

Egg Industry

News for the Egg Industry Worldwide

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Evaluating the economics of fat use for table egg producers

With the current high cost of fat and corn, the cost of increasing protein is relatively small compared to the cost of increasing energy.



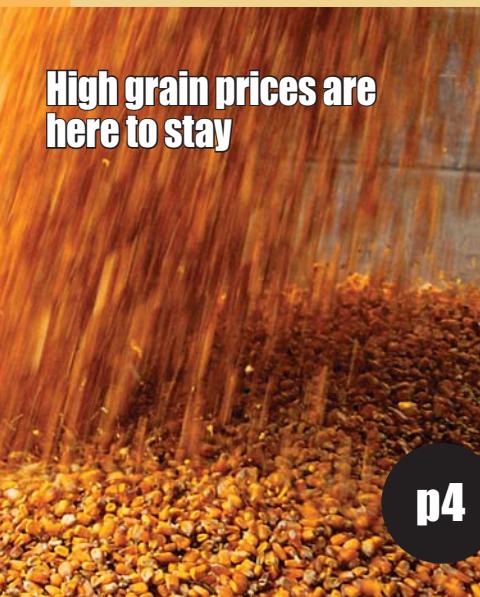
Average price of corn in Chicago- \$/Bushel by crop year

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2010-2011 will be much worse than 2007-2008, and could be followed by a crop year that is just as bad.

High grain prices are here to stay



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Reduction in layer numbers needed for egg prices to rise to cover continued high feed costs.

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EDITORIAL

BY TERENCE O'KEEFE

The cure for low egg prices

Since egg prices are relatively inelastic, a small reduction in supply can result in a significant change in price

Economists say that the cure for low prices is low prices. If the price for eggs or widgets gets low enough for long enough, producers will reduce their output and, eventually, prices will rise. At the



Terrence O'Keefe

present time, egg prices are not high enough to cover costs and, as we all know, the major culprit is high feed costs. Analysts, who make a living looking at grain prices, have concluded that \$6 per bushel corn is likely to be with us through at least the 2012 harvest. If feed costs are not coming down, then egg prices need to go up and stay up in order for the egg industry to return to profitability. The surest way to get prices up is to reduce supply. Since egg

The surest way to get prices up is to reduce supply

prices are relatively inelastic, a small reduction in supply can result in a significant change in price.

Production cutbacks are always great in the third person, as in the other guys cut production. No one enjoys cutting

Watch this video to see Agri Stats vice president Mike Donohue discuss how the chicken industry is trying to get prices up
www.WATTAgNet.com/22513.html

their own production, but it is a dangerous game to assume that the other guys will cut back when you haven't. When corn futures for July delivery were hovering around \$7.50 per bushel did you feel secure that you would get a price for your eggs that could cover costs in July? Have you made plans to cull flocks earlier?

Each producer needs to make decisions based on their own unique financial situation. When grain prices peaked in the summer of 2008 most broiler and turkey producers in the U.S. reduced placements. Some cutbacks were made by choice and others were made by the banks. It is not good for business when your banker decides how many birds you are going to have.

I hope that each egg producer carefully considers the impact that prolonged \$6 corn prices will have on their bottom line, because the fall of next year is a long time from now.

Terrence
tokeefe@WATTnet.net

Egg Industry

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CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

WATT

303 N. Main St., Ste. 500
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1018 USA
Tel: +1 815 966 5400; Fax: +1 815 968 0941

V.P./Publisher:

Steve Akins, sakins@wattnet.net

Tel: +1 919 387 7961; Fax: +1 815 968 0941

V.P./Director of Content:

Bruce Plantz, bplantz@wattnet.net

EDITOR

Editor: Terrence O'Keefe

tokeefe@WATTnet.net Tel: +1 704-795-4646

Managing Editor: Andrea Saladino

COPY DESK TEAM

Managing Content Editor: Tara Leitner

Community Manager/

SEO Editor: Kathleen McLaughlin

Associate Editor: Lindsay Beaton

Associate Editor: Kayla Kling

ART/PRODUCTION TEAM

Senior Art Director: Tess Stukenberg

Production Director: Bill Spranger

bspranger@wattnet.net Tel: +1 815 966 5428

Advertising Production

Coordinator: Connie Miller

SALES TEAM

USA/Canada

Pam Ballard, pballard@wattnet.net

Tel: +1 815 966 5576; Fax: +1 815 968 0941

Mary Harris, mharris@wattnet.net

Tel: +1 815 966 5523; Fax: +1 847 908 7551

Ginny Stadel, gstadel@wattnet.net

Tel: +1 815 966 5591; Fax: +1 815 968 0941

International

Frans Willem van Beeman,

beemenfw@xs4all.nl Tel: +31 344 653 442

Fax: +31 344 653 261

Michael van den Dries,

driesmvd@xs4all.nl Tel: +31 79 323 0782

Fax: +31 79 323 0783

Tineke van Spanje, tvanspanje@wattnet.net

Tel: +31 495 526 155; Fax: +31 495 525 126

Southeast Asia

Dingding Li, dingdingli@vip.163.com

Tel: +86 21 541 36853, Fax: +86 21 541 33676

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High grain prices are here to stay

Reduction in layer numbers needed for egg prices to rise to cover continued high feed costs

