



EGG & POULTRY NATIONAL WEEKLY REVIEW

THURSDAY
MARCH 31, 2005
VOL. 56 NO. 13

ISSN 1520-6114

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG REVIEW



Prices began the week lower but by late week were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to instances barely steady. Retail demand was moderate to at times fairly good. Food service movement was light. Supplies were fully adequate for current needs. All breaking stock prices were unchanged. The demand was fair with moderate offerings. Floor stocks were sufficient for trade needs. Schedules were full-time to part-time. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Removal costs for light type hens remain unchanged. Demand was fairly good with fully adequate offerings. Schedules were full-time. Trade sentiment was steady. Removal prices were 0-12 cents, mostly 5.5-8.5 cents per head.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to producers in IA-MN-WI were 1 cent lower for large. Other reported prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady. Retail demand was light to at times moderate. Food service movement was mostly light. Supplies were fully adequate to available for current needs. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were adequate to available for the fair demand. Floor stocks adequate to fully adequate. Schedules full-time to part-time. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	38-48	39-45
LARGE	37-47	38-41
MEDIUM	23-33	25-28

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV,
Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to instances barely steady. Retail and distributive demand was light to moderate. Supplies were adequate to at times available for immediate needs. Breaking stock offerings were adequate to fully adequate for the light to moderate demand. Spent hens were fully sufficient for processing requirements.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	49-64	50-53
LARGE	43-57	48-52
MEDIUM	28-41	32-35

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ,
Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

COMBINED REGIONAL Mar 25, 2005
Average prices on sales to volume buyers, Grade A Large or better, White eggs in cartons, delivered warehouse, cents per dozen.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	57.50	56.00	41.00
SOUTHEAST	56.50	54.50	40.00
MIDWEST	49.00	46.50	34.50
SOUTH CENTRAL	61.50	59.50	43.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	56.37	54.36	39.91

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations.

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS FOR LOOSE EGGS AT FARM, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, CENTS PER DOZEN

	03-29-05	03-22-05	03-30-04
Large	20-29	27-36	87-94
Medium	6-12	14-20	69-73

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- March 28, 2005

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO	SO	SO	5-Area		
		Northeast	CENT	Atl	Pacific		
Jumbo	Curr Wk	14.1	15.5	7.6	11.1	15.0	63.3
	Change	-0.8	-1.4	-3.5	-0.9	-1.6	-11%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	21.0	33.2	7.7	20.8	29.5	112.2
	Change	-1.8	1.3	-3.3	-4.0	-16.9	-18%
Large	Curr Wk	68.8	83.7	42.7	85.2	72.2	352.6
	Change	-8.2	-26.2	-26.1	-28.9	-55.0	-29%
Medium	Curr Wk	11.2	41.2	13.1	23.6	29.8	118.9
	Change	-10.6	-2.5	-3.8	-7.1	-6.2	-20%
Small	Curr Wk	5.4	7.2	2.2	5.1	3.1	23.0
	Change	0.7	-1.9	0.3	-0.8	-0.3	-8%
Misc	Curr Wk	5.5	24.9	12.5	14.8	7.2	64.9
	Change	-0.2	-2.3	2.2	-1.9	0.2	-3%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	8.4	37.7	16.4	26.0	24.2	112.7
	Change	-0.6	0.8	-5.3	-4.3	-6.5	-12%
Total	Curr Wk	134.4	243.4	102.2	186.6	181.0	847.6
	Percent Change	-14%	-12%	-28%	-20%	-32%	-21%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	847.6	-21%	173
Shell Egg Breaking Stock	245.0	9%	35
Total Shell Egg	1092.6	-16%	208

1/ Information supplied by a universe of 173 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

Northeast- CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT
North Central - IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI
South Central - AR, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX
South Atlantic - AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV
Pacific- AZ, CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - W/E 26-MAR-05

(LBS IN THOUSANDS)
(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)

