

March 7, 2006

Summary of Flock Size and Egg Price Projections Prepared by Don Bell

Flock Size

The U.S. flock size is projected for the current year and the following year each month. Projections start with the first of month official USDA count and are then adjusted monthly. Adjustments are made with the most recent

1. Hatch data (projected 5-months into the future with mortality). Subsequent hatches are based upon 5-year percentage trends for each month.
2. USDA slaughter data and estimates based upon 5-year trends for subsequent months.
3. Missing estimates for on-farm slaughter, died, exports, etc. These data are expressed as a percentage of each month's beginning count.

Projections are for a total of 12 to 24 months (current and next year). A more detailed summary of this procedure is available from the author.

Beginning First of the Month Estimates of U.S. Table Egg Layers (millions)

2005 (actual)							Date: March 7, 2006				2006	
F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	
288.5	289.5	285.6	282.7	282.0	281.3	281.7	283.2	285.6	287.1	290.7	290.8	

2006 (projected)							2007				
F *	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
290.8	289.9	288.6	285.8	285.1	284.2	282.8	284.4	285.9	287.5	287.5	288.2

* actual

Egg Prices

Future egg prices are estimated with a formula that is based upon the previous 24-month total hatch, seasonal egg price patterns and a monthly adjustment using the most recent published price (Urner Barry MW for large white eggs and the Southern California producer price for large eggs). This formula is updated at the beginning of each new calendar year after December hatch data becomes available. A more detailed summary of this procedure is available from the author.

UB MW Large – Most recent egg price projection (12 months) Date: Mar 7, 2006

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec*	Jan
62.1	68.8	56.2	48.0	52.5	53.9	54.7	56.2	56.2	68.8	67.3	66.5

2006

California Producer Prices for Large Eggs (12 months)

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec*	Jan
36.9	40.2	32.1	21.6	25.9	25.9	27.8	29.3	27.8	41.7	42.6	38.8

- actual price – remainder of prices follow a 5-year pattern of monthly prices vs annual averages.

Note: Flock size and egg prices are adjusted monthly.