Source: USDA AMS L&P Agricultural Analytics

Wholesale prices for cartoned shell eggs firmed and began to advance late in the week as the level of supplies and offerings declined but remained in balance. The wholesale market for loose eggs experienced similar conditions with more activity on the buyer side to cover shortfalls and to position themselves for an anticipated uptick in demand. The pace of trading for both markets is slow to moderate. Prices for national trading of trucklot quantities of graded, loose, White Large shell eggs increased 11% (from $0.409 to $0.454 per dozen) with a firm undertone into next week. The wholesale price on the New York market for Large cartoned shell eggs delivered to retailers increased 6% (from $0.78 to $0.83 per dozen) with a firm undertone. The Midwest wholesale price for Large, white, shell eggs delivered to retailers was unchanged at $0.62 per dozen and prices paid to producers increased 5% (from $0.43 to $0.45 per dozen). The California benchmark for Large shell eggs held steady at $1.39 per dozen. Prices in both markets are fully steady into next week. Delivered prices on the California wholesale loose egg market posted a 2% decline for the week (from $0.855 to $0.841 per dozen) but the tone has steadied.

Consumer demand for cartoned shell eggs improved over the past week as active promotions at retail outlets at very attractive price levels achieved some success in stimulating consumer buying. However, demand remains below average for this time of year and is running behind last year’s levels when demand was at above average levels into September. Demand on the loose egg market improves as declining supplies have increased buyer interest for moderate offerings. It is still too early to fully assess the impact of pandemic mitigation efforts on seasonal consumption patterns heading into the new school year given the heightened level of uncertainty arising from the impact of disparate approaches on traditional demand patterns.

Supermarket feature activity for conventional shell eggs decreased over the past week with a sharp rise in the average ad price, up 24% (from $0.86 to $1.07 per dozen) as aggressive promotions expire. Featuring of specialty types rises on a wave of promotions for nutritionally-enhanced types. Feature activity for UEP-defined cage-free shell eggs is about unchanged from the last cycle and accounts for 31% of all shell eggs on feature. The average ad price rises 3% (from $2.55 to $2.63 per dozen), contracting the ad price spread between cage-free and the average ad price for 12-packs of Large conventional shell eggs to $1.56, ($0.14 per dozen; 8%).

The overall inventory of shell eggs drew down by 2% and the nation-wide inventory of Large eggs declined just over one percent. The inventory of Large eggs in the key Midwest production region was down just short of 2% as carton business remains slow. The inventory share of Large class shell eggs was about unchanged to just under a 47% share.
of all shell egg stocks on inventory at the start of the week. The share of stocks of ungraded eggs was down just under one percent as carton business shows signs of increasing into next week. Breaking stock inventories declined nearly 4% but remain more than adequate for current production runs. Total table egg production for the week was up very slightly from last week and from last year where it is currently 3% under last year – about 4.6 million dozen.

The wholesale price for breaking stock in the Central States firmed through the week before advancing at week’s end, up 4% (from $0.26 to $0.27 per dozen) by week’s end. Offerings remain at moderate levels but demand has softened as supplies remain fully adequate to sustain a full to slightly overtime pace of production. The pace of trading is slow to moderate. The volume of eggs processed for the week increased one percent and remained at a 30% share of weekly table egg production. Weekly production moved closer to the pace of a year ago but is currently 88% of last year’s level. Production of whole liquid eggs was down 2% as focus shifted to the whites and yolks, up 8% and 6%, respectively. Production of dried egg was down again this week, 5% below last week’s pace. Production of inedible egg declined 2%.

Wholesale prices for whole certified liquid whole eggs are higher. Offerings are moderate on moderate to active trading and moderate to good demand. Wholesale prices for frozen whole egg products is sharply higher, up 22% (from $0.46 to $0.56 per pound) while the price for liquid whites was unchanged at $0.54 per pound. The undertone is firm to higher on moderate offerings and light to moderate supplies. Trading is moderate on moderate to good demand. Wholesale prices for dried eggs are mostly unchanged with whole dried egg at $2.05 per pound, dried yolk at $2.00 per pound. The price of dried albumen increases 2% (from $4.45 to $4.55 per pound). The undertone is steady on moderate offerings and light to moderate supplies. Demand is moderate and trading is slow to moderate.

