



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1520-6122

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 1999
VOL. 46 NO. 77

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were unchanged to sharply lower throughout the country. The market tone ranged steady to weak, and trade sentiment was usually cautious. Retail demand was generally light to no better than moderate, instances good for the occasional promotion. Supplies of all sizes were at least adequate to fully adequate, and the lighter weights were often in the longest position. However, brown egg supplies remained limited. Breaking stock supplies were at least adequate from regular sources, and demand for additional product was often non-existent as breakers worked to reduce long inventories. Light type hens were fully adequate to ample for immediate needs.

NORTH ATLANTIC In Philadelphia, prices were unchanged to 2.5 cents lower for extra large and large and unchanged to 4.5 cents lower for mediums. In New England, prices were 3 cents lower for extra large and large and unchanged on the balance. In Boston, prices were unchanged. The market tone was steady to barely steady and attempting to adjust. Demand was light to moderate, best where items were featured. Supplies were closely balanced for brown eggs and available for white eggs. Breaking stock offerings were ample for the light demand. Light type hens were sufficient for slaughter requirements.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady. Demand into all outlets was light to moderate. Supplies were available for all sizes.

MIDWEST Prices were 2 to 6 cents lower for the larger sizes and 5 to 6 cents lower for mediums in Detroit and major Ohio and Wisconsin cities. Prices in Chicago and to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin were unchanged. Trade sentiment was in a full range from steady to weak. Cartoned egg sales were slow to good, mostly moderate, with best interest where features were planned or in progress. Distributive movement was light to moderate. Supplies continued adequate to fully adequate with the lighter weights in the longest position. Nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were at least adequate to occasionally burdensome for current processor needs. Breakers working to reduce inventories and currently out of the market. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak.

CHICAGO Prices unchanged on all sizes. The undertone steady to barely steady. Retail and food service demand moderate. Supplies adequate for trade needs.

SOUTHERN In Atlanta and Florida, prices were lower on all sizes. Elsewhere, prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally cautious entering the week. Demand was mostly fair to no better than moderate, with best interest usually centering around the occasional retail feature. Supplies of all sizes were more than adequate for current needs. However, the availability of brown eggs was usually limited. The average price on Grade A or better white cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers in the Southern region for the week ending September 24, 1999, was 56.82 cents, unchanged from the week before, and 18.42 cents less than the same week last year. Breaking stock supplies adequate for the light demand, and increased offerings of lighter weight product was noted. Spent hen availability was fully adequate to ample for immediate slaughter needs.

WESTERN Prices 4 cents lower on all sizes throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 12% higher than last Monday with California up 12% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 10%. Retailer demand light to moderate. Offerings fully adequate.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| | EXTRA LARGE | LARGE | MEDIUM |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| NORTHEAST CITIES | | | |
| Boston (Brown) | 101-103 | 91-93 | 56-58 |
| New York | 61-63 | 58-61 | 37-40 |
| Philadelphia | 59-63.5 | 57-61.5 | 36-39.5 |
| SOUTHERN CITIES | | | |
| Atlanta (1) (2) | 48-49 | 46.5-48 | 29-30 |
| Jackson (1) | 60-61 | 55-56 | 38-39 |
| Major Louisiana Cities (1) | 57-68 | 52-66 | 35-49 |
| MIDWEST CITIES | | | |
| Chicago | 48-53 | 47-52 | 29-34 |
| Detroit (2) | 45-48 | 44-47 | 25-28 |
| Major Ohio Cities (2) | 46-52.5 | 45-51 | 26-32 |
| Major Wisconsin Cities | 49-57 | 47-54 | 29-36 |
| WESTERN CITIES | | | |
| Houston (1) | 63-65 | 59-60 | 41-43 |
| California(Grade AA)(1)(3) | 83 | 75 | 60 |

(1) - Prices reported weekly
(2) - Delivered Warehouse
(3) - Reported Invoice prices

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices 4 cents lower on all sizes. The California inventory was 12% higher than last Monday. Retailer demand light to moderate. Offerings fully adequate. Small invoice price 40. Ads in Northern California: large dozen 79-139.

PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| | RANGE |
|-------------|-------|
| JUMBO | 106 |
| EXTRA LARGE | 83 |
| LARGE | 75 |
| MEDIUM | 60 |

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | | NORTHERN CALIFORNIA | |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| | RANGE | | RANGE |
| JUMBO | 229-289 | JUMBO | 235-269 |
| EXTRA LARGE | 219-279 | EXTRA LARGE | 205-249 |
| LARGE | 179-209 | LARGE | 169-219 |
| MEDIUM | 159-205 | MEDIUM | 149-189 |

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending September 24, 1999 will increase by 0 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending September 17, 1999 were 285,167 cases which was 22 percent below the prior week and 5 percent above estimates.

| | CARTONED | LOOSE | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Cases purchased present week..... | 249,566 | 35,601 | 285,167 |

