



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1520-6122

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2000
VOL. 47 NO. 13

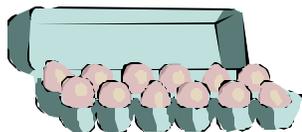
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were mostly sharply higher to occasionally unchanged throughout the country. The market tone was generally steady at current price levels. Demand was mixed in a full range, light to fairly good at times, with best movement centering around the scattered feature interest. Supplies of the larger sizes were adequate to balanced. The medium and lighter weights were at least adequate to available, instances long. Breaking stock supplies were usually adequate from regular sources, and demand for additional product was often limited as dealers assessed market developments. Light type fowl were sufficient for current processors' needs.

NORTH ATLANTIC SHELL In Philadelphia, prices were unchanged to 14.5 cents higher on the larger sizes and unchanged to 13 cents higher on mediums; in Boston, prices were unchanged to 13 cents higher on all sizes, when based on previous week averages. In New England, prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally steady. Demand was light to at times good, better where items were featured. Supplies of all sizes were adequate to available. Breaking stock offerings from regular sources were short to adequate for the irregular demand. Light type hens were usually adequate for current needs.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally steady. Demand was moderate to occasionally good, better where features were available. Supplies were adequate to available on all sizes.

CHICAGO All prices unchanged. Trade sentiment generally steady. Retail and food service movement moderate to fairly good with scattered feature activity. Supplies adequate.

MIDWEST Prices were sharply higher in Detroit and major Ohio and Wisconsin cities. Prices to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin and prices in Chicago were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Retail demand was light to at times good. Food service movement was mixed, mostly fair. Supplies were in good balance with mediums usually fully adequate. Central States nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged. Many breakers were taking a wait and see approach to the market and were working off regular commitments and existing inventories. Breakers needing extra product were paying within the quoted ranges. Floor stocks were usually in close balance for current needs. Trade sentiment mostly steady.

SOUTHERN In Atlanta and Florida, prices were sharply higher. Elsewhere, prices were unchanged. The market tone was steady. Demand was mostly moderate to fairly good at times, with very limited feature activity noted entering the week. Supplies of the larger sizes were adequate to closely cleared, and the lighter weight product was generally adequate to available. The average price on Grade A or better white cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers in the Southern region for the week ending February 11, 2000, was 66.39 cents, 12.87 cents more than the week before, and 1.15 cents more than the same week last year. Breaking stock supplies were short to adequate for the irregular demand. Light type hens were sufficient for current slaughter needs.

WESTERN Prices 14 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large throughout the region; 10 cents higher on medium and small in California and 11 cents higher on medium in the Northwest. The Pacific region inventory was 2% lower than last Monday with California down 5% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 2%. Retailer demand fair. Offerings more available.

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) | 116-118 | 109-111 | 81-83 |
| New York | 83-85 | 80-83 | 71-74 |
| Philadelphia | 76.5-83 | 74.5-81 | 67-71 |
| SOUTHERN CITIES | | | |
| Atlanta (1) (2) | 76-77 | 74.5-76 | 74-75 |
| Jackson (1) | 86-87 | 83-84 | 74-75 |
| Major Louisiana Cities (1) | 85-98 | 82-96 | 67-81 |
| MIDWEST CITIES | | | |
| Chicago | 73-78 | 72-77 | 62-67 |
| Detroit (2) | 70-73 | 69-72 | 58-61 |
| Major Ohio Cities (2) | 71-76 | 70-74 | 59-64 |
| Major Wisconsin Cities | 74-81 | 72-79 | 62-69 |
| WESTERN CITIES | | | |
| Houston (1) | 93-95 | 89-92 | 74-76 |
| California(Grade AA)(1)(3) | 111 | 104 | 94 |

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

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices 14 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large; 10 cents higher on medium and small. The California inventory was 5% lower than last Monday. Retailer demand fair. Offerings about adequate. Small invoice price 74. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 89-129, buy 1 get 1 free, 18 pack 177.

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

| | RANGE |
|-------------|-------|
| JUMBO | 124 |
| EXTRA LARGE | 111 |
| LARGE | 104 |
| MEDIUM | 94 |

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

| | RANGE | RANGE | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| JUMBO | 229-289 | JUMBO | 239-269 |
| EXTRA LARGE | 219-279 | EXTRA LARGE | 199-239 |
| LARGE | 199-209 | LARGE | 189-219 |
| MEDIUM | 187-199 | MEDIUM | 139-179 |

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending February 18, 2000 will increase by 0 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending February 11, 2000 were 260,312 cases which was 9 percent below the prior week and 1 percent below estimates.

| | CARTONED | LOOSE | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Cases purchased present week..... | 221,334 | 38,978 | 260,312 |
| % change from the prior week..... | -12 | +14 | -9 |

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. Breakers were taking a wait and see approach to the market and working off existing inventories and regular commitments. Breakers in need of additional product were paying within the current range. Floor stocks were usually in close balance for needs. Trade sentiment mostly steady.

