

Egg Industry

News for the Egg Industry Worldwide

WATT

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Secure Egg Supply Plan to promote food security

It is anticipated that the comprehensive SES Plan will benefit consumers, industry and regulatory agencies.

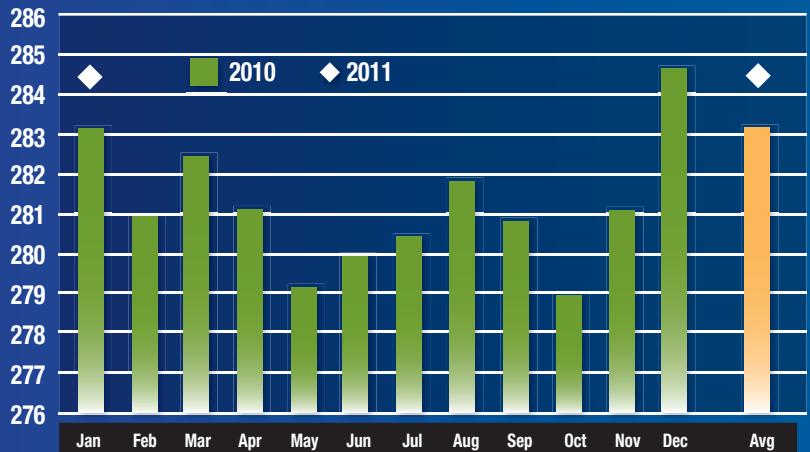
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Table egg layers by month



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EDITORIAL

BY DR. SIMON M. SHANE

Assessing the FDA Final Rule on SE

Now that the FDA Regulation to Prevent SE in Shell Eggs during Production, Storage and Transportation (the "Final Rule") has been in effect for eight months, it is appropriate to review the impact on our industry. At the outset I would risk being considered a heretic by stating that the Final Rule has been beneficial and in retrospect will eventually be viewed favorably by producers.



Simon M. Shane

The immense cost of the August 2010 recall and the expense of complying with regulatory imperatives have resulted in a new respect for egg safety. For too long the U.S. egg industry followed a self-serving and inadequate program developed, implemented and fostered by their producer organization. In the defense of the UEP, their board has recognized the magnitude of losses associated with the market collapse following the recall of eggs produced by the Iowa operations owned by Jack Austin DeCoster. The UEP has now embarked on an initiative to develop a comprehensive program of environmental surveillance, vaccination and biosecurity.

Although this is a classic case of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted, it nevertheless reflects a change in attitude that is encouraging. Incidentally, it does not take a panel of experts months to develop an appro-

priate egg-safety program. Political considerations aside, any five poultry health professionals could develop a program in 15 minutes and agree on the procedures required.

The benefits?

What are the benefits from the Final Rule? There is a heightened concern over introduction of SE into farms and multi-age complexes that have been shown to be free of infection. The cost of an environmental positive with or without subsequent confirmation through testing egg pools is high. Expenditure on protective clothing, rodent control, disinfectants and upgrading the management of biosecurity are relatively low when viewed against the alternative of SE-positive flocks. The losses associated with diversion and decontamination following depletion of SE-positive flocks are considerable. Poultry health professionals are now dealing intensively with adapting known principles of biosecurity, performing benefit-to-cost evaluations and assisting producers to upgrade programs of rodent control, vaccination and biosecurity.

We still have a long way to go, especially in

We have a collective responsibility to ensure the safety of our product.

some operations where management really has not yet adapted to the realities of a regulatory environment dominated by adherence to the Final Rule. Anyone in a position of authority in a company that considers that intensive and meaningful prevention and control measures are unnecessary or too expensive might consider recent history, and if still unconvinced

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either retire or choose another line of work.

Admittedly, the Final Rule was implemented too quickly in response to the political demands of the Administration for a rapidly implemented food safety initiative, which had the potential for positive publicity. Personnel involved in drafting the Final Rule were abysmally ignorant of the advantages of PCR tech-

nology or the value of vaccination and were equally unprepared to carry out inspections and audits. The problem was further exacerbated by failure to heed the advice of experienced poultry health professionals during the submission stage prior to publication of the Final Rule. In the intervening eight months since the introduction of the Final Rule, both the egg industry and the FDA have learned a considerable amount concerning the detection, control

and prevention of SE infection in flocks.

The simple expedient of preparing the statutory detailed SE Prevention Plan for a company is a beneficial exercise since this task generally demonstrates defects in biosecurity and vaccination and other management practices that predispose flocks and complexes to infection. Had we not been faced with the realities of the Final Rule it is doubtful whether the majority of the industry would have implemented the changes that are now evident in visits to farms and discussions with owners and managers.

Collective responsibility

As one looks back on the past eight months there is a sense of gratification from the relative paucity of flocks identified as being infected as denoted by environmental monitoring or egg pool assays, even given the relative insensitivity of assays. It is also encouraging to observe improvements in rodent control, decontamination and vaccination. Recent articles in *Egg Industry* have concentrated on the benefits of SE-free flocks to producers, the food marketing industry and consumers. Positive publicity generated by the AEB and the UEP and the absence of large-scale recalls have restored public confidence.