% change from the prior week..... +26 +1 +22
 Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 17 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices were unchanged. Offerings were at least adequate to occasionally burdensome for current needs. Breakers were working to reduce long inventories and had stepped away from the market at the current time. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak.
 PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| | RANGE | MOSTLY |
|----------------------|-------|--------|
| NEST RUN | 26-30 | 26-28 |
| CHECKS & UNDERGRADES | 11-13 | 12 |

CENTRAL STATES AREA:
 AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN REPORT Majority trading was unchanged to slightly lower when compared to a week earlier. Offerings were fully adequate to ample. Demand was at best fair as processing schedules were reported as being full. The undertone was no better than steady.
 HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
 FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 27-SEP-99

| | RANGE CENTS/LB. | MAJORITY | WTD AVG |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING | 7-17 | 9.5-14.5 | 11.79 |
| AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | |
| FOB PLANT | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | |

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN REPORT Trading levels were lower compared to the past week. Demand was light to moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent heavy fowl. Finished sales were fair with current product fully adequate for needs. Schedules were at or near capacity. Trade sentiment was steady at best.
 HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 LBS AND UP) *
 FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 27-SEP-99

| | RANGE CENTS/LB. | MAJORITY | WTD AVG |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING | 8-19.5 | 11-13 | 12.04 |

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- AM Sep 27, 1999
 STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/
 (30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

| | | NO | SO | SO | 5-Area | |
|----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| | Northeast | CENT | CENT | Atl | Pacific | |
| Jumbo | Curr Wk | 8.1 | 10.2 | 4.7 | 8.4 | 40.0 |
| | Change | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 11% |
| Ex Lge | Curr Wk | 27.4 | 20.2 | 9.8 | 24.2 | 99.3 |
| | Change | 3.9 | -4.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1% |
| Large | Curr Wk | 52.6 | 51.1 | 54.7 | 68.0 | 300.0 |
| | Change | 12.8 | -2.8 | -0.1 | 3.8 | 6% |
| Medium | Curr Wk | 12.3 | 26.9 | 15.8 | 25.1 | 104.2 |
| | Change | -5.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.1 | -2% |
| Small | Curr Wk | 5.7 | 6.4 | 1.9 | 6.9 | 29.0 |
| | Change | -0.7 | -1.4 | -1.0 | 0.3 | -7% |
| Misc | Curr Wk | 9.2 | 14.2 | 7.8 | 11.4 | 49.9 |
| | Change | -1.7 | -0.1 | -4.6 | 0.4 | -6% |
| Ungraded | Curr Wk | 33.1 | 75.4 | 14.5 | 23.2 | 199.6 |
| | Change | 3.7 | -5.4 | 4.3 | 1.7 | 7% |
| Total | Curr Wk | 148.4 | 204.4 | 109.2 | 167.2 | 822.0 |
| Percent | Change | 10% | -6% | 1% | 5% | 4% |

| TOTAL | Number of Cases | Percent Change | Number of Cooperators |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Shell Egg | 822.0 | 4% | 165 |
| Shell Egg Breaking Stock | 482.9 | -2% | 38 |
| Total Shell Egg | 1304.9 | 2% | 203 |

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 165 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

CANADIAN EGGS

MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 06, 1999

| GRADE A | XLARGE | LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|---------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | 161 | 157.9 | 148.9 | 107.9 |

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 06, 1999 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

| GRADE A | XLARGE | LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|---------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | 125 | 125 | 115 | 75 |

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES— DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 09/24/99

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| CURRENT LOADS | 14.50 | FUTURE LOADS | 39.00 | TOTAL LOADS | 53.50 |
|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|

| CLASS | ORG | SE | | NE | | MW | | LOADS | CLASS | ORG | SC | | NW | | SW | | LOADS |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| | | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | | | | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | | |
| GNR W 1 | 34.00 | 33.50 | 35.00 | 36.50 | — | — | 19.00 | | GL W XL | 35.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 43.38 | 2.00 |
| GNR W 4 | — | — | — | — | 19.50 | 22.00 | 2.00 | | GL W LG | — | — | — | 48.00 | — | — | — | .50 |
| GNR BR 1 | — | — | 71.00 | 72.00 | — | — | 1.00 | | GL W MD | 21.00 | — | — | 28.00 | — | 26.00 | 5.50 | |
| GL W XL | — | — | — | 42.00 | 38.00 | — | 3.50 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL W LG | — | — | — | 39.50 | 37.00 | — | 5.50 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL W MD | — | — | — | — | 18.00 | — | 3.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL W SM | — | — | 12.00 | 14.00 | — | — | 1.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 48 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 39 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4.00 | | | | | | | | | | |

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES— WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 09/20/99 - 09/24/99

