

# Egg Industry

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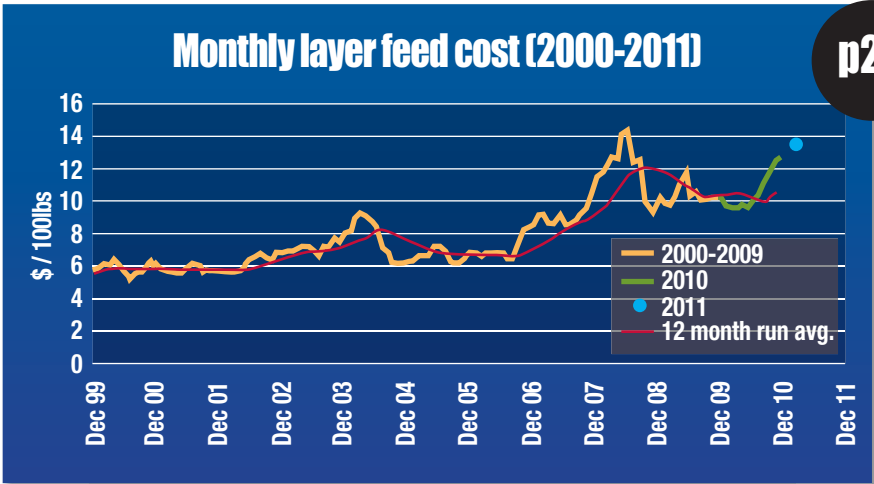
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### New products, services highlighted at the 2011 IPE

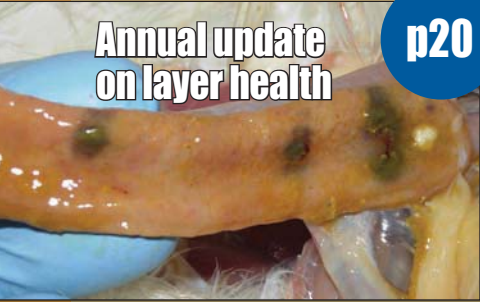
A number of categories and items stood out as potentially beneficial for egg producers

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Layer feed increased by 6.4% across the six regions surveyed by the USDA between December 2010 and January 2011.

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### Annual update on layer health

Duodenum of hen with FDN showing characteristic focal necrosis

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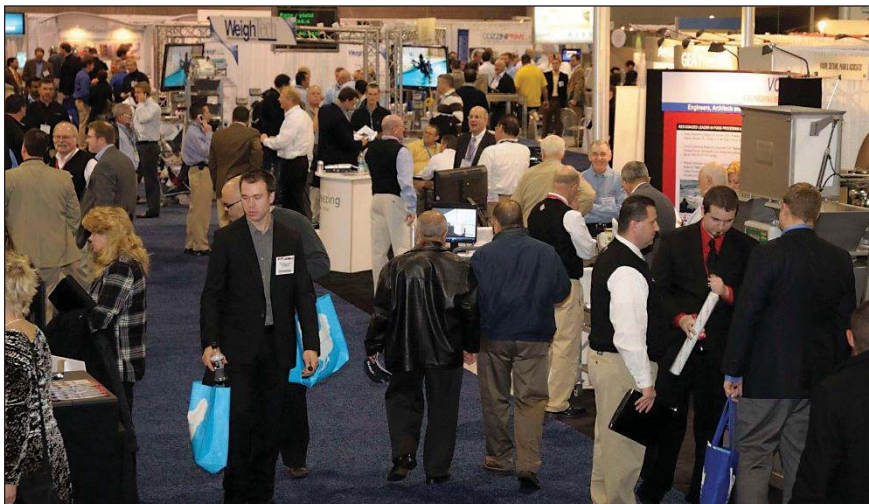
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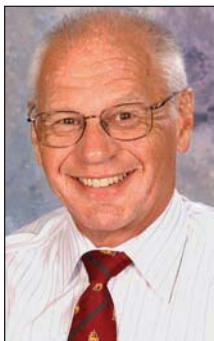
## EDITORIAL

BY DR. SIMON M. SHANE

# Innovations, competition at the 2011 IPE



The 2011 International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta attracted over 900 exhibitors and 20,000 attendees.



Simon M. Shane

its fine organization and execution of what must be regarded as the premier

**T**his edition of *Egg Industry* is devoted to reports and observations from the 2011 International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta. The U.S. Poultry and Egg Association is to be commended on

world poultry event. Combining floor displays with a complementary educational program, the annual IPE is a one-stop occasion to acquire knowledge, contact prospective suppliers and customers and renew acquaintances with colleagues.

The statistics speak for themselves. In World and North America economies, which are at best in a state of recovery, the event attracted over 900 exhibitors and 20,000 attendees. From all accounts business was brisk with both leads and sales being reported by most exhibitors.

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A panel of industry leaders discussed food safety and the poultry industry at the Poultry Leadership Roundtable in Atlanta Jan. 25

Listen to the podcast:

[www.WATTAgNet.com/Poultry\\_Leadership\\_Roundtable.html](http://www.WATTAgNet.com/Poultry_Leadership_Roundtable.html)

This year the domestic cage, grading and packaging equipment and related suppliers to the egg industry demon-

strated their products and participated in the event. It is hoped that the business they generated will justify a return to annual exhibition as this enhances attendance and the value of the IPE.



The IPE is an occasion for renewing acquaintances. Dr. Milt Sunde (left) Emeritus Professor of Poultry Nutrition, University of Wisconsin, who has passed his 90th year, met with Dr. Nelson Cox of the USDA ARS Russell Research Center at the American Poultry Historical Society booth at the 2011 event.

### New innovations

Some of the innovations that were evident at the show included SE detection kits, the growing interest in robotic handling of product, enrichable and enriched cage systems and a broader range of feed additives. Of extreme interest was the head-to-head competition between Staalkat the subsidiary of Sanovo with their 600 cph installation and the Moba 500 cph installation which displaced the traditional display of Diamond grading equipment.

As with broiler processing, it appears that grading and packing is increasingly dominated by European development and technology. This may in fact be due to a greater commitment to research and development justified

by sales to the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Southeastern and Central Asia which are the principal developing markets for these products.

The 2011 IPE had strong international participation confirming the importance of the event to producers in Canada, Mexico, Central and South America as well as the Pacific Rim. This is an encouraging trend since it shows that attendees regard the IPE as a significant business destination and the value of the IPE has not been displaced by proliferation of regional and national shows during the past decade.

We all look forward to the 2012 event and hope that John Starkey and his U.S. Poultry and Egg Association team will provide another stimulating and flawless exhibition and educational program.

*Simon*

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An archive of the "Mycotoxin Management Roundtable" online seminar is now available to view.

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- Mycotoxin symptoms
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# New products, services highlighted at the 2011 IPE

*Over 900 exhibitors display innovations potentially beneficial for egg producers* Simon M. Shane

**A**mong the products and services offered by the 900 exhibitors at the 2011 International Poultry Expo in Atlanta, a number of categories and items stood out as potentially beneficial for egg producers. Highlights are noted for our readership:

## Computer applications

✓Brilliant Alternatives, operated by Bob Brill, is now offering software and support for the U.S. A variety of software packages are available including *Excel Export/Import*, which stores formulas, ingredient descriptions and prices; *Medicated/Derivative Formulas*, which creates new formulations by adjusting a parent formula; and *Watchdog*, comprising a track and trace reporting system operating in conjunction with *Sequel Server/Access Database*. The *Laboratory Decision Maker* collects data from NIR or other assays and automatically updates matrices.

✓AgriSoft/CMC offers *Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)* software that incorporates general ledger, accounts payable and receivables, sales, orders, purchases and inven-

control costs and optimize profitability.

✓Poultry Management Systems, manufacturers of the NOAH range of environmental control systems, have introduced the *Atlas System*. This will display the egg load along the length of a cross conveyor and will analyze flow density over the entire belt. The system is designed to identify problem areas to optimize egg flow and prevent shell damage. The Windows-based NOAH IV environmental system reports and stores records for each flock including house temperature, egg production, feed consumption and flock livability. The Responsive Egg Flow system counts and controls the flow of eggs from each house to the in-line processing plant of the complex. This system allows batching for selective blending of houses, sequential filling and emptying of conveyors and variable speed control of egg belts. Diagnostic reports and egg weight readings allow optimization of product flow and plant operation. Recently PMS introduced the Command III HACCP system for egg-breaking plants. This controls and monitors systems facilitating implementation of GMPs, SSOPs and evaluation of CCPs in a plant. The system analyzes cooler temperature, pH levels, CIP temperature, boiler function and product flow rates. Deviations

from a set level result in alerts including strobe lights and remote wireless notification.

## Chick processing

✓Nova-Tech Engineering of Wilmar, Minn., demonstrated a mechanized processing line which included modules to manually load poults onto mobile cradles and then pass them through successive stations for sequential infra red beak treatment, subcutaneous injection of vaccines and removal



**Nova-Tech sequential stage automated poult servicing line**

of claws. The system, which has been under development for a number of years, incorporates CIP capability and auto-diagnostic computerized master control. This system, which applies some of the technology of the Nova-Tech beak treatment for day-old chicks, may be adapted for pullets offering the capability of greater uniformity in vaccination and beak treatment at machine rates of 4,000 per hour.

## SE Assays

The Food and Drug Administration has determined that two rapid test kits and a PCR procedure are equivalent to the protocol described in Chapter 5 (salmonella) of the FDA Bacteriological Analysis Manual "environmental sampling and detection of salmonella in poultry houses" in accordance with 9 CFR 147.12, to isolate and identify salmonella from environmental samples, cloacal swabs, chick box papers and meconium.

✓ABI Life Technologies Real-Time PCR *Salmonella enteritidis* detection kit can be applied either with or without the 96-hour hold time as recommended in the BAM. The PCR system has been validated in studies conducted by the University Of Pennsylvania College of Veterinary Medicine by Dr. Shelley Rankin. The SE detection kit applies the Biosystems ABI Taqman technology to determine the presence of SE in egg sam-

**For more information about the products displayed at the 2011 IPE, view this story online at [www.WATTAgNet.com/20645.html](http://www.WATTAgNet.com/20645.html).**

tory. The AgriSoft product line includes an animal inventory management program derived from the original Chilson's software. The company offers consulting, accounting and payroll services training and support.

✓Decimal Software of Quebec, Canada offers accounting packages used for administration, modeling and variance analysis with the capability to import and export data. Decimal Software Solution has been developed to optimize internal control systems and to comply with financial regulations,



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ples or in aliquots from enrichment broth used to process environmental samples.