In retrospect, had the industry adopted a voluntary assay and vaccination program modeled on the best of the current FDA Final Rule and available knowledge we may well have averted the August 2010 catastrophe. That is unfortunately water under the bridge, but is a valuable if expensive lesson for the future.

Given the level of intensity and frequency of inspections carried out by the FDA and contract states, the industry should not lapse into a complacent mode, but maintain programs that will contribute to egg safety. We have a collective responsibility to ensure the safety of our product. Producers cannot play FDA-roulette in the hope that infections are not detected by either the insensitive environmental sampling which we carry out or, worse still, by traceback. The Shell Egg Industry, in cooperation with the FDA, should have a goal of eradicating SE from commercial flocks within five years.

We need to cooperate as an industry and we need to continue to make progress. Our collective responsibility to our stakeholders requires nothing less than diligence, realism and honesty.

Simon

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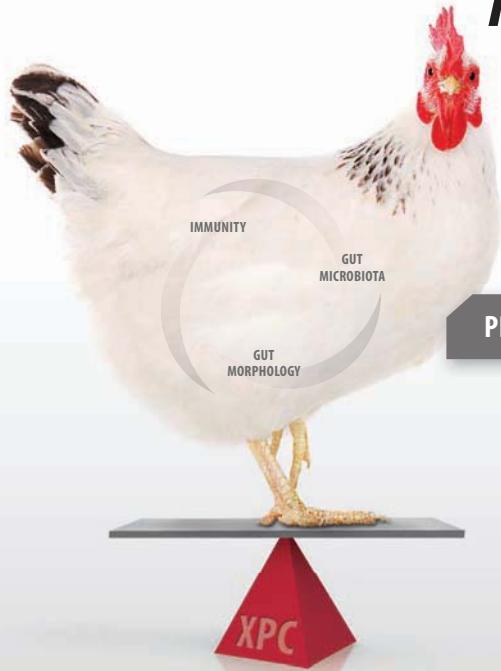
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Interpreting ELISA results requires experience in evaluating data

A structured sampling protocol ensures that the samples are representative of the flock

By Gwen Slacum, DVM
BioChek

The use of enzyme linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA, has been widely accepted as a useful method to rapidly and economically determine the antibody level in a large number of serum samples. Interpretation of ELISA results requires experience in evaluating data and confidence in the reliability and consistency of data derived from the assay.

Sampling conditions

In order to be truly representative, samples must be collected from individual birds distributed throughout the house, not in just one section. A structured sampling protocol ensures that the samples are representative of the flock. Reproducibility of results among consecutive sampling ages is assured by obtaining blood from the same marked birds. The optimal sample size based on statistical predictions is 23 individual serum specimens per flock.

Assay conditions

The results of the assay must be accurate and valid. In order for an assay to be valid, both positive and negative controls must be within range, including the use of an external reference serum with a known titer as a control. Without reference sera or test controls it is impossible to confirm if abnormal titers are due to incorrect test procedures or actually reflect the antibody status of the flock. Reference controls with a known and specific range using a specific assay should show the same range of values each time the assay is conducted, regardless of the laboratory, personnel, or the serial of kits used, provided that a standardized and controlled procedure is followed.

Establishing baselines

The mean titer levels and the coefficient of variation (%CV) values characteristic of specific types and ages of flocks can be derived by

storing data and comparing new and historical values. Regular serological monitoring allows users to set up their own baseline standards for expected titer values reflecting vaccination programs for parent and commercial level flocks at predetermined ages. It is most useful to determine titers both before vaccination and then 3-4 weeks thereafter to determine the antibody response.

Interpretation of ELISA serology

The mean titer expresses the average intensity of the antibody response while the %CV indicates the level of uniformity of the antibody response among samples reflecting the immune status following vaccination or challenge. Data reflecting titers and CV values alone are inadequate for complete interpretation of ELISA results. Other inputs are required, including bird type, age, vaccination program and relevant production data in addition to clinical and necropsy findings.

When monitoring the effectiveness of a vaccination program using ELISA assays, the intensity, uniformity and persistency of titers should be evaluated. Titers above normally expected values might indicate a field infection. Low titers suggest improper vaccination procedures or an impaired immune response.

In situations where a proper baseline has not been established and a specific disease is suspected, it is necessary to determine the rise in flock antibody titer over time. Two sets of samples should be assayed from the same flock over a 3-4 week period. The first sample is taken at the onset of clinical signs of the disease (acute phase sera) and the second, 3-4 weeks later (recovery phase sera). A threefold or greater elevation in mean titer with a decreasing CV value in the absence of concurrent vaccination indicates exposure to a disease.



In order to be truly representative, samples must be collected from individual birds distributed throughout the house, not in just one section.