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|--------|
| CURRENT LOADS | 121.00 | FUTURE LOADS | 69.50 | TOTAL LOADS | 190.50 |
|----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|--------|

| CLASS | ORG | SE | | NE | | MW | | LOADS | CLASS | ORG | SC | | NW | | SW | | LOADS |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | | | | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | | |
| GNR W 1 | 36.00 | 33.38 | 36.67 | 38.17 | 28.00 | — | 31.00 | | GNR W 1 | — | 35.64 | — | — | — | — | — | 10.00 |
| GNR W 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 | | GNR W 4 | — | 25.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 |
| GNR W 4 | — | — | 17.00 | — | 19.25 | 21.31 | 5.00 | | GNR BR 1 | 77.00 | 79.50 | — | — | — | — | — | 2.00 |
| GNR BR 1 | — | 80.15 | 71.64 | 71.50 | — | — | 8.25 | | GL W XL | 35.00 | 37.00 | — | — | — | — | 43.68 | 6.50 |
| GL W XL | — | — | 48.00 | 45.00 | 40.66 | 41.00 | 19.50 | | GL W LG | 38.00 | 36.00 | — | 48.00 | — | — | 42.00 | 5.00 |
| GL W LG | 39.00 | 39.00 | 45.00 | 43.17 | 34.61 | — | 12.50 | | GL W MD | 21.00 | — | — | 28.00 | 32.00 | 27.46 | 9.25 | |
| GL W MD | — | — | 18.00 | 19.33 | 20.06 | 21.00 | 18.50 | | GL W SM | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | .50 |
| GL W SM | 15.22 | 16.83 | 13.00 | 15.17 | — | — | 5.75 | | NRBS - 48 | 27.50 | 29.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 14.00 |
| GL BR LG | — | 74.00 | 69.00 | — | — | — | 1.00 | | NRBS - 42 | — | 25.50 | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 |
| GL BR MD | 15.00 | 17.33 | — | — | — | — | .75 | | NRBS - 39 | — | 15.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 |
| GL BR SM | 15.00 | 17.75 | — | — | — | — | .50 | | NRBS - 36 | — | 17.33 | — | — | — | — | — | 3.00 |
| NRBS - 48 | — | 34.29 | 31.00 | — | 30.00 | 29.10 | 36.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 49 | — | — | — | — | — | 25.00 | 1.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 42 | 12.25 | 13.25 | 18.75 | — | 20.75 | 23.29 | 11.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 39 | — | — | 11.92 | — | 12.00 | 17.09 | 13.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 36 | — | — | 10.00 | — | 13.67 | 13.00 | 4.00 | | | | | | | | | | |

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

NUMBER OF CASES OF EGGS SHIPPED TO CALIFORNIA 9/12/99 - 9/18/99**Origin**

| State | AZ | CO | IA | MN | MO | OH | OR | UT | WA | TOTAL |
|-----------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| N. CA | - | - | 775 | - | - | - | 3,336 | 3315 | - | 7,426 |
| C. CA | - | - | 2,600 | - | - | - | - | - | 850 | 3,450 |
| S. CA | 750 | 4,423 | 6,140 | 1,515 | 3,260 | 3,600 | - | 850 | 750 | 21,288 |
| TTL STATE | 750 | 4,423 | 9,515 | 1,515 | 3,260 | 3,600 | 3,336 | 4,165 | 1,600 | 32,164 |

SHIPPED TO MILITARY: 0

NEW ENGLAND

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| JUMBO | EX-LARGE | LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|---------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 127-130 | 79-82 | 69-72 | 37-40 | 8-11 |

DETROIT EGGS

PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| JUMBO | EX-LARGE | LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|-------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 53-56 | 44-50 | 42-47 | 23-28 | 14-18 |

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|-------|--------|-------|
| 28-30 | 11-13 | 5-7 |

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|-------|--------|-------|
| 64.13 | 46.35 | 31.85 |

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

| ON HAND | 9/20/99 | 9/13/99 | 9/21/98 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|
| PACIFIC COAST | 42 | 295 | 14 |
| LOS ANGELES | 0 | 253 | 14 |

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS PRICES DELIVERED TO RETAILERS, GRADE A STORE DOOR September 23, 1999:

| | CARTONS | WTG AVG |
|----------|---------|---------|
| EX-LARGE | 149-155 | 153.45 |
| LARGE | 143-150 | 148.24 |
| MEDIUM | 124-135 | 132.41 |
| SMALL | 105-109 | 106.29 |

Receipts from the mainland: 9/12/99-9/18/99
30-dozen cases 3,083

Receipts from the mainland: 9/05/99-9/11/99
30-dozen cases 4,885

**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS,
POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Washington, DC | Voice | (202)720-6911 | Grover T. Hunter |
| | Fax | (202)720-2403 | (Chief) |
| Atlanta, GA | Voice | (404)562-5850 | Johnny Freeman |
| | Fax | (404)562-5875 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Recorded | (404)562-5856 | |
| Jackson, MS | Voice | (601)965-4662 | Gary Brown |
| | Fax | (601)965-4661 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| Des Moines, IA | Voice | (515)284-4471 | Mary L. Adkins |
| | Fax | (515)284-4468 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Recorded | (515)284-4545 | |
| Bell, CA | Voice | (323)269-4154 | Jim Derby |
| | Fax | (323)269-5926 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Recorded | (323)260-4676 | |