Wholesale prices for cartoned shell eggs remained steady through the week and are expected to remain so, at best, headed into next week. Supplies and offerings, while in balance, are fully adequate and demand is slowing. Trading is on the slow side of moderate. Wholesale trading of loose eggs saw prices weak early in the trading period but rallied late to finish unchanged. Offerings are moderate but supplies are fully adequate and trading is slow to moderate. Prices for national trading of trucklot quantities of graded, loose, White Large shell eggs ended the week unchanged at $0.512 per dozen with a steady to firm undertone. The wholesale price on the New York market for Large cartoned shell eggs delivered to retailers remained unchanged at $0.97 per dozen with a steady undertone. The Midwest wholesale price for Large, white, shell eggs delivered to retailers was unchanged at $0.81 per dozen and asking prices into next week are steady. This week, prices paid to producers for Large shell eggs remained unchanged at $0.62 per dozen. The California benchmark for Large shell eggs declined 5% (from $1.54 to $1.47 per dozen) and asking prices are lower into next week. Delivered prices on the California wholesale loose egg market increased 4% (from $0.702 to $0.728 per dozen) with a higher undertone.

Consumer demand for cartoned shell eggs improved to near average levels for this time of year as increased retail promotional activity last week at attractive sale prices met with some measure of success. Demand on the loose egg market is average as supplies and offerings are somewhat in balance and no demand events loom in the near-term to necessitate increased purchasing. Demand in general is paralleling last year’s pattern when it was fairly stable up to Thanksgiving. The impact of COVID mitigation efforts on seasonal consumption patterns appears to be having limited negative impact as demand has yet to return to pre-COVID levels, particularly in the foodservice sector. However, much of this loss in demand has been compensated for in a drop in weekly egg production, currently at 98.5% of last year’s level. Also tempering demand are supermarket ad prices for Large shell eggs which over the past 6 weeks have averaged 13% over the same period last year despite wholesale carton prices 6% under those of a year ago. Part of this is the lingering effect of early COVID-related supply imbalances which has created more cautious consumers who are buying more regularly instead of on an “as-needed” basis making them more regular consumers of not only shell eggs but many other food products. This has raised the “normal” demand level which is allowing product to move at a steadier pace despite the lack of more attractive retail price incentives than were employed a year ago.

Supermarket feature activity for conventional shell eggs is about unchanged but the average ad price rises sharply as last week’s aggressive ad prices expire, up 21% (from $0.86 to $1.04 per dozen). Featuring of specialty types declines with all types about equally promoted but led by cage-free offerings. Feature activity for UEP-defined cage-free shell eggs declines but accounts for 28% of all shell eggs on feature. The average ad price is down 6% (from $2.69 to $2.53 per dozen). The ad price spread between cage-free and the average ad price for 12-packs of Large conventional shell eggs to narrows by
0.34 per dozen (19%) to a spread of $1.49.

The overall inventory of shell eggs decreased nearly a percent while the nation-wide inventory of Large eggs declined 3% as the last of shell eggs supporting passing retail feature activity are staged. The inventory of Large eggs in the key Midwest production region was about unchanged, down slightly. Movement into marketing channels for as product is staged for this week’s increase in retail feature activity. The inventory share of Large class shell eggs declined a percent to a 46.5% share of all shell egg stocks on inventory at the start of the week as Large eggs cleared to support featuring. The share of stocks of ungraded eggs increased nearly 2% as carton business slowed. Breaking stock inventories were up a half percent as offerings and supplies of breaking stock are in balance on the spot market, allowing breakers to keep a slight amount of surplus stock while still running full-time schedules. Total table egg production for the week was unchanged from last week and from last year to 98.4% of last year’s weekly production or about 2.3 million dozen.

The wholesale price for breaking stock in the Central States held steady through the week at $0.47 per dozen but the undertone is showing weakness. Offerings are fully sufficient for moderate supplies and full-time schedules. Demand is light to moderate as owned production is sufficient to meet current production needs and trading is slow to moderate. The volume of eggs processed over the past week declined 3% representing 28% of weekly table egg production and 5% under the level from a year ago. Production of whole liquid eggs declined 6% while yolk production was off 4% and production of liquid whites increased 2%. Dried egg production declined 14%, 16% under where it stood a year ago while inedible egg production declined 4%.

