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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were unchanged in New York and Chicago. Elsewhere, weekly prices were lower on all sizes when compared to a week earlier. The market tone was steady. Demand was moderate to very good. Supplies ranged adequate to short for holiday needs. Breaking stock demand was light for adequate to instances ample offerings. Light type hens were about sufficient for the moderate demand. Schedules were less than normal due to the approaching holiday.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Midwest warehouse prices were 2 cents lower. Prices to producers in IA-MN-WI were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady. Retail demand was moderate to usually very good for last minute holiday orders. Food service movement was mostly moderate to at times fairly good. Supplies were adequate to very tight in some areas. Central states nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged to lower. Demand was very light as breakers juggled holiday schedules. Offerings were fully adequate to instances ample. Schedules were part-time. Floor stocks fully adequate. Trade sentiment barely steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	87-96	90-93
LARGE	86-94	87-92
MEDIUM	67-75	70-72
MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV, WesternNY,and Western PA		

IA-MN-WI - Prices paid to producers.	
	RANGE
LARGE	69-73
MEDIUM	50-54
SMALL	37-41

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were slightly lower when compared to last week's prices. Trade sentiment was steady. Retail and distributive demand was moderate to good, best were limited feature activity was a factor. Supplies were adequate to barely adequate for holiday needs. Breaking stock offerings were sufficient for reduced schedules. Offerings of spent fowl were about sufficient for a mostly moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	93-107	96-99
LARGE	89-104	94-98
MEDIUM	70-85	74-77
NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT		

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices were slightly lower for all sizes. Trade sentiment was steady. Retail demand was moderate to very good for last minute holiday orders. Food service movement was moderate to good. Supplies were adequate to in close balance. Central states nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged to lower. Demand was very light as breakers juggled holiday schedules. Offerings were fully adequate to instances ample. Schedules were part-time. Floor stocks fully adequate. Trade sentiment barely steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	94.5-103	96-99
LARGE	94.5-103	96-99
MEDIUM	74.5-83	79-79
SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX		

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were lower on all sizes when compared to the previous week. Trade sentiment was steady. Demand into all channels ranged moderate to very good. Supplies were adequate to closely balanced for current requirements. Breaking stock demand was light for sufficient offerings. Light type fowl were about adequate for the moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	95-106.25	97-100
LARGE	94-105.25	95-98
MEDIUM	72.5-84.25	73-77
SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN, and Southern VA		

NOTICE

The president has issued an Executive order declaring Friday, December 26, a holiday. In observance of the holidays, Poultry Market News will be closed December 25-26. Reports normally released on Friday, December 26, will be issued Wednesday, December 24, if sufficient information is available. If you have questions regarding this report, call the Des Moines, IA, office at (515)284-4471.

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

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged entering the holiday week. Trade sentiment was steady. Retail and distributive demand ranged moderate to very good. Supplies were reported as sufficient to instances short for seasonal requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	103-107
LARGE	101-105
MEDIUM	82-86

CHICAGO Prices were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Retail and food service demand was moderate to very good for last minute holiday orders. Supplies were adequate to close.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	92-98
LARGE	91-96
MEDIUM	73-80

WESTERN Prices 2 cents lower on jumbo, 2-3 cents lower on extra large, and 2 cents lower on large and medium. The Pacific region inventory was 12% lower than last Monday with California down 6% and Oregon-Washington-Utah down 21%. Retailer demand good. Offerings adequate.

CALIFORNIA Prices 2 cents lower on jumbo, 3 cents lower on extra large, 2 cents lower on large, medium and small. The California inventory was 6% lower than last Monday. Retailer demand good. Offerings adequate. Small benchmark price 86. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 169-199, 2 for \$3, 18 pack buy 1 get 1 free.

California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	131
EXTRA LARGE	129
LARGE	125
MEDIUM	106

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	289-359	JUMBO	309-389
EXTRA LARGE	289-349	EXTRA LARGE	309-369
LARGE	239-349	LARGE	279-349
MEDIUM	199-299	MEDIUM	229-299

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending December 26, 2003 will increase by 9 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending December 19, 2003 were 243,669 cases which was 13 percent below the prior week and 3 percent below estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	209,153	34,516	243,669
% change from the	-13	-12	-13

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Nest run prices ranged unchanged to lower with majority values unchanged. Demand was very light as breakers juggled holiday schedules. Offerings were fully adequate to instances ample. Schedules were part-time. Floor stocks full adequate. Trade sentiment barely steady.