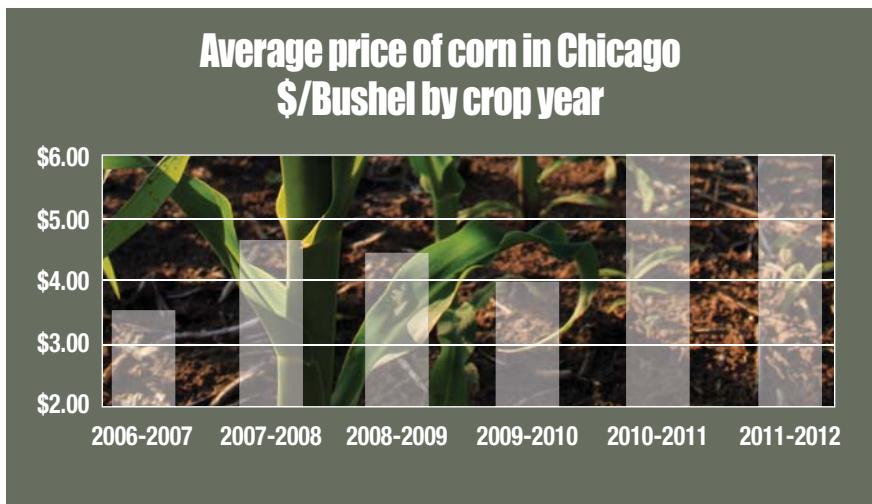
By Terrence O'Keefe

High grain prices resulted in losses for the average U.S. egg producer in the first three months of 2011, according to Maro Ibarburu, business analyst, Egg Industry Center, Iowa State University. Ibarburu's calculations show the egg industry returned to profitability in April due to demand increase associated with Easter, but the industry had negative returns again in May.

"What concerns me is that winter months are usually profitable, and the industry was not profitable this winter," said Ibarburu. The industry heads into summer, the season when demand for eggs is at its lowest, with costs exceeding egg prices and with no sign of lower grain costs on the horizon.



Economists do not think that this fall's harvest will be large enough to significantly lower corn prices.



As can be seen on the graph, 2010-2011 will be much worse than 2007-2008 and could be followed by a crop year that is just as bad.

Grain prices

Economists do not think that this fall's harvest will be large enough to significantly lower corn prices. "We need a record corn crop to build any kind of inventory at all," said Dr. Thomas Elam, economist, FarmEcon LLC. Unfortunately, Elam and Dr. Paul Aho, international consulting poultry economist, both

corn could average \$6 for the entire crop year of 2010-2011 and even for the crop year 2011-2012, a total of 104 weeks," Aho said. "The likelihood of corn ever again falling to \$3 per bushel is only slightly short of impossible."

Over time, the increased price for corn has drawn acreage away from other crops, but there aren't many more acres that can be shifted. "We have cut wheat by 20 million acres and sorghum, barley and oats acreage has been halved since 1990," Elam said. "We have reached the limit on acres that can be shifted to corn. We are not going to get back to \$3 or \$4 a bushel corn anytime soon."

"Egg producers should plan on these higher feed costs through at least the summer of 2012. I don't see any significant relief in sight," Elam said. "For gosh sake don't build your business plans on \$3 or \$4 per bushel corn. We might see \$5 corn, but don't plan on anything lower than that, unless we have another recession and crude oil drops to \$50 a barrel. With the Federal Reserve devaluing the dollar around the world,

In this article, Dr. Paul Aho explains why he thinks high corn prices will be with us at least until the fall of 2012 at www.WATTAgNet.com/20734.html

said that the 92 million acres expected to be planted in corn in the U.S. this year would require an average yield of 166 bushels per acre, which is above the trend line for yield, to give a corn crop large enough to provide increased carryover inventory.

With no increase in the carryover corn inventory expected from this year's harvest, egg producers will likely see high corn prices through the fall of 2012. "It is possible that

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I don't see that as a very strong possibility. So, plan on \$5 to \$7 per bushel for corn."

Aho also expects today's high corn prices to hang around into the future. He said, "I am penciling in \$5.50 per bushel as the new normal."

Both Aho and Elam said that the way of avoiding the "new normal" of around \$6 per bushel corn is for Congress to make a major change in the country's ethanol policies. "The wild card would be a change in the ethanol policy," Aho said. "There are some rum-

Short-term profitability outlook

Given the current grain costs and egg supply, the prospects for profitable egg prices this summer are not good. Based on Egg Industry Center calculations, the average egg producer was unprofitable in four of the first five months this year. Ibarburu said, "We see some signs that there may be a decrease in flock size. The hatch decreased in February and March when compared to last year, I am still concerned that the flock size is going to increase a little bit."

few weeks earlier than originally planned.

Long-term impact of high grain prices

"When the recession started I thought we would see a decline in beef and pork consumption and an increase in chicken and egg consumption, but I was wrong, we saw a decline in all of them," Aho said. Now, with a slowly recovering economy, we have high grain prices. Aho thinks that chicken and eggs will fare well through this time frame, because beef and pork

▶ "Egg producers should plan on these higher feed costs through at least the summer of 2012."

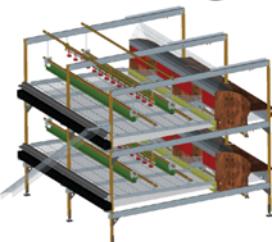
blings in the Senate that the universal support for ethanol is starting to crack." A coalition of groups opposed to the ethanol subsidies is lobbying Congress to let the subsidy expire at the end of 2011, and there appears to be more support for this effort now than there was when a similar effort failed late in 2010.

