

Egg Industry

News for the Egg Industry Worldwide

WATT

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The farm bill: What's not in it matters most

By James C. Webster

The egg industry can be more enthusiastic about features that don't appear in the final 2008 farm bill than anything that became law.

The big victory for egg producers and others in animal agriculture – the bill has none of the animal welfare regulations that activist groups had been pushing.

Another plus: the final conference committee deleted language from the Senate bill that might have complicated grower-processor contract relationships.

The egg industry doesn't normally play a big role in farm bills, which focus mostly on crop support programs, but legislative maneuvering for the past year presented issues that demanded attention.

The first took the form of efforts launched in May 2007 by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to persuade the House Agriculture Committee to include a separate animal welfare title in the farm bill.

HSUS President Wayne Pacelle hoped that it would require USDA and military food purchasing programs to buy only cage-free eggs and meat and milk from farms that followed procedures that his group classifies as "humane" – including bans on forced molting and crates for veal calves and pregnant sows.

Pacelle's ideas never got any serious consideration in the agriculture committees and no serious attempt was made to add them when the bill was on the floor.



"Other than some minor laboratory animal provisions, there is no 'animal welfare' title, nothing that would outlaw modern, scientific production methods," says Howard Magwire, Washington representative of United Egg Producers (UEP). "We never saw any proposal float to the top, although we had heard rumors of some."

Grower contract 'protection'

He also was relieved that conferees dropped several features of the Senate-

passed bill that would have further regulated contracts between livestock and poultry growers and processors.

"We considered that a win," he said.

Although the contract provisions were directed mostly at pork and broilers, "they might have inadvertently brought a portion of our industry under the Packers and Stockyards Act. It would have had a negative effect on relationships with contract producers."

Although egg producers have not faced the same kind of controversies



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▶ The farm bill: What's not in it matters most |

that sometimes arise with broiler production, "our feeling is that it would create an extra burden on these relationships. This was a win for the small guys and our processors."

The final version dropped several provisions opposed by poultry companies to regulate production contracts. But it included one that allows associations of poultry growers to negotiate on behalf of their members and one that would allow contract growers to cancel a contract up to three business days after the contract is signed.

▶ Canadian minister, poultry lobby denounce Doha text

Canada's Conservative Party government and lobbies for its egg, poultry and milk producers have lashed out at the modalities draft text released in May in the World Trade Organization's Doha Round agriculture negotiations as a threat to their supply management regime.

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said Canada has serious concerns with some elements of the draft, especially its treatment of so-called "sensitive" products, "despite my direct intervention" with the agriculture negotiating committee chairman, New Zealand's Crawford Falconer.

"Canada firmly opposes proposals for any over quota tariff cuts or tariff quota expansion for sensitive products. This remains a fundamental and consistent element of Canada's negotiating position," he added.

"The proposals, if adopted, would destroy our farms by allowing Canada to be flooded with imported food," said Laurent Souigny, who chairs the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency.

The text would reduce the countries' ability to establish their own food policies, said Gyslain Loyer, chairman of Canadian Hatching Egg Producers. "Trade liberalization is not the solution to the food crisis — Canadian consumers have been spared from substantial increases in food prices observed in other countries in the past year," he said.

Mark Davies, head of the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency, was gratified that the government took "a strong stand in support of its farmers." He insisted that there be "no reductions in over-quota tariffs on dairy, poultry and egg imports and no increase in the minimum market access for these products."

▶ USDA to require more AI testing, OKs new tests

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed to increase the frequency of testing commercial poultry flocks for avian influenza (AI) to 90-day intervals from the current 180 days and increasing from two to four the number of approved AI tests.

The proposed changes, likely to be made final later this year after public comments are considered, would reflect advancements in the poultry industry, according to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The increased test frequency "will enhance U.S. flock health and help to maintain the U.S. classification of 'avian influenza clean' for chickens and turkeys," APHIS said. The new approved tests "can provide highly specific results quickly, making them extremely useful as screening tests for AI and as part of an initial state response and containment plan in the event of an outbreak," it added.

