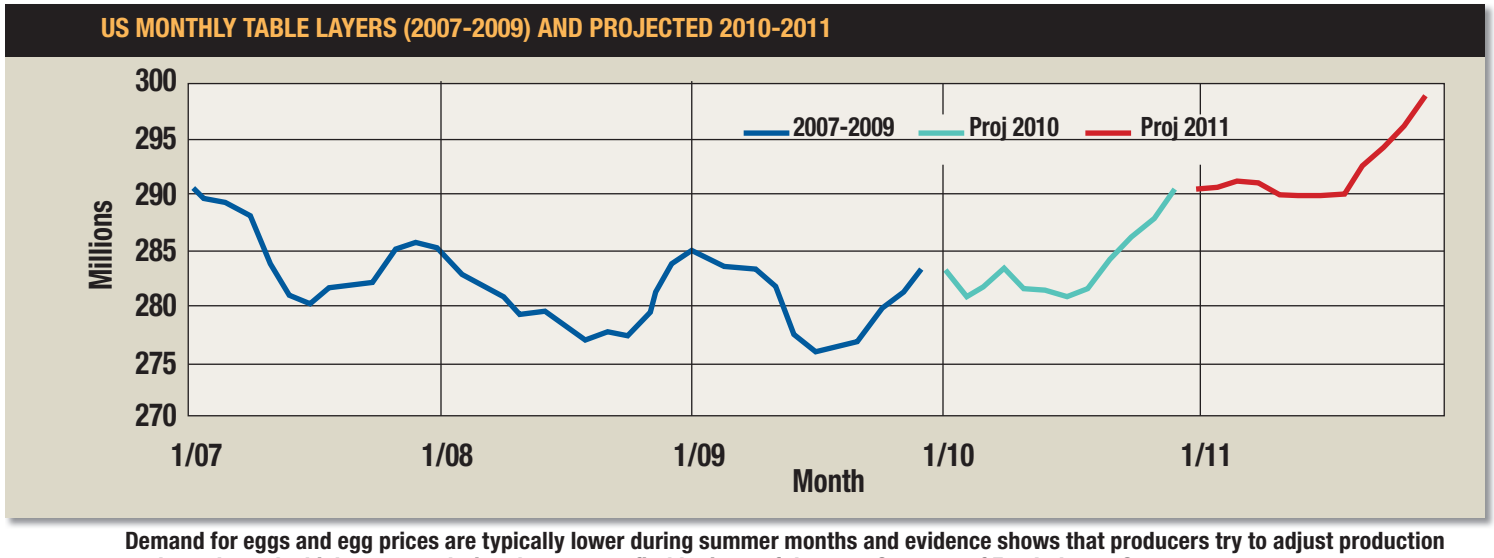
Compare current statistics to numbers from this spring www.WATTAgNet.com/14881.html

2-The April *ex-farm* egg price estimated by the USDA-NASS was 59.9 cents per dozen for April, compared to 106.0 cents per dozen for March and a four-month average of 83.5 cents per dozen for 2010. The egg price for April was 17.2 cents per dozen less than the comparable month in 2009. The margin represented by "income minus cost" for April is 3.3 cents per dozen, very close to breakeven. For the four months the average margin was 25.5 cents per dozen and the April margin was 45.3 cents below March 2010 and 15.2 cents below April 2009.

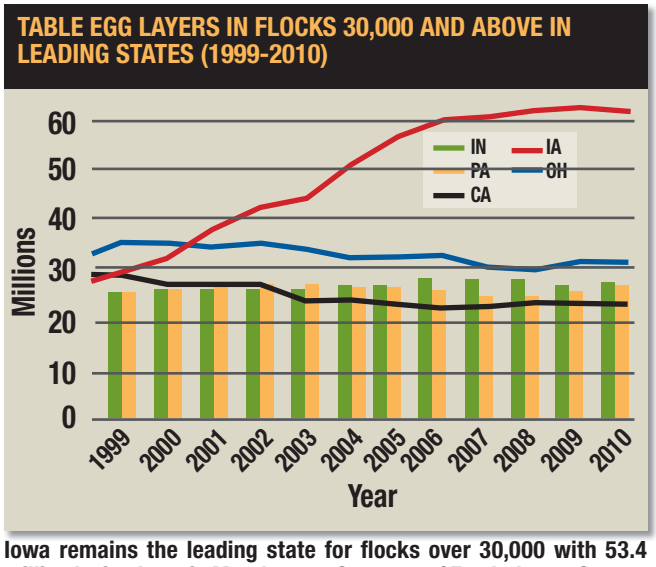
3-In evaluating the low margin for April it was noted that feed cost was 33.6 cents per dozen, pullet depreciation at 8.3 cents per dozen with other fixed and variable costs of 14.7 cents per dozen. These values remained virtually unchanged through the first four months of 2010. Contribution per hen, based on April figures amounted to 6.2 cents which was a fraction of the 92.9 cents recorded in March and contributing to a cumulative four-month hen contribution of 190.8 cents.