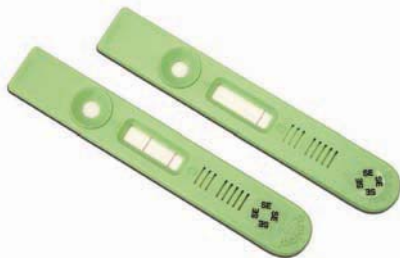
- ✓The *sdix* RapidChek SELECT *Salmonella enteritidis* specific test kit. This system requires enrichment of environmental samples for 16 to 22 hours at 42C or egg pools



#### The *sdix* RapidChek SELECT SE test kit

at room temperature for 40 to 48 hours. Following primary enrichment a secondary enrichment stage is required for 6 to 8 hours for egg pools or 16 to 22 hours for environmental samples. The immuno-based test strip provides a result within 10 minutes and negative samples can be differentiated from positive results by viewing red lines which form on the strip. Claimed benefits compared to the BAM method include a faster time to obtain a result, no instrumentation costs and high sensitivity and specificity.

- ✓Neogen of Lansing, Mich., has received approval for the Reveal 2.0 *Salmonella enteritidis* test kit. As with the *sdix* system, the Neogen system uses the same enrichment



#### Reveal immunobased SE test kit

protocol as specified by the FDA BAM procedure and allows rapid and specific screening of environmental samples and egg pools to confirm a negative SE status.

The rapid test kits are suitable for screening environmental and egg samples and for internal quality control. The PCR system which costs in the region of \$100,000 requires trained

technicians and will probably be restricted to high-volume automated processing of numerous samples in a regional or state diagnostic laboratory.

- ✓The Professional Group Services and Siliker Laboratories offer conventional microbiological assay for SE.

### Manure handling



#### Farmer Automatic composter

- ✓Farmer Automatic of America manufactures the CompostCat that has a low profile (80" tall) to operate under cages to agitate and aerate manure in pits. These units effectively eliminate fly breeding when their use is combined with effective ventilation. The company also supplies more extensive composting systems for either on-complex location or remote installation. Farmer Automatic also supplies zig-zag conveyor belt drying systems which reduce the level of moisture in manure, facilitating handling and subsequent drying or composting.

- ✓Binkley and Hurst of Richmond, Pa., manufacture a range of LVI composters which can be attached to tractors or skid-steer loaders. These implements are effective for small units and especially barns with litter where agitation and aeration is beneficial.

- ✓Kohshin Engineering of Japan can supply large-scale composting installations. Innovations include the use of solar engineering to provide heat. The company also supplies pelleting mills to sift, compact and pelletize composted manure.

### BioSecurity

- ✓Valco of Pennsylvania manufactures the Sentry Vehicle disinfectant system which can be erected and operated to dispense disinfectants over vehicles entering and



#### Spray disinfection system by Valco contributes to enhanced biosecurity

leaving farms. The components comprise a pump, nozzle system, support gantry and an optional hand sprayer for tires.

- ✓Kuhl Corporation of Femington, N.J., supply plastic egg tray washers with automatic stack loaders, conveyors, dryers and re-stackers. The company also supplies a manual spin dryer for trays suitable for small plants. Combination washer-drying modules are available with capacities up to 2,400 trays. Decontamination of egg trays is critical to prevent dissemination of SE and AI in addition to other pathogens which may be carried to farms through off-line plants.

### Breeds

For a number of years the U.S. egg industry has been supplied by the two major primary breeders, Hy-Line International and Hendrix Genetics. Tetra Americana will distribute the Tetra Brown strain as a new product to the U.S. market through an affiliate company Centurion Poultry.

### Vaccines

Ceva-Biomune has introduced a series of multivalent Vectormune vaccines based on a fowl pox virus vector. The two products which will find application in the egg industry include the fowl pox-vectored MG and AE combination vaccine and a bivalent fowl-pox vectored MG product. In addition for regions where MG vaccine is not required, producers can select Marek's disease virus-vectored LT and AE vaccine administered at the hatchery.

**E**

*The items listed represent new additions or modification of existing products which have been noted for the convenience of readers. Selection of products for this article does not represent an endorsement. Non-inclusion of products does not imply inferiority but is due to restraints of space – Editor.*





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# 2011 IPE unveils innovations in grading, egg handling

*Show demonstrated a profound shift in product availability, providing potential buyers with a wider choice*

Simon M. Shane

**A** number of new products and grading systems were unveiled at the 2011 International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta. Over the past two decades, Diamond has dominated the grader market in North America, progressively increasing the capacity of installations to 500 cases per hour and introducing refinements and innovations to improve efficiency.

The most recent IPE demonstrated a profound shift in product availability providing potential buyers with a wider choice. Since the acquisition of Diamond Automation by Moba to form Diamond Moba Americas there has been a constant infusion of European technology into their domestic subsidiary. Sanovo has re-designed their Staalkat range for the North American market.

## Sanovo-Staalkat

Sanovo unveiled 14 new products in Atlanta with the Staalkat OptiGrader dominating the booth. The installation incorporated loading, washing, grading and packing at a rate of 600cph. Completely redesigned with significant input from U.S. engineers at the Detroit

floor area compared to competitors' installations and is capable of operating with both in-line and off-line feed. The configuration of the OptiGrader 600 positions the unit as either a retrofit to replace existing 300 to 400cph installations or for new installations.

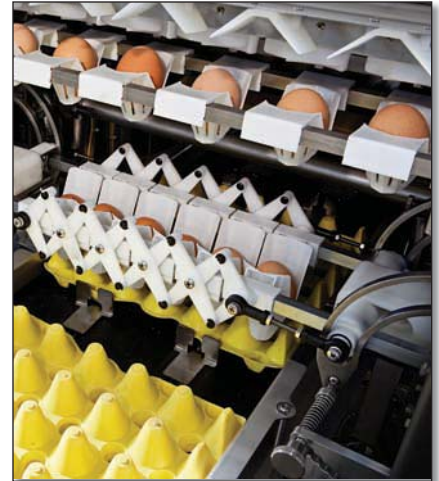
The OptiGrader incorporates newly engineered loader, leak, dirt and crack detection. A novel loader can handle paper or plastic trays. The accumulator orients eggs into 18 rows with a high fill rate. Presoaking is available



**The OptiGrader is the first system with complete wash-down capability.**

by installing an optional module. The washer offers positive egg-wash motion for optimal cleaning. Washers are fitted with a heat exchanger to conserve energy and a shell screen to limit water usage.

Leak detectors can be fitted either before or after egg washing depending on the needs of the plant. A full-spectrum vision system can identify dirt particles down to a diameter of 1mm. The weighing scale offers an accuracy of 0.1g and incorporates automatic rec-



**De-nesters and packers are capable of handling a wide range of packs and trays with custom designed de-nesters available for unusual packs.**

alibration. The weighing system has been designed for durability and ease of cleaning.

The crack detector has no mechanical or electrical components and allows flexible selection of sensitivity. The insert transfer module moves eggs gently from 18 rows on the in-feed to the overhead 4-row conveyor with minimal damage at rates of up to 600cph. Blood detection is accurate and sensitive and the module is placed above the egg carrier chain so that it can be tilted upwards for cleaning. Intelligent software differentiates between brown and white eggs and adjusts for shell color automatically.

The Staalkat OptiGrader delivers a high proportion of eggs in point-down orientation with gentle handling. De-nesters and packers are capable of handling a wide range of packs and trays with custom designed de-nesters available for unusual packs. Staalkat

**Read more about robotics in egg packing:**

[www.WATTAgNet.com/18593.html](http://www.WATTAgNet.com/18593.html)

Design Group under the leadership of industry veteran Jim Nield, the OptiGrader is the first system with complete wash-down capability. The entire system is designed to occupy a smaller

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OptiGraders are controlled using touch screen modules. Traceability and inventory control software packages are available.

### Robotics

Mechanical handling of eggs is gaining ground in the EU which is dominated by off-line production and high labor costs. A number of robotic installations are currently operating successfully in the U.S.

Robots, in contrast to mechanical units, have diverse capabilities and speed and are extremely flexible and adaptable. Robots can be programmed to perform a variety of functions including multi-tasking. The application and capability of robots depends on the design of the “end-off-arm tool.” Most



**End-of-arm tool developed by Smart Motion Robotics to lift and transfer packed egg cases.**

nuc by Smart Motion Robotics, an independent after-market supplier.

A major advantage of robots is that they can interface with plant networks and control systems and are generally compatible with barcoding, contribu-



**Smart Motion Robotics module for transferring packed cases.**

tray palletizers with a capacity of up to 300 cases per hour and the capability of

stacking onto either wooden or plastic pallets in addition to replacing cardboard layer pads and dividers. Robots can be programmed to pack a wide range of different products and pallets. Moba supplies a de-palletizer that can handle 500 cases per hour, transferring trays to pre-loader belts, and ro-

***The Moba Omnia FT can be programmed to sort brown eggs based on the intensity of color and the grader can operate with both white and brown eggs simultaneously.***

manufacturers of robotic installations make use of robots manufactured by a few specialist manufacturers in Japan including Motoman for Moba and Fa-

ing to traceability, machine vision for quality control and inventory management.

The Moba Robotics range includes

botic case packers, which are infinity more versatile than simple mechanical case packers. Their units are fabricated from stainless steel and are easily programmed by an LCD touch screen.

Sanova Technology Group markets the OptiRobot system for complete automation. The family comprises a robot tray de-palletizer for plastic trays, a tray palletizer which can accommodate pulp or plastic trays and a case palletizer.

Smart Motion Robotics, based in Illinois, produces a range of robotic modules which can significantly reduce labor cost and generate significant returns both in operational saving and improving yield and product quality. The SMR range for egg packing plants includes a robotic Smart Packer, which can operate up to 70cph placing cartons into two adjacent containers ranging from 15 to 24 dozen as either cardboard boxes or plastic cases.

Smart Packers are compatible with Diamond 8300, 8400 and Innova installations and Moba Selecta and Omnia packers. The SMR Smart Topper



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places clamps on flats which will be shrink wrapped. This unit can incorporate machine vision for QC and inventory control. The SMR Smart Stacker can palletize up to four different products simultaneously and is compatible with inventory and traceback systems.