Positive test results would continue to be confirmed by federal reference laboratories and an official determination of a flock as positive for the H5 or H7 subtypes of AI would be made only by APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

APHIS also proposes to expand the U.S. "avian influenza clean" classification to include other breeding flocks such as ostrich and emus and add more detailed requirements for authorized laboratories. The new minimum requirements would include check-test proficiency, trained technicians, laboratory protocol, annual state site visit, service review every three years, reporting criteria and verification.

Two other USDA agencies have taken steps to intensify research and development in the campaign to control the spread of AI.

The Agricultural Research Service released the complete genetic coding sequences of 150 different AI viruses to widen scientific understanding of the virus and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) renewed the Avian Influenza Coordinated Agricultural Project (AICAP) with a three-year grant of \$5 million to the University of Maryland.

It is "a major milestone in avian influenza research," said David Suarez, research leader of the Exotic and Emerging Avian Viral Diseases Research Unit at the ARS Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory at Athens, Ga. "This sequence information, deciphered by our large team, will help researchers better understand virus biology and improve diagnostic tests for avian influenza viruses," he said.

The data was submitted to GenBank, a database maintained by the National Institutes of Health. Scientists at USDA agencies, University of Delaware, University of Georgia, Ohio State University and the University of Alaska collected the data, which was sequenced by SeqWright Corporation in Houston, Texas.

AICAP efforts began in 2005 at Maryland, involving specialists in epidemiology, basic research, diagnostics, vaccines and education in 17 states. CSREES said that in three years the continent-wide network studied ecological and biological

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The farm bill: What's not in it matters most |

A grow-out contract that contains a provision requiring the use of arbitration will have to “conspicuously disclose the right of the contract producer or grower, prior to entering the contract, to decline the requirement to use arbitration to resolve any controversy that may arise under the livestock or poultry contract.” However, growers and companies would have the right to seek arbitration after a controversy arises if both consent to it in writing.

Feed costs and ethanol

UEP would have preferred that the bill offer some relief from high feed costs but considered small victories a slight reduction in the tax subsidy to ethanol blenders and a promise of investment in cellulosic ethanol to relieve the pressure on corn prices.

“The thing that is hurting us is not the farm bill but the energy bill last year that stepped up the mandate for corn-based ethanol,” he said.

Magwire expressed regret that conferees dropped a Senate provision that would have granted specific protection of the confidentiality of information collected by USDA's National Animal Identification System. He said the industry would continue to rely on USDA's promises to prevent disclosure of the information, which might be used by animal rights activists to target poultry and livestock operations. “We did encourage the provision that would legislatively say the information is protected” and thus not vulnerable to a challenge in court, he said.

Poultry meat provisions

The bill also will require retail packages of poultry, red meat and several other food products to disclose their country of origin. It will take effect after USDA publishes the

—continued from page 3

characteristics of AI viruses isolated from wild birds, integrated research and education available to poultry producers, showed that quail can change and expand the host range of AI viruses and found that quail respiratory and intestinal tracts have human-like traits that could partially explain the emergence of AI strains with the capacity to infect humans.

Producers and veterinarians in 33 states have been trained in depopulation and composting of infected flocks, developed a testing component for rapid diagnosis and developed promising vaccines for mass immunization of birds.

regulation to implement it, likely later this year.

It also would allow, for the first time, interstate sale of poultry meat from a plant that is inspected by a state government rather than USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The compromise bill also creates a reporting requirement for a plant to notify USDA if it determines that adulterated or misbranded poultry meat entered the stream of commerce and was “reasonably likely to cause serious adverse health events or death.”

The language requires USDA-inspected poultry plants to prepare and maintain, in writing, a recall plan and any reassessments of their hazard analysis and critical control point plans and to have those plans and reassessments available to USDA inspectors.

The bill provides that USDA compensate growers, processors and state agencies the full cost of disease control and eradication measures. It was designed to ensure compensation for any owner or contract grower of poultry participating in the voluntary control program for low pathogenic avian influenza (AI) and payments to state agencies to cover their costs of AI control or eradication. **EI**

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INDUSTRY NEWS

WATT names Shane editor of EGG Industry

WATT announces the appointment of Dr. Simon Shane as editor of *Egg Industry*, effective July 1. Shane has worked closely with WATT for 30 years as a consultant and contributor to its poultry publications. In his new role, Shane is responsible for the content for *Egg Industry* and the Egg segments of WATTPoultry.com. He continues to contribute the weekly Shane Report, a commentary on WATTPoultry.com, and to WATT's other poultry magazines. Shane will continue to provide professional consulting services to clients in the areas of nutrition, disease prevention and management.

