



INTERNATIONAL EGG AND POULTRY REVIEW

ISSN 1522-5100



U. S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

Codex To Take Up Food Safety Next Week

Japan will hold an international meeting from 14-18 March to discuss safety standards for GMOs. The meeting is to be held under the auspices of a Codex Alimentarius Commission task force charged with devising GMO food standards by 2003. Codex Alimentarius is the only international food standards body recognized under WTO rules. Thus, its findings could resonate in WTO trade disputes and ongoing negotiations.

"There are no global standards on how to evaluate the safety of genetically modified foods. The task force will meet to work out such rules," a Japanese health official stated. A Japanese consumer group intends to question the premise of "substantial equivalence" of GMO foods to conventional counterparts.

Source: BRIDGES Trade News Digest

AI Epidemic in Italy

A low pathogenic H7N1 virus was discovered in Italy in March, 1999. The industry took action to increase biosecurity and depopulate infected flocks. The outbreaks began rising again in the fall of 1999 and by December the low-pathogenic virus had mutated to a highly pathogenic one. The outbreaks centered in the Veneto and Lombardia regions of Italy.

The avian influenza virus has resulted in the loss of about 11 million birds through February 23, 2000. One report had the losses at 8.2 million chickens, 2.4 million turkeys and 400,000 other species. Outbreaks were believed to be continuing at the rate of about seven per week at the time of the report. There are about 100 million birds (layers, broilers and turkeys) in the affected areas, which comprise 12,000 square kilometers. The Italian industry has been testing, quarantining and depopulating infected flocks. During the period February 19 to March 3, the Societa Italiana di Patologia Aviaria (LIPA) reported an additional 1,130,723 birds were slaughtered, mostly layers (772,550).

While the Italian avian influenza epidemic probably doesn't represent any imminent danger for the U.S. poultry industry, there may be a lesson here. It shows what the low-pathogenic avian flu can do if it is left to circulate in a population of birds.

Dr. Swayne, director of USDA's Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory, warned the U.S. poultry industry to be concerned about the low-path avian flu viruses that now circulate in the live-bird markets of the northeastern U.S. "If a virus mutates, like happened in Italy (or in Mexico before that), then this would have an immediate and profound effect." In addition to the direct economic losses that could be inflicted, the industry's exports could be cut off overnight, he noted. "I think what this signals to us in the U.S. industry and in avian medicine is that we need to find ways to get rid of the low-path virus that is circulating in live-bird markets," he concluded.

Source: WATT Poultry USA, LIPA

Poultry Meat

Global poultry meat production in 1999 increased 4 percent to 63.7 million tons, due in large part to low grain prices. From 1990 to 1998 the average growth was 6 percent per year, outpacing other meats and moving from a 23 percent share of total meat production to 28 percent. Brazil registered double-digit growth as its currency devaluation made them more competitive. Production increased nearly 6 percent in the U.S., less than 2 percent in the EC, and declined in the Russian Federation.

The volume in international poultry trade increased 3 percent to total 6.4 million tons. Shipments from the U.S. supplied 40 percent of international trade. In 1999 U.S. shipments dropped for the second consecutive year. Shipments from Brazil soared competing with EC exports in Middle Eastern markets. Russian Federation purchases fell sharply due to consumers' lower disposable incomes and competitively priced pork from the EC. Other markets increased purchases of poultry, particularly China, Japan and Mexico attracted to prices which were 24 percent lower than the previous year.

U.S. Exports

U.S. broiler exports in 1999 were slightly above 1998 at about 4.7 billion pounds as trade with Russia began to slowly recover. Sales expanded to Asian markets and the low price of leg quarters encouraged export sales. Exports to the Baltic states through November were up more than 150 percent. Exports to Asia helped limit declines in broiler exports. Shipments to the Hong Kong/China market were up over 25 percent to 1.4 billion pounds. Exports in 2000 are forecast to increase 1.5 percent to about 4.8 billion pounds. Russia is expected to continue recovering slowly.

Turkey exports to most traditional markets were weak in 1999. Exports were down 17 percent from 1998 at 379 million pounds. Exports were down 13 percent to Mexico, yet exports to Canada were up 36 percent. Exports are forecast to increase in 2000 on the basis of increased sales to Asia and the potential for some recovery in Russia. In 2000, exports may increase 5 percent above 1999 totals, yet still below record shipments of over 600 million pounds in 1997. Demand from the Mexican processed sector is a main factor, as a large percentage of U.S. turkey exports to Mexico are combined with other meats and used in the sausage market. Source: FAO, USDA/Economic Research Service

JAPANESE FROZEN BROILER IMPORTS (IN TONS)

1998	United States	China	Brazil	Thailand	Total
Month					
November	10,573	16,647	6,815	10,550	44,585
December	9,841	14,495	4,997	10,551	39,884
Total 1998	102,272	186,553	70,250	119,813	478,888
1999					
November	10,681	17,410	11,190	12,332	51,613
December	6,844	17,725	11,410	10,907	46,886
Total 1999	104,726	196,983	99,219	130,574	531,502