	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED
CW	1,278,298	29,793	12,772	7,075	2,919	4,355
PW	1,293,097	31,080	12,494	6,679	2,237	4,507
LY	1,188,239	29,064	11,047	5,897	2,138	4,113
% CHG PWK	-1	-4	2	6	31	-3
% CHG LY	8	3	16	20	37	6
2005	14,959,763	358,491	145,237	77,728	33,270	52,524
2004	13,945,251	331,631	133,445	74,541	30,778	49,000
% CHG YTD	7	8	9	4	8	7

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	42.24	42.35	42.18
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	38.83	38.86	38.72

BROILER HATCHERY

STATE	Broiler Eggs Set in 19 Selected States		Broiler Chicks Placed in 19 Selected States	
	MAR 19	MAR 26	MAR 19	MAR 26
	Thousand			
AL	29,970	30,671	21,507	21,502
AR	30,657	30,173	*26,004	24,251
DE	4,071	3,810	*5,964	5,487
FL	1,358	1,359	1,483	1,545
GA	*33,439	32,855	*27,484	27,538
KY	*6,698	6,901	*5,824	6,157
LA	4,135	4,133	3,514	4,227
MD	*8,981	8,854	*4,785	5,433
MS	19,617	19,665	17,492	17,609
NC	18,818	18,844	15,097	15,337
OK	6,285	6,728	5,214	5,127
PA	*4,046	4,061	*2,877	2,943
SC	5,247	5,275	4,277	3,753
TX	15,094	15,121	12,897	12,882
VA	*6,778	6,749	*5,523	5,442
CA, MO, TN, & WV	*17,770	18,300	*16,271	16,707
:				
19 State Total	*212,964	213,499	*176,213	175,940
Previous Year Total	210,144	211,188	171,783	172,347
Pct. of Prev. Year	101	101	103	102

* Revised

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 07-May-05 is estimated at 162.1 million head. This compares to 162.4 million head the previous week and to 161.9 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 159.0 million head and the composite weighted average price was 77.83 cents per pound.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES - WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES

(CNTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 03/24/05-03/30/05

CURRENT LDS	121.75	FUTURE LDS	47.25	TOTAL LDS	169.00		
	SE		NE		MW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	25.00	28.00	25.50	28.04	21.00	28.00	16.75
GNR BR 1	—	33.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
GL W J	—	—	46.75	48.00	31.42	37.00	6.75
GL W XL	—	41.89	38.50	39.98	30.87	—	45.50
GL W LG	—	41.56	22.10	34.39	26.00	31.57	26.50
GL W MD	—	—	21.75	23.20	18.23	23.50	16.25
GL W SM	25.50	28.25	23.92	26.79	20.00	23.00	9.00
NRBS - 48	20.13	22.00	20.50	24.00	21.09	23.05	51.00
NRBS - 42	—	—	—	—	18.00	19.50	1.00

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS W/E 26-MAR-2005

SELECTED CONSUMING CENTERS	CW THOUSANDS	PW	PCT CHG PW	LY
Atlanta	39.1	31.1	26	41
Boston	3.2	4.6	-30	-3
Chicago	102.0	101.0	1	35
Detroit	38.2	28.3	35	35
Kansas City	5.7	7.8	-27	84
Los Angeles	135.9	97.9	39	57
New Orleans	8.7	8.4	4	5
New York	35.7	34.6	3	12
St. Louis	17.2	23.8	-28	-1
San Francisco	29.6	22.8	30	72
Total	415.3	360.3	15	39
4 Week Moving Avg.	355.9			

LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED W/E 26-MAR-05

TOTAL	YOUNG HENS		YOUNG OLD TOMS		BREEDERS
TURKEYS					
-----THOUSANDS-----					
Head	1,468	2,502	15	6	3,991
Avg Wt	16.03	38.03	26.38	28.44	29.88
Last week	1,582	2,517	17	1	4,117
Same wk yr ago	1,808	2,595	48	7	4,458
Avg Wt	15.86	36.62	24.28	27.78	28.05
To-date/2005	18,300	30,039	309	42	48,690
To-date/2004	20,352	29,624	527	97	50,600