Egg prices are very inelastic, so small changes in supply have a big impact on price. Ibarburu said that a relatively small reduction in supply could bring the industry back to profitability, even with the high grain prices. He said that any cutbacks in production would likely result from producers culling some flocks a

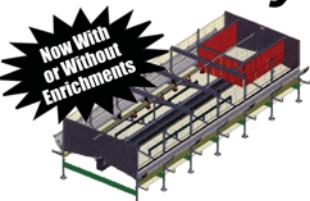
supplies are expected to be relatively low. "I would guess that eggs will not be hurt as much as beef and pork by high grain prices," he said. "This is an optimistic situation for the egg industry. After there is an adjustment of supply to the higher grain prices, there may be an opportunity to increase egg consumption." ■

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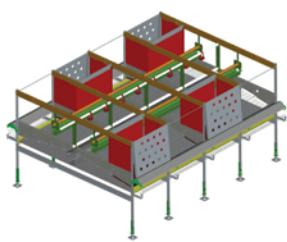


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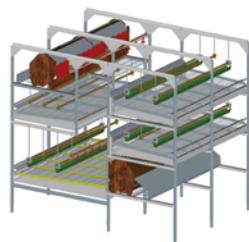


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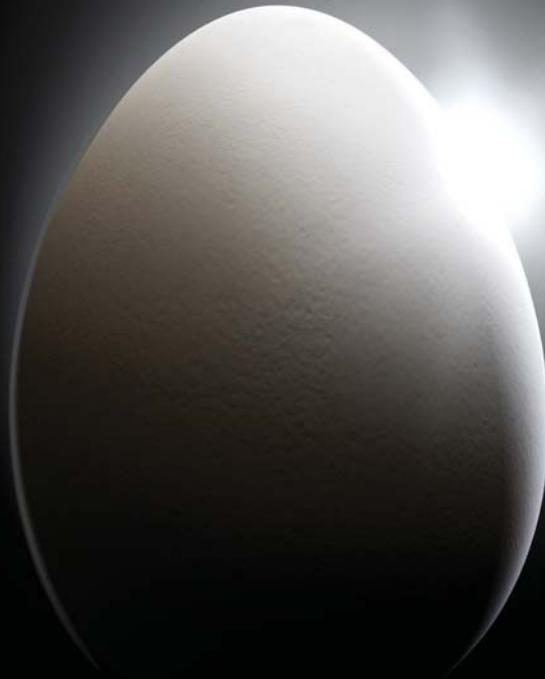
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United Egg Producers makes major changes to 5-Star Egg Safety Program

Vaccination for Salmonella enteritidis and third-party audits are now mandatory parts of the 5-Star program

By Terrence O'Keefe

A redesigned 5-Star Egg Safety Program was approved at the United Egg Producers Legislative Board Meeting held in Washington, D.C., in May. Started in 1994, the 5-Star is a voluntary total quality assurance program to provide egg producers with a proactive way of monitoring and controlling *Salmonella enteritidis* on-farm.

Significant changes were made to the program so that it exceeds the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration's Egg Safety Rule. Most notably, the 5-Star program now requires that both pullets and layers be vacci-

additional level of protection for consumers by producing antibodies in the egg. Studies have shown that these antibodies inhibit the rapid proliferation of *Salmonella* in eggs as compared to those from unvaccinated flocks.

Vaccinating pullets as soon as possible reduces the risk of early outside *Salmonella* challenges. Early challenges have the potential to colonize the organs, which sets up the potential for fecal shedding back into the environment.

The revised 5-Star program calls for all flocks to be vaccinated with SE vaccines. At minimum, farms that produce



The 5-Star Egg Safety Program is designed to give producers a dependable food safety program from the farm to the consumer.

plemented a food safety program that complies with all 5-Star requirements and that the completion of all required activities have been properly recorded and documented.

Many table egg farms are already being audited for compliance with certain animal welfare programs, such as UEP Certified or American Humane Certified, or other quality programs, such as Safe Quality Food program. UEP representatives said at the Legislative Board Meeting that, after training on the revised 5-Star program, auditors may be able to conduct audits of a farm's compliance to more than one program during a farm visit, thus helping to keep auditing costs as low as possible.

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www.WATTAgNet.com/20377.html

nated for SE and that a third party must audit compliance with the program on participating 5-Star farms.

Vaccination against SE

When used along with a comprehensive on-farm food safety program, SE vaccines greatly reduce the risk of organ colonization and fecal shedding as well as horizontal and vertical transmission. Vaccines can also provide an

eggs for the table egg market must use an attenuated and inactivated vaccination program. Vaccination is not a requirement of FDA's Egg Safety Rule.

Third-party audits

Certification of an egg farm as a participant in the 5-Star program will now require successful completion of a third-party audit. The audits will be used to verify that the farm has im-



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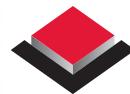
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Reducing SE numbers

Since the 1990s when SE emerged as a problem, 15 states developed their own egg quality control programs and UEP developed its 5-Star program. The Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance program has served as a model for



Krista Eberle, director of food safety programs, UEP, said that the revised 5-Star Egg Safety Program exceeds FDA requirements.

FDA's Egg Safety Rule. Krista Eberle, director of food safety programs, UEP, said, "When the Pennsylvania program started they had environmental samples that were running around 15% positive for SE, and over the years they

have gotten the environmental samples down below 2% positive for SE." With the implementation of the FDA's Egg Safety rule nationwide, Eberle said, "The likelihood is that our numbers have gone down and will continue to go down."

Why change 5-Star now?

Eberle said that the development and implementation of FDA's Egg Safety Rule and the increasing consumer concern surrounding egg safety are what led UEP to redesign the 5-Star Egg Safety Program to provide egg producers with a comprehensive, dependable food safety program from the farm to the consumer.

