The Shell Egg Demand Indicator for this week is 1.90, up 6.8 points from last week.

This Week:
Demand for shell eggs posts a modest rebound as the market enters the final week ahead of the Christmas holiday. Retailer promotional activity for eggs has peaked and the focus has shifted to centerplate protein cuts. Wholesale prices of cartoned eggs have halted their downward trend and have steadied. Offerings still outpace need and trading has slowed. Loose egg prices made some gains but the rally is weak as offerings are more than sufficient to meet declining interest. Trading is slow. Prices for breaking stock have steadied but offerings and supplies are moderate to heavy and interest is limited. Schedules are full to extended on moderate trading. The preliminary survey of retail outlets indicates the end of the big holiday push as features for caged eggs slow to a trickle. The good news is that ad prices are sharply lower. Specialty shell eggs also see a drop in activity but remain the go-to incentive to incentivize consumer spending.

Current U.S. Productive Table Egg Layer Flock -
U.S. table egg layer flock 327,788,055 (derived from NASS Monthly Chicken & Eggs report)
Percentage flock in molt 1.2% (derived from NASS Monthly Chicken & Eggs report)
Productive table egg layer flock 323,854,598 (total flock - (total flock * molt))

Current Table Egg Production for In-Shell Use -
(shell egg production less shell eggs for breaking stock)
Table egg layer rate 82.9% (derived from NASS Monthly Chicken & Eggs report)
Total egg production 268,475,462 (total productive flock * lay rate)
Total eggs into breaking stock 80,005,688 (29.80% of daily shell egg production to breakers)
Table eggs for in-shell use 188,469,774 (egg production * (100% - % to breaking stock))
Table eggs for in-shell use (in cases) 523,527 (eggs for table use ÷ 360 eggs per case)

Current Days of Shell Eggs on Hand for Marketing -
(shell egg inventory cases ÷ shell egg cases per day)
USDA shell egg inventory 1,530,500 30-dozen cases (from USDA Weekly Shell Egg Inventory report)
Inventory cooperators % of U.S. flock 61.0% (shell egg inventory cooperators control 61% of productive flock)
Shell egg cases produced each day 319,352 (produced by inventory cooperators' flocks (daily production * 61%))
26-week rolling average of days on hand 4.88 (average of the last 26 week's days of eggs on hand)
Days of shell eggs on hand for marketing 4.79 (inventory ÷ cases produced per day)

Shell Egg Demand Indicator
1.90

Shell Egg Demand Indicator vs. USDA Midwest Large Cartoned Shell Egg

Sources: USDA NASS Monthly Chicken and Eggs (pec-bb): Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type
USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News; SHELL EGGS: Weekly Shell Egg Inventory (Mon)
USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News; PROCESSED EGGS: Weekly Eggs Processed Under Federal Inspection (Wed)
Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News 515-284-4460