### Diamond-Moba Americas

The Diamond Moba stand was dominated by the new Moba Omnia FT Grader, which is available in capacities from 85 through 500 cases per hour. Moba claims increased yield using their installations, which incorporate design features to avoid collision between eggs. This is achieved by adding more tracks and in-feed rows compared to competitors and incorporating improvements in the configuration of

compatible with the Omnia FT. Correct orientation of each egg is a significant feature of the Omnia In-feed conveyor. New eggs are settled securely on rollers and there is sufficient space to allow separation to prevent machine-cracks.

In the Moba FT as displayed at the IPE and configured for the U.S. market, Kuhl washer and high efficiency dryer modules were installed, as these are compatible with the Moba installation. After residual moisture (drip) removal by an air stream, eggs are subjected to leak detection followed by drying. The leak detector is integrated into a vision system to allow early removal of eggs with damaged shells. This prevents downstream contamination of the grader.

Eggs are then subjected to crack

the intensity of color and the grader can operate with both white and brown eggs simultaneously.

Optional extras include an easy lift system with a capacity of four stacks of six trays and a tray stacker with a capacity of 100 cases per hour. A palletizer for nest-run product with a capacity of 200 cases per hour and mechanical case packers ranging from 110cph to 2x 70cph are available.

### The bottom line

There are obvious advantages to be derived from mechanization and robotics but at the same time there are inherent limits on the quantum of savings to be derived from capital expenditure. Currently costs of grading and packing

***A major advantage of robots is that they can interface with plant networks and control systems and are generally compatible with barcoding, contributing to traceability, machine vision for quality control and inventory management.***

conveyors. Contact between eggs is limited, reducing cracks.

This may have implications for public health given the current regulatory environment. Crack detectors are positioned above eggs and most components can be removed as complete modules for ease of cleaning. Omnia FT installations incorporate a sophisticated control and logistics capability allowing pre-programming of destinations for eggs including a by-pass option to optimize output. All Omnia FT installations can be operated from either one or multiple screens which offer different user levels for control. Graders can be interfaced with plant networks and software packages are available for inventory control and accounting. The Omnia accumulator allows in-line eggs to be counted and assigned to specific houses and these eggs can be graded separately.

A conventional Moba FT installation comprises a Moba loader available with a capacity of up to 500cph which is

detection and surface UV disinfection before individual weighing. A high efficiency blood detector module is available to be installed at this point in the process as an option. This is followed by optional ink-jet printing of individual eggs with no print distortion due to uniform orientation of product. Eggs which pass to the packing lanes are handled by individual flexible plastic cups which can be removed from the machine for cleaning and disinfection.

The Moba FT range incorporates trace-back capability using a pack print option. Packers can operate with aftermarket labeling and ink-jet printers including imprinting of net weight of eggs on a pack which is required in some markets. Mechanical case packers are offered for individual lanes to reduce labor requirements.

The Moba Omnia FT can be programmed to sort brown eggs based on

are related to the scale of production and according to a national benchmarking system can range from 0.7 to 1.4 cents per dozen.

The trend towards larger in-line units justifies installation of high capacity machines. Requirements relating to traceback, inventory control and accounting require complete compatibility between graders and plant systems used for record keeping.

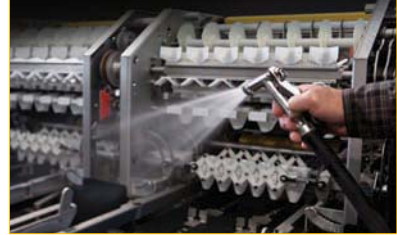
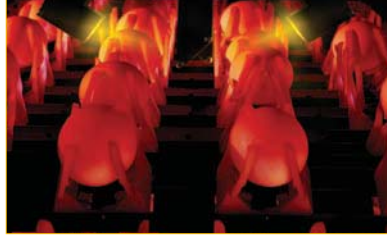
Highly efficient mechanization offering improved yield and lower operating costs has the potential to contribute to enhanced

**For more information about the products displayed at the 2011 IPE, search the product database at [www.WATTAgNet.com](http://www.WATTAgNet.com).**

profitability depending on cost and reliability. Many of the products demonstrated at the 2011 IPE reflect a fusion of EU and U.S. technology, which is beneficial to our industry. **EI**

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# 2011 IPE focuses on colony cage systems

*The regulatory environment and uncertainty stemming from the 2008 California Proposition #2 has created interest in the colony system*

Simon M. Shane

There is no question that colony cages were the focus of attention among prospective purchasers at the 2011 International Poultry Expo. This article is intended to outline the characteristics of available models for both retrofit and original installations.

The regulatory environment and uncertainty stemming from the 2008 California Proposition 2 has created interest in the colony system that has gained ground in Germany and other EU countries as an alternative to conventional cages. From discussion with personnel at all the major cage suppliers, it is evident that there is little interest in recaging or installing other than “enrichable” cages that can be converted to colony units at some stage in the future should this be either required or desired.

The first colony cage in the U.S. was a Big Dutchman unit purchased by J.S. West in California. A number of other installations have followed and orders are currently being filled for new enrichable units by a range of suppliers.

All models offered at the IPE have either received approval from the American Humane Association Certification

approving the colony cage and issuing specifications for this system to ensure consistency and harmony with regard to design.

## Complicated situation

In comparison, the HSUS has declared that “a cage is a cage is a cage” although the colony system appears to conform to the requirements of California Proposition 2, depending on interpretation. The vague wording of the legal definition and acceptability of alternative confinement systems will have to be settled by either a

possible to exceed three tiers without installing mechanical systems to observe hens and to remove injured or dead birds in a fourth or higher tier.

## Considerations with colony housing

In reviewing the AHA standards for colony housing, it is evident that any number of combinations of tiers can be used providing that a moveable gantry or a motorized inspection cart with an elevated platform is provided for units over three tiers in height. Many news units will comprise five tiers on the bot-

***Eggs produced from colony systems will have to command a premium to justify the additional capital cost of enrichment and density compared with conventional cages.***

court ruling or modification of the Proposition, either by ballot or enactment of superseding legislation.

Since the industry cannot stand still, decisions regarding expansion are required. The situation is also complicated by the perceived need to convert from

conventional high-rise housing due to the alleged risks of salmonella infection associated with manure pits. The industry appears collectively willing to adopt the prudent selection of enrichable cages with the option of subsequent conversion to full enrichment.

Configuration of systems for either retrofits or new houses is an important consideration. Taking into account the minimum 20-inch height of cages plus the manure belt and suspension it is im-

tom stack, a metal catwalk at mid-level in the house and five tiers on the upper stack. For retrofit installations, existing space and height limitations will dictate the number of tiers and rows. In the EU, 6 plus 6 installations are common for new houses.

Adequate ventilation and light are important considerations with high density colony housing. Special provisions must be made to supply light to the bottom tiers. This requires either winched rows of CF lamps which can be raised or lowered or, alternatively, the installation of low wattage LED lighting in the tops of cages in the bottom one or two tiers. Ventilation is an important determinant of flock production and it is generally preferable for the supplier to either specify or install a complete system compatible with cages. This may involve air tubes

## The impact of welfare:

[www.WATTAgNet.com/19894.html](http://www.WATTAgNet.com/19894.html)

Program or are currently undergoing evaluation. Prospective buyers are urged to review all dimensions and requirements to ensure that they are in compliance with the program. Tim Amlaw and his colleagues at AHA are to be commended for taking a courageous stand in



over the manure belts or special air ducts to provide fresh heat-tempered air to the flock. It is also necessary to ensure rapid drying of manure on the belts. With upwards of 200,000 hens in some houses the installation of power, water and temperature monitors and alarm systems is critical to successful operation.

A problem inherent in colony systems is that a high proportion of eggs are laid in the nest area, which results in accumulation of product over a short distance on the collection belts. Some manufacturers offer controls which advance the egg belt according to predetermined set-weight to minimize shell damage from contact and to optimize egg flow.

In reviewing the alternative systems on display at 2011 IPE, it is obvious that there is close correspondence with respect to dimensions and general design. Differences were noted in the position of perches, the location and layout of the nests and the required scratch area. Most systems can be supplied with either a chain-in-trough or auger-in-trough feeder or a moving feed cart driven by cable.

## Big Dutchman AVECH II



**The Big Dutchman AVECH II enrichable model for the U.S. market has provision for compartments, removable partitions, mounting points for installation of longitudinal perches, nests and the accessories required for full enrichment.**

The name of this system is an acronym (Adaptive Versatile Enriched Colony Housing). Big Dutchman has attained considerable experience in the design, manufacture and installation of systems. The company is a leading supplier in Germany and has the highest proportion of colony systems among all the nations in the EU. The enrichable model for the U.S. market has provision for compartments, removable partitions, mounting points for in-

stallation of longitudinal perches, nests and the accessories required for full enrichment.

## Facco

Facco of Italy manufactured the Euro C3 model in 2000 and has progressively improved the design to the current Evo C3 and the Evo C3 Max. These models differ in length of the colony module by approximately 10 inches to accommodate an additional eight hens. Features of the Facco Evo C3 systems include a "soft balanced" footrest, longitudinal metal perches, claw filing on the front base plate and fenestrated plastic pads comprising the scratch area. The system is offered with the Facco Niagara egg collection and elevator system.

## Tecno Poultry Equipment

Tecno Poultry Equipment of Italy supplies the Colony Plus 60 Module which incorporates many features common to other units. Perches are placed horizontally across the cage module. The scratch area comprises a patented plastic pad placed on one side of the cage. This is filled from the feeder trough, alleviating the need for a separate auger tube. Nipple drinkers are placed centrally along the cage module.

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The nest areas for each colony are fitted with a patented nest mat.

## Meller

This German company manufactures the Euro 2000 system. This module incorporates longitudinal perches, a litter-bath pad and a single nest per module.

## Chore-Time Versa



**Chore-Time aviary module showing perching area, communal nest and feeding on vertically arranged tiers.**

The Versa Colony System combines the extensive cage experience of the company



## The Chore-Time enriched colony cage system has received American Humane certification.

in the U.S. and application of developments in the EU.

The Versa is available in models from three to 12 tiers high with rows up to 520 ft. in length. The system offers optional compartment backs. Features include the Ultralift XL egg collecting system, modular design and large horizontal doors on the cage front for ease of transfer and removal. The flexible floor has closer mesh spacing in the areas where birds congregate, contributing to greater strength to obviate the problem of sagging.

## Salmet

The Salmet colony housing system AGK 4000/735 is available in three- to 8-tier configurations with a colony of 39 hens per compartment. The litter supply to the scratch pad areas is controlled by a timer and perches are different in shape and height to maximize stimulation and movement. The Salmet system can be supplied with either a moveable feed cart or a chain feeder.