"From the beginning, UEP and the egg industry have been supportive of FDA's Egg Safety Rule," Eberle said. "We have worked with FDA to make sure that the

food safety measures that the industry has developed will be continued."

FDA is in the process of inspecting nearly 600 egg farms in the U.S. that have 50,000 or more layers. This is the first time that FDA inspectors have inspected the country's egg farms. Eberle said, "We have heard nothing but positive feed back from our producers on how the FDA inspections have been going." UEP wants to make sure that the U.S. table egg industry is continu-

▶ ***The 5-Star program now requires that both pullets and layers be vaccinated***

ing to make progress in the area of food safety and the changes to the 5-Star program represent a step above FDA requirements. **EI**

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Evaluating the economics of fat use for table egg producers

With the current high cost of fat and corn, the cost of increasing protein is relatively small compared to the cost of increasing energy

By Dr. David A. Roland

The price of fat has increased from less than 10 to over 50 cents per pound. This price increase is causing the use of fat in corn-soy layer diets to be re-evaluated.

For many producers it is a common practice to maintain a minimum 0.5% added fat in all diets after egg size reaches large. The million dollar question is: At what fat price does it become uneconomical to add the fat?

Fat when egg size reaches large

My research indicates that 0.5% fat versus no added fat in a corn-soy diet gives 0.5% more eggs, 0.78% less feed consumption and a 0.1 g larger egg. The larger egg is not too important because using a minimum of 0.5%

It takes about 1.1% added fat to increase energy 30 calories in a 20 pound peaking diet for week 36 hens or a 22 pound peaking diet for Bovans white hens.

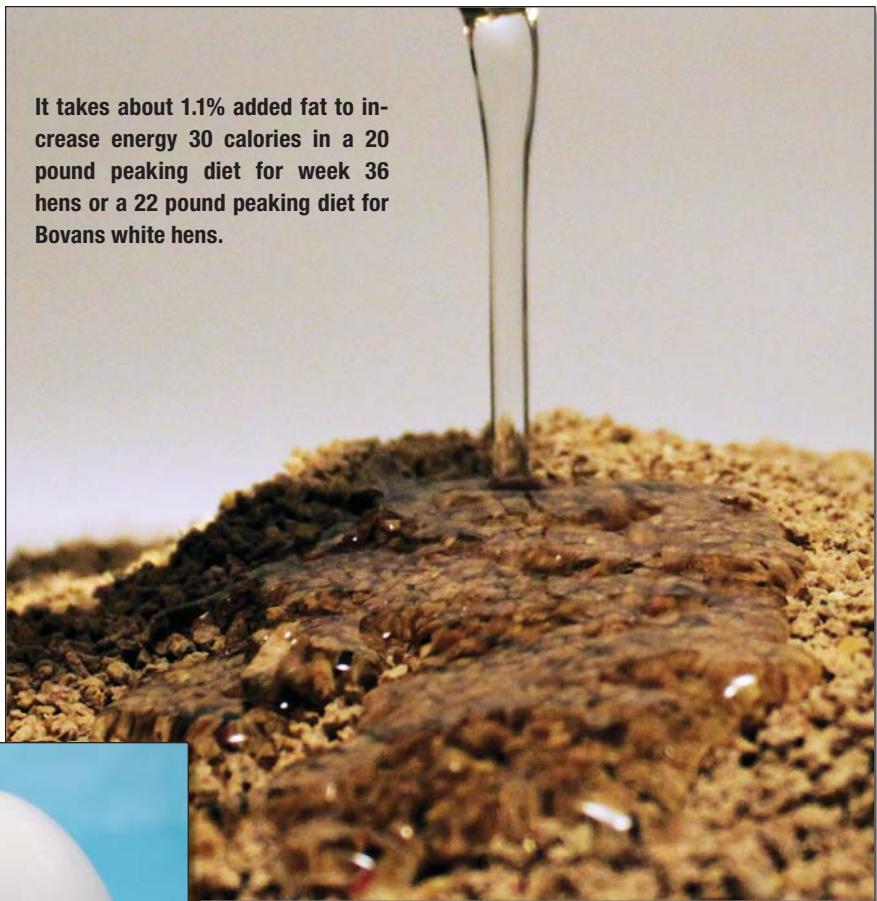


Photo credit: Andreea Saladino



Even at \$0.50 per pound, fat added to the ration can pay off by yielding a greater number of large eggs.

fat only enters the game after egg size reaches large.

Assuming the improved rate of lay, reduced feed consumption, increased egg weight, current feed ingredient prices and the April 17, 2011, Urner Barry NE egg prices, it can be calculated that including a minimum of 0.5% fat in a corn-soy diet gives the

Dr. David A. Roland, distinguished university professor, Auburn University, Phone: +1.334.844.2605, Email: droland@acesag.auburn.edu

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equivalent of \$2.30 per ton in reduced feed cost, \$1.75 per ton in improved production and about 60 cents per ton from increased egg weight. That equals \$4.65 per ton, which is close to the current cost (\$4.34 per ton) of adding 0.5% fat.

With 50 cents per pound fat and current egg and ingredient prices, it is about break even to maintain 0.5% added fat in diets after egg size reaches large. No credit has been given for any benefit of fat on dust, equipment die life, feed palatability or egg size needs, and these should also be considered. Not maintaining the minimum 0.5% fat inclusion at current prices will reduce the feed cost per ton. The benefits of 0.5% added fat are best estimates based on many trials. Since egg and feed prices change, the economics of fat use should be continually evaluated.