NUMBER OF TURKEYS SLTRD IN FEDERALLY INSP PLANTS

Week ending 26-MAR-05 (Preliminary)						
---YOUNG TURKEYS---			OLD	TOTAL TURKEYS		
THOUSAND	PCT CHG	AVG	BANDED	HEAD-	LIVE WT	
HEAD	PW	LIVE WT	-THOUSAND	HEAD-	LIVE WT	
North East	728	0	24.55	(A)	730	24.55
South Atlantic	581	-4	30.80	(A)	582	30.80
North Central	1,967	1	34.00	(A)	1,968	34.00
South Central	420	-17	22.49	(A)	421	22.49
West	289	-11	24.11	(A)	290	24.11
U.S. total	3,985(B)	-3	29.88	6	3,991	29.88
To-date						
2005	48,648(B)			42	48,690	
To-date						
2004	50,503(B)			97	50,600	

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

(B) Number of young banded breeder turks included: this week 15,000; for the current year to date 309,000; for last year to date 527,000.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION (Preliminary)

W/E 26-Mar-2005	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	151,161	1,711	1,356	3,067	503
Avg Wt	5.19	3.23	8.14	5.40	6.83
Last week	157,335	1,385	1,402	2,787	512
Same wk yr ago	152,749	1,254	1,222	2,476	481
Avg Wt	5.16	3.24	8.00	5.59	6.76
To-date/2005	1,877,190	17,631	15,677	33,308	6,102
To-date/2004	1,842,387	15,274	15,206	30,480	5,512

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 164.0 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 153.0 million head, or 11.0 million less than estimated available.

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 02-Apr-05

CLASS	Current Week	Previous Week
	04/02/05(1)	03/26/05
	-----THOUSAND HEAD-----	
Broiler/fryer	164,514(2)	153,640
Light hens	1,665	1,683
Heavy hens	1,427	1,320
Total	167,606	156,643

(1) Estimated

(2) The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 02-Apr-05 is 165.4 million head compared to 153.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 164.8 million head or 0.6 million less than estimated available. For the week of 09-Apr-05 the estimated available is 166.0 million head.

ESTIMATED U.S. FRYER SLAUGHTER/ FRYER AVAILABILITY COMPARISON

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD		PCT	AVG WT	
	SLAUGHTERED	AVAILABLE			
February	19	158.6	162.8	97%	5.16
	26	158.3	163.4	97%	5.28
March	5	162.0	163.0	99%	5.24
	12	159.5	161.9	99%	5.16
	19	159.2	162.0	98%	5.20
	26	153.0	164.0	93%	5.19
Year to date		1899.9	1939.3	98%	
April	2		165.4		
	9		166.0		

FINAL BROILER/FRYER Final report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook ice-packed broiler/fryers (includes branded product) to be delivered to first receivers at major market centers week of 28-MAR-2005 (cents per lb)

	U.S. GRADE A		LDS	COMPOSITE	
	MAJ	WTD AVG		WTD AVG	LDS
Chicago	67.00-70.00	70.10	41	71.14	76
Los Angeles	80.00	79.32	63	77.30	157
New York	72.00-74.00	72.75	24	72.45	42

COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES FOR RTC BROILER/FRYERS

28-MAR-2005	Change from		
	21-MAR-2005	21-MAR-2005	29-MAR-2004
73.65	-.42	74.07	76.77

NUMBER OF LOADS 596

MONTHLY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE FOR R.T.C. BROILER/FRYERS

Month	Weighted Average	Loads
March	72.81	2,668.60

QUARTERLY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE FOR R.T.C. BROILER/FRYERS

Month	Weighted Average	Loads
January-March	71.91	7,449.80

WHOLE YOUNG TURKEYS, FROZEN 1/, CONSUMER SIZES, COMMODITY PACK OR EQUIVALENT, US GRADE A, CENTS PER LB, DELIVERED (MINIMUM 10,000 LB LOTS)

CURRENT SHIPMENTS 2/ WTD LBS

8-16 LB HENS	OFFERS	SALES	AVG	(000)
EASTERN REGION 3/	64-65	-	-	-
CENTRAL REGION 4/	64	-	-	-
WESTERN REGION 5/	65-66	-	-	-

16-24 LB TOMS

EASTERN REGION	62-63	-	-	-
CENTRAL REGION	62-63	-	-	-
WESTERN REGION	63-64	-	-	-

1/ May include product stored at temperatures in range of 1 to 25 degrees F. 2/ Includes product priced for shipment within 14 days.