Shane completed a veterinary degree from the University of Pretoria, South Africa in 1964, a PhD in Poultry Nutrition from Cornell University and a Masters in Business Leadership. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and a diplomat of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians.

He is retired from the School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, where he was involved in teaching, research and service relating to epidemiology and poultry health from 1979 through 2001.

Shane holds appointments as an Adjunct Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Poultry Science at North Carolina University.

Without biofuel policies, corn prices drop 14 percent

Without ethanol tax credits and tariffs, corn prices on average would fall 14 percent compared to current support measures, according to a new study by the University of Missouri Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI). Tax credits, import tariffs and mandates on usage encourage increased production of biofuels, but so do rising oil prices, FAPRI says. The study

presents biofuel scenarios based on 500 random draws of possible weather, production and other market influences.

"The impact of biofuel policies depends not just on the policy but very much on the market context," says Pat Westhoff, FAPRI co-director. The 68-page report, an update of a report released in March, looks at biofuel provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, and the Energy Act of 2007. FAPRI examined 13 scenarios,

ranging from a pre-Farm-Bill scenario that keeps current policies in place to scenarios that eliminate biofuel tax credits, tariffs and use mandates.

"Mandates have little market impact when high petroleum prices contribute to high biofuel prices and production levels," Westhoff says. "On the other hand, mandates can be important when petroleum prices are low or crop supplies are reduced." **EI**



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Composting manure boosts bottom line

Average payback period for in-house composting is only 17 months including interest, overhead, depreciation and variable expenses.

By Dr. Simon M. Shane

Increasing environmental concerns and the desire to optimize profitability from egg production has stimulated recent interest in composting manure as a value-added product.

The volume of manure and nutrient composition from hybrid Leghorn strains are shown in Table 1 and are based on studies conducted at the Pennsylvania State University during 1996 on hens and in 1997 on pullets. The values for hens include averages for

flocks as determined by the University of Georgia in 2004.

Data derived from high-rise houses and from lagoons suggests that a complex of one million hens in a multi-age in-line unit together with 300,000 pullets will produce 15,000 tons of manure over 52 weeks with a moisture content averaging 60 percent. In the process of composting, manure should be dried to a moisture content of 25 percent, representing a theoretical mass of 10,000 tons.

the cellulose would produce 20,000 tons of saleable product each year.

There are a number of commercial composting systems available. In principle, manure is removed regularly from houses and deposited in windrows in a covered shed. A composter runs along the rows at one- to three-day intervals, agitating, mixing and redistributing product in each row. A combination of anaerobic fermentation within the pile and some aerobic fermentation at the surface increases temperature

above 145 F, often achieving 155 F. Maintaining a minimum of 138 F for 36 hours will effectively destroy aerobic bacteria including E.coli and Salmonella spp. The duration of composting varies according to the moisture content of manure, which should be held at a level greater than 40 percent during the early phase of the composting process, the proportion of carbon additive, the frequency of turning and efficiency of the windrow composter.

Commercial composting systems

Salmet - The Salmet (www.salmet.com) composting system is widely used in Europe and a number of installations are in operation in the United States and Canada. A typical system for one million hens comprises three composting sheds 100 feet x 460 feet. Each shed has a single composter which processes two windrows each day on a three-day cycle. Manure is transported from houses by a conveyor and is deposited at the end of a selected row at approximately three-day intervals in rotation. Composters traverse the

TABLE 1. MANURE AND NUTRIENT COMPOSITION FROM HYBRID LEGHORN STRAINS

Parameter	Feed Consumed (Lbs)	Manure Produced (Lbs)	Total N Lbs/ton	Phosphate Lbs/ton	Potassium Lbs/ton	Calcium Lbs/ton
Pullets ¹ 0 - 18 weeks	13.45 ± 1.04	8.82 ± 3.0	0.15 ± 0.04	0.17 ± 0.03	0.01 ± 0.001	0.15 ± 0.05
Hens ² 52 wk period	79.60 ± 5.5	27.76 ± 4.8	0.54 ± 0.21	0.79 ± 0.16	0.44 ± 0.07	1.75 ± 0.36

¹ Five flocks (mean, 63,000 pullets) Patterson & Lorenz (1996), ² Eight flocks (mean, 110,000 hens, 1st & 2nd cycles) Patterson & Lorenz (1997)

Feed intake, manure production and nutrient composition of hybrid leghorn egg-producing strains.