Totals are for calendar year. Source: ALIC Monthly statistics

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade

U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (Preliminary)

Type	Week Ending March 04, 2000		Year-To-Date	
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Liquid	194	97	1,212	2,327
Frozen	0	0	40	6
Dried	40	0	58	58
Total	234	97	1,310	2,391

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (Preliminary)

Type	Week Ending March 04, 2000		Year-To-Date	
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Liquid	62	165	1,045	731
Frozen	5	8	43	74
Dried	40	0	321	10
Total	107	173	1,409	815

Inspected Shell Eggs

U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)

Type	Week Ending March 04, 2000		Year-To-Date	
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Jumbo	79	26	92	26
Extra Large	970	445	3,473	2,695
Large	2,423	1,824	19,898	12,008
Medium	1,047	1,513	4,848	5,989
Ungraded	0	0	6,180	46,769
Misc	750	0	1,500	0
Total	5,269	3,808	35,991	67,487

/1 Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

CENTRAL REGION PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. 10-MAR-00

CHICKEN PRICES

FAT CONTENT	-----FROZEN-----		-----FRESH-----	
	FOB DOCK	DELIVERED DOCK	FOB DOCK	DELIVERED DOCK
15% OR LESS RANGE	-	-	-	-

WTD AVERAGE 0 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

CHICKEN PRICES, WITH ADDED SKIN

15% OR LESS RANGE	-	-	13.00-15.00	14.00-15.00
WTD AVERAGE			13.87	14.50

175,800 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

15-20% RANGE	12.00	14.00-22.00	9.00-13.00	12.50-15.00
WTD AVERAGE	12.00	15.27	10.68	13.20

3,232,320 pounds, this includes 428,400 pounds for export shipment.

20% OR MORE RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

0 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

* INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES: AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 04-MAR-00 (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	-----THOUSANDS-----		
HEAD	2,111	1,361	3,472
LAST WEEK	1,915	1,349	3,264
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,928	1,348	3,276
TO-DATE/2000	18,255	12,011	30,266
TO-DATE/1999	19,523	11,933	31,456

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	-----THOUSANDS-----		
HEAD	390	0	390
LAST WEEK	533	0	533
SAME WEEK YR AGO	376	17	393
TO-DATE/2000	4,961	27	4,988
TO-DATE/1999	4,333	75	4,408

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	-----THOUSANDS-----		
HEAD	2,501	1,361	3,862
LAST WEEK	2,448	1,349	3,797
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,304	1,365	3,669
TO-DATE/2000	23,216	12,038	35,254
TO-DATE/1999	23,856	12,008	35,864

EASTERN REGION PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. 10-MAR-00

CHICKEN PRICES

FAT CONTENT	-----FROZEN-----		-----FRESH-----	
	FOB DOCK	DELIVERED DOCK	FOB DOCK	DELIVERED DOCK
15% OR LESS RANGE	16.00-18.00	-	15.00-16.50	-

WTD AVERAGE 16.74 15.99
527,000 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

CHICKEN PRICES, WITH ADDED SKIN

15% OR LESS RANGE	15.00	15.00	-	15.00
WTD AVERAGE	15.00	15.00	-	15.00

812,000 pounds, this includes 372,000 pounds for export shipment.

15-20% RANGE	13.00-14.25	13.25	11.50-13.00	12.00-14.00
WTD AVERAGE	13.69	13.25	11.80	13.27

1,732,000 pounds, this includes 780,000 pounds for export shipment.

20% OR MORE RANGE	-	-	-	12.75
WTD AVERAGE				12.75

280,000 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

* INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES: CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT

FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS
MARCH 10, 2000

Undertone mixed on tom breast meat ranging from barely steady to fully steady. Destrapped tenderloin undertone barely steady to fully steady, mostly steady to fully steady with some unsettledness noted. Offerings mixed. Thigh meat undertone barely steady to fully steady with some sellers more confident than others. Drum trade sentiment steady to fully steady with inquiry noted from South Korea and China. Trading light centering on fresh tom breast meat and fresh destrapped tenderloins for domestic. Export trading light on tom full-cut wings and frozen thigh meat.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		R	25.21	384	24.63	544
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	19.00-21.00		20.12	356	20.12	356
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		R	18.00	40	17.59	68
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		T	16.00	120	16.00	120
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	64.00-66.00		64.80	200	65.21	560

THURSDAY, MARCH 09, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	24.00-26.00		25.21	384
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	19.00	104
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS	18.00		18.00	40
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		T	16.00	120
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		T	66.60	200

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 08, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		M	23.25	160
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	19.00	104
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS	17.00		17.00	28
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		T	16.00	120
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		T	66.60	200

TUESDAY, MARCH 07, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		M	23.25	160
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	19.00	104
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/	16.00		16.00	120
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	65.00-67.00		66.60	200

MONDAY, MARCH 06, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	23.00-23.50		23.25	160
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	19.00	104
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/				
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	63.00-65.00		64.00	160

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.

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