Wholesale prices for whole certified liquid whole eggs are firm. Offerings are light to moderate on active trading and moderate to good demand. The wholesale price for frozen whole egg products decreased a percent (from $0.68 to $0.67 per pound) and the price for liquid whites was down 2% ($0.56 to $0.55 per pound). The undertone is steady on moderate offerings and light to moderate supplies. Trading is moderate on moderate to good demand. Wholesale prices for dried eggs are steady to firm with whole dried egg up 2% (from $2.00 to $2.05 per pound). Dried yolk prices are steady at $2.00 per pound and as those for dried albumen at $4.50 per pound. The undertone is steady on moderate offerings and light to moderate supplies. Demand is moderate to good and trading is slow to moderate.

According to NASS, the July monthly volume of frozen eggs in storage decreased 3% from June, 6% over July 2019. Stocks of whole frozen egg increased a percent from last month and were 11% over year ago levels. Whole egg increased its share of total stocks by one percent to 52% of total frozen stocks. Stocks of frozen yolk swelled by 30% but were 16% under year ago stocks. Stocks of frozen egg whites grew by 14% but are 10% below July 2019. Egg whites share of total stocks gained 2% to 9% of all frozen egg stocks. Stocks of ungraded eggs decreased 11% as carton business had been fairly good throughout July. Stocks are 6% over year ago levels, though. Unclassed eggs declined 4% to a 37% share of cold storage inventory of frozen eggs.

Cage-free commitments as of August 24 were unchanged, requiring 63.5 billion cage-free eggs per year to meet 100% of needs from an approximate cage-free flock of 208 million hens (66% of the U.S. non-organic flock), indicating a shortage of 140 million hens from the current non-organic cage-free flock of 68.0 million hens. The lay rate for non-organic cage-free production is currently estimated at 83.7%.
### Key Egg Markets Overview

#### SHELL EGGS (cents per dozen)

- **National, Large, White (f.o.b. dock prices)**
  - 18-Sep: 51.17, % Change: 0%
  - Recent History: 51.23, 51.29, 57.60, 56.62, 45.43

- **New York, Large, White, (price to retailers)**
  - 18-Sep: 97.00, % Change: 0%
  - Recent History: 97.00, 97.00, 97.00, 97.00, 83.00

- **Midwest, Large, White (price dlvrd to warehouse)**
  - 18-Sep: 81.00, % Change: 0%
  - Recent History: 81.00, 81.00, 79.00, 64.00, 62.00

- **California, Large, benchmark**
  - 18-Sep: 147.00, % Change: -5%
  - Recent History: 154.00, 154.00, 153.00, 141.00, 139.00

#### National Retail Shell Egg (dollars per dozen)

- **Conventional, Large, White**
  - 18-Sep: 1.04, % Change: 21%
  - Recent History: 0.86, 1.14, 1.09, 1.07

- **Cage-Free, Large, Brown/White**
  - 18-Sep: 2.53, % Change: -6%
  - Recent History: 2.69, 2.65, 2.54, 2.44, 2.63

#### EGG PRODUCTS (f.o.b. dock prices; dollars per pound)

- **Central States Breaking Stock (delivered prices)**
  - 18-Sep: 47.00, % Change: 0%
  - Recent History: 47.00, 47.00, 52.00, 52.00, 29.00

- **Whole Frozen Eggs**
  - 18-Sep: 67.00, % Change: -1%
  - Recent History: 68.00, 67.00, 57.00, 56.00

- **Whole Dried Eggs**
  - 18-Sep: 2.05, % Change: 2%
  - Recent History: 2.00, 2.05, 2.05, 2.05

- **Processed Share of Weekly Egg Production**
  - 18-Sep: 27.9%, % Change: -0.9%
  - Recent History: 28.8%, 28.9%, 29.2%, 28.8%, 29.6%

#### SHELL EGG DEMAND INDICATOR (no units)

- 18-Sep: -1.1, % Change: 2.4
- Recent History: 0.2, 1.8, -2.4, -7.1

### Key Shell Egg Markets Snapshot - 2020

#### (Large, White, Conventional Shell Eggs in cents per dozen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market</th>
<th>18-Sep</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>11-Sep</th>
<th>2020 High</th>
<th>2020 Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National, Large, White (f.o.b. dock prices)</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>258.5</td>
<td>32.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily New York Eggs (delivered store door)</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>309.0</td>
<td>78.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest Regional (delivered warehouse)</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>293.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Benchmark</td>
<td>147.0</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>154.0</td>
<td>377.0</td>
<td>132.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central States Breaking Stock (delivered prices)</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole Frozen Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>40.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole Dried Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>2.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Conventional</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Cage-free</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>3.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shell Egg Demand Indicator</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>-3.5</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>-15.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 mostly high; 2 non-organic

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics