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EU Animal Welfare for Laying Hens

The use of conventional cages for laying hens in the EU-27 was banned effective January 1, 2012. Not all Member States are in compliance with the ban; there are estimates that about 14% of hens were still in the banned cages on January 1, 2012. The United Kingdom was found to have a few farms still using battery cages on January 1, 2012, but has since come into compliance. Malta sent its report in mid-January confirming their decision to cull all hens coming from non-compliant cages, following assurances given verbally to the Commission. This communication was made in time to be struck off the list of member states against which action was to be taken. Sweden (1999), Luxembourg (2007), Austria (2009) and Germany (2010) have reported 100% conformity with the legal provisions.

On January 26, 2012 the European Commission (EC), via a letter of formal notice requesting information, called on Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Hungary (HU), the Netherlands (NL), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT) and Romania (RO) to take action to address deficiencies in the implementation of EU legislation concerning the welfare of animals, and specifically to implement the ban on "un-enriched" cages for laying hens which applied as of January 1, 2012, as laid down by Directive 1999/74/EC. The EC noted that Member States who still allow the use of "un-enriched" cages cause market distortions and unfair competition.

Member States have two months to respond to the letter of formal notice under EU infringement procedures. If they fail to react satisfactorily the Commission will send a "Reasoned Opinion" requesting concerned Member States to take the necessary measures to comply with the Directive within two months.

Average Number of Layers 2010 in 13 Countries, in thousands

	Cage (A)	Cage (B)	Free Range	Barn	Organic	Total
BE	6,125	724	673	1,572	170	9,264
BG	1,755	578	116	711	0	3,160
EL	4,799	207	40	155	128	5,328
ES	37,909	6,317	1,466	861	40	46,592
FR	19,218	16,146	6,089	1,776	2,301	45,531
IT	27,723	7,593	412	12,806	1,042	49,575
CY	192	154	35	47	7	434
LV	485	1,643	16	215	1	2,360
HU	1,395	3,492	31	680	42	5,640
NL	12,787	700	4,426	14,522	1,015	33,448
PL 1)	22,033	7,637	406	2,674	31	32,781
PT 4)	4,481	1,494	72	54	28	6,129
RO 2)	1,739	3,309	0	1,129	38	6,215

A - non enriched; B - enriched
1) Polish industrial producing laying hens, which is 85% of total laying hen population
2) Romanian industrial producing laying hens, which is 13% of total laying hen population. Free range data does not include the Romanian backyard flock of estimated 31,334,724 hens
4) Devision Cages and Enriched cages according to Message 2175/DSSPA to DG SANCO
Source: European Commission – DG-AGRI

The European Union first imposed minimum standards for laying hens in cages in 1986. Council Directive 1999/74/EC was adopted in 1999 and the limit for the transposition of Council Directive 1999/74/EC by Member States was fixed on January 1, 2002. Many Member States encountered delays, especially the then new candidate Member States, which were still negotiating the EU accession for 2004 or 2007.

The time frame for the implementation of the ban on the use of conventional cages for laying hens was declared feasible at a meeting of major European stakeholders in January 2011. The Commission asked Member States to send data on the number of laying hens, categorized by farming system, by April 1, 2011. The data revealed that some Member States would still have laying hens in un-enriched cages at the end of the year. Several Member States did not return any data to the Commission.

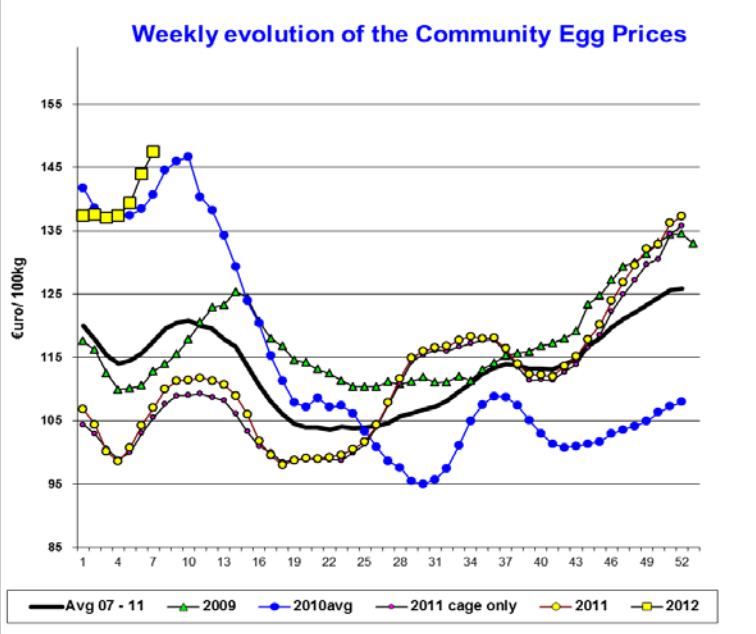
In an October 20, 2011 EUROPA press release, Health and Consumer Policy Commissioner Dalli said "The Commission does not intend to postpone the deadline of the ban and it will not hesitate to start infringement procedures in case of non-compliance." The Commissioner also said experts from the Food and Veterinary Office will start visiting targeted Member States as of January 2012. Any decisions on infringement procedures will be based on the outcomes of these audits.

