The Shell Egg Demand Indicator for this week is 8.30, down 0.7 points from last week.

This Week:
Consumer demand for shell eggs continues to track above normal as retailers shift back to staples following the Super Bowl and Valentine’s Day diversion. Wholesale prices for cartoned eggs are weak to lower as supplies are usually moderate. But offerings remain light to moderate and interest and trading are moderate. Prices on the loose egg market are showing some strength as marketers work to restock. Supplies are mostly moderate and offerings light to moderate. Trading is moderate. Wholesale breaking stock prices are firm as offerings remain limited and supplies light to moderate. Trading is active as breakers look to maintain full-time schedules. The preliminary survey of retail outlets indicates a sharp rise in promotional activity for all shell egg types and the average ad price declines to more shopper-friendly levels.

Current U.S. Productive Table Egg Layer Flock -
U.S. table egg layer flock 323,776,281 (derived from NASS Monthly Chicken & Eggs report)
Percentage flock in molt 0.9% (derived from NASS Monthly Chicken & Eggs report)
Productive table egg layer flock 320,866,648 (total flock - (total flock * molt))

Current Table Egg Production for In-Shell Use -
Table egg layer rate 82.0% (derived from NASS Monthly Chicken & Eggs report)
Total egg production 263,198,132 (total productive flock * lay rate)
Total eggs into breaking stock 76,576,114 (29.09% of daily shell egg production to breakers)
Table eggs for in-shell use 186,622,017 (egg production * (100% - % to breaking stock))
Table eggs for in-shell use (in cases) 518,394 (eggs for table use ÷ 360 eggs per case)

Current Days of Shell Eggs on Hand for Marketing -
USDA shell egg inventory 1,490,100 30-dozen cases (from USDA Weekly Shell Egg Inventory report)
Inventory cooperators % of U.S. flock 63.0% (shell egg inventory cooperators control 63% of productive flock)
Shell egg cases produced each day 326,589 (produced by inventory cooperators’ flocks (daily production * 63%))
26-week rolling average of days on hand 4.94 (average of the last 26 week’s days of eggs on hand)
Days of shell eggs on hand for marketing 4.56 (inventory ÷ cases produced per day)

Shell Egg Demand Indicator 8.30 ((26-week average ÷ current days on hand) - 1) * 100

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News 515-284-4460