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**Don Bell's Table Egg Layer Flock Projections and Economic Commentary - 2007**

*(This report was written by Don Bell, University of California Poultry Specialist, emeritus, under the sponsorship of United Egg Producers)*

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**1. MONTHLY HATCH (straight-run) (000's):**

The total hatch for 2007 is up 5.7% above year-earlier levels. This represents 6.3 million more pullet chicks for the first six months of the year.

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (%)
May	38,792	39,744	38,498	-3.1
June	35,034	37,406	40,005	+7.0
Total to date	226,294	219,958	232,436	+5.7

**2. 24-MONTH ACCUMULATED HATCH (females) (millions):**

The 24-month previous hatch is one of the most highly correlated statistic associated with "next year's" egg prices. During the 1996-2006 period, each additional one million female chicks hatched in each 2-year period depressed annual Urner-Barry Midwest Large egg prices by about 0.4 ¢/dozen. 24-month totals appear to have "bottomed out" in early 2004 at about 417 to 418 million pullets from a high in excess of 440 million. June counts are approximately 436 million – 1.7 million less than in 2006.

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (%)
May	433,372	437,661	433,025	-1.06
June	432,339	437,478	435,759	-0.39

**3. PULLET PLACEMENTS INTO LAYER HOUSES (millions):**

Pullets placed equal pullet chicks hatched minus a mortality factor projected ahead 5 months for placement in layer houses. Currently available hatch data can be projected to  
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December 2007. Through December, pullet placements for 2007 are expected to be up about 5 million pullets compared to 2006 even though there has been rather wide swings between the months.

Period	2006	2007	2008	'07/'06 (%)
Jan	17.46	15.75		-9.8
Feb	15.17	16.63		+9.6
Mar	16.00	16.37		+2.3
Apr	14.57	14.33		-1.6
May	16.21	15.09		-6.9
June	15.98	16.66		+4.3
July	15.19	16.59		+9.2
Aug	17.56	18.29		+4.2
Sept	15.62	17.92		+14.7
Oct	18.19	17.37		-4.5
Nov	17.01	18.05		+6.1
Dec	14.99	16.05		+7.1
12-month total	193.95	199.10		+2.7

#### 4. TABLE EGG LAYERS (monthly averages in millions):

It is estimated that increases in the human population require approximately 3 million new layers per year to provide the same per capita consumption. Higher rates of lay would reduce this to 2 million. Layer numbers in 2006 were above year-earlier numbers for all but one month. Average counts during the first six months of 2007 were down about 1.5% below 2006 figures.

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (%)
May	282.1	286.8	281.3	-1.9
June	282.4	284.9	279.4	-1.9
Average to Date	285.6	289.1	284.9	-1.5

#### 5. TABLE EGGS PRODUCED (millions):

Total table egg production for Jan/June of 2007 was down 1.4% from 2006 levels. All three years (2005 through 2007) have had remarkably similar egg production for this period, while the human population should have increased by 6 million.

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Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (%)
May	6,439	6,520	6,449	-1.1
June	6,250	6,336	6,243	-1.5
Total to date	38,052	38,661	38,132	-1.4

#### **6. INDUCED MOLTING (% in plus after a molt):**

Molting percentages for the first six months during 2007 were down 0.8% from 2006 levels.

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (%)
April	25.8	27.2	26.3	-0.9
May	26.4	29.0	27.6	-1.4
June	27.2	29.4	27.6	-1.8
Average to date	26.6	28.4	27.6	-0.8

#### **7. SLAUGHTER (millions) (in USDA inspected plants):**

This number represents birds slaughtered in USDA inspected plants - about 45-50% of the total bird disappearance. In 2007, slaughter has decreased by 3.4% from 2006. Total slaughter in U.S. plants decreased by 1.5 million birds/month in 2006 from 2005 figures.

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (%)
May	6.83	4.95	4.89	-1.2
June	7.18	4.50	5.04	+12.0
Total to date	39.12	29.64	28.62	-3.4

#### **8. BREAKER EGGS PRODUCED (million cases):**

Egg breakage rates in Jan/June 2007 were down 3.4% below 2006 rates. This represents approximately 240 fewer truckloads of eggs per month.

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Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (%)
May	5.764	5.863	5.913	+0.9
June	6.182	5.897	5.704	-3.3
Year to date	33.996	33.659	32.505	-3.4

**9. URNER-BARRY MID-WEST LARGE EGG PRICES (¢/dozen):**

Egg prices during the first six months of 2007 were up 31.2 cents per dozen over year-earlier levels. This was accomplished with a reduction of only 1-2% of the number of eggs produced in the previous years. Significant benefits were attributed to increases in exports during this period. Egg prices through August are up 36 cents/dozen.