Number of Laying Hens 2008-2010 by way of keeping in the EU 27in '000 head

	2008	%	2009	%	2010	%
Trad. Cage	263,940	51.8%	253,224	49.7%	165,028	32.4%
Enr. Cage	N/A	-	9,915	1.9%	72,874	14.3%
Free range	31,397	6.2%	34,763	6.8%	38,576	7.6%
Barn	50,620	9.9%	59,990	11.8%	75,474	14.8%
Organic	8,717	1.7%	9,671	1.9%	11,050	2.2%
Other*	154,647	30.4%	141,757	27.8%	146,318	28.7%

Trad = Traditional; Enr = Enriched
Source: European Commission – DG-AGRI

Source: EUROPA Press Release "Animal welfare: Commission urges Member States to implement ban on hen cages or risk facing legal action," and Midday Express of 2011-01-20 "Implementation of ban on conventional cages for laying hens confirmed."



Germany, Austria and Sweden barn egg prices, all other cage egg prices.

2012	Week 7	variation - 1 week	variation - 1 year	variation avg 2007-11
Egg Price	147.53	2.4%	37.8%	25.6%

Source: European Commission – DG-AGRI
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/agri/pig/library

INSPECTED EGG PRODUCTS-U.S. & CANADA IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE

U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending Feb 18, 2012 Year-To-Date*

Type	2012	2011 /1	2012 /2	2011
Liquid	0	0	151	240
Frozen	0	0	0	0
Dried	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	151	240

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending Feb 18, 2012 Year-To-Date*

Type	2012	2011 /1	2012 /2	2011
Liquid	400	335	2,186	2,438
Frozen	10	6	214	82
Dried	0	0	0	0
Total	410	341	2,400	2,520

INSPECTED SHELL EGGS

U.S Exports to Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)

Week Ending Feb 18, 2012 Year-To-Date*

	2012	2011 /1	2012 /2	2011
Jumbo	0	0	0	0
Extra Large	570	1,140	5,250	2,439
Large	630	300	2,196	1,415
Medium	1,560	870	3,300	1,825
Ungraded	1,344	216	7,806	8,255
Misc	0	0	0	0
Total	4,104	2,526	18,552	13,934

/1 Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.
/2 Includes revisions to previous week(s)
*Note: Year to-date totals reflect comparable time periods.
Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

U.S./CANADIAN LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER INSPECTION

Week Ending Feb 18, 2012 (Preliminary)

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered Domestically

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
	----------Thousands----------		
Head	1,574	1,615	3,189
Last Week	1,465	1,601	3,066
Same week yr ago	1,440	1,633	3,073
To-date/2012*	10,890	10,914	21,804
To-date/2011*	10,002	10,222	20,224

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered in Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
	----------Thousands----------		
Head	0	0	0
Last Week	0	0	0
Same week yr ago	252	0	252
To-date/2012*	1,880	36	1,916
To-date/2011*	2,616	46	2,662

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Total U.S. Fowl Slaughtered in the U.S. and Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
	----------Thousands----------		
Head	1,574	1,615	3,189
Last Week	1,465	1,601	3,066
Same week yr ago	1,692	1,633	3,325
To-date/2012*	12,770	10,950	23,720
To-date/2011*	12,618	10,268	22,886

*Note: Year to-date totals reflect comparable time periods.

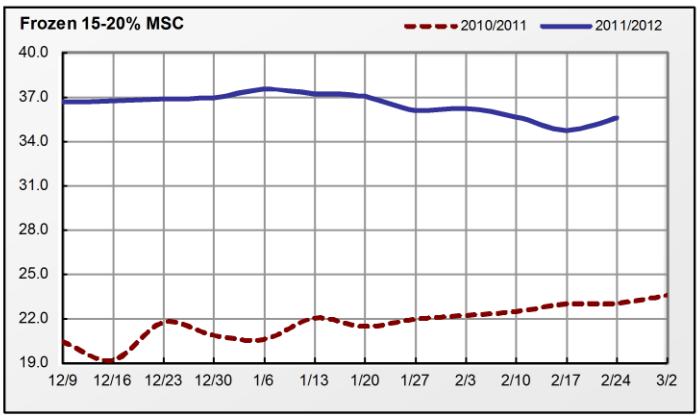
NATIONAL MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

(FOB Shipper Dock or equiv., negotiated prices in trucklot and less-than-trucklot volumes reported in thousand lb. quantities, cents/lb.; delivery within 2 weeks.)

MSC prices for all fat contents trended steady to weak. Supplies are moderate to heavy. Schedules are normal. Domestic demand is light to moderate. Export demand is moderate. Best interest from Central America, Caribbean, and Asia with some increased interest noted into Mexico. The spot marketplace has been slow and more traditional of late. Despite improved interest noted late this week and into next week many anticipate the marketplace to be slow with the Lenten season in full swing. Increased availability of MSC and frames continues and has been attributed to reduced contractual needs of buyers, heavy inventories of finished products, and reduced retail orders of finished products due to higher prices. Industry maintains a close eye on the situation. Market activity is slow to moderate. Raw material supplies moderate. Spot frames traded between 12-16 cents FOB.