Fat in peaking diets

Considering the current high fat price, should fat be used in peaking diets? The use of fat in peaking diets before egg size reaches large is also a common practice. With large spreads between medium and large, optimizing egg weight is so important it typically drives the feeding program, but only as long as returns are greater than the cost.

It takes about 1.1% added fat to increase energy 30 calories in a 20 pound peaking diet for week 36 hens or a 22 pound peaking diet for Bovans white hens. The cost of adding 30 calories with 50 cents per pound fat and current ingredient prices, versus the same diet with no added fat, is \$9.48 per ton. The cost will vary depending upon cost and nutrient composition of the corn and soy used. It can be calculated that the value of the improved performance is greater than the cost, with most of the increased returns coming from increased egg weight, which increases the percentage of large eggs and decreases the percentage of medium eggs. With current fat

prices, it can still be economical to use some limited additional fat in peaking diets prior to reaching a 48 pound case weight depending upon price spreads.

However, the decision to use fat in this case is much more complex than simply maintaining a minimum of 0.5% added fat in all diets after egg size reaches large. Because protein is just as important as fat in increasing early egg size, percent dietary protein levels typically increase at the same time dietary energy levels are increased. With the current high cost of fat and corn, the cost of increasing protein is relatively small compared to



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the cost of increasing energy. Because of this, the question becomes: Should only protein with no added fat or protein with added fat be used to optimize egg weight?

With current fat cost and low spreads in egg price, using only protein appears to be more economical. There is some

indication the price of corn will continue to increase. If this happens and soybean meal takes any dip, the cost of layer diets containing the lowest protein level could be the same as the cost of the diet containing the highest protein level, and that will be a first for U.S. egg producers.

Econometric feeding

Since the cost of maintaining a minimum of 0.5% fat (10 pounds per ton) has gone from less than \$1 to over \$4 per ton, it is clearly time to re-evaluate fat and energy use. At some price, fat will become uneconomical.

However, at the same time, the greater the feed cost, the more important the use of fat becomes. For example, if increasing dietary energy level 60 calories reduces feed intake about 4.6%, then total feed cost can be increased the equivalent of \$4.60 per

With 50 cents per pound fat and current egg and ingredient prices, it is about break even to maintain 0.5% added fat in diets after egg size reaches large.

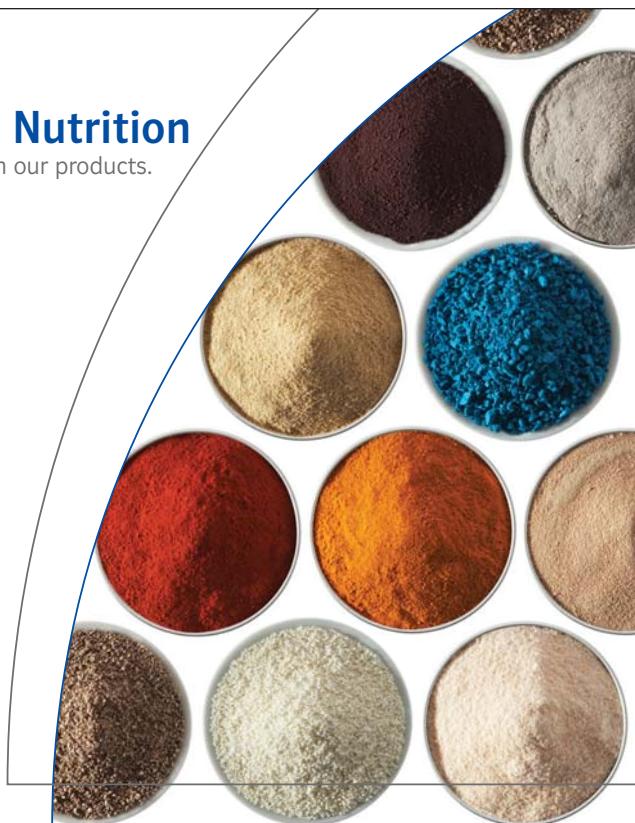
ton for \$100 per ton feed, and \$13.80 per ton for \$300 per ton feed, without increasing the total cost of feed consumed due to improved feed efficiency. The added value of increased feed efficiency at higher feed costs, coupled with the price spread between medium and large eggs, helps to keep fat in the diet.

The higher the feed cost, the more important controlling feed intake and feeding correctly are. Least cost formulation formulates a diet with the lowest ingredient cost to achieve specified energy levels. Determining an optimal cost ration requires analysis of the cost and benefits of over or under feeding of protein, energy or both, as feed and egg prices change.

The correct energy level for optimum performance and returns has to be determined by comparing the cost versus benefits, and analysis that takes all of this into consideration is referred to as econometric feeding.