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (¢)
January	70.0	77.6	115.8	+38.2
February	71.7	62.1	104.6	+42.5
March	64.0	83.6	106.0	+22.4
April	60.0	69.7	97.6	+27.9
May	57.1	60.6	97.6	+37.0
June	59.6	69.2	88.7	+19.5
July	67.6	60.0	118.9	+58.9
August	61.0	74.0	115.4	+41.4
September	77.7	70.9		
October	65.6	74.5		
November	80.2	103.5		
December	89.1	99.7		
8 Mo. Average	63.9	69.6	105.6	+36.0

\* Courtesy Urner Barry Publications.

**10. URNER-BARRY MID-WEST BREAKER EGG PRICES (¢/dozen):**

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(Central, Nest Run Av., 48-50 Lbs – low side of market)

Reported breaker egg prices during 2006 averaged almost the same as in 2005. In 2007, prices have averaged 24.5 cents/dozen higher than in the first 6 months of 2006 (+28.9 cents for the first 8 months)

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06 (¢)
January	26.8	30.3	47.1	+16.8
February	31.4	24.8	53.7	+28.9
March	26.8	28.6	53.0	+24.4
April	26.4	25.6	51.7	+26.1
May	25.1	23.8	55.7	+31.9
June	21.2	28.8	47.6	+18.8
July	22.3	24.6	66.6	+42.0
August	27.0	30.0	72.8	+42.8
September	39.1	27.5		
October	32.1	29.5		
November	36.7	43.4		
December	34.3	36.7		
8 month Average	25.9	27.1	56.0	+28.9

\* Courtesy Urner Barry Publications.

**11. COST OF EGG PRODUCTION (FEEDSTUFFS FORMULA) - ALL REGIONS:**

Annual egg production costs for 2004 were estimated to be about 46.1 ¢/dozen. Estimates for the first 7 months of 2005 and 2006 were 42.5 and 42.6 cents/dozen, respectively. High feed prices in the first 7 months of 2007 has pushed the typical cost of producing eggs (all regions averaged) to 51.0 cents/dozen – an increase of 8.4 cents/dozen over 2006 costs.

Period	2005	2006	2007	'07 vs. '06 (¢)
January	41.2	43.0	50.7	+7.7
February	42.0	43.2	53.4	+10.2
March	42.7	42.6	53.2	+10.6
April	42.3	42.6	49.7	+7.1
May	42.2	42.7	50.0	+7.3
June	43.6	42.4	51.8	+9.4
July	43.4	41.7	48.5	+6.8
August	41.8	40.5		
September	40.2	41.0		
October	40.1	44.5		
November	40.4	48.4		
December	41.8	49.3		
7 Month Av	42.5	42.6	51.0	+8.4

**12. LEADING TABLE EGG STATES (LAYERS IN 30,000+ FLOCKS)(millions) (July)**

Iowa continues to lead the nation in total egg production and rate of growth. Overall, the July counts were down 3.0% from last year. All states shared in this decrease except Iowa and California with 3.8% and 1.1% increases respectively. Iowa increased by 1.9 million hens.

State	2005	2006	Rank (2007)	2007	'07/'06 (%)
IOWA	46.4	50.1	1	52.0	+3.8
OHIO	27.4	27.0	2	25.3	-6.3
CALIFORNIA	19.3	18.4	5	18.6	+1.1
PENNSYLVANIA	21.2	21.6	4	20.4	-5.6
INDIANA	22.6	23.5	3	23.4	-0.4
TEXAS	12.9	14.4	6	14.0	-2.8
U.S.	279.3	282.7		274.1	-3.0

(USDA)

Note: These counts represent approximately 98% of the totals.

The University of California Cooperative Extension Web Site address is listed below. New items are added monthly.

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**<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/extension>**  
**(Click on the above and then on Poultry)**

The Table of Contents of this website includes the following categories of information:

1. **What's New** - \* (all new items are left on this site until replaced by newer material).
2. **Meeting Schedule**
3. **Quality Assurance Programs**
4. **Publications** (approximately 130 publications on a variety of poultry subjects)
5. **Western Poultry Disease Conference Index** (a listing of reports presented at the Western Poultry Disease Conference – 1966 to 1999 covering 96 topics on health and related subjects).
6. **4-H Poultry Information**
7. **Disease Control and Biosecurity**
8. **UC Diagnostic Laboratories**
9. **Newsletters** - \* (includes “An Economics Update”, “The California Poultry Letter”, and “Avian Science Notes”)
10. **Small Flock and Gamebird Information**
11. **Statistics** - \* (includes “Egg Industry Statistical Monthly Report”, “Economic Memos”, and “U.S. Flock Projections”)
12. **Computer Programs** - \*
13. **Interesting Web Sites**
14. **Mailing Lists**
15. **Extension Educational Programs**
16. **Faculty**
17. **Avian Influenza/Bird Flu** - with numerous links to other related sites.

\* Items with economic emphasis