Weekly MSC Weighted Average Prices (cents/pound) and Volumes (1,000 pounds)

	Frozen			Fresh		
Fat Content	24-Feb-12	Last Week	Last Year	24-Feb-12	Last Week	Last Year
15% or Less						
Price Range			-	26.00 - 27.00	27.00 - 28.00	20.00
Wtd Avg Price			-	26.67	27.75	20.00
Volume Traded	-	-	-	122	163	122
Volume Exported	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20%						
Price Range	30.00 - 38.00	29.00 - 38.00	21.00-25.00	20.00 - 30.00	20.00 - 30.00	15.50-23.00
Wtd Avg Price	35.60	34.75	23.02	24.48	24.67	18.40
Volume Traded	1,460	2,678	1,489	4,906	4,145	4,090
Volume Exported	1,340	2,278	1,369	1,020	653	408
20% or More						
Price Range	-	-	-	22.50	22.50	18.00-20.00
Wtd Avg Price			-	22.50	22.50	19.33
Volume Traded	-	-	-	41	41	122
Volume Exported	-	-	-	-	-	-

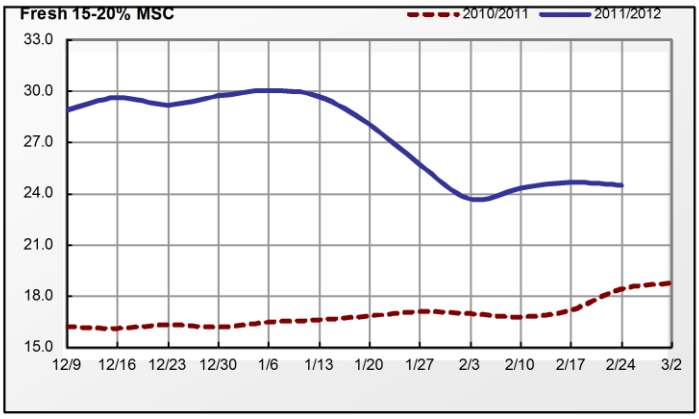


Monthly MSC Weighted Average Prices (cents/pound) and Volumes (1,000 pounds)

	Frozen			Fresh		
Fat Content	Jan 2012	Dec 2011	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Dec 2011	Jan 2011
15% or Less						
Wtd Avg Price	-	-	-	31.81	31.89	18.48
Volume Traded	-	-	-	734	714	632
Volume Exported	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20%						
Wtd Avg Price	37.00	36.64	21.37	28.51	28.89	16.77
Volume Traded	6,795	6,422	4,805	14,390	19,182	14,210
Volume Exported	6,195	5,542	4,105	1,306	5,183	1,061
20% or More						
Wtd Avg Price	-	-	-	22.36	22.59	19.07
Volume Traded	-	-	-	286	449	612
Volume Exported	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Volume exported refers to that portion of the total volume that is destined for export markets.

Source: USDA AMS Poultry Market News & Analysis (www.ams.usda.gov/pymarketnews.htm)



NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS

INCLUDING BULK MEAT and FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 24 FEB 2012.

The market on bulk parts was steady. Demand was light to moderate. Offerings moderate. The market on white meat is steady to weak. Demand was light to moderate. Offerings moderate. Thigh meat market was steady. Demand and offerings was light to moderate. Trading was slow to moderate. For domestic: fresh scapula 112 cents, frozen breeder breast meat 195 cents, machine defatted hen gizzards 91 cents, fresh tails 51-53 cents, fresh tom neck 52 cents, grade A breast non basted 12-16 lbs. 173 cents, 16-18 lbs. 178 cents and 18-20 lb. 183 cents delivered. For export: fresh tom drums 69 cents, frozen hen drums 72.50-74 cents, hand defatted tom gizzard 113 cents and frozen scapula 113 cents.

EXPORT TRADING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	72.00		72.00	40	71.80	404
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		R	63.25	526	63.25	526
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM	97.00		97.00	162	97.00	162
TAILS	53.00		53.00	120	52.38	174
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	29.00-36.00		32.66	161	32.66	161
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	147.00-148.0		147.33	81	146.40	135

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	72.00		72.00	40
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	62.00-73.00		63.25	526
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM		F	96.00	120
TAILS		W	51.00	54
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	31.00	40
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	145.00		145.00	54

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	71.50-72.00		71.75	324
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	65.00	108
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM		F	96.00	120
TAILS	51.00		51.00	54
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	31.00	40
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	147.00	200

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	71.42	370
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	65.00	108
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM		F	96.00	120
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	31.00	40
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	147.00	200

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012 HOLIDAY - NO TRADING REPORTED

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.):
M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R-THURSDAY F=FRIDAY
2/ 15-20% fat with skin added.