According to NASS, the June monthly volume of frozen eggs in storage increased 4% from May, 5% over June 2019. Stocks of whole frozen egg increased 6% for the month, 14% over last year’s June level and increased 2% to 51% of total frozen stocks. Stocks of frozen yolk were down 3% for the month but 41% from last year. Frozen white volume in storage was down 4% for the month, 19% below the level of a year ago. Stocks of unclassed eggs increased 2% in June and were 4% over the level of June 2019. Unclassed eggs continued to account for 41% of cold storage inventory of frozen eggs.

Cage-free commitments as of July 23 were unchanged, requiring 63.5 billion cage-free eggs per year to meet 100% of needs from an approximate cage-free flock of 221 million hens (70% of the U.S. non-organic flock), indicating a shortage of 152.5 million hens from the current non-organic cage-free flock of 68.7 million hens. The lay rate for non-organic cage-free production is currently estimated at 78.6%.
### Key Egg Markets Overview

**SHELL EGGS (cents per dozen)**
- **National, Large, White (f.o.b. dock prices)**: 45.43 (11% change), 40.88, 40.22, 32.11, 39.03, 56.27
- **New York, Large, White, (price to retailers)**: 83.00 (6% change), 78.00, 78.00, 78.00, 85.00, 96.00
- **Midwest, Large, White (price dlvrd to warehouse)**: 62.00 (0% change), 62.00, 62.00, 71.00, 81.00, 81.00
- **California, Large, benchmark**: 139.00 (0% change), 139.00, 139.00, 148.00, 164.00, 164.00

**National Retail Shell Egg (dollars per dozen)**
- **Conventional, Large, White**: 1.07 (24% change), 0.86, 0.98, 0.90, 0.89, 1.06
- **Cage-Free, Large, Brown/White**: 2.63 (3% change), 2.55, 2.36, 2.57, 2.76, 2.65

**EGG PRODUCTS (f.o.b. dock prices; dollars per pound)**
- **Central States Breaking Stock (delivered prices)**: 29.00 (12% change), 26.00, 26.00, 28.00, 30.00, 35.00
- **Whole Frozen Eggs**: 56.00 (22% change), 46.00, 46.00, 48.00, 55.00, 56.00
- **Whole Dried Eggs**: 2.05 (0% change), 2.05, 2.05, 2.10, 2.10, 2.10

**Processed Share of Weekly Egg Production**: 30.3% (0.4% change), 29.9%, 30.5%, 30.5%, 29.4%, 27.0%

**SHELL EGG DEMAND INDICATOR (no units)**
- **-7.1 (2.2%) change**: -9.3, -9.7, -12.8, -15.3, -8.5

### Recent History

**Producer, warehouse, & store door = MW; retail no sale NY market; retail on sale Nat’l Retail Feature; loose eggs include minimal material costs.**

### Key Shell Egg Markets Snapshot - 2020

**National, Large, White (f.o.b. dock prices)**: 45.4 (11% change), 40.9, 258.5, 01-Apr, 32.1, 21-Apr
**Daily New York Eggs (delivered store door)**: 83.0 (6% change), 78.0, 309.0, 25-Mar, 78.0, 09-Jan
**Midwest Regional (delivered warehouse)**: 62.0 (0% change), 62.0, 293.0, 30-Mar, 62.0, 13-Jan
**California Benchmark**: 139.0 (0% change), 139.0, 377.0, 30-Mar, 132.0, 15-Jun
**Central States Breaking Stock (delivered prices)**: 29.0 (12% change), 90.0, 70.0, 17-Mar, 20.0, 22-Apr
**Whole Frozen Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)**: 56.0 (22% change), 46.0, 78.0, 13-Mar, 40.0, 24-Apr
**Whole Dried Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)**: 2.05 (0% change), 2.05, 2.30, 03-Jan, 2.05, 24-Apr
**Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Conventional**: 1.07 (24% change), 0.86, 1.57, 01-May, 0.86, 07-Aug
**Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Cage-free**: 2.63 (3% change), 2.55, 3.61, 24-Apr, 2.06, 22-May
**Shell Egg Demand Indicator**: -7.1 (2.2% change), -9.3, 33.0, 01-Apr, -15.3, 15-Jul

*mostly high;  non-organic*