To facilitate data analysis, BioChek has incorporated the Vaccination Index (VI) in the ELISA software package. The VI compares the ratio between the mean titer and the %CV. After infection or vaccination, the %CV will decrease and the mean titer should increase. The more even the administration of vaccine and the uniformity of the immune response of the flock, the lower will be the %CV and the higher the mean antibody titer. The VI will have a high value with effective vaccination (high mean titer, low %CV) and a low value with inadequate protection induced by vaccination (low mean titer, high %CV). When a vaccinated flock is subsequently exposed to a field infection, the mean titer should increase to a higher level and the %CV will decline. **E**

Adapted from a presentation at the 2011 Midwest Poultry Federation Convention

Continuing opposition to antibiotic use — are there alternatives?

Simon M. Shane

A recent study conducted by scientists at North Carolina State University demonstrated the presence of drug resistant *Enterococcus* spp. in flies and roaches gathered from hog farms in North Carolina and Kansas. This is not unexpected since the use of some antibiotics for either therapeutic purposes or growth promotion will result in the emergence of drug-resistant strains of both Gram-positive and negative bacteria. Scientists and epidemiologists are rightfully concerned over direct interspecies infection and transmissible resistance through exchange of plasmids between similar and related species of bacteria.

The situation in medical facilities

Enterococcus fecalis strains, which have developed resistance to a number of drug classes, have become a significant problem in medical facilities. Enterococcus is responsible for nosocomial (hospital related) infections, especially in debilitated and immune suppressed patients in intensive care units.

The question arises as to whether there is a direct link between the use of antibiotics in livestock and the situation in medical facilities. Dr. Coby Schal, professor of entomology and conductor of the survey, stated, “The farm is not as isolated as we used to think because the insects break the barrier between the farm and the human community, especially house flies which are highly mobile.”

Studies conducted in the 1980s confirmed that flies and other insects can ingest and serve as reservoirs for both drug resistant and susceptible bacteria present in the environment of livestock facilities. The statement implying a direct connection between livestock facilities and hospitals is somewhat ingenuous since it is unlikely that flies will transmit drug-resistant enterococci from a farm to a medical facility, based on proximity. It is possible that workers on farms may carry drug-resistant organisms in their intestinal tract, which may be indirectly introduced into hospitals.

Scientific literature on *Campylobacter jejuni* infection confirms that strains of the bacteria that were resistant to fluoroquinolones derived from chickens and hogs did not survive in the intestinal tract of human volunteers for longer than seven days after ingestion. The link between intensive production units and hospitals has not been established. It is possible that there is no link and that there are separate cycles of intro-

duction, persistence and infection in both livestock housing and in medical facilities. Dr. David Weber, an infectious disease specialist at University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, commented, “Doctors and patients also bear responsibility, and should only use or request antibiotics for confirmed bacterial infections.”

Drug-resistant organisms

An important issue relating to the findings on the North Carolina and Kansas farms relates specifically to the presence of drug-resistant organisms, which are potential pathogens. If in fact drugs resistance occurs on specific farms, then the antibiotics to which the organisms are resistant are obviously ineffective and their continued use is a waste of money in addition to a potential health hazard. The FDA Prudent Use Principles call for veterinary health professionals to continually monitor for resistance and select therapeutic antibiotics on the basis of efficacy.

There is increasing opposition among consumers to the use of antibiotics for growth promotion. Europe has banned all but a few compounds for other than therapeutic purposes. In the U.S., the FDA allows inclusion of specific antibiotics at low doses in feeds for the purpose of enhancing production and suppressing Gram-positive pathogens, including *Clostridium* spp.

Notwithstanding the scientific evidence supporting continued but restricted use of antibiotic growth promoters, it is inevitable that legislation will become increasingly more restrictive. It is also evident that any minor loss in performance by abandoning performance en-

hancers, which may increase cost, can be compensated by a retail premium. A number of broiler companies are producing premium specialty products certified as raised without the use of antibiotics and fed diets composed of ingredients of vegetable origin.

It is in the interests of the livestock industries to actively investigate and adopt alternatives to antibiotics as growth promoters since legislators responding to consumer activists will increasingly place restrictions on the use of existing licensed compounds. From a public relations standpoint it would be beneficial for the industry to transition from antibiotics as a voluntary initiative than for changes to be imposed by legislation after acrimonious scientific and public debates. **E**

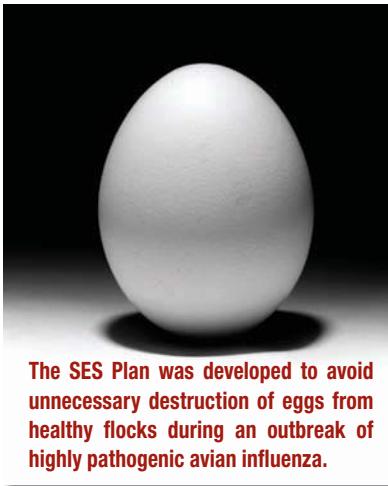


Studies confirmed that flies can ingest and serve as reservoirs for both drug-resistant and susceptible bacteria present in the environment of livestock facilities.

Secure Egg Supply Plan to promote food security

Objective is to allow movement of eggs in and out of a control area without endangering the health of non-exposed flocks

By Schauna Voss, University of Minnesota, and Todd McAloon, Cargill Inc.



The SES Plan was developed to avoid unnecessary destruction of eggs from healthy flocks during an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The final draft of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Secure Egg Supply Plan, a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan, is now available for review at www.secureeggsupply.com.

The Secure Egg Supply Plan highlights the improvements in contingency planning prior to an outbreak of a foreign animal disease to ensure con-

tinuity of operations. The SES Plan was developed to avoid unnecessary destruction of eggs from healthy flocks during

an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The SES Plan was developed jointly by the Egg Sector Work-

Annual update on layer health:
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ing Group which included representatives of the egg industry, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health and faculty of the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University.

Plan objective

The objective of the plan is to allow movement of eggs in and out of a control area without endangering the health of non-exposed flocks. The plan will also provide for a continuous supply of eggs to the market including retail and food service customers.

The SES Plan comprises the Egg Movement Control Plan and the Federal and State Transport Eggs Plan. The EMC will form the basis of guidelines to allow movement of eggs and egg products from farms and breaking plants in a controlled zone while effectively reducing the risk of disseminating HPAI virus. The FAST Egg Supply component will minimize the risk of exposure of poultry flocks and will expedite the process to allow movement of products from unaffected flocks during an outbreak.

Benefits to consumers

It is anticipated that the comprehensive SES Plan will

benefit consumers, industry and regulatory agencies. In the event of an outbreak, the implemented plan will ensure a continuous supply of fresh product to the market and will also reduce the negative economic impact on communities.

In November 2010, the United States Animal Health Association passed Resolution #42, which commended the USDA for endorsing the SES Plan as part of the Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan. Dr. Bill

► ***It is anticipated that the comprehensive SES Plan will benefit consumers, industry and regulatory agencies.***

Hartmann, the state veterinarian for Minnesota, commented, "We have come to realize that market continuity plays a major role in preparedness and response planning," adding that "with the passing of this resolution we hope that other states will utilize the SES Plan and establish working agreements with neighboring states to maintain market continuity for healthy flocks following an HPAI outbreak."

This resolution can be viewed at www.usaha.org/committees/resolutions/index.shtml. Further information can be obtained from Todd McAloon by emailing him at mcaloon@cargill.com. **EI**

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Escalating ingredient prices remain leading challenge to profitability

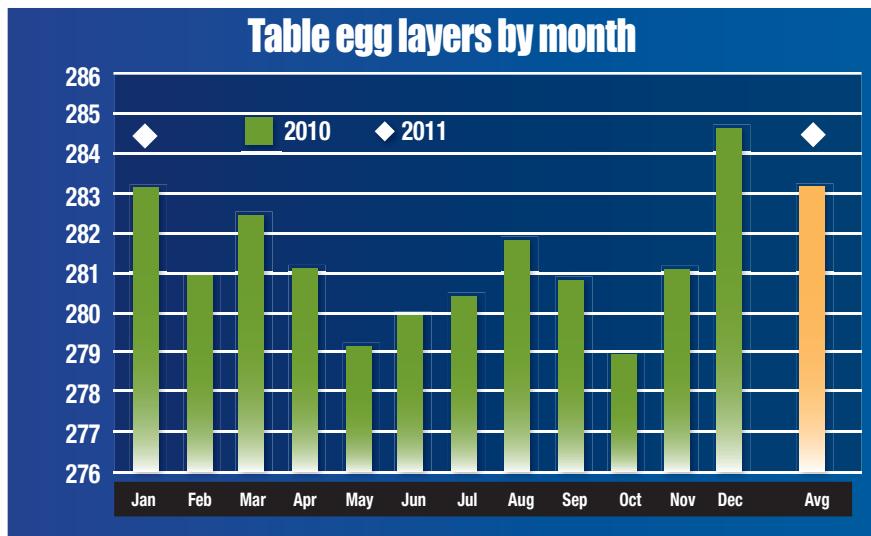
Layer feed increased to \$291 per ton across the six regions

Maro Ibarburu, program manager for the Egg Industry Center, located at Iowa State University, released the January-February Statistical Report on March 8, 2011, which was prepared in collaboration with Don Bell of the University of California at Riverside.

The outstanding factor influencing profitability in our industry continues to be the precipitous increase in the price of corn. In February, layer feed increased to \$291 per ton across the six regions surveyed by the USDA. This is a 47.5% increase over February 2010. The escalation in corn price can be attributed directly to ethanol diversion with increased demand from China, India and some other nations contributing to the undesirable situation.

The current report as distributed by the EIC is summarized for the readers of *Egg Industry*. The major trends over the past month are noted in the statistics and comments:

✓The U.S. estimated (6-Region) cost of production for February 2011 was 77.9 cents per dozen ex-farm, which



In reviewing retail prices for table eggs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Department of Commerce estimated a January 2011 average of 180.6 cents per dozen. Courtesy: Egg Industry Center.

✓The negative margin represented by “income minus cost” for February 2011 moderated to almost breakeven at -0.3 cents per dozen compared to -8.3 cents per dozen in January 2011 and 19.2 cents per dozen in February 2010. For 2011, the average margin during the first two months amounted to -4.3 cents per dozen compared to a positive value of 25.0 cents per dozen for the first two months of 2010.

✓In evaluating the virtual breakeven margin for February it was noted that average feed cost for the six regions was 52.7 cents per dozen, with pullet depreciation at 10.5 cents per dozen and other fixed and variable costs amounting to 14.7 cents per dozen, applying the standard EIC cost factors. These values other than the feed and pullet categories

remained unchanged through 2010. It is evident that escalation in ingredient prices will be the most significant challenge to attaining profitability in 2011.

✓In February 2011 producers experienced an ex-farm loss of -0.3 cents per dozen corresponding to -0.5 cents per hen housed based on current monthly costs and revenue. During 2010 ex-farm profit was 9.4 cents per dozen or 232.6 cents per hen.

✓The UB simple average producer price for six U.S. regions, assuming 80% large grade eggs, increased by 2.4% to 76.3 cents per dozen for February compared to 74.5 cents per dozen in January 2011. The 2011 cumulative simple average UB price for the first two months of 2011 was 75.4 cents per dozen. The range over the six reported regions for February 2011 was 74.6 cents per dozen for the Northeast

Annual Egg Industry survey assesses the level of confidence among producers

www.WATTAgNet.com/19453.html

is 3.6 cents per dozen or 4.8% more than in January 2011. The range in production cost among regions extended from 73.32 cents per dozen in the Midwest to 81.32 cents per dozen in the South Atlantic. This value was fractionally higher than for California at 81.25 cents per dozen.

to 79.2 cents per dozen for the Southeast.

- ✓The USDA-AMS determined an ex-farm price of 80.9 cents per dozen for February 2011 compared to 80.4 cents per dozen in January. Corresponding warehouse/distribution center and store delivery prices in February 2011 were 99.1 cents per dozen and 104.6 cents per dozen, respectively, which was approximately 1% lower than the previous month. The farm-to-store spread was 23.68 cents per dozen, which was 6% lower than the value of 25.23 cents per dozen for the previous month. Average ex-farm price for 2010 was 76.8 cents per dozen which is 6.2% higher than in 2009.
- ✓In reviewing retail prices for table eggs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Department of Commerce estimated a January 2011 average of 180.6 cents per dozen. The simple average retail egg price for 2010 was 166.4 cents per dozen.
- ✓The Large-to-Medium grade white-egg price spread over six regions was 12.6 cents per dozen in February compared to 15.1 cents per dozen in January with an average spread of 22.8 cents per dozen during 2010. Regional spreads in February ranged from 10.8 cents per dozen in the Northeast and the Midwest to 15.8 cents per dozen in the South Central Region. The average spread for the six regions was 47% indicating a return to the high differentials during the immediate months in 2010 following the SE recall.
- ✓During February 2011, layer feed averaged \$291.20 per ton, which is 4.5% higher than the \$278.40 per ton average based on six regions during January 2010. During February the price range among regions was \$264.00 per ton in the Midwest rising to \$308.40 per ton in the Southeast, exceeding California at \$307.00/ton. The differential of \$44.40 per ton is equivalent to approximately 7.7 cents per dozen applying realistic industry production parameters.
- ✓In February 2011 there were 39.7 million table egg-strain eggs in incubators. During 2010, the volume of eggs under incubation remained almost constant at an average of 38.73 mil-

lion with a range of 33.4 million in August to 42.9 million in April 2010. The average number of eggs in incubators during the first two months of both 2010 and 2011 remained at similar levels, demonstrating prudence in expansion.

- ✓Pullet chicks hatched in February 2011 attained 20.7 million compared to a monthly average of 20.5 million

chicks during 2010.