3/ Includes product with 3 percent broth basting. 4/ Includes product with 3-6 percent broth basting. 5/ Includes products with 6 percent broth basting.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - Selected Centers (INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	Frozen Eggs/LBS	Turkeys/LBS	Processed other Poultry/LBS
AM 03/28/05	3,368	98,778	48,996
AM 03/01/05	3,601	88,108	41,709
CHG	-233	10,670	7,287
PCT CHG	-6%	12%	17%

HEN MARKETS

HEAVY TYPE Final Price, Generally for slaughter the week of 28-MAR-05

REGIONS	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
Southeast (1)	8.25-15.5 CENTS/LB.	11.25-13	12.28
Southeast (2)	TFEWR		
South Central(1)	8-15.25 CENTS/LB.	11-13	12.14

(1) At Farm Buyer Loading (2) At Farm Producer Loading

LIGHT TYPE Cents per Head, generally for removal within the next 10 days (includes handling, freight and any other charges, weights average about 3.50 pounds)

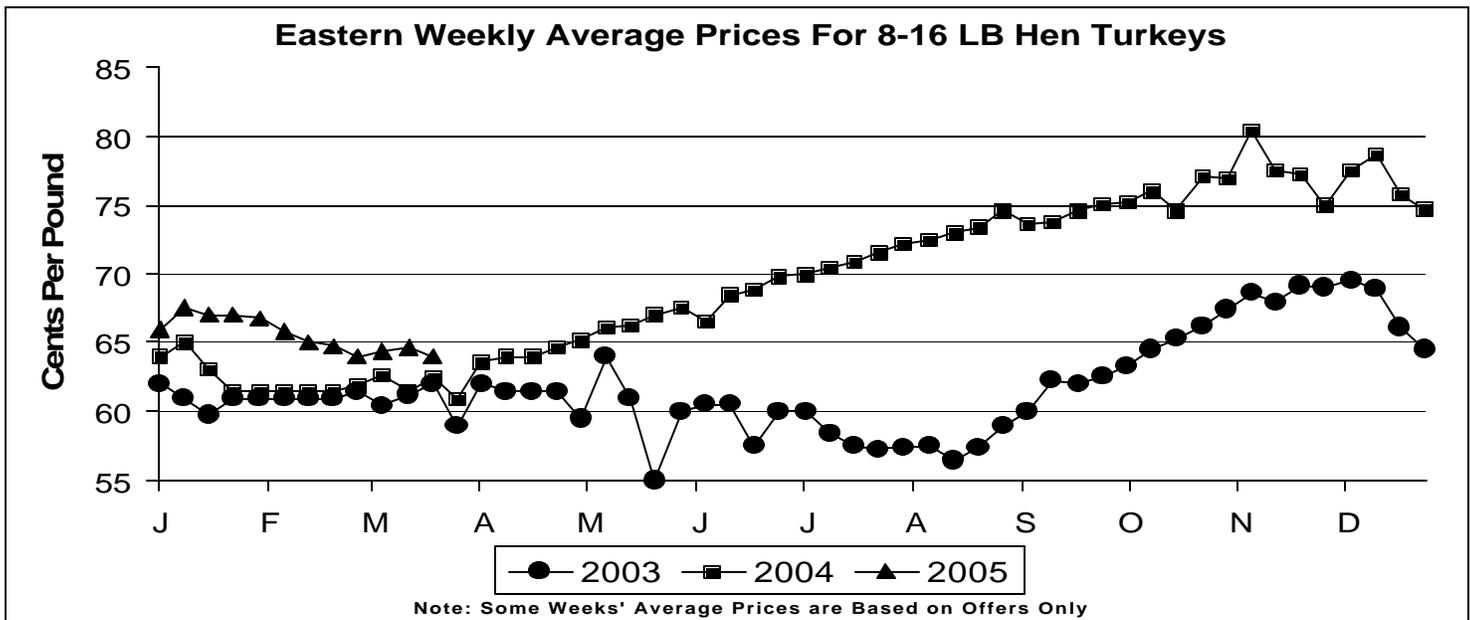
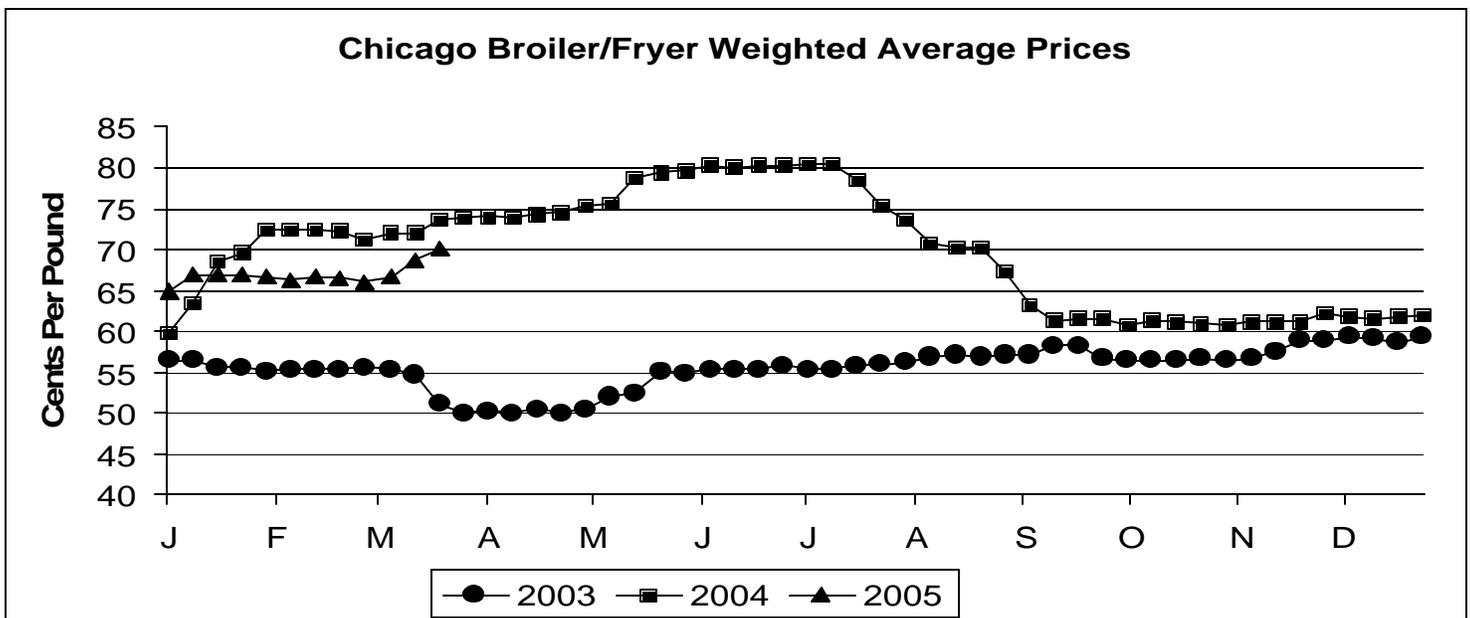
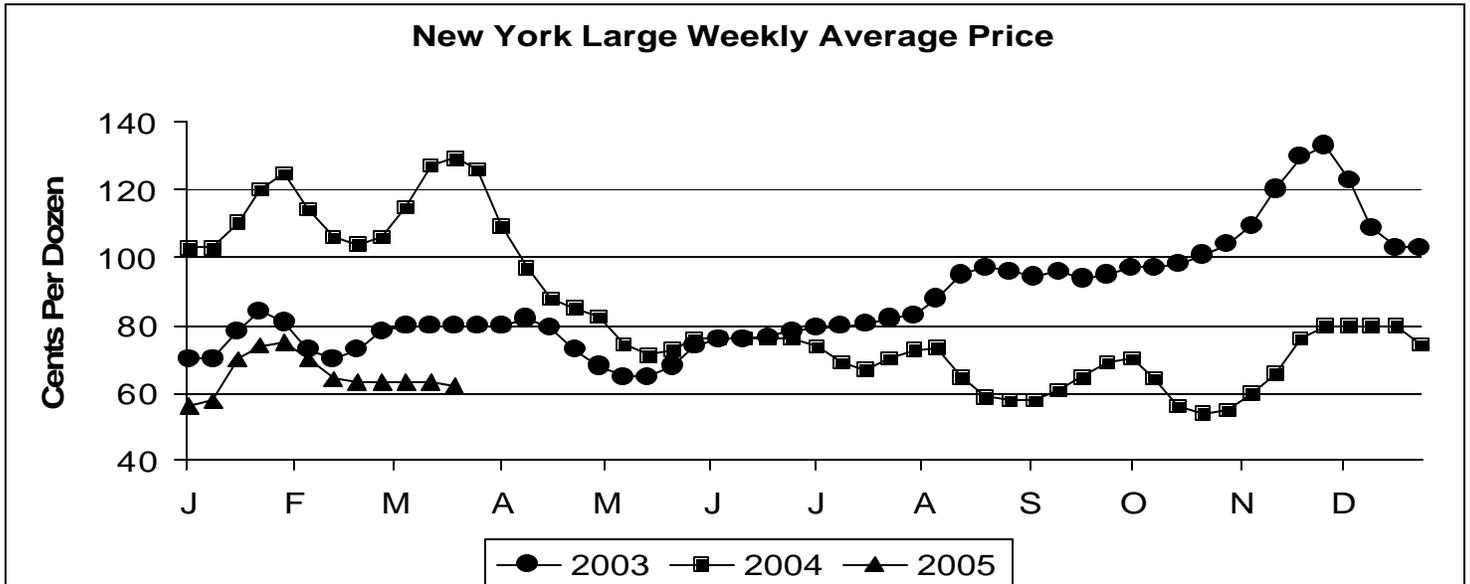
25-MAR-05	REMOVAL COST	
	RANGE	MAJORITY
Eastern	3-13	8-11
South Central	Too Few To Report	
North Central	0-12	5.5-8.5