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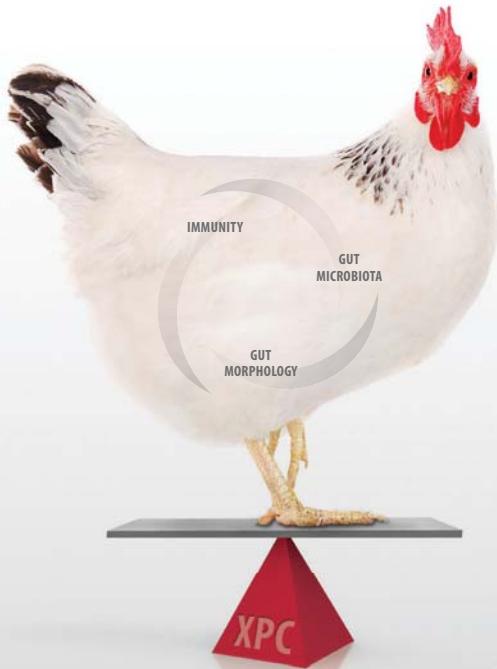
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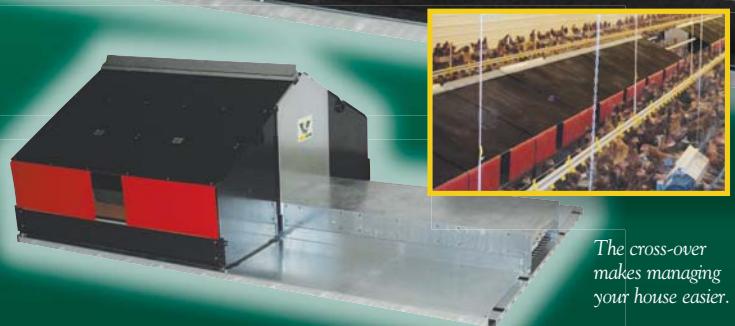
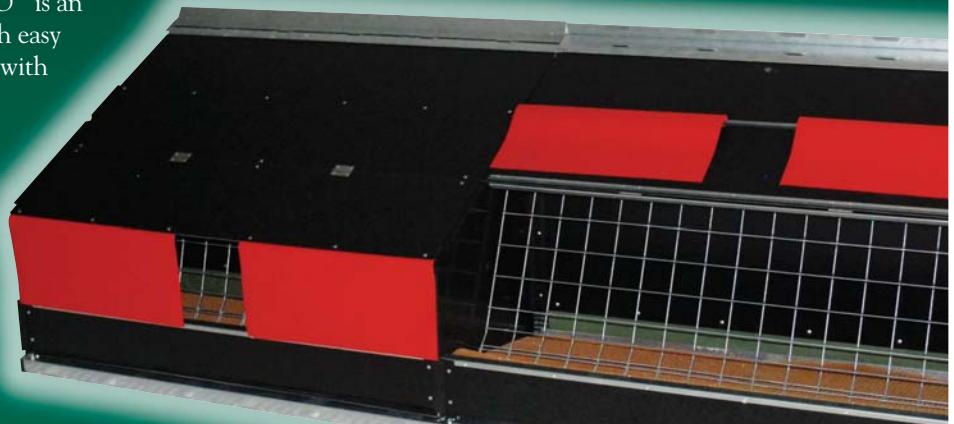
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Rep. Latham on ethanol lobby: 'The ethanol debate is over'

With about 285 votes against the ethanol lobby's position on two house votes, ethanol's hold on Congress may be slipping away

By Terrence O'Keefe



Rep. Tom Latham said, "The debate on ethanol here is virtually over and ethanol has lost."

With about 285 votes against the ethanol lobby's position on both votes, ethanol's strangle hold on Congress may be slipping away.

Latham, who is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, stated, "The debate on ethanol here [in Washington] is virtually over and ethanol has lost. The debate is over."

Latham explained that while he did not agree with framing it as a fuel versus food debate, once it was perceived as an either food or fuel choice, ethanol lost.

A new reality

According to Latham, the ethanol industry understands the new political reality. "The ethanol industry gets it. They are not going to be able to sustain what they have. What they are trying to do, rather than having a sharp cutoff, is to

Most involved in animal agriculture have been hoping to hear the pronouncement that the ethanol lobby had finally lost a vote in Congress, and that day has come at last.

"Ethanol got creamed" in the last two house votes, according to Rep. Tom Latham, a republican from Iowa speaking at the United Egg Producers Legislative Board Meeting in Washington, D.C., May 9-11, 2011.

have a transition which gives them a way to move into a free market system," he said.

"There are going to be major reductions, if not a cutoff, of the subsidies. As far as the mandates go, they are in place, but I don't think the cellulose part of the mandate is doable at this point since the technology isn't there," continued Latham at the meeting.

One area where the ethanol industry is not raising the white flag is on mandates for ethanol use in motor vehicle fuels. In fact, ethanol producers are pushing for corn-based ethanol to be classified as an advanced biofuel so that the mandated

▶ ***"The ethanol industry gets it. They are not going to be able to sustain what they have."***

number of millions of gallons of corn-based ethanol can be expanded. Even without subsidies for ethanol use, mandates will force ethanol use in motor vehicle fuels.

Ethanol is not the primary driver behind high corn prices, according to Latham. He cited Federal Reserve policies, which have led to a weak dollar, as the biggest driver of increases in the price of corn and other commodities.

Dramatic changes

Latham, who has been in Congress for 17 years, stated that he has seen a dramatic change in Washington during the past twelve months.

"The whole debate has changed dramatically since last year, and it is now about how much you are going to cut, not how much you are going to spend," he said. "We do not have a revenue problem in Washington, we have a spending problem."

With approximately 42 cents of every dollar spent by the federal government this year being borrowed, Latham stated that spending must be cut very soon. "We only have about four or five years to change things, otherwise we will be Greece." **EI**

Read this interview with AFIA president
Joel Newman for his opinion on feed
challenges and the concern over minimal corn
and other feed grain reserves
www.WATTAgNet.com/21924.html

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Eggs from enriched cages may cost up to 17% more than conventional



The cost of eggs produced in enriched cages, such as this JS West enriched colony system, is higher than that of conventional cages, a study from the company shows.

The cost per dozen eggs produced in enriched cages is 15% to 17% higher than in conventional cages, according to Tom Silva of JS West.