## Farmer Automatic

The Farmer Automatic layer cage ECO meets AHA standards and can be supplied in configurations up to twelve tiers in height. The modules are fabricated from stainless and galvanized steel components and are supported by legs spaced at 12-inch intervals to provide adequate leveling and stability. Features of the ECO include a manure drying system and an egg saver wire that channels eggs gently on to the belts to prevent cracking. The nest area has curtains arranged as strips of plastic.

## The bottom line

The interest in colony systems based on the EU pattern is evidenced by the current level of orders for enrichable cages compared to conventional systems. It remains to be seen whether the enrichable cages purchased over the next two to four years will in fact be extended to full enrichment.

To maintain production volume when retrofitting enrichable systems to attain full enrichment, producers will either have to sacrifice output or erect and equip almost double their existing enrichable housing capacity since density will decrease from 67 inches per hen to approximately 117 inches per hen.

It is considered necessary for the industry to establish a new product category to be defined, which will be midway in consumer acceptance and price between eggs derived from cage-free birds or birds in conventional cages.

Eggs produced from colony systems will have to command a premium to justify the additional capital cost of enrichment and density compared with conventional cages. This situation did not occur in Germany where after conversion eggs from colony cages were assigned "cage status" and stamped accordingly.

U.S. manufacturers of cages and their European counterparts are to be commended on their resourcefulness in adapting technology from conventional cage systems to suit the needs of an emerging market. Whether the more expensive colony systems actually improve welfare is a subject of debate, but the dimensions and designs have been approved by panels of experts. To avoid a totally unacceptable requirement that all egg-producing flocks be housed on floor systems, the prospect of "enrichment" represents a good compromise and has the endorsement of scientists experienced in behavior and welfare.

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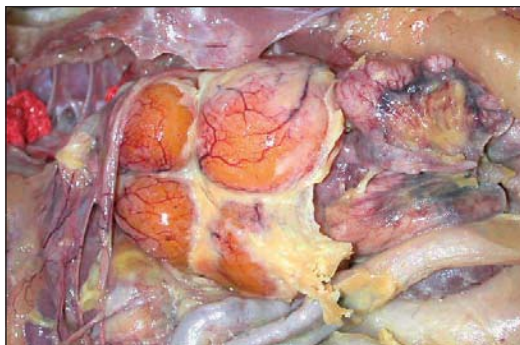
# Annual update on layer health

## Poll highlights chick quality, coccidiosis among top concerns

Eric Gingerich DVM, ACPV

Diamond V Mills, Inc.

**A**n update on the health status of U.S. egg-producing flocks is presented annually to the United States Animal Health Association, Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species. Currently there are no major clinical disease problems in pullets or laying hens housed in either cages or alternative systems. This is attributed to the availability of effective vaccines, enhanced supervision and man-



**Peritonitis with septicemia is caused by pathogenic strains of *E. coli* and can be prevented by a combination of vaccination and ventilation management.**

agement of flocks, veterinary diagnostic and technical resources and optimal nutrition.

A poll among members of the Association of Veterinarians in Egg Production was conducted prior to the meeting to determine the occurrence and severity of various infections and conditions affecting commercial flocks. Respondents were asked to rate significance on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 representing “no problems” and 4 denoting “serious widespread problems.”

The results from 19 responses for confined flocks and 13 from flocks in alternative systems are summarized:

### Confined flocks

✓It is obvious that coccidiosis remains a problem with immature flocks but should be controlled by either vaccination at the hatchery or within the first day of placement

or by using an anticoccidial feed additive.

✓The survey highlighted problems attributed to chick quality including “starveouts” and yolk sac infections. There is an obvious need to improve chick quality at the time of deli very and this can be achieved through collecting hatching eggs from flocks older than 25 weeks of age, more diligent grading at the hatchery and optimizing environmental conditions during incubation and delivery.

✓Marek’s disease appears to be a low-level problem but this is relative to the fact that there are few other diseases which are widespread and significant in their economic impact.

✓*E. coli* infection resulting in colibacillosis/peritonitis is a significant cause of losses in mature flocks. The importance of this condition has declined in recent years, mainly due to the introduction and application of an effective vaccination program.

✓Focal duodenal necrosis and mycoplasmosis continue as erosive diseases, especially in caged flocks.

✓Mite infestation remains a problem in both caged and cage-free flocks.

### Non-confined flocks

Specific problems associated with non-confined flocks included:

✓Cannibalism is the leading cause of mortality in cage-free flocks. Appropriate management procedures including beak trimming, control of lighting and “socialization” of flocks during rearing appear to alleviate

losses due to this condition.

✓Coccidiosis especially when pullets are transferred from cage rearing to litter

✓Hysteria

✓Worm and ectoparasite infestation

### General observations

Diseases that may be regarded as controlled and with a low incidence include infectious laryngotracheitis, infectious bronchitis and nephrosis (gout). These conditions are usually associated with either a region or a complex. The HVT-vectored ILT vaccine is demonstrating acceptable protection in regions with high challenge and hopefully this vaccine will displace live attenuated chick embryo origin vaccines which persist and may affect broilers. Coryza is a regional disease with the clinical form suppressed by administration of bacterins. Marek’s disease is currently well controlled essentially due the application of Rispens strain vaccine frequently in combination with HVT and SB-1. The industry has relied on current combinations of types 1,



**Duodenum of hen with FDN showing characteristic focal necrosis**

2 and 3 MD vaccines for many years but it is anticipated that more virulent strains will emerge as these products may lose their effectiveness.

The dearth of effective therapy for a number of diseases was noted as a significant problem by respondents. This is an even greater restraint to efficiency in the case of organic flocks where losses are experienced due to restrictions on the range of drugs available.

Since August 2010, SE has emerged as an important infection resulting in a single extensive recall of eggs. The introduction of the Food and Drug Administration Egg Safety Rule has intensified environmental monitoring and there has been a general upgrading of biosecurity, rodent control and vaccination by the industry.

**Currently there are no major clinical disease problems in pullets or laying hens housed in either cages or alternative systems.**

Avian influenza has receded in level of concern due to the low frequency of isolation from free-living birds and absence of outbreaks in commercial poultry. The USDA-APHIS in collaboration with state veterinary regulators and the industry have developed the Secure Egg Supply Plan. This will allow movement of eggs within and beyond a quarantined area providing individual farms comply with strict pre-approved biosecurity procedures and strict surveillance demonstrating freedom from infection. The successful suppression of LPAI in the live bird market system in the Northeast has reduced the risk to egg production operations in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states.

Diseases in commercial egg production flocks are in large measure controlled by vaccination, although biosecurity is important. The industry is, however, still in need of improved vaccines and availability of consumer-acceptable effective medication.

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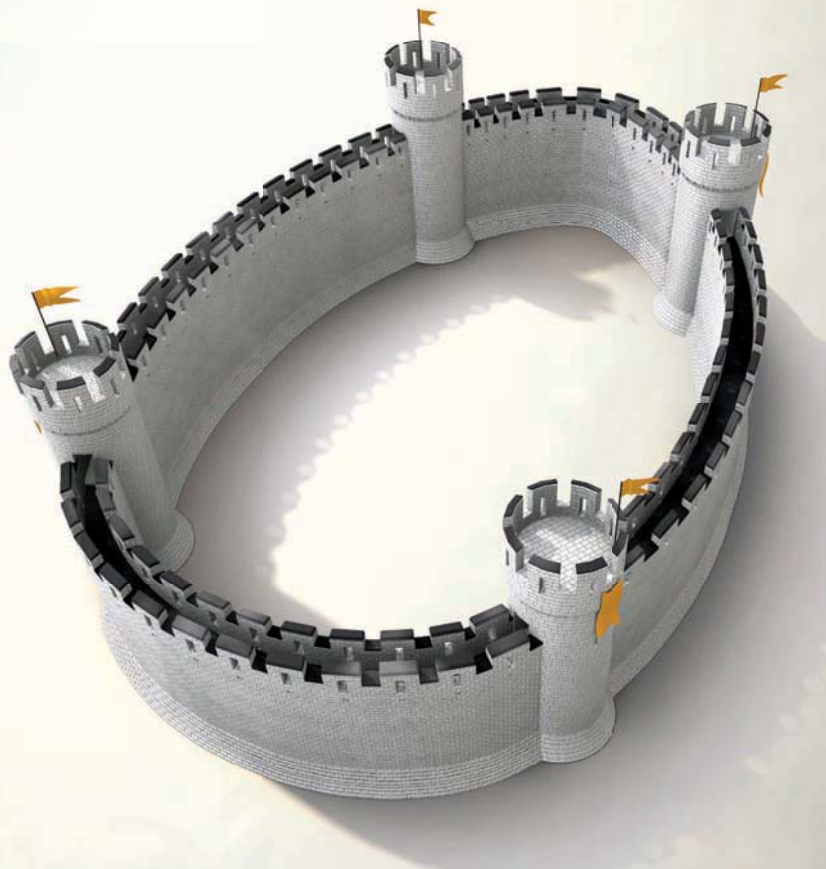
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# Sodexo sues United Egg Producers, five companies

## Alleges collusion in pricing

Simon M. Shane

**S**odexo Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of the multinational Sodexo based in France, has brought suit against the United Egg Producers and five major U.S. producers alleging collusion in pricing. The allegation is similar to a previous lawsuit that alleges that the UEP Certified Welfare Program, which reduced stocking density, was effectively a measure to reduce production and thereby increase selling prices.

The UEP functions according to the 1922 Capper-Volstead Act, which establishes the right for farms to organize as cooperatives for the purposes of joint marketing activities.

Sodexo, which purchased \$250 million in eggs and egg products according to a Jan. 11 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, maintains that the fact that UEP allows allied businesses to affiliate with the group disqualified the Capper-Volstead exemption and violated U.S. antitrust laws.

### Motivation for the welfare program

The UEP Welfare Certification Program was introduced in 2002 following a prolonged period of review by scientific panel concerning trends and research in welfare, as influenced by EU developments. The allegations that the motivation for the welfare program was in fact production controlled is not factual. The table below shows that U.S. egg production, consumption and selling prices over the 2007 through 2011 period, which encompasses the 2008 price rise, was unconnected with the welfare program. It must be remembered that the stocking density requirements were phased in over five years to allow producers to expand by either re-caging or erecting new buildings.

During 2002 to 2008 it was evident that construction proceeded at a rate that compensated for decreased stocking density. A second consideration was that over the years in question there was considerable consolidation in the industry and many operations with obsolete housing and equipment either ceased production or were acquired by competitors who had sufficient resources to effect improvements.