4-The Urner Barry (UB) simple average price for six U.S. regions, assuming 80% large eggs, was 56.9 cents per dozen for April compared to 95.6 cents per dozen in March. The four-month simple average UB price was 81.4 cents per dozen.

5-In reviewing retail prices for table eggs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Department of Commerce estimated a March average of 182.2 cents per dozen, slightly higher



Demand for eggs and egg prices are typically lower during summer months and evidence shows that producers try to adjust production cycles to have the higher output during the more profitable times of the year. Courtesy of Egg Industry Center.



Iowa remains the leading state for flocks over 30,000 with 53.4 million laying hens in March 2010. Courtesy of Egg Industry Center; Source USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs

than the March 2009 value of 169.3 cents per dozen.

6-The USDA-AMS calculated the April spread from farm to store to be 29.09 cents per dozen with a 23.59 cent per dozen spread from farm to warehouse.

7-Large to Medium white egg price spread over six regions was 9.2 cents in April compared to 20.5 cents in March with an average of 19.3 cents per dozen for the first four months of 2010. Regional spreads ranged from 7.0 cents per dozen in the Northwest to 10.4 cents per dozen in the South Central region.

8-In April 2010, layer feed averaged $197.20 per ton, which is slightly lower than the four month average of $201.40 cents per ton based on data from six regions. During April the price range among regions was $173.60 per ton in the Midwest up to $218.80 per ton in California.

9-The differential in feed price contributed to a spread of 9.1 cents per dozen in production cost, incorporating a standard value of 14.7 cents per dozen for labor interest and miscellaneous inputs. The Midwest produced at 52.8 cents per dozen compared to the California production cost of 61.9 cents per dozen, amounting to a difference of 17.1 cents per dozen. The simple average of the six U.S regions in April was 57.5 cents per dozen.

10-For the first three months of 2010, commercial-layer eggs in incubators and straight run hatch have shown an increase over corresponding months in 2009. As of April 1, egg-type pullet hatch increased by 8.2% over March 2009 to 22.57 million.

11-Pullets to be housed in future months based on the five month-previous hatch and incorporating a 5% mortality factor, projects an increase in placements from 15.75 million pullets in April to 20.37 million pullets in August 2010. The August 2010 value is approximately 2 million pullets greater than the monthly average of the years

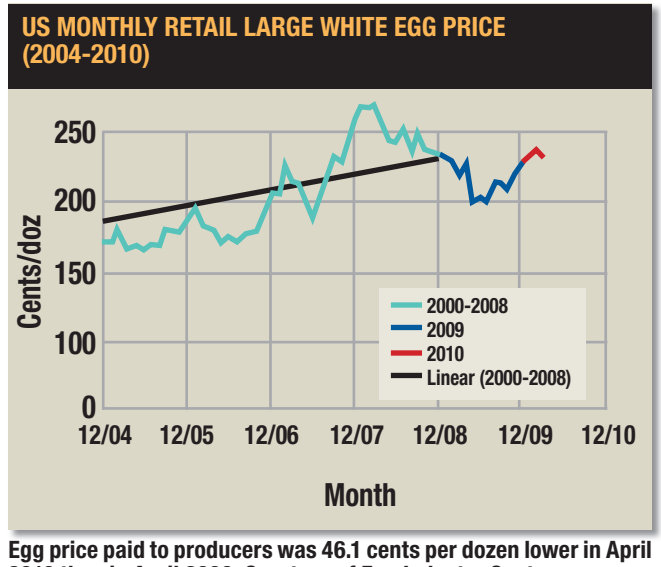
2005 through 2009.

12-In March 2010 the USDA-NASS estimated the national flock at 282.5 million, which is 1.5 million more than in February 2010 but 1.0 million less than in March 2009. Table egg layers represented 82% of all hens in production as of March 2010.

13-Applying the University of California model based on USDA-NASS data for chickens and eggs it is estimated that the August 2010 flock will attain 216.5 million hens aged less than 72 weeks. This is based on the assumption of 9% mortality from 20 through 72 weeks of age. As at the end of March 2010, 26% of the national flock was over 72 weeks of age. This has been a fairly constant figure through 2009 and during the first quarter of 2010. In 2008, 32.9% of the national flock was over 72 weeks of age.

