

Don Bell’s Table Egg Layer Flock Projections and Economic Commentary - 2003

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

On the following pages, we have a new presentation format for important flock statistics. The intent is to show the most recently available data with comparisons with the previous month(s) and for the two previous years. This will make “trends” more readily apparent to the reader.

1. **MONTHLY HATCH** (straight-run) (000's): Monthly hatches for the first 8 months of 2003 were lower than for the previous year for a total of 4.5 million fewer female chicks.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
July	38,640	35,573	35,593	+0.1
August	34,978	35,681	33,179	-7.0
To date	315,343	290,065	281,066	-3.1

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 1996-2002 period, each additional one million female chicks hatched decreased annual Urner-Barry Midwest Large egg prices by 0.38¢/dozen. Recent 24-month totals have been decreasing steadily; therefore 12-month price projections are increasing each month.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
July	n/a	440.5	420.7	-4.5
August	n/a	441.2	419.8	-4.9

3. PULLET PLACEMENT 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 into December 2003. Through December, pullet placements for 2003 will be down 2.3%

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
Jan	15.49	15.87	16.19	+2.0
Feb	16.38	16.51	15.97	-3.3
Mar	15.90	16.47	14.46	-12.2
Apr	14.73	14.28	14.02	-1.8
May	15.80	14.22	14.51	+2.0
June	17.14	16.03	15.12	-5.7
July	17.24	14.82	13.53	-8.7
Aug	18.10	16.57	16.57	no change
Sept	18.81	17.24	16.94	-1.7
Oct	19.21	17.57	17.24	-1.9
Nov	18.32	15.93	16.40	+3.0
Dec	17.10	15.89	16.06	+1.1
Total to date	204.22	191.40	187.01	-2.3

4. TABLE EGG LAYERS (millions): During the years 2001 to 2002, layer numbers increased a total of 3 million. It is estimated that increases in the human population require approximately 3 million per year to provide the same per capita consumption. Current layer numbers are beginning to drop each month compared to year-earlier trends. Through August, layer numbers have averaged 1.2 million less than last year.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
July	273.1	276.1	273.1	-1.1
August	274.4	277.4	274.2	-1.2
Total to date	275.3	276.8	275.6	-0.4

5. **TABLE EGGS PRODUCED** (millions): Egg production through August 2003 is practically the same as last year.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
July	6,097	6,243	6,257	+0.2
August	6,138	6,263	6,238	-0.4
Total to date	48,144	48,792	48,800	no change

6. **INDUCED MOLTING** (% in plus after a molt): Molting appears to be up slightly in 2003 compared to 2002 figures. US percentages are becoming closer to California averages (about 65% of the CA rate), but this also reflects more double molting in California.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
August	27.3	26.5	27.8	+1.3
September	27.2	27.6	26.6	+1.0
To date	27.1	26.5	27.7	+1.2

7. **SLAUGHTER** (millions): This number represents birds slaughtered in USDA inspected plants - about 45-50% of the total bird disappearance. The counts for 2003 through August represents a marked 18.4% reduction below year 2002 figures.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
July	6.52	8.03	5.61	-30.0
August	7.68	7.77	5.51	-29.1
Av. to date	7.56	8.43	6.88	--18.4

8. BREAKER EGGS PRODUCED (million cases): Year 2003 figures represent about 29.5% of the total U.S. production and were 4.0% below 2002 levels.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (%)
July	5.109	5.608	5.450	-2.82
August	5.566	5.540	5.191	-6.30
Av. to date	5.020	5.220	5.006	-4.00

9. URNER-BARRY MID-WEST LARGE EGG PRICES (¢/dozen): Egg prices during the first 9 months of 2003 have averaged 16.4 cents per dozen higher than in 2002.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02 (¢)
July	64.1	67.6	85.4	+17.8
August	65.6	70.7	100.0	+29.3
September	61.2	67.4	98.1	+30.7
To date	69.0	68.6	85.0	+16.4

* Courtesy Urner Barry Publications.

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

Egg production costs for January - September 2003 are 1.8¢/dozen higher than for the same period in 2002. This is a result of higher feed prices since all other factors are standardized.

Period	2001	2002	2003	'03 vs. '02 (¢)
July	40.4	42.2	42.4	+1.5
August	40.4	43.1	41.3	-0.8
September	40.4	44.1	43.6	-0.5
To date	40.8	41.7	43.5	+1.8

11. LEADING TABLE EGG STATES (LAYERS IN 30,000+ FLOCKS)(millions)

Iowa continues to lead the nation in total egg production and rate of growth. California has slipped into the 5th largest egg producing state as a result of farm depopulations due to Exotic Newcastle Disease. (August)

State	2001	2002	Rank (2003)	2003	'03/'02 (%)
IOWA	32.09	36.84	1	38.13	+3.5
OHIO	29.13	30.10	2	28.38	-5.7
CALIFORNIA	22.36	22.69	5	19.02	-16.2
PENNSYLVANIA	23.17	22.38	3	22.22	-0.7
INDIANA	22.02	22.14	4	21.71	-1.9
TEXAS	14.26	13.91	6	13.96	+0.4
U.S.	267.76	271.34		268.51	-1.0

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