- ✓Projections for pullets to be housed in future months, based on the five months-previous hatch and incorporating a 5% mortality factor, included a range in the increase of placements from 15.75 million pullets in April to 21.44 million pullets in September 2010. The 12-month average of 18.21 million pullets per month for 2010 is

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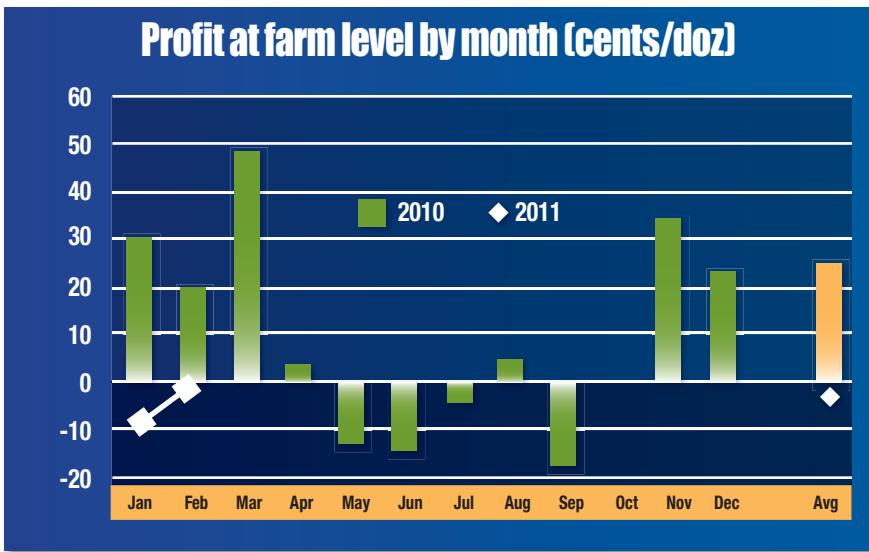
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Escalation in ingredient prices will be the most significant challenge to attaining profitability in 2011. Courtesy: Egg Industry Center.

5.5% greater (1.0 million pullets) than the 12-month average of 17.26 million per month for 2009. The 2006 to 2010 monthly average was 15.96 million pullets placed each month. The projected total for January to June 2011 will be 106.8 million pullets, which is 3.9% higher than the corresponding 6 months of 2010.

✓For January 2011, the USDA-NASS estimated the national flock at 282.9 million hens, which was 2.3% lower than in December 2010. Applying the University of California model based on USDA-NASS data for chickens and eggs, it is estimated that the February 2011 flock would attain 283.5 million hens, rising to 289.1 million in

December 2011, with a low value of 282.7 million hens in May 2011.

✓As at the end of January 2011, 22.5% of the national flock was over 72 weeks of age. The seasonal pattern of an increase in molted flocks from October through December was different during the third quarter of 2010. In 2009 the proportion of second-cycle hens in the national flock was 24.7% (31.1% in 2009) compared to a range of 22.1% to 22.4% for the period September to November. For 2010, an average of 23.4% of the national flock had been molted compared to 24.8% during the corresponding period in 2009.

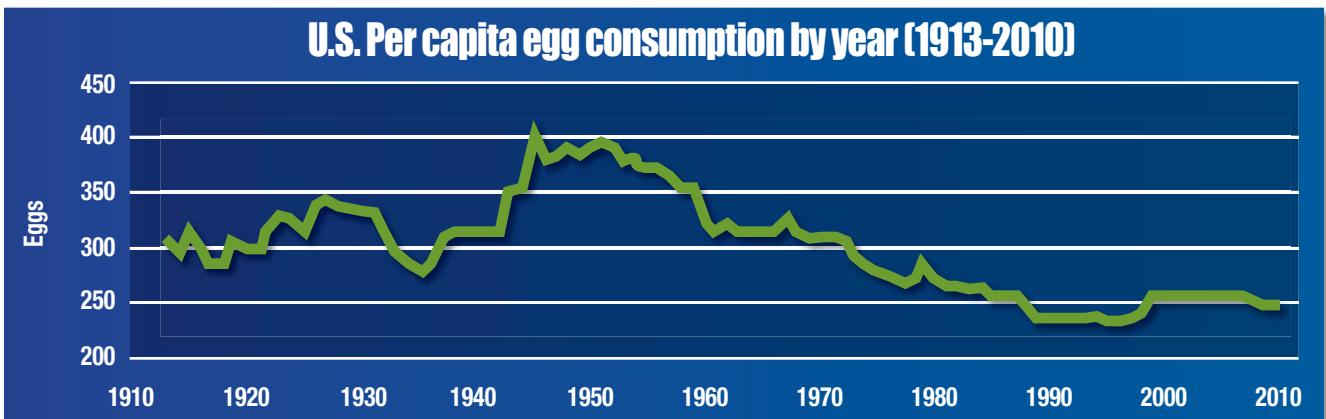
✓Six regions reported a simple average of 24.3% molted hens in Febru-

ary 2011, virtually unchanged from January 2011. The actual proportion of molted hens in the U.S. varies widely, from 11.3% in the Northeast to 34.5% in California. An average of 23.9% molted hens was recorded in the six regions during 2010. Differences among regions are attributed to production cost, revenue for eggs and realization value for spent hens.

✓During January 2011, USDA-FSIS data indicated that 5.9 million hens were processed compared to 5.6 million in December 2010. The FSIS value does not take into account any depleted flocks which are buried, rendered or shipped to Canada.