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 AM, MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	62-66	62-63
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	50-58	52

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

SOUTHEAST LIVE HEAVY HEN Majority prices were unchanged to slightly lower when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules were reduced due to holiday schedules. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was steady. HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)* FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 22-DEC-03

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-9 CENTS/LB.	8-9	8.47
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 Trading levels were generally unchanged from the past week. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were reduced at processing plants. Finished sales had slowed. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)* FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 22-DEC-03

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.75-11.75 CENTS/LB.	8.25-9	8.94

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

CANADIAN EGGS MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 08, 2003

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	197.2	194.1	185.1	114.6

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING DECEMBER 08, 2003 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	151	151	141	77

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-DEC 22, 2003

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/ 2/ (30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		Northeast	Cent	So	So	5-Area	
		Cent	Cent	Atl	Pacific		
Jumbo	Curr Wk	7.2	16.1	11.4	14.9	14.0	63.6
	Change	-4.8	-1.8	-0.3	-1.5	0.9	-11%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	17.0	44.5	11.6	18.9	27.7	119.7
	Change	-10.9	-21.2	-3.1	-7.5	-2.4	-27%
Large	Curr Wk	39.8	106.9	75.7	72.5	98.4	393.3
	Change	-6.0	-40.0	-24.2	-29.2	-24.3	-24%
Medium	Curr Wk	10.1	36.9	12.4	22.0	34.8	116.2
	Change	-5.2	-9.2	-1.0	1.6	-1.6	-12%
Small	Curr Wk	2.5	4.9	2.2	4.1	6.2	19.9
	Change	-0.1	-0.1	-1.1	-2.5	0.5	-14%
Misc	Curr Wk	4.5	19.7	8.6	18.6	6.2	57.6
	Change	-0.2	-5.3	-1.4	2.5	-0.1	-7%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	19.2	26.4	12.1	15.1	30.1	102.9
	Change	-8.7	-6.6	-9.6	-20.6	-1.7	-32%
Total	Curr Wk	100.3	255.4	134.0	166.1	217.4	873.2
Percent	Change	-26%	-25%	-23%	-26%	-12%	-22%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	873.2	-22%	171
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	198.0	-15%	36
Total Shell Egg	1071.2	-21%	207

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 171 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.

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TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DECEMBER 19, 2003

CURRENT LOADS				FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS						
SE		NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW		LOADS
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	73.00	--	73.50	75.00	--	--	GL W J	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.00
GL W J	--	81.00	--	--	--	--	GL W XL	70.00	73.00	--	--	--	--	1.00
GL W XL	--	--	85.25	87.00	75.00	82.50								
GL W LG	--	92.00	82.00	84.00	--	85.00								
GL W MD	--	--	--	--	--	66.00								

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DEC 15 - DEC 19, 2003

CURRENT LOADS				FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS						
SE		NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW		LOADS
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	73.00	78.00	74.17	75.56	75.00	73.00	GNR W 1	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.00
GNR W 2	--	--	--	--	--	71.00	GNR BR 1	--	105.00	--	--	--	--	1.00
GNR W 3	--	--	--	--	56.00	59.00	GL W J	--	--	--	--	--	77.00	2.00
GNR BR XL	--	--	103.67	95.50	--	2.25	GL W XL	70.00	78.00	--	--	--	78.50	17.00
GNR BR 1	--	104.00	--	--	--	2.50	GL W LG	--	89.00	--	--	--	74.25	6.50
GL W J	--	81.00	88.00	89.00	64.00	--	GL W MD	--	65.00	--	--	--	--	.25
GL W XL	--	90.00	85.58	86.29	67.47	78.28								
GL W LG	--	89.64	82.20	86.13	64.20	85.00								
GL W MD	69.00	67.40	63.38	63.90	64.00	62.86								
GL W SM	49.50	51.00	49.50	51.00	43.00	45.00								
NRBS - 48	--	--	--	--	61.00	63.29								

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.

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.

	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	112.63
LARGE	111.63
MEDIUM	90.63
SMALL	74.00

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	<u>12/15/03</u>	<u>12/08/03</u>	<u>12/16/02</u>
PACIFIC COAST	86	92	124
LOS ANGELES	48	51	82

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS

UNAVAILABLE

OUT OF STATE EGGS - STATE COMPILATION Report Date: 12/18/03

Report Period: 12/7/2003 - 12/13/2003

State	# Cases Shipped to:			
	Northern California	Central California	Southern California	Total State
Arizona	810	810	3,105	4,725
Colorado	0	1,620	2,542	4,162
Illinois	0	0	780	780
Iowa	2,340	9,300	42,853	54,493
Minnesota	4,880	780	20,718	26,378
Montana	0	0	756	756
Nevada	0	0	1,476	1,476
North Carolina	720	0	837	1,557
Ohio	0	0	5,129	5,129
Oregon	2,208	1,200	0	3,408
South Dakota	0	1,582	0	1,582
Texas	0	0	570	570
Utah	2,343	4,490	11,310	18,143
Wisconsin	0	0	1,020	1,020
TOTAL	13,301	19,782	91,096	124,179
MILITARY	0	0	0	0
NONMILITARY	13,301	19,782	91,096	124,179

CHICKENS AND EGGS**November Egg Production up 1 Percent**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.28 billion during November 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 968 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2003 averaged 336 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,165 eggs, up one percent from November 2002.

November 2003 contained 20 weekdays, two holidays and five Saturdays compared to November 2002 which contain 21 weekdays, two holidays, and five Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2003, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2003, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.79 billion eggs during November 2003, up slightly from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 313 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.