### No resolution in near future

In addition to the UEP, co-defendants are Cal-Maine Foods, Hillandale Farms, Michael Foods, National Food Corporation and Ohio Fresh Eggs of Ohio and Rose Acre Farms.

A statement issued by the UEP legal counsel commented, "These lawsuits are an attack on United Egg Producers and its members and its animal welfare guidelines. Leading egg producers and the UEP faced with mounting concerns from their customers about the treatment of hens, realized the need to establish scientifically grounded industry standards for animal welfare. Because the guidelines provided for larger cage space for each laying hen, among other animal welfare requirements, plaintiffs claim the supply of eggs were reduced in a conspiracy to in-

crease prices. Nothing could be further from the truth. UEP, its members and all defenders are vigorously defending these lawsuits."

It is not anticipated that any resolution or settlement of this case will be forthcoming in



**Sodexo maintains that the fact that United Egg Producers allows allied businesses to affiliate with the group disqualified the Capper-Volstead exemption and violated U.S. antitrust laws.**

the near future. In the similar previous action, which is pending Moark LLC, the subsidiary of Land O' Lakes, reached a settlement with the plaintiffs. Legal costs will be considerable based on the magnitude of the claim.

It is too premature to anticipate whether any action will be taken by either the Federal Trade Commission or the Department of Justice. Although the Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture jointly arranged a series of workshops in 2010 to examine the relationship between contractors and integrators and to determine whether monopolies existed in agricultural production, the emphasis was on beef, pork, dairy and

broiler production. This is consistent with the structure of the egg industry in which there is less concentration of ownership and a lower proportion of contractor participation as with other livestock enterprises. **E**

**U.S. EGG PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND PRICES 2000-2011**

Parameter	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*
No. Eggs Produced Million dozen	6,635	6,413	6,522	6,435	6,403	6,475	6,522	6,550
Per capita Consumption	257.3	255.8	257.8	250.1	248.9	247.7	246.6	245.6
NY Price c/doz	82.3	65.5	71.8	111.4	128.3	103.0	105.6	100.1
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**U.S. egg production, consumption and selling prices over the 2007 through 2011 period, which encompasses the 2008 price rise, were unconnected with the welfare program.**

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**Big Dutchman.**

# Feed prices: the outstanding factor influencing profitability

*The price of corn is nudging \$7 per bushel, while layer feed increased by 6.4% across the six-regions*

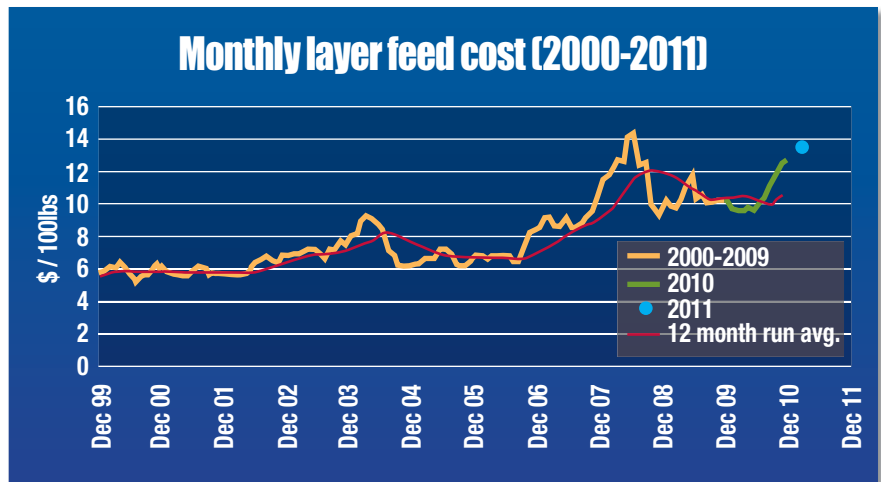
**M**aro Ibarburu, program manager for the Egg Industry Center, located at Iowa State, released the December/January Statistical Report on February 13, 2011, which was prepared in collaboration with Don Bell of the University of California at Riverside.

It is evident that the industry is returning to traditional seasonal prices with the post-Christmas decline apparent. The volume of shell eggs reaching the market may still be restrained by premature depletion of flocks and diversion as a result of 45-week and post-molt confirmation of infection with SE in individual flocks.

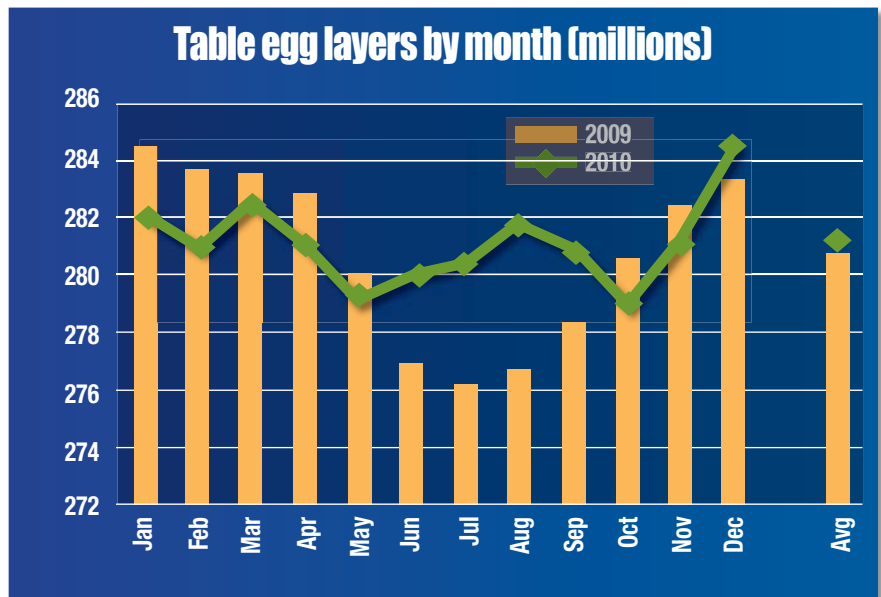
The outstanding factor influencing profitability is the precipitous increase in the price of corn that is nudging \$7 per bushel. Layer feed increased by 6.4% across the six-regions surveyed by the USDA between December 2010 and January 2011. An insightful article by distinguished economist Dr. Paul Aho on future trends in ingredient prices appears in *Feed Management*, a WATT sister publication that can be accessed on [www.WATTAgNet.com](http://www.WATTAgNet.com).

The current report as distributed by the EIC is summarized for readers of *Egg Industry*. The major trends over the past month are noted in the statistics and comments:

- ✓ The U.S. estimated (6-Region) cost of production for January 2011 was 74.3 cents per dozen ex-farm, 4.9 cents per dozen or 7.1% more than in December 2010. The range in production cost among regions extended from 69.3 cents per dozen in the Midwest to 77.6 cents per dozen in the South East. This value was fractionally higher than for California at 77.4 cents per dozen.
- ✓ The negative margin represented by “income minus cost” for January 2011 attained -8.3 cents per dozen compared to a positive 23.1 cents per dozen in December 2010 and 30.7 cents per dozen in January 2009. For 2010 the average algebraic margin attained 9.4 cents per dozen with negative margins in



Layer feed increased by 6.4% across the six regions surveyed by the USDA between December 2010 and January 2011. Courtesy of the Egg Industry Center



The simple average retail egg price for 2010 was 166.4 cents per dozen. Courtesy of the Egg Industry Center

May, June and July (seasonal summer lows) and in September (SE recall).

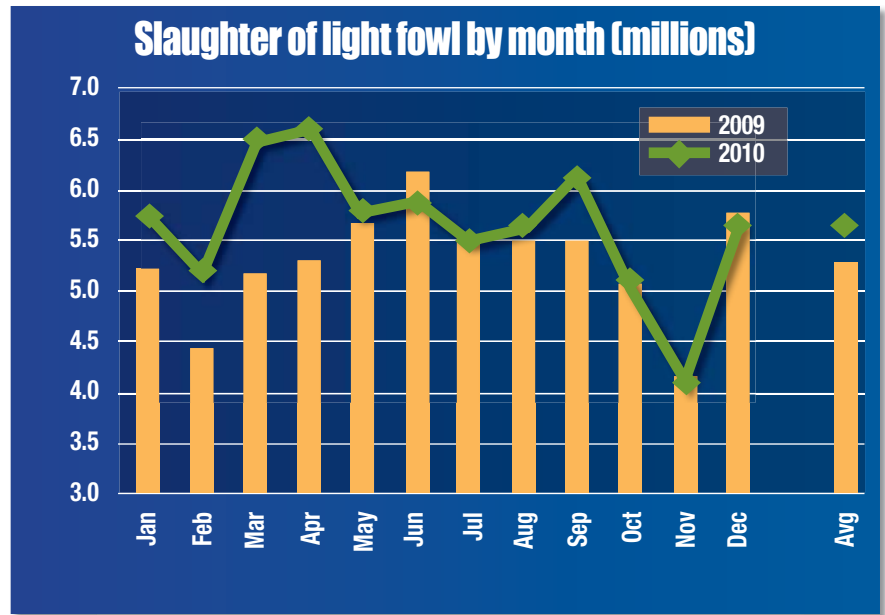
- ✓ In evaluating the breakeven margin for January it was noted that average feed cost for the six regions was 49.6 cents per dozen, with pullet depreciation at 10.2 cents per

dozen and other fixed and variable costs amounting to 14.7 cents per dozen, applying the standard EIC cost factors. These values other than the feed and pullet categories remained unchanged through 2010. It is evident that escalation in ingredient prices

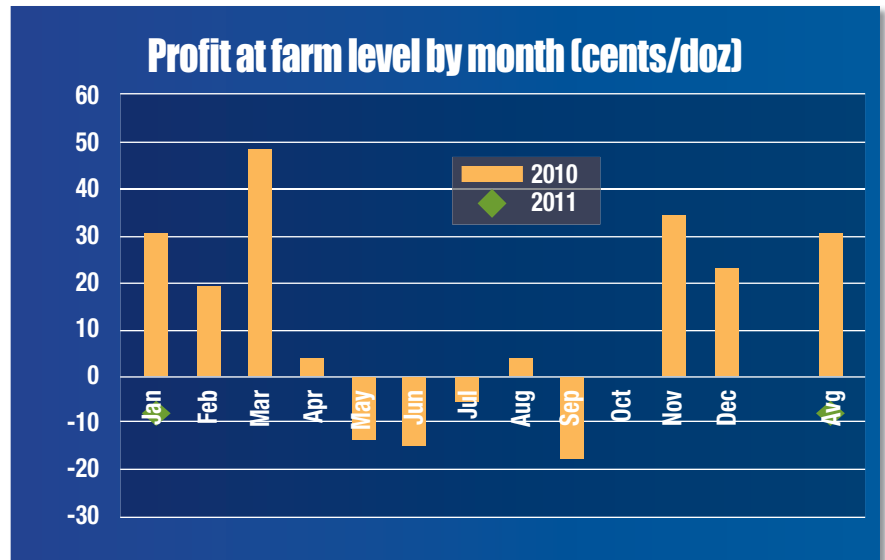


will be the most significant challenge to attaining profitability in 2011.