✓The University of California projected a UB Large Midwest price of 103.5 cents/dozen for February 2011, compared to an actual value of 114.5 cents per dozen. The lowest projection for 2011 is now 92.3 cents per dozen in May with a November/December price forecast of 120 cents per dozen. Projections are contingent on current trends in flock depletion and consumer demand. It is reiterated that each 10-cent-per-dozen difference between forecast and actual UB price is equivalent to \$30 million per month over 165 million hens producing generic eggs.

✓In January 2011, the top six egg-producing states with 161.34 million hens represented 57.6% of the total of 279.9 million hens in flocks above 30,000 hens as recorded by the USDA. In descending order, these states are



The revised egg consumption value for 2011 estimated by the USDA-ERS is 245.2 per capita, which is 1 egg or 0.45% lower than the consumption value of 246.2 eggs per capita recorded in 2010. Courtesy: Egg Industry Center.

Iowa [18.8% of total], Ohio [10.0%], Indiana [8.2%], Pennsylvania [8.6%], California [6.9%] and Texas [5.0%]. States reporting to the USDA-NASS represent 98.4% of all hens producing table eggs.

- ✓ The rate of lay for January 2011 attained 75.6%. This is 2.3% lower than in December 2010 during which an average of 77.4% was recorded. The rates of lay for January 2010 and 2011 were identical. Average rate of lay is a function of weighted flock age and is also influenced by climatic conditions.
- ✓ During January 2011, 5,668 million cases of eggs were broken under federal inspection, which is 3.7% lower than in December 2010. The peak month of September 2010 (6582 million cases) followed the diversion of eggs from flocks infected with SE. In 2010 breaking was up by 3.9% over 2009. For January 2011, 30.3% of the 18.74 million cases produced were broken compared to 31.6% for 2010. It is noted that on a year-to-year basis the proportion of eggs broken has shown a steady decline from the 2005 high of 35.1% to 30.8% in 2009.
- ✓ For the last quarter of 2010, 17,224 million cases were broken compared to 16,397 during the same period in 2009. The difference of 0.827 million cases over the fourth quarter of 2010 represented the output of an average of 4.2 million hens in production which were presumably infected with SE, requiring diversion to breaking.
- ✓ The revised egg consumption value for 2011 estimated by the USDA-ERS is 245.2 per capita, which is 1 egg or 0.45% lower than the consumption value of 246.2 eggs per capita recorded in 2010. Over the past seven years the highest per-capita consumption, amounting to 257.8 eggs, occurred in 2006. The efforts of the American Egg Board in mounting a positive campaign promoting egg consumption contributed to maintaining projected consumption during the fourth quarter of 2010 although uptake was depressed in September and part of October as a result of the SE recall. It remains to be seen whether the press releases and promotional campaign

will enhance consumption now that the AEB and the USDA have adopted the revised cholesterol content for generic eggs.

- ✓ During calendar 2010 the USDA-FAS recorded exports of 2.47 million cases of shell eggs representing approximately 1.1% of U.S. production. Major importers during 2010 were Hong Kong/PRC at 40.5% and Canada taking 29.3% of shipments. Shell eggs

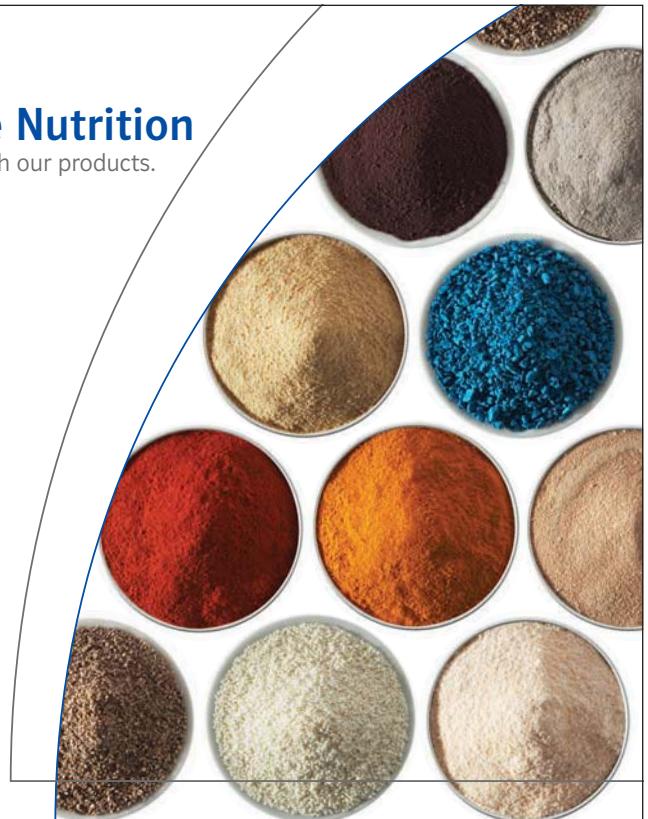
represented 35.8% of total exports to date.

