

UPDATE ON CHINA

The Largest Egg Industry

China has a large population, low egg productivity and a constantly growing consumption. It is a big market for suppliers to the industry.

China is the largest egg producing country in the world. In 1990, the output of poultry eggs amounted to 7.94 million tons of which 80% were chicken eggs, 20% from waterfowl.

China has a human population of 1130 million. Currently per capita egg consumption averages 6.5kgs. It is planned to raise this to 10kg by the year 2000 which, assuming that the population climbs to 1330 million will mean that there will be a demand for 13.3 million tons of eggs by the end of this decade.

Eggs are produced by state farms, private farms and peasant families. Nearly 60% of production is by peasant families their eggs being mainly for self-consumption with only a small proportion (less than 10%) marketed.



Professor Changhsin Wu

State farms are controlled by the government and mainly produce hatching eggs, though those near to

large cities also produce some table eggs. Private farms keep both breeders and commercial layers, selling the eggs via street markets or supermarkets. Eggs from peasant farms are sold through co-operatives or street markets.

Average per capita egg production is about 7kgs, though egg consumption averages around 6.5kgs as some 5% are broken during the collecting/distribution process and about 2% are for non-food use. Those who live in the cities eat some 10.5kgs of eggs/person compared with only 5.1kgs in the villages.

Some 80% of eggs are consumed as fresh eggs with a further 10% eaten as Kept Fresh eggs, these having been stored from anything from 2-4 weeks up to 6 months. These eggs are either stored at low temperatures (-2 degrees C), in lime water or in sodium silicate. About 5%, mainly duck eggs, are processed by traditional methods, while 0.5% are consumed as dried egg products. A further 4% of eggs are used as raw material in the food industry such as in cake or biscuit making.

At the end of 1990, there were 2430 million poultry in China of which 1500 million were laying hens, 500 million were meat-type chicken and 430 million were waterfowl of which 75% were ducks. The average yield/layer was around 120 eggs/year each egg averaging around 48g.

That there will be a requirement for 13.3 million tons of fowl eggs by the year 2000 means that there will be a large market in China for all the production and grading equipment needed by such a developing egg industry. —Changhsin Wu, Professor Genetics & Animal Breeding, Beijing Agricultural University.

Table 1. Layer Productivity In China

	Local Breeds	Improved Breeds
Eggs (No to 72 weeks)	100	200
Egg Weight (g)	45	60
Egg Mass (kgs)	4.5	12.0

80% of the flock are local breeds and 20% improved breeds.

Table 2. Future Levels Of Egg Production

Year	Human Population (millions)	Per Capita Egg Production (kgs)	Egg Production (million tons)
1991	1150	7.3	8.40
1992	1170	7.6	8.90
1993	1190	7.9	9.40
1994	1210	8.2	9.90
1995	1230	8.5	10.45
1996	1250	8.8	11.00
1997	1270	9.1	11.55
1998	1290	9.4	12.10
1999	1310	9.7	12.70
2000	1330	10.0	13.30