- ✓ Producers attained an ex-farm loss of -8.3 cents per dozen corresponding to -15.9 cents per hen housed based on January 2011 costs and revenue. For 2010 ex-farm profit was 9.4 cents per dozen or 232.6 cents per hen.
- ✓ The UB simple average producer price for six U.S. regions, assuming 80% large grade eggs, declined 22.8% to 74.5 cents per dozen for January 2011 compared to 96.5 cents per dozen in December 2010. The 2010 cumulative simple average UB price was 70.2 cents per dozen. The range over the six reported regions for January 2011 was 72.6 cents per dozen for California to 77.4 cents per dozen for the South Central Region.
- ✓ The USDA-AMS determined an ex-farm price of 80.3 cents per dozen for January 2011 compared to 106.7 cents per dozen in November. For February 2, the USDA price had increased to 99.5 cents per dozen. Corresponding warehouse/distribution center and store delivery prices in January 2011 were 100.2 cents per dozen and 105.6 cents per dozen respectively which was approximately 19% lower than the previous month. The farm-to-store spread was 25.34 cents per dozen which was 7% higher than the value of 23.67 cents per dozen for the previous month. Average ex-farm price for 2010 was 76.8 cents per dozen which is 6.2% higher than in 2009.
- ✓ In reviewing retail prices for table eggs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Department of Commerce estimated a December average of 179.3 cents per dozen. The simple average retail egg price for 2010 was 166.4 cents per dozen.
- ✓ The Large-to-Medium grade white-egg price spread over six regions was 15.1 cents per dozen in January compared to 40.5 cents per dozen in December with an average spread of 22.8 cents per dozen during 2010. Regional spreads in January ranged from 12.7 cents per dozen in the North East to 18.0 cents per dozen in the South Central Region. The average spread for the six regions was 29% indicating a restoration to normality compared to the unusually high values during the immediate months after the SE recall.
- ✓ During January 2011, layer feed averaged \$275.00 per ton, 6.4% higher than the \$258.40 per ton average based on six regions during December 2010. During January the price range among regions was \$253.50 per



• During December 2010, USDA-FSIS data indicated that 5.6 million hens were processed compared to 4.1 million in November 2010. *Courtesy of the Egg Industry Center*



For 2010 ex-farm profit was 9.4 cents per dozen or 232.6 cents per hen. *Courtesy of the Egg Industry Center*

- ton in the Midwest rising to \$295.10 per ton in the S. Atlantic region, exceeding California at \$292.60/ton. The differential of \$41.60 per ton is equivalent to approximately 67.3 cents per dozen applying realistic industry production parameters.
- ✓ In January 2011 there were 38.7 million commercial egg-strain eggs in incubators. During 2010 the volume of commercial-egg strain eggs in incubators remained almost constant at an average of 38.73 million (compared with 36.57 million in 2009) with a range of 33.4 million in August to 42.9 million in April 2010.
- ✓ Straight-run hatch for December 2010 at-

- tained 37.9 million chicks with an average for 2010 of 40.9 million chicks.
- ✓ Projections for pullets to be housed in future months based on the five months previous hatch, and incorporating a 5% mortality factor, included a range in the increase of placements from 15.75 million pullets in April to 21.44 million pullets in September 2010. The 12-month average of 18.21 million pullets per month for 2010 is 5.5% greater (1.0 million pullets) than the 12-month average of 17.26 million per month for 2009. The 2006 to 2010 monthly average was 15.96 million pullets placed each month. The total for January to May 2011 will be 88.2

## Feed prices: the outstanding factor influencing profitability

million pullets, 3.3% higher than the corresponding five months of 2010.

✓For December 2010, the USDA-NASS estimated the national flock at 289.5 million hens, which was virtually unchanged from November 2010. Applying the University of California model based on USDA-NASS data for chickens and eggs, it is estimated

that the January 2011 flock will attain 285.4 million hens, rising to 289.2 million in December 2011, with a low value of 283.3 million hens in July.

✓As at the end of December 2010, 22.4% of the national flock was over 72 weeks of age. The seasonal pattern of an increase in molted flocks from October through

December was different during the third quarter of 2010. In 2009 the proportion of second-cycle hens in the national flock was 24.7% (31.1% in 2009) compared to a range of 22.1% to 22.4% for the period September to November. This may reflect the disinclination to molt flocks based on potential return from prevailing egg prices and feed costs. An alternative may be that some flocks have been identified as SE positive immediately prior to molt or at resumption of production resulting in depletion, reducing the number of older hens in the national population. For 2010 an average of 23.6% of the national flock had been molted compared to 24.7% during the corresponding period in 2009. Six regions reported a simple average of 24.0% molted hens in December, down 2% from November 2010. The actual proportion of molted hens in the U.S. varies widely, from 9.5% in the North East to 34.0% in California. An average of 23.9% molted hens was recorded in the six regions during 2010. Differences among regions are attributed to production cost, revenue for eggs and realization value for spent hens.

✓During December 2010, USDA-FSIS data indicated that 5.6 million hens were processed compared to 4.1 million in November 2010. The FSIS value does not take into account any depleted flocks which are buried, rendered or shipped to Canada.

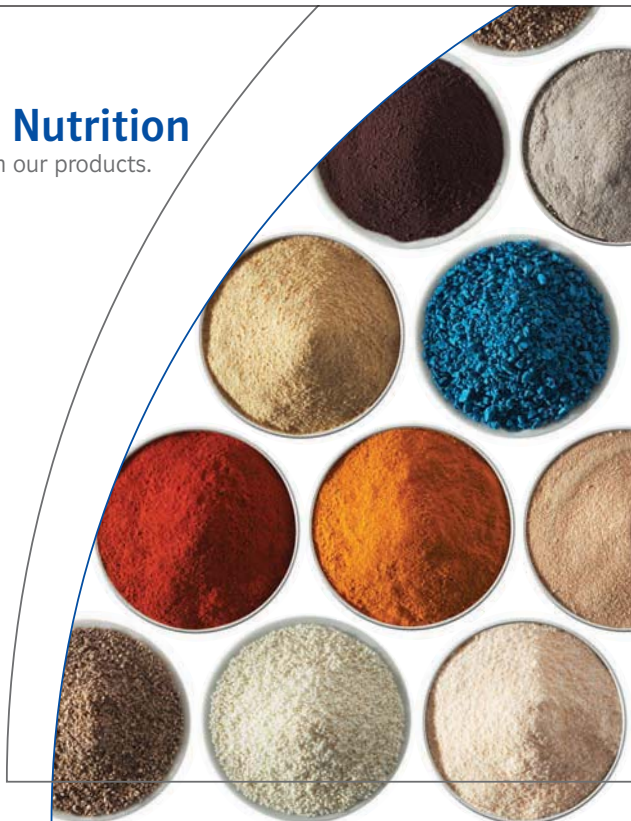
✓The University of California projected a UB Large Midwest price of 103.5 cents/dozen for February 2011. The lowest projection for 2011 is 83.5 cents per dozen in May with a November/December price forecast of 120 cents per dozen. Projections are contingent on current trends in flock depletion and consumer demand. It is reiterated that each 10-cent-per-dozen difference between forecast and actual UB price is equivalent to \$30 million per month over 165 million hens producing generic eggs.

✓In December the top six egg-producing states with 161.11 million hens represented 57.8% of the total of 280.2 million hens in flocks above 30,000 hens as recorded by the USDA. In descending order these states are Iowa [18.7% of total], Ohio [10.0%], Indiana [8.2%], Pennsylvania [8.5%], California [7.0%] and Texas [5.1%]. States reporting to the USDA-NASS represent 98.4% of all hens producing table eggs.

✓The rate of lay for 2010 attained 76.3%. This is 0.5% higher than 2009 where an average

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of 75.5% was recorded. Average rate of lay is a function of weighted flock age and is also influenced by climatic conditions.

✓During December 2010, 5,891 million cases of eggs were broken under Federal inspection, 4.8% higher than in November but 10% less than September. This peak month of 2010 (6,582 million cases) followed the diversion of eggs from flocks infected with SE. In 2010 breaking was up by 3.9% over the corresponding period in 2009. For the year to date, 31.8% of the 217.4 million cases produced were broken compared to 30.8% for 2009. It is noted that on a year-to-year basis the proportion of eggs broken has shown steady decline from the 2005 high of 35.1% to a projected value of 30% for 2010.

▶ ***The revised egg consumption value for 2010 estimated by the USDA-ERS was 246.6 per capita, or 0.45% lower than the 247.7 eggs per capita recorded in 2009.***

✓For the last quarter of 2010, 17.224 million cases were broken compared to 16.397 during the same period in 2009. The difference of 0.827 million cases over the fourth quarter of 2010 represented the output of an average of 4.2 million hens in production which were presumably infected with SE, requiring diversion to breaking.

✓The revised egg consumption value for 2010 estimated by the USDA-ERS was 246.6 per capita, 0.45% lower than the 247.7 eggs per capita in 2009. Over the past seven years the highest per capita consumption of 257.8 eggs occurred in 2006. The efforts of the American Egg Board in mounting a positive campaign promoting egg consumption contributed to maintaining projected consumption during the fourth quarter of 2010 although consumption was markedly depressed in September and part of October as a result of the SE recall. It remains to be seen whether the press releases by the AEB concerning the revised cholesterol content of generic product to 185mg per large grade egg will enhance consumption.

✓During November 2010, the USDA-FAS recorded exports of 205,600 cases of shell eggs contributing to an eleven-month total of 2,204,000 cases representing approximately 1.1% of U.S. production. Major importers during 2010 to date were Hong Kong/PRC at 40.2% and Canada taking 27.0% of shipments. Shell eggs represented 34.9% of total exports to date.