- ✓ Combined exports of shell eggs and egg products expressed as “shell-egg equivalents” attained 6,869,000 cases for 2010, representing 3.2% of U.S. production. Major importers of egg products during 2010 were Japan (23.3%), Germany (18.6%), Canada (12.9%), S. Korea (5.7%) and Mexico (4.9%).

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Dorner Manufacturing DustPruf 5300 Series plastic chain conveyor



Dorner Manufacturing offers the Dust-Pruf 5300 Series plastic chain conveyor in a z-frame configuration. The configuration allows customers to route products up or down an incline, horizontal to an incline or decline or along a curve. The product comes in widths between eight inches and two feet, lengths up to 83 feet and speeds up to 250 feet per minute. The load capacity tops out at 500 pounds, with z-frame angles available from 5° to 60° in 5° increments. It is ideal in environments with dust or debris or require an occasional wipe-down or spot cleaning.

www.dornerconveyors.com

MELLER Euro 2000 husbandry system

The MELLER Euro 2000 husbandry system is designed to comply with the EC directive so that it can also be used after Jan. 1, 2012. After this date, only husbandry systems that conform to the directive are permitted. The Euro 2000 also offers the familiar, proven features of MELLER batteries: compartments easily accessible through large sliding doors; stainless steel nipple drinkers with a water collecting gutter; large-volume air channel for manure drying; manure removal with P.P. belts; feeding by way of feed chain or feed carriage; egg saver to ensure that the eggs roll down gently; and egg collection system with egg lift or elevator.

www.meller.net

Diversey Enduro Power cleaners

Diversey offers the Enduro Power range of products developed for food

plants. The two formulations comprise EnduroCor, a liquid extended contact chlorinated alkaline cleaner, and Enduro SMS, an extended contact chlorinated alkaline cleaner formulated for application to metal surfaces and equipment.

www.diversey.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 date. The enrichable model for the U.S. market has provision for compartments, removable partitions, mounting points for installation of longitudinal perches, nests and the accessories required for full enrichment.

www.bigdutchmanusa.com

RMT Robotics ADAM RAP robotic system



The RMT Robotics ADAM RAP robotic system will respond to voice messages and can also generate sounds and tones relating to function. Although the

company does not market robotics modules for egg packing plants, it is possible that adaptation of audio interaction may provide benefits when robotic technology is used more extensively in the industry.

www.rmtrobotics.com

Jansen Poultry Equipment MultiFlex Elevator



The Jansen Poultry Equipment MultiFlex Elevator offers an egg collection system designed to transfer eggs from multiple tiers to a cross conveyor, incorporating design features that ensure gentle handling of eggs. Maximum capacity is 35,000 eggs per hour and the modular units are adaptable to retrofitting to existing houses. The egg carriers have an oval shape to reduce shell damage.

www.jpe.org

Intelligroup Poultry360

Intelligroup offers Poultry360, an accelerated solution for the poultry and livestock industries. Poultry360 has been qualified as an SAP Business All-in-One Partner solution, modified to meet the specific requirements of mid-sized poultry farms and livestock processing units. The product covers core business processes such as financial accounting, management accounting, sales order processing, purchase requisition through to payment receipt, feed and farms management and product costing and provides business performance reporting and analysis.

www.intelligroup.com

INDUSTRY NEWS

EIC releases US national flock performance study

Part 11(EEU34) of a U.S. national flock performance study titled "Flock Profiling Software and Replacement Program Evaluation-2010" has been released by the Egg Industry Center and the University of California-Riverside.

The report provides a benchmark for the production of white egg strains with tables depicting livability, hen-day egg production, egg weight and feed consumption. The report also shows grade distribution, feed costs and revenue by grade for the period during which the survey was conducted. The live-bird production parameters are of value to all producers, although it will be necessary to adjust financial data to reflect the recent escalation in feed costs and the prevailing value of eggs. Interpretation of the figures presented should take into account the specific structure, housing systems of a farm or complex when comparing production parameters with those depicted in the study.

American Egg Board promotes new nutrient values

The American Egg Board recently hosted a successful Good Egg Project at the Grand Central Station to promote the release of recent USDA nutrient assay results. The latest data disclosed 25% less cholesterol and higher Vitamin D levels in generic eggs. The event was themed on a "farmers market" with free egg samples, informational literature and demonstrations by Howard Helmer and Jeffrey Saad.

The latest USDA data received national attention as the AEB launched a concerted seven-day program involving a wide range of media. The AEB has placed 1,100 stories generating 126 million impressions including mentions on USA Today, NBC Nightly News, ABC World News Tonight, Good Morning America, CNN and The Wall Street Journal.

The AEB also arranged a luncheon for 30 food and health editors in New York City to announce the new cholesterol and Vitamin D levels hosted by Dr. Mitch Kanter of the Egg Nutrition Center. Attendees included representatives from Ladies' Home Journal, Good Housekeeping, Shape and www.weightwatchers.com. **E**

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