TABLE 2. NUTRIENT COMPOSITION OF MANURE FROM EGG PRODUCTION FLOCKS

Product	Total N	Ammonium NH ₄	Phosphorus P ₂ O ₅	Potassium K ₂ O	Calcium Ca
High-rise at Cleanout	40	18	94	58	86
Lagoon Sludge	26	8	92	13	71
Lagoon Effluent	62	42	59	37	35

From Ritz & Merka (2004)

The nutrient composition of manure from hybrid leghorn laying hens (pounds per ton).

first and second cycle flocks adjusted to a 52-week period. Nutrient composition is based on average values from replicate samples over the production cycle for hens and from the 18-week growing period for pullets.

Table 2 indicates the nutrient composition of manure from egg production

A source of carbon in the form of woodchips, straw or stubble must be added to facilitate composting. Allowing a 30 percent addition rate in relation to the volume of raw manure, 4,500 tons of cellulosic material would be required each year. It is calculated that the manure from one million hens plus

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Composting manure boosts bottom line

windrows on metal rails placed on raised concrete forms. The front 110 feet of the house has a concrete floor and an external pad. A special trailer is used to move the composters among the six windrows. The front 100 feet of each of the buildings is clad in metal with the remaining 350 feet constructed similar to a plastic greenhouse. Fans are installed to remove excess moisture released from the composting manure. Salmet claims rapid composting using their system with conversion of manure into a saleable product within two to three weeks.

Farmer Automatic - Farmer Automatic of America (www.farmerautomatic.com) markets the CompostCat for high rise houses. This unit is self-propelled and can move between houses. Each of the four wheels, with rubber tires, is driven by a hy-

drostatic system with planetary drive units in the torque hubs. This allows for maneuverability in the area under the cage rows. The pick-up head can be controlled by the operator according to the height of the windrow. A center auger agitates material which is conveyed through the center of the machine onto a rear discharge belt. This layers the material undergoing composting onto the windrow. One Farmer Automatic composter can service a one-million hen complex. It requires approximately 50 to 60 minutes to turn a windrow up to 8 feet wide by 3 feet high with a suggested frequency of 3 to 5 days. The manufacturers claim to have sold 30 units in North America.

Farm examples

A large integrator in the Midwest with approximately two

TABLE 3. PROJECTED RETURN FOR IN-HOUSE COMPOSTING

Manure Output 1 million hens and 300 pullets equivalent to 15,200 tons/annum (with 60% moisture)

Output at 25% moisture	=	10,000 tons
Unit Revenue	=	\$35/ton in bulk
Annual Income	=	\$350,000
Capital Cost of Composter and elevator	=	\$70,000
Storage shed (20,000 ft ² @ \$4 ft ²)	=	\$80,000
Capital invested	=	\$150,000
Annual Fixed Costs of Operation		
Interest @ 7%		\$10,500
Depreciation		
Equipment @ 20%		\$14,000
Building @ 10%		\$8,000
Management & Overhead		\$2,000
Subtotal		\$34,500
Annual Variable Costs of Operation		
Labor, 1 unit @ \$15/hour 8/365		\$43,800
Fuel contingency		\$20,000
Maintenance @ 10% of equipment cost		\$7,000
Subtotal		\$70,800
Annual Cost		\$105,300
Annual Contribution		\$244,700
		plus \$20,000 reduction in fly suppression
Volume of egg production		24.3 million dozen
Offset attributed to composting		1.09 cents/dozen

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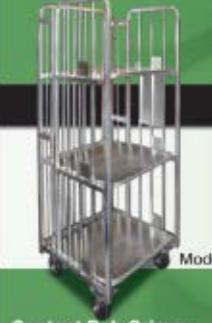
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million hens operates a composting plant comprising two buildings approximately 500 feet x 70 feet, each with four bays. A U.S.-manufactured Frontier-F Series Composter (www.frontierindustrial.net) turns the mixture of manure and a carbon source to achieve optimal composting. This system requires one to two months to obtain a uniform product marketed widely for use on golf course greens, sports fields, and lawns.