✓Combined exports of shell eggs and egg

products expressed as “shell-egg equivalents” attained 6,307,000 cases for the first eleven months of 2010, representing 3.2% of U.S. production. The cumulative export of egg products was 29.6% higher in 2010 compared to the corresponding period in 2009. Major importers during 2010 were Japan (23.0%), Germany (19.0%), Canada (12.6%), S. Korea (6.0%) and Mexico (3.9%). **E**

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# Transgenic chickens developed for AI resistance

*Bird expresses RNA, which inhibits and blocks the polymerase enzyme of the influenza virus*

Simon M. Shane

**A** multidisciplinary team of molecular biologists and veterinarians in the UK have developed a transgenic chicken which expresses RNA that inhibits and blocks the polymerase enzyme of the influenza virus, which is critical to replication. On exposure, transgenic birds were fully susceptible to challenge but subsequent shedding

of virus to conventional contacts was prevented.

The significance of this work lies more in determining the mechanisms of infection and interaction of host cells and viral pathogens. The prospect of applying transgenic modification in breeding commercial poultry strains is at best speculative.

## Genetic modification

Consumer resistance to genetic modification is evident and a number of years ago the major poultry breeders signed a pact confirming that molecular biology would be confined to identifying strains with desirable genetic characteristics without application or commercialization of genetic modification.

The performance of genetic modified strains would also be required to be superior to existing products with respect to commercial parameters.

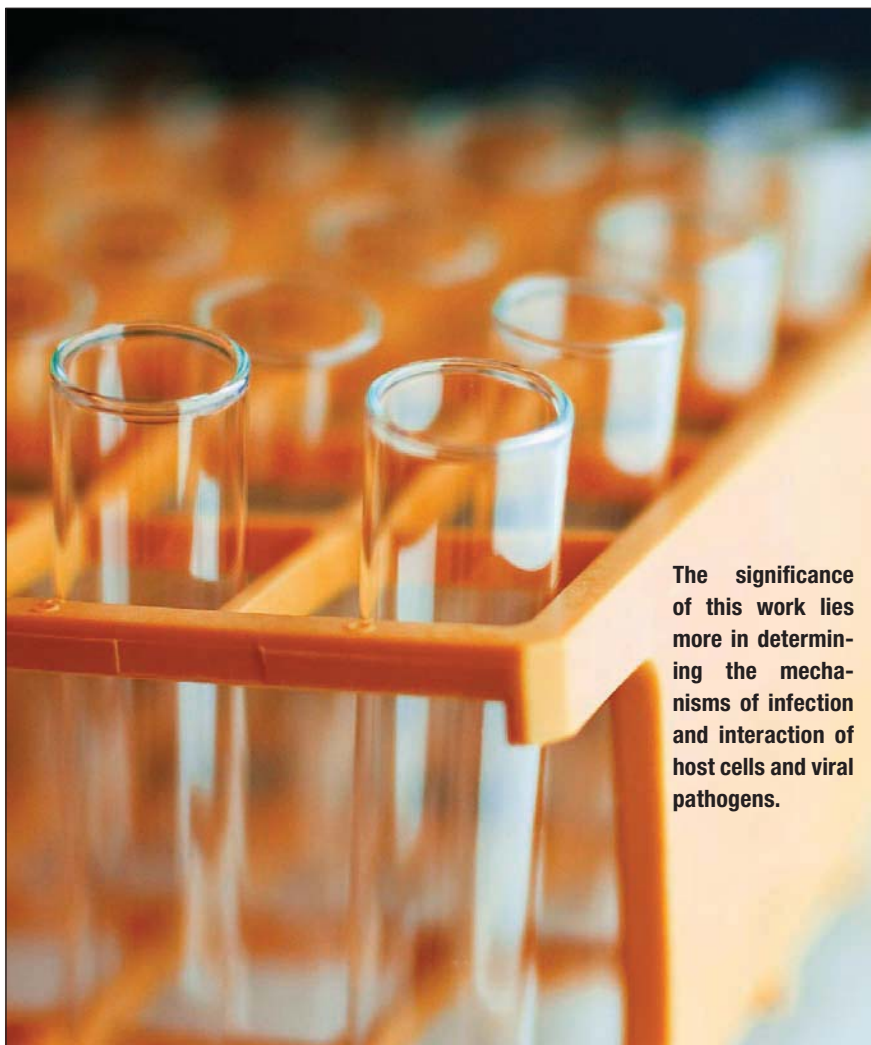
## Pandemic risk has not materialized

During the past five years, highly pathogenic avian influenza has been controlled by a combination of biosecurity and vaccination in most countries where H5N1 avian influenza is endemic. Commercial production continues to be minimally affected while subsistence operations involved in live bird sales are impacted by HPAI which can be regarded as the Newcastle disease of the 2000s.

The dire predictions that H5N1 avian influenza would become the next human pandemic have not materialized. In certain countries, including Egypt, sporadic cases of human H5N1 infection occur but these are usually associated with close proximity to infected flocks and contact with their blood and organs and may involve individuals with genetic susceptibility.

Mutations of the H5N1 virus to become pathogenic to human populations have not materialized and in retrospect the risks were highly overstated during 2002-2003 following emergence of the infection in migratory birds and poultry flocks.

**EI**



**The significance of this work lies more in determining the mechanisms of infection and interaction of host cells and viral pathogens.**

## Videojet Technologies Inc. 2120 Jet Printer



Videojet Technologies Inc. has introduced the Model 2120 Jet Printer to print large variable data codes on both porous and nonporous surfaces. The 700 series print-head and compatible inks are designed to for characters up to 50 mm (0.2") in height. The Videojet 2120 when fitted with 16-valve print head can produce single or twin line alphanumeric codes.

[www.videojet.com](http://www.videojet.com)

## GaiaRecycle LLC G-300CD recycling system



GaiaRecycle LLC offers the G-300CD recycling system for handling the disposal of animal carcasses. The system employs shredder and blade technology and accelerates organic decomposition based on drying, sterilizing and grinding waste. During an eight- to 11-hour processing cycle, the system reduces animal carcass weight and volume by up to 75%, removes odors through its six-step deodorizer

process and produces a sterilized, easy-to-handle, compostable output material. It has a processing capacity of 600 pounds per day.

[www.gaiarecycle.com](http://www.gaiarecycle.com)

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**Chore-Time Egg Production Systems VERSA fully enriched colony system**

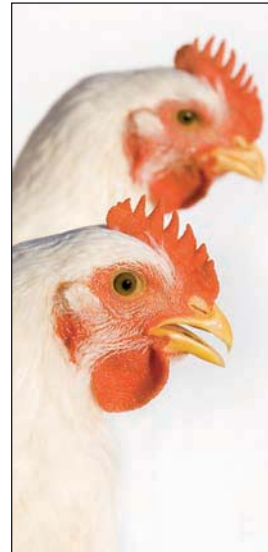


Chore-Time Egg Production Systems offers the VERSA fully enriched colony system, certified as a humane housing system by the American Humane Association. The system has compartments that provide 120.3 square inches (776 square centimeters) of floor space per bird and house 61 birds. Compartments are 22 inches (55.9 cm) tall. The enrichments include easy-to-grip plastic perches, a nesting area with flexible red curtains and comfortable turf pad, scratch panels and an area for dust bathing complete with turf pad and feed delivery system.

[www.choretimeegg.com](http://www.choretimeegg.com)

**Chr. Hansen GalliPro Max probiotic**

Chr.Hansen launched GalliPro Max, a second generation probiotic for poultry at the 2011 IPE/IFE. The product



is based on *Bacillus subtilis*. The strain incorporated in the product has been selected for rapid proliferation in the presence of *Lactobacillus* which occurs in the intestinal tract and which may inhibit other probiotic strains. Probiotics contribute to the beneficial

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## Poultry industry leaders discuss food safety



**A panel of industry leaders discussed food safety and the poultry industry at the Poultry Leadership Roundtable in Atlanta Jan. 25**

The poultry industry's role in ensuring food safety was discussed by a panel of industry leaders at the Poultry Leadership Roundtable in Atlanta Jan. 25. The group represented a wide range of executives from across the poultry industry. Participants included: Carl Blackham, Harris Bank; Mike Blair, Pilgrim's; Brian Coan, Chick-fil-A; Bill Lovette, Pilgrim's; Todd McAloon, Cargill; Scott Russell, University of Georgia; Jon Schaeffer, Pfizer; Bruce Stewart-Brown, Perdue Farms; and Chris Williams, Pfizer.

Gary Thornton, WATT's Content Director -- Agribusiness, moderated the discussion. Topics covered in the wide-ranging, two-hour discussion included: consumer confidence and how it impacts food safety, how food safety has impacted live production, where the industry stands in ensuring the safety of poultry products, how producers can improve consumer information, the role of government in aiding or holding back progress in food safety and more.

The entire roundtable discussion, sponsored by Pfizer Poultry Health and WATT, is available as a series of podcasts. Registration on WATTAgNet is required to download the presentation.

## Three companies recognized for long-term IPE participation

The U.S. Poultry and Egg Association recognized three companies that have been exhibiting for 50 or more years at the 2011 International Poultry Expo.

Baader-Johnson Food Processing Machinery (formerly Gordon-Johnson Company Inc. before acquisition) was recognized for 55 years of exhibiting at IPE and its predecessor the Southeastern Poultry Show.

Cobb-Vantress Inc. was also recognized for 55 years of exhibiting with the original company, Cobb Inc., established in 1916 in Massachusetts.

A second breeder, Hubbard LLC, attained a half-century of exhibiting.

## Walmart announces healthy foods initiative

Walmart, the largest retailer of food in the U.S., has unveiled an initiative promoting healthier products. The Great Value house brands will be reformulated to reduce sodium content by 25%, lower sugars by 10% and eliminate trans-fats in various products including frozen entrees, fruit drinks and packed food products.

The company will also work with suppliers to reduce the sodium, sugars and trans-fat content in national brands by 2015.

The announcement was attended by First Lady Michelle Obama at an event in Washington, DC. To make "healthier foods" more available to lower income groups, Walmart has pledged to build more stores in underserved communities and reduce the price premium on reduced sodium, sugar and fat foods which will save consumers as much as \$1 billion annually.



**The Great Value house brands will be reformulated to reduce sodium content by 25%, lower sugars by 10% and eliminate trans-fats in various products.**

## Salmonella regulations proposed for Iowa producers



Outgoing Iowa Governor Chet Culver unveiled a state initiative to suppress salmonella infection in egg-producing flocks. Presumably referring to *Salmonella enteritidis* infection, regulations will appear to duplicate the FDA Final Rule with respect to all farms over 3,000 hens.