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 | 43-47 | 45-47 |
| CHECKS & UNDERGRADES | 30-33 | |

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

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN REPORT Prices were slightly higher compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for at least adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were fair with current schedules adequate for needs. Trade sentiment was about steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 14-FEB-00

| | RANGE | MAJORITY | WTD AVG |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|------------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING | 9-19.5 | 10-12 | 12.10 |

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN REPORT Majority trading was slightly higher than a week earlier. Demand was moderate to good for usually adequate offerings. The undertone was mostly steady to fully steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 14-FEB-00

| | RANGE | MAJORITY | WTD AVG |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|------------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING | 7-16 | 8.25-11.75 | 10.55 |
| AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING FOB PLANT | | TOO FEW TO REPORT TOO FEW TO REPORT | |

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- AM Feb 14, 2000

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 | 7.1 | 9.6 | 5.1 | 11.2 | 12.0 | 45.0 |
| | Change | 1.7 | 0.5 | -0.3 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 7% |
| Ex Lge | Curr Wk | 17.5 | 22.9 | 7.9 | 17.4 | 18.6 | 84.3 |
| | Change | 3.1 | 0.9 | 1.3 | -0.6 | -1.4 | 4% |
| Large | Curr Wk | 27.9 | 56.7 | 46.5 | 63.6 | 65.8 | 260.5 |
| | Change | 3.5 | 21.8 | -1.8 | 14.0 | -1.6 | 16% |
| Medium | Curr Wk | 12.7 | 30.1 | 12.0 | 18.1 | 20.3 | 93.2 |
| | Change | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 2.5 | -0.5 | 7% |
| Small | Curr Wk | 4.9 | 7.9 | 2.4 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 24.6 |
| | Change | 1.2 | 2.2 | -0.2 | -1.5 | 1.9 | 17% |
| Misc | Curr Wk | 5.2 | 22.6 | 5.6 | 9.1 | 5.2 | 47.7 |
| | Change | -1.1 | -0.5 | -3.1 | -1.7 | -0.6 | -13% |
| Ungraded | Curr Wk | 32.1 | 51.6 | 9.6 | 29.5 | 45.0 | 167.8 |
| | Change | 7.3 | -13.6 | 2.1 | 6.0 | -2.9 | -1% |
| Total | Curr Wk | 107.4 | 201.4 | 89.1 | 153.1 | 172.1 | 723.1 |
| | Change | 19% | 7% | 0% | 14% | -2% | 7% |
| TOTAL | | Number of Cases | | Percent Change | | Number of Cooperators | |

Shell Egg 723.1 7% 168

Shell Egg Breaking Stock 421.4 -2% 40

Total Shell Egg 1144.5 3% 208

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 168 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.

The five inventory areas are identified as:

Northeast - CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT
North Central - IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI
South Central - AR, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX
South Atlantic - AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV
Pacific - AZ, CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

CANADIAN EGGS NOT AVAILABLE

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES— DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2000

| CURRENT LOADS | | | | | | | 29.00 | | | FUTURE LOADS | | | 17.25 | | | TOTAL LOADS | | | 46.25 | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|--------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------------|--|--|-------|--|--|
| | | SE | | NE | | MW | | LOADS | | SC | | NW | | SW | | LOADS | | | | | |
| CLASS | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | CLASS | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | | | | | | |
| GNR W 1 | 64.00 | 65.11 | 58.00 | 60.00 | 57.50 | — | GNR W 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 54.00 | 1.00 | | | | | |
| GNR W 2 | — | — | — | 62.50 | 51.50 | — | GL W XL | 55.75 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 64.50 | 2.00 | | | | | |
| GNR W 4 | — | — | 16.50 | 18.00 | — | — | GL W MD | — | 68.00 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 | | | | | |
| GL W XL | — | — | — | — | 55.00 | — | NRBS - 48 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5.00 | | | | | |
| GL W LG | — | — | — | — | — | — | NRBS - 45 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2.00 | | | | | |
| GL W MD | — | — | 51.50 | 53.50 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL W SM | — | — | 21.00 | 22.50 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL BR XL | — | — | — | 92.00 | 87.00 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL BR LG | — | — | — | 92.00 | 87.00 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 48 | — | — | 37.00 | 38.00 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 45 | — | 42.00 | — | — | 38.50 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 42 | — | 40.00 | — | — | 36.50 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 39 | — | — | — | — | 23.00 | 25.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 36 | — | — | — | — | 23.00 | 25.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 02/05/00-02/11/00