Silva, who spoke at the Egg Industry Issues Forum hosted by the Egg Industry Center of Iowa State University, said the enriched system requires a premium of 10 to 12 cents per dozen to compensate for additional costs.

JS West studied its 151,200 hens housed in enriched cages and compared these birds' results with hens in conventional battery cages through 50 weeks of age. To 50 weeks of age, hen-housed egg production for the two systems was 197 and 191 for the enriched and conventional cages, respectively, with mortal-

ity attaining 1.4% and 0.9%. Average production for the period 20 through 50 weeks was 89.4% for enriched cages and 88.3% for conventional cages.

Feed intake per dozen attained 3.7 pounds for the enriched system and 2.94 pounds in conventional cages. Since body weight for the two groups were 3.45 pounds and 3.47 pounds, respectively, inferior feed conversion in enriched cages is attributed in part to increased movement and to the average case weight of 48.8 pounds for enriched cages and 47.0 pounds for conventional batteries.

This system, supplied by Big Dutchman International, along with similar installations, has received the seal of approval of the American Humane Association.

US egg coalition awards \$6 million for hen house sustainability research

The Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply has awarded \$6 million to support research on the sustainability of laying hen housing in the U.S.

Michigan State University and the University of California, Davis, will participate in the three-year "CSES Laying Hen Housing Research Project," which will explore the interactions and tradeoffs among food safety, worker safety, environmental impact, hen health and welfare and food affordability aspects of three different housing systems. Information generated by the research, which will focus on conventional cage housing, enriched cage housing and a cage-free aviary system, is expected to help egg purchasers and producers make objective, science-based decisions as the egg in-



Six million dollars has been awarded to a three-year project that focuses on comparing conventional cage housing, enriched cage housing and a cage-free aviary system for laying hens.

dustry evolves in response to consumer needs and desires.

"Our goal is to thoroughly understand the full range of sustainability factors," said Dr. Janice Swanson, director of animal welfare and professor of animal science at Michigan State University. "This multi-year study will examine seasonal shifts, bird lifecycles, bird health and behavior, environmental impacts, human health and other factors affecting the sustainability of the egg production system." Additional cooperating research institutions include Iowa State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

Danish researchers, Cobb look to enhance poultry immune systems



Hellevad chickens have the protein MBL in levels two to three times higher than other breeds.

A protein found in a Danish strain of egg layers may be responsible for a significant boost in poultry immune systems, according to a project at Danish research institute Aarhus University funded in part by Cobb.

The €2.3 million project, contributed to by both the Danish government (€1.55 million) and Cobb (€350,000), focuses on the genes of Hellevad chickens, which have the protein mannose-binding lectin at two to three times higher levels than other breeds. The MBL protein has developed a reputation as a pathogen detector — binding to mannose and other sugars on the pathogen surface and triggering the immune system to destroy viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. Researchers hope to identify the gene or combination of genes responsible for MBL levels.

"We're excited to be involved in this project as the continual improvement of the innate im-

mune system in our commercial broilers is a key focus of our research program,” said Dr. Mitch Abrahamsen, Cobb vice president of research and development. Cobb is currently working to determine the MBL genotypes of its pure line breeding stock and validate the role of the protein in enhancing immunity against diseases such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli*.

Pathogen study offers new data for poultry producers, food safety officials

These Top-10 pathogen-food combinations cause the greatest burden to the public health

1	CAMPYLOBACTER in Poultry costs \$1.3 billion and causes a loss of 9500 QALYs
2	TOXOPLASMA in Pork costs \$1.2 billion and causes a loss of 4500 QALYs
3	LISTERIA in Deli Meats costs \$1.1 billion and causes a loss of 4000 QALYs
4	SALMONELLA in Poultry costs \$700 million and causes a loss of 3600 QALYs
5	LISTERIA in Dairy Products costs \$700 million and causes a loss of 2600 QALYs
6	SALMONELLA in Complex Foods costs \$600 million and causes a loss of 2900 QALYs
7	NOROVIRUS in Complex Foods costs \$900 million and causes a loss of 2900 QALYs
8	SALMONELLA in Produce costs \$500 million and causes a loss of 2800 QALYs
9	TOXOPLASMA in Beef costs \$700 million and causes a loss of 2500 QALYs
10	SALMONELLA in Eggs costs \$400 million and causes a loss of 1900 QALYs

University of Florida researchers ranked the top-10 riskiest pathogen-food combinations by calculating short- and long-term costs due to foodborne illness, as well as loss of quality adjusted life years (QALYs), a standardized measure used in public health to assess pain, suffering, and other impacts to quality of life.

A new University of Florida Emerging Pathogens Institute study offers food safety officials a systematic way to identify both the pathogens and pathogen-food combinations that can lead to a high burden of disease, according to researchers.

“Ranking the Risks: The 10 Pathogen-Food Combinations with the Greatest Burden on Public Health,” the first report to focus on the comprehensive ranking of such data for the U.S., should allow food safety regulators to target public dollars toward the biggest food safety problems and find solutions to protect consumers. According to University researchers, consumers can also use the report, not as a top 10 list of foods to avoid, but as a reminder that many of the foods we eat every day can become contaminated.

Overall, according to the study, five pathogens are responsible for more than 90% of the total \$14 billion a year the U.S. spends on human disease: *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Toxoplasma gondii* and norovirus. *Salmonella* is the leading disease-causing bug overall, contaminating produce and multi-ingredient foods in addition

to poultry and eggs, costing the U.S. more than \$3 billion annually and taking up four spots on the report’s top 10 list.

According to the study, poultry contaminated with *Campylobacter* bacteria is the riskiest pathogen-food combination in the U.S., sickening more than 600,000 Americans at a cost of \$1.3 billion per year. *Salmonella* in poultry as the fourth-riskiest combination (costing the U.S. \$700 million per year), while *Salmonella* in eggs took the number 10 spot on the list (costing \$400 million annually). Poultry causes more foodborne disease than any other type of food, according to the analysis, costing the U.S. \$2.4 billion per year.

USPOULTRY donates \$25,000 to egg, hen research facility

The U.S. Poultry & Egg Association is donating \$25,000 to the Michigan State University’s new egg-laying hen research facility.

The new MSU facility will provide housing and rooms to conduct research on hens in conventional cages, cage-free aviary and enriched colony stages. The facility will allow researchers to measure performances and behavioral traits of hens using nests and perches at a variety of floor spacings per hen.

In addition to this donation, USPOULTRY’s research program has funded a \$72,600 project, entitled, “Enriched Colony Cages: Stocking Density on Laying Hen Well-Being,” that will be conducted at MSU in the new facilities.

US egg production up in April

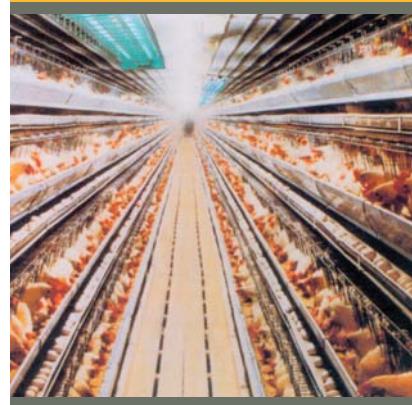
U.S. egg production totaled 7.61 billion during April 2011, up slightly from the same time in 2010, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s latest report.

Production included 6.56 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 987 million were broiler-type and 70 million were egg-type.

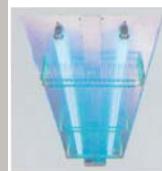
The total number of layers during April averaged 340 million, down slightly from 2010 numbers. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,236 eggs, up 1% from April 2010. All layers in the U.S. on May 1 totaled 339 million, including 281 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.93 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2011 totaled 43.4 million, down 9% from April 2010. Eggs in incubators totaled 40.8 million as of May 1, down 2% from the same time in 2010.

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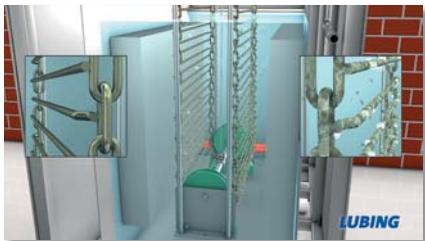
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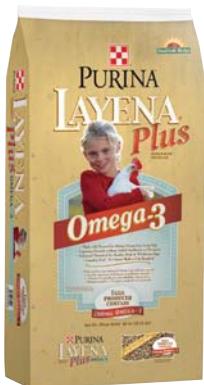
Lubing Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG cleaning unit



Lubing Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG offers the cleaning unit for egg transportation conveyor chains. The cleaning unit consists of a special cleaning basin and the deflection unit, which can be integrated directly into the conveyor system – even on existing installations. The ultrasound cleaning process works with hot water and the addition of a cleaning agent.

www.lubing.com

Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC Layena Plus Omega-3 layer feed



Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC offers Layena Plus Omega-3 feed for layers. The feed is specially formulated with added flaxseed to produce eggs with three times the Omega-3, according to the company.

It is formulated to produce 200mg Omega-3 per large egg and has a natural vegetarian formula with added vitamins, minerals and trace nutrients without added antibiotics or hormones.

www.purinamills.com

Merial VAXXITEK HVT + IBD vaccine

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www.merial.com

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www.feedlogic.com

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www.vermontsoap.com

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www.diversifiedimports.com

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www.farmerautomatic.com

Tetra Americana LLC Tetra Brown



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www.tetraamericana.com

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Alltech offers Mycosorb, an all-natural yeast-based product that reduces mycotoxin absorption in an animal. The product, according to the company, can alleviate the negative effects on both animal health and the contamination of food products. It contributed to Alltech's winning the Product Grand Prize for Hungarian Animal Breeding in April 2011.

www.alltech.com

Poet Nutrition Dakota Gold

Poet Nutrition offers Dakota Gold distillers dried grains. Recommended for all animal species, the company says characteristics of Dakota Gold

include uniform particle size, easier pelleting, high palatability, BPX for improved protein digestibility and enhanced flowability.

www.dakotagold.com

Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health Newhatch-C2

Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health offers Newhatch-C2 Newcastle disease vaccine. Newhatch is designed for the vaccination of healthy chickens at one day-of-age or older by coarse spray. It is supplied in 10 times 10,000 dose vials.

www.intervet.com

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www.cumberlandpoultry.com

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www.lyonusa.com

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www.mannapro.com

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fers Xcluder rodent and pest control fill fabric. Xcluder features stainless steel and poly-fiber technology, which the company says creates a permanent rust-proof, shrink-proof and chew-proof solution to keeping rodents and pests out of facilities. The product is also available in Xcluder Blocks that are sized for filling the gaps in corrugated metal buildings.

www.getxcluder.com

Evonik Degussa GmbH AMINONews

Evonik Degussa GmbH offers AMINONews. The company's customer publication is aimed at the feed and livestock production industries. The first edition

of the magazine focuses on sustainability and includes the latest research and developments in amino acids.

www.evonik.com

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