The availability of natural gas on the farm has enabled a large egg producer in a Western state to develop both drying and composting systems. Manure is collected from beneath cages by scrapers and is transferred from the house to trucks using augers installed at the end of every unit. Each day waste is transferred to a custom-built dryer similar to an alfalfa dehydrating plant. The gas-fired unit produces dried poultry waste of uniform consistency which is then bagged or sold in bulk. The company also operates a composting plant that requires manure to be mixed with a carbon source and is turned using a custom-constructed composter operating over a series of concrete pads. Although the company converts and distributes most of the manure produced by flocks in the form of dried poultry waste, a significant proportion is sold to nurseries and retail outlets for landscaping, gardens, and potted plants.,

Positive economics

Table 3 depicts capital and operating costs for conversion of poultry manure to compost using a dedicated on-site plant. A one-million hen operation could generate an annual revenue of \$525,000 given an output of 15,000 tons of product, sold in bulk at \$35/ton. With a total cost of \$431,500 annually and allowing a saving of \$20,000 for fly control, the contribution of \$113,000 per year would represent an offset of up to 0.47cents per dozen on an annual throughput of 24.3 million dozen eggs.

A hypothetical one-million hen operation could generate a contribution of \$264,700 annually representing a 1.09 cent per dozen reduction in production cost.

With increased feed costs and environmental restraints, U.S. producers should consider composting manure to reclaim as much value as possible from in-line operations. Capital expenditure for an in-house composter suitable for high rise houses generates a more favorable contribution (\$264,700 annually or 1.09 cents per dozen) compared to a free-standing composting plant suitable for complexes with compact ma-

nure belt batteries (\$113,000 annually or 0.47 cents per dozen). The pay-back period for in-house composting is 17 months taking into account interest, overhead, depreciation and variable expenses.

■

Editor's Note: Representatives of egg production operations interviewed for this article requested anonymity and accordingly their operations have not been identified.

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Egg producers rally in hopes of defeating California ballot initiative

Up to \$50 million will be needed to successfully fight the issue.

Dominating discussions at the United Egg Producers (UEP) annual legislative meeting was one topic: the ballot initiative on cages that will happen in California this November. Animal rights activists have managed to obtain the required number of signatures to place a referendum on the November ballot that would essentially end the use of cages for layers in that state within a few years.

Speakers discussed throughout the UEP meetings that passage of this referendum would be a major blow to the U.S. egg industry. In the past, the egg industry has been successful in fending off efforts by activists to create this type of political maneuvering to disrupt the way eggs are produced. The California ballot will be the first time the issue has gone to voters. In previous attempts, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has tried and been defeated to put

it on the ballot in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Arizona and Delaware. HSUS is now trying now to establish legislation in Colorado and Washington state.

UEP and the industry have enlisted the services of the UEP public relations firm, Golin Harris, to help address the issue. It is estimated up to \$50 million will be needed to successfully fight this issue. Many organizations--as well as individuals--are contributing to this cause. Producers have formed the Public Awareness Project Committee specifically for this reason and will be meeting regularly to work on it. UEP Chairman Gary West, himself a California egg producer, emphasized the fact there are only five months remaining until the vote on the referendum.

At the Board of Directors meeting, Dolph Baker, Chairman of the Public Awareness Project, spoke of the need to raise money fast and get to work on educating the voters. European problems that resulted from a similar ban on cages were again pointed out and it was discussed that there are disruptions in the European egg industry that will not be solved or go away.

Pleas for funds were also made by Debbie Murdock, head of the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association (PEPA), and Kurt Allen, current chairman of that organization. Generous pledges have been coming from many different sources throughout the industry and many more are expected. Gene Gregory, president and CEO of UEP, summed up this major industry concern by stating that HSUS has never faced such a concerted effort by anyone like the egg industry in the United States. The industry must continue the "must win" attitude, he said. It is not entirely about the California egg business, Gregory added but about the industry's national survival.

American Humane Association

During the Animal Welfare Committee meeting, it was announced that a working relationship has been established between UEP and the American Humane Association (AHA). The Denver-based AHA, established 131 years ago, is dedicated to protecting both children and animals. AHA also has animal welfare audits and UEP will recognize them, with some additional criteria, as meeting UEP science-based standards.