| CURRENT LOADS | | | | | | | 149.75 | | | FUTURE LOADS | | | 56.75 | | | TOTAL LOADS | | | 206.50 | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|--------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------------|--|--|--------|--|--|
| | | SE | | NE | | MW | | LOADS | | SC | | NW | | SW | | LOADS | | | | | |
| CLASS | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | CLASS | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | ORG | DST | | | | | | |
| GNR W 1 | 59.40 | 65.57 | 55.17 | 55.80 | 59.22 | 57.50 | GNR W 1 | 59.88 | 65.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 28.00 | | | | | | |
| GNR W 2 | — | 63.33 | — | 62.00 | 56.86 | — | GNR W 2 | — | 62.00 | — | — | — | — | 54.00 | 6.00 | | | | | | |
| GNR W 3 | — | — | — | — | 41.00 | — | GNR W 3 | — | 46.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 | | | | | | |
| GNR W 4 | — | — | 16.50 | 18.00 | — | — | GL W J | — | — | — | — | — | — | 68.33 | 1.50 | | | | | | |
| GNR BR XL | — | — | — | — | — | — | GL W XL | 55.75 | 65.00 | — | — | — | — | 66.52 | 6.75 | | | | | | |
| GNR BR 1 | 86.00 | — | 66.75 | 76.33 | — | — | GL W LG | 62.27 | 70.21 | — | — | — | — | 69.96 | 13.75 | | | | | | |
| GL W J | — | — | 66.00 | 67.50 | 57.67 | — | GL W MD | — | 68.00 | — | — | — | 45.00 | 50.56 | 6.50 | | | | | | |
| GL W XL | 70.50 | 73.60 | 58.50 | 66.69 | 59.79 | — | GL W SM | 22.50 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1.00 | | | | | | |
| GL W LG | — | 69.11 | 61.00 | 63.50 | 60.46 | 68.00 | NRBS - 48 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5.00 | | | | | | |
| GL W MD | — | 54.00 | 48.30 | 53.50 | 45.89 | — | NRBS - 45 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2.00 | | | | | | |
| GL W SM | — | 25.00 | 21.00 | 22.50 | — | 26.00 | NRBS - 39 | 28.00 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3.00 | | | | | | |
| GL BR XL | — | — | — | 92.00 | 87.00 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL BR LG | — | — | — | 92.00 | 87.00 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 48 | — | — | 37.00 | 46.33 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 45 | — | 42.00 | — | — | 38.50 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 42 | — | 40.00 | — | — | 36.50 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 39 | — | — | — | — | 23.00 | 30.70 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NRBS - 36 | — | — | — | — | 23.00 | 25.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 01/30/00 - 02/05/00

| Origin State | AR | CO | IL | IA | MN | MO | NY | OH | OR | TX | UT | WA | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----|-------|----|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|--------|
| N. CA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 650 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,015 | 0 | 750 | 0 | 3,415 |
| C. CA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| S. CA | 800 | 4,217 | 24 | 18,436 | 6,362 | 1,216 | 1,710 | 3,430 | 0 | 960 | 2,510 | 600 | 40,265 |
| TTL STATE | 800 | 4,217 | 24 | 19,086 | 6,362 | 1,216 | 1,710 | 3,430 | 2,015 | 960 | 3,260 | 600 | 43,680 |

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 |
|---------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 112-115 | 97-100 | 90-93 | 62-65 | 16-19 |

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 |
|-------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 78-81 | 69-75 | 67-72 | 56-61 | 25-29 |

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

| LARGE | MEDIUM | SMALL |
|-------|--------|-------|
| 53-55 | 44-46 | 15-17 |

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 |
|-------|--------|-------|
| 89.32 | 78.54 | 43.18 |

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

| ON HAND | 2/7/00 | 1/31/00 | 2/8/99 |
|---------------|--------|---------|--------|
| PACIFIC COAST | 109 | 137 | 117 |
| LOS ANGELES | 0 | 0 | 6 |

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS PRICES DELIVERED TO RETAILERS, GRADE A STORE DOOR FEBRUARY 8,2000:

| | 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: 1/30/00-2/5/00
30-dozen cases 2,605

Receipts from the mainland: 1/23/00-1/29/00
30-dozen cases 4,871

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

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