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT (Receipts From Producers)

W/E 26-Mar-2005	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
REGIONS		PW	LY
North Atlantic	249.7	2	0
East North Central	623.7	-3	15
West North Central	294.1	-4	1
South Atlantic	219.6	-3	-4
South Central	70.6	5	1
West	254	12	51
Total	1711.7	0	11

Matched Plants reporting Previous week 86
Last year 85

Areas Covered: North Atlantic (ME,VT,MA,RI,CT,NH,NY,PA,NJ,MC,DE)
East North Central (WI,IL,MI,OH,IN) West North Central (IA,MN,MO,KS,SD)
South Atlantic (SC,NC,VA,GA,FL,KY) South Central (TN,AL,AR,MS,OK)
West (CA,CO,WA,OR,UT)



Note: Some Weeks' Average Prices are Based on Offers Only

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

Washington, DC	Voice Fax	(202)720-6911 (202)720-2403	Mike Sheats, Chief
Atlanta, GA	Voice Fax Recorded	(404)562-5850 (404)562-5875 (404)562-5856	Johnny Freeman, Officer-in-Charge
Jackson, MS	Voice Fax	(601)965-4662 (601)965-4661	Gary Brown, Southern States Area Supervisor
Des Moines, IA	Voice Fax Recorded	(515)284-4471 (515)284-4468 (515)284-4545	Mary L. Adkins, Officer-in-Charge
Los Angeles, CA	Voice Fax Recorded	(213)534-1330 (213)534-1333 (213)534-1335	Jim Derby, Officer-in-Charge