Actually, the AHA participated in the original UEP science-based guideline discussions in the late 1990s. Gene

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Gregory commented that UEP is pleased to be working again with AHA and regards them as one of the most credible animal welfare organizations in the country.

Environmental projects

Consultant Tom Hebert, executive vice president, Ogilvy Government Relations and UEP environmental consultant, and Chad Gregory, UEP executive vice president, outlined the progress being made on environmental projects. The National Air Emissions Monitoring Study through the Purdue Ag Air Quality Lab is progressing and scientists are studying egg, pork, chicken and milk operations throughout the country. A final report is due at the end of 2009. Several other issues were discussed at the environmental meeting and later reported at the board of directors meeting. Also, rules and regulations are expected in the future concerning rodenticides, air pollution, climate change and other environmental issues.

Cage-free guidelines

In addition to the fund-raising efforts and the fight that is coming soon in the California initiative, many other concerns were brought to the attention of the UEP Board. Mark Oldenkamp, Chairman of the Animal Welfare Committee, discussed the self-assessment documents that producers of non-cage layers are currently required to submit by UEP. Cage-free production is not yet governed by guidelines, but this type of production has proven to be variable in space allocation and the self-assessment will help to determine what is needed for compliance to the UEP Guidelines.

Cliff Lillywhite, Food Safety Committee chairman, again brought up the California initiative. He reminded the group that food safety should be an important part of the educational process for California voters. The way eggs are cur-

rently produced is the best method to keep them safe, he said, and any changes could create problems. In addition, the committee encouraged producers to participate in the USDA's LPAI (low pathogenicity avian influenza) Plan for prevention of avian influenza.

During discussion and commentary at the UEP meeting it was stated that the Farm Bill is not generally negative to the egg industry. Many of the suggestions made by the egg industry were approved and are part of the bill.

Other issues from the Government Relations Committee include ethanol pros and cons, food safety rules proposed, school lunch and breakfast programs and the California referendum situation. It was approved that UEP support AEB's recommendation that the assessment rate be raised to 15 cents per case.

Position papers

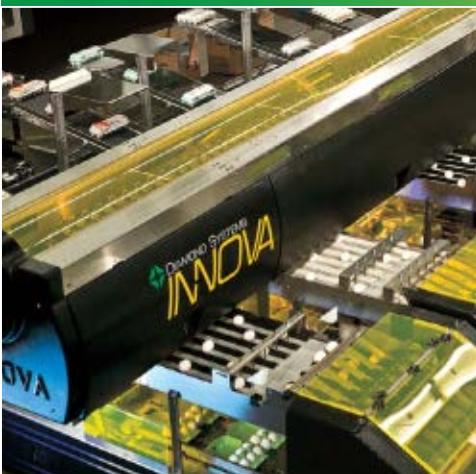
Four position papers were developed by UEP and were taken by producers to their legislators on Capitol Hill:

1. Biofuels policy hurts egg producers. UEP advocates change in ethanol policy and resulting food price increases. The paper points out the increasing cost of corn and soybean meal and how it affects the cost of egg output.

2. Preparations for HPAI. Ask Congress to support efforts by the industry to include their science-based plans for prevention and outbreak preparation in the USDA plan.

3. Environmental issues. Oppose legislation that would expand EPA's authority. Support of EPA's proposed rule saying poultry and livestock structures do not have to report ammonia release. Oppose efforts to reverse it legislatively.

4. Immigration Reform. Encourage Congress to pass legislation to secure America's borders. Be sure agriculture plays an important role in formulating a workable program. Support comprehensive immigration reform, as agriculture needs it. **EI**



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Asia to lead in both production and consumption to 2015

Supply and demand in North America and Europe expected to grow slowly

By Terry Evans

World demand for hen eggs by 2015 will be 12 million metric tons more than in 2005, and equate with a production of 70.9mt, ac-

of production could also be influenced by at least three other key factors: outbreaks of avian influenza, higher feed costs because of the boom in bioenergy production, and political decisions such as the banning of conventional cages in the European Union (EU).