14-Six regions reported a simple average of 22.2% molted hens reflecting all states reporting to the USDA-NASS. Within the U.S., regions vary widely in molting practices ranging from 7.4% molted hens in the Northeast to 34.8% in the Northwest. The average of 27.45 molted hens is a reflection of production costs, revenue, and the realization for spent hens.

15-The actual national table egg flock for March was 283.3 million hens. This number is expected to increase from 281.4 million in July to 290.3 million in December, given current projections of price which reflects supply and demand. Prolonged depression in price beyond current



Egg price paid to producers was 46.1 cents per dozen lower in April 2010 than in April 2009. Courtesy of Egg Industry Center.

estimates will inevitably result in a decrease in hen numbers as flocks are depleted at a rate faster than projected.

16- In reviewing projected and actual flock numbers, producers housed approximately 1.9 million hens more than anticipated during April 2010.

17- The top six states representing 277.98 million hens represent 57.1% of the total national flock. In descending order these states are Iowa - 19.2%, Ohio - 9.8%, Indiana - 8.3%, Pennsylvania - 8.1%, California - 6.9%, and Texas - 4.8%. States reporting to the USDA-NASS represent 98.2% of all hens producing table eggs.

> *"Income minus cost" for April is 3.3 cents per dozen, very close to breakeven.*

18- Rate of lay for the first three months of 2010 attained 75.8%. This corresponds closely to 2009 during which an average of 75.0% was recorded with a range of 74.5% in February to 77.2% in November, reflecting seasonal placement patterns.

19- During March 2010, 5.5 million cases of eggs were broken under federal inspection, which is approximately 2.7% more than the corresponding month in 2009. For the first quarter, egg breaking was up by 0.6% over March 2009. For the year to date, 29.5% of the 53.44 million cases produced have been broken compared to 30.8% for the entire year of 2009. It is noted that the proportion of eggs broken has steadily declined from the 2005 high of 35.1% to a projected value of 30% for 2010.

20- Domestic consumption in 2010 is projected to be 246.1 eggs per capita, 1.8% lower than the 247.9 eggs per capita in 2009. Over the past seven years the highest per capita consumption was recorded in 2006 at 257.8 eggs per capita.

21- According to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service 269,000 cases of shell eggs were exported during the first two months of 2010 with Hong Kong - 40%, Canada - 18% and China - 12% representing the most significant importers.

22- Export of shell eggs for the first two months of 2010 represented 0.78% of production.

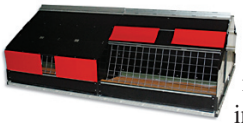
23- Exports of egg products and shell equivalents represented 700,000 cases for the first two months of 2010, averaging 2.02% of total production.

24- Combining shell eggs and egg products total exports represented the equivalent of 968.5 million cases or 2.8% of U.S. production.

The full report for April 2010 with tables and figures extends over twenty-one pages and is obtainable from www.ag.iastate.edu. EI

PRODUCTNEWS

Valco Companies Inc. Community Nest



Valco Companies, Inc. offers the Community Nest designed for floor systems. The modules are supplied in 4-foot lengths and are constructed of durable components including galvanized metal, plastic and impervious wood composite for easy decontamination. Features of the Community Nest include a fenestrated center egg belt which is accessible for maintenance, perforated nest pads and an expeller installation to prevent broodies and low peck order hens occupying the nests. The nest is ventilated through a space between the expeller and the back wall which provides a chimney effect. Following field trials Valco Companies Inc. claims a low proportion of floor eggs, reliable operation and clean unmarked egg shells. The unit was developed following extensive evaluation of the laying behavior of hens and the requirements of producers and incorporates features contributing to maximum yield of clean, saleable table eggs.

www.valcompanies.com

Salmet International GmbH cage systems

Salmet International GmbH supplies both pre-enriched and enriched cage systems based on European requirements. Twenty hens can be housed in pre-enriched cages through 2012 and thereafter adaptation kits are supplied to provide a scratch area and nest with from 95 inches² to 120 inches² per hen depending on flock size ranging from 16 to 20 birds. Salmet International GmbH supplies installations with either a feed chain or a feed cart. An additional option is automatic refilling of the litter area. Both longitudinal and transverse perches are installed in the cage to conform to EU requirements.

www.salmet.com

MARKETPLACE

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.

For more information on how to place your ad, contact:
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