It is proposed that the Iowa Department of Appeals would require notification of any isolation of presumably SE derived from environmental swabs or eggs. The proposed legislation is in response to the adverse publicity directed to Iowa following the August 2010 recall.

The bill requires all farms irrespective of size to operate in accordance with a written SE prevention plan and to be subject to inspection by state officials.

It is significant that the Iowa Egg Council was not consulted before release of the proposal. There is doubt however that the proposed regulations will be enacted into law by the incoming legislature, which is divided between the two major parties.

### **Poultry Science Association supports 'judicious use' of antibiotics in food animals**

The Poultry Science Association, in conjunction with the Federation of Animal Science Societies, has released a statement supporting the judicious use of antibiotics in food animals.

"The Federation of Animal Science Societies strongly supports the judicious use of antibiotics in food animal care consistent with the health and welfare of the animals, with preserving the value of antibiotics in protecting human and animal health and with efficient use of the earth's resources in food production," said the statement.

Antibiotic concerns stem largely from the possible effects of overuse, which may lead to immunity. "This use of these drugs must be balanced against the potential for engendering drug-resistance bacteria that cause harm to humans," said PSA President Dr. Mike Lilburn. "We are confident that this is a balance that can be struck through the careful development of regulatory systems for supporting antibiotics for disease treatment and a science-based approach to the continued use of antibiotics in food animal populations where it is demonstrably efficacious in treating disease, promoting health and increasing global food security."

### **Hickman's acquires Armstrong layer flock**

Hickman's Family Farms of Arizona has acquired the Armstrong layer flock in Valley Center, Calif.

The addition brings Hickman's current flock capacity to more than 5.5

million layers. "This deal will allow us to better serve and grow our base of customers in California," said Glenn Hickman, president of Hickman's.

Hickman's Family Farms, founded in 1944, is a fully integrated producer of shell eggs, pasteurized and cooked eggs, servicing customers in the Southwest.

### **CDC reviews brochure on salmonella**



At a recent meeting of the National Poultry Improvement Program, a draft of a brochure on salmonella prepared by the CDC was reviewed. The document warns the public against direct contact with poultry as a common source of human salmonella infections.

The drafted cover shows a day-old chick and egg with the caption "After you touch ducklings or chicks, wash your hands so you don't get sick!"

The meeting considered the draft too broad, implicating all poultry and eggs with a risk of infection with salmonella.

### **Tyson joins US immigration IMAGE program**

Tyson Foods Inc. is the first major food company to become a full member of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers, a program that enables businesses to

partner with the federal government to ensure they're employing people who are legally authorized to work in the U.S.

To qualify for the program, a company must agree to an I-9 audit and other checks by ICE. "We believe our participation in IMAGE confirms Tyson uses best hiring practices to maintain a lawful workforce," said Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Ken Kimbro. "We use all available tools provided by the U.S. government to verify the documents of the people we hire. We've also gone beyond government tools, spending millions of dollars over the years on such things as training, computer systems and help from outside consultants to make sure we're employing people who are authorized to work in our country."

The IMAGE program was initiated in 2006 to combat undocumented workers presenting false information to hiring managers.

### **US egg farmers launch new 'incredible edible egg' ad campaign**

America's egg farmers have introduced "You Do Everything," a new national advertising campaign for the "incredible edible egg" focusing on how an all-natural, high-quality protein breakfast can contribute to a successful day.

"Eggs are often a part of weekend breakfasts, but there is an opportunity to make eggs a bigger part of Americans' weekday breakfast routines," said Kevin Burkum, senior vice president of marketing for the American Egg Board. "This new advertising builds on a universal truth that parents will do whatever it takes to help their child succeed in school, sports and beyond. We want to remind parents that success starts with an all-natural, high-quality protein breakfast, like eggs, to give kids the energy they need to perform their best throughout the day."

The ads are currently running in spots during "Good Morning America," the "Rachael Ray Show," on the Food Network and online.



## Kemin expands into veterinary market

Kemin Industries Inc. has expanded into the veterinary market with the launch of a new division, Kemin Vet Innovations, set to provide products, solutions and services for the veterinary community serving the livestock, poultry, equine and companion animal markets worldwide.

The division will be led by Andrew Yersin, former director of research and development for Kemin AgriFoods North America. "This is an exciting addition to Kemin's growing global presence," said Yersin. "We look forward to expanding our product offerings across regions and supporting the veterinary market with innovative, molecular solutions.

Kemin Vet Innovations will be based at Kemin's corporate headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, and will have additional representation in the Middle East, China, Mexico, India and Asia Pacific.

## Feedtech-Croptech Asia in Bangkok to highlight alternative feed ingredients

The Feedtech-Croptech Asia 2011 Conference, held March 9 by VNU in association with WATT, during VIV Asia in Bangkok, will focus on future trends in animal feeds. With grain prices soaring, the discussion will include the potential for using alternative ingredients to manage feed costs.

Presentations by guest speakers Dr. Budi Tangendjaja, U.S. Grains Council, and Dr Chinnadurai Sugumar, Kemin Industries, will focus on whether agricultural co-products or other crop products might be used instead of conventional energy and protein sources in Asian feeds for poultry and pigs.

Alternative ingredients offer more options and therefore more control over the future when supplies of the main grains or proteins may be limited,

these presenters point out. Often the candidates for consideration are available locally at relatively low prices, although they tend to be rather bulky and therefore transportation costs might be

higher. Moreover, their quality is inconsistent at times and certain anti-nutritional factors may be present. Palatability and digestibility must be taken into account, as well

as the potential risk of contamination.

However, positive aspects include not only a lower cost, but also the fact that these co-products do not generally find a use in human food. To assist poultry and pig feed formulation there is a growing amount of knowledge on where and how such alternative feed ingredients can be employed without depressing the performance of the animals or birds, together with the arrival of technology to overcome their dis-



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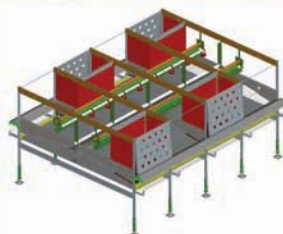
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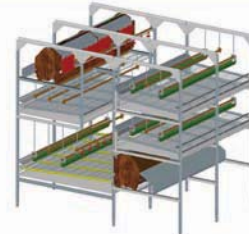


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### Layer Health Management School to be held at Purdue University

The Tenth Annual Layer Health Management Health School will be held at Purdue University from Wednesday, May 11 through Thursday, May 12, 2011. The School is designed to provide training for managers and service persons.

Topics will include disease prevention, nutrition and management and

will be presented by faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Avian Specialists affiliated with industry and breeder companies.

The cost for the School is \$375 and accommodation is available at the Union Club Hotel at the Purdue Memorial Union. For further information contact the coordinator Dr. Teresa Y. Morishita by email or +1.909.469.5512.

### Japan culls additional 190,000 chickens in new bird flu outbreak

A farm in southwestern Japan has

culled 190,000 chickens to contain the seventh outbreak of avian flu in Miyazaki Prefecture and the tenth in Japan this winter.

The government has banned the transportation of eggs and chickens within six miles of the infected farm, and a meat processing factory was also closed down, according to authorities. Overall, more than 500,000 chickens have been culled in Japan since Jan. 22 due to various outbreaks. **EI**

## MARKETPLACE

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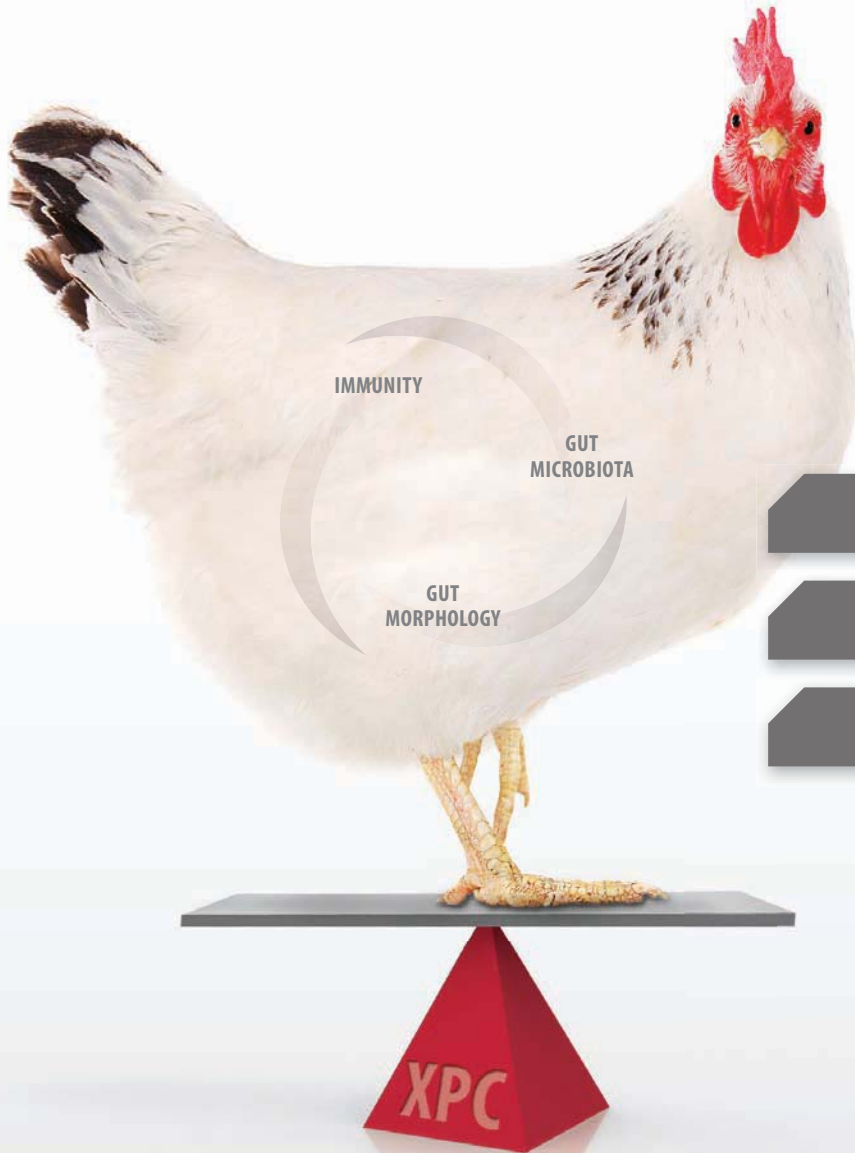


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