Windhorst's approach to forecasting future egg demand is based on country-level socio-economic data: natural population increases, population age structure, degree of urbanisation, and projections of development of per capita national income.

'Remarkable' growth in Asian demand

In 2007, more than 60 percent of the global population lived in Asia. Per-capita and total egg consumption will increase in most Asian countries because of an expanding middle class with a growing buying power.

Because of the high population in Asia, even a slight increase in per-capita consumption will lead to a remarkable growth in total egg uptake.

Slow rise in Africa

In Africa, it is expected that egg consumption will remain fairly low compared to other continents. Demand here may not grow as fast as the population because of a low per-capita GNI, slow economic growth and political instability

in many countries south of the Sahara.

Negligible increase in Europe

With 733 million people, Europe is ranked third among the continents, and it is the only one with negative population growth. Egg consumption in most of the EU-15 member states will remain fairly stable over the next decade, whereas it may increase considerably in some of the new EU member states because of the growing buying power in the new middle class. For Europe as a whole, only a minor additional demand can be expected because of the already high per-capita consumption and a decreasing population.

Prospect of considerable growth in Latin America

In 2007, about 52 percent of the 569 million inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean lived in only two countries – Brazil and Mexico. In 2015, about 70 million more people will live in this subcontinent. Outside of Africa and

Asia, this region has the lowest per-capita national income. However, a high rate of growth in the gross domestic product in several countries in this region will lead to an increase in buying power and higher consumption. Because of the expected popu-

TABLE 1. PROSPECTS OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN 2005 AND 2015 (MILLIONS)

Continent	2005	2010	2015	Change	
				absolute	%
Africa	922	1032	1149	227	24.6
Asia	3938	4166	4389	451	11.5
Europe	731	730	727	-4	-0.5
North America	332	349	364	32	9.6
Latin America*	558	594	628	70	12.5
Oceania	33	35	37	4	12.1
World**	6515	6907	7295	780	12.0

* Latin America includes Caribbean, ** Sum may not add up due to rounding
Source: United Nations: World Population Prospects

Human population is expected to rise by 780 million (12 percent) by 2015.

According to the International Egg Commission's statistical analyst, Professor Hans-Wilhelm Windhorst. Among the key predictions are that about two-thirds of additional demand will come from Asia, 12 percent from Africa and 11 percent from Latin America. While these regions will expand their contribution to global production, North America and Europe will lose market share. North American egg production is expected to increase less than 2 percent, Europe, a little over 3 percent, while Asia is projected to increase output by 22 percent.

Risk factors

These projections have been based on likely trends. However, projected levels

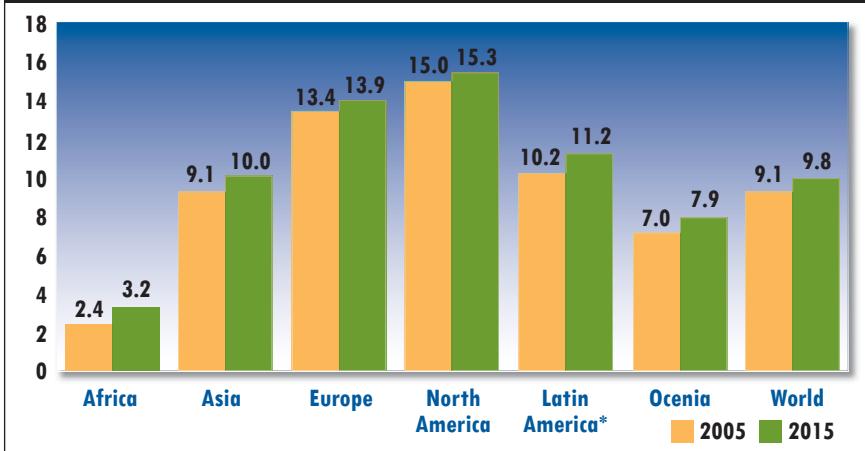
TABLE 2. PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT IN GLOBAL HEN EGG PRODUCTION (2005 & 2015; '000t)

	Hen egg production ('000t)	
	2005	2015
Africa	2,203	3,683
Asia	35,917	43,992
Europe	9,823	10,135
North America	4,985	5,751
Latin America*	5,711	7,024
Oceania	232	292
World	58,871	70,877

* Latin America includes Caribbean, Sources: own calculations, FAO, IEC 2007

Asia will lead the world in terms of volume and rate of increase by 2015.

PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT IN PER-CAPITA EGG CONSUMPTION (2005 & 2015; KG/PERSON/YEAR)



* Latin America includes Caribbean, Source: FAO database; own projections

Average consumption will rise by 700g between 2005 and 2015.

lation development and a growing buying power of an expanding middle class, egg demand will increase considerably in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Little growth expected in North America

About 5 percent of the global population lived in the United States and Canada in 2007. “Because egg consumption is already relatively high in both these countries, low growth can be expected in spite of the efforts to convince consumers of the high nutritional value of eggs,” says Windhorst. In North America, only a slow growth of per-capita consumption can be expected. Additional demand will mainly be a consequence of the natural population increase and immigration.

More information
For the full report on Professor Windhorst’s paper, go to www.WATTpoultry.com/Plicereport08.aspx

Minor upward trend in Oceania

With 35 million inhabitants, Oceania contributed only 0.5 percent to the global population in 2007. Compared to Europe and North America, egg consumption in Oceania is still quite low. However, it is expected to increase, in particular in countries outside Australia and New Zealand as a result of a growing buying power.

Only minor changes in total uptake

are expected for Oceania because of the comparatively low population and only moderate economic growth rates.

Global trends

Global total egg production is predicted to rise from just under 59mt in 2005 to almost 71mt in 2015. More-or-less continuous growth in per-capita egg consumption is expected until 2015. However, whereas global per-capita consumption increased by 1.6kg between 1995 and 2005, it is predicted to grow by only 700g or 7.7 percent by 2015. This will, however, not be a homogeneous regional growth. The highest absolute increase is expected for Latin America and the Caribbean with 1kg, Oceania and Asia with 900g, and Africa with 800g. In North America and Europe, the growth rate will be considerably lower with 300g and 500g, respectively.

Projections for the global total for 2015 point to an additional demand of 12mt compared to 2005. On the country level, China shows the highest additional demand with over 6mt, followed by India, United States, Brazil, Indonesia and Turkey.

EI
Based on an International Egg Commission report, a projection of the regional development of egg production until 2015 by Professor Hans-Wilhelm Windhorst, IEC’s statistical analyst.

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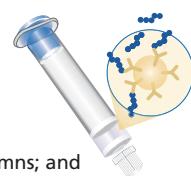
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Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis, Ind. Details from Carol Hein, Center for Food Integrity, Phone (816) 880-5360, E-mail Carol.hein@foodintegrity.org, Website www.foodintegrity.org.

10: Delmarva Poultry Conference

Sponsored by the University of Delaware and the University of Maryland. Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, Md. Details from Jennifer Timmons; Phone (410) 742-8788; Email mdchick@umd.edu.

17-18: Poultry Production and Health Seminar

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

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

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

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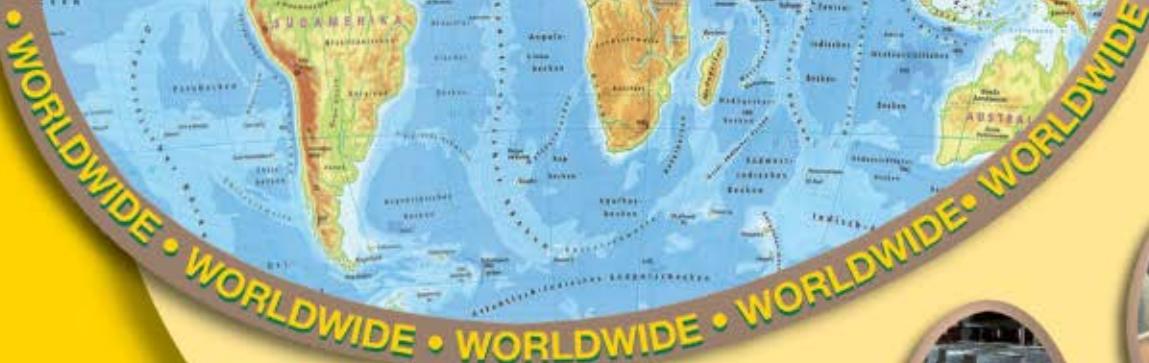
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