

Egg Prices Drop 25%

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It has been the demand that has fluctuated.

Many officials have cited public switching from meat to eggs as a prime source to escape high meat prices as the major factor in the unusually heavy egg demand over the past several months. But as egg prices rose higher and higher this demand fell off.

While oversupply of eggs is now a future threat, as a result of the present high egg hatch, supply so far has been relatively stable during the wild egg price fluctuations this winter.

While egg men may disagree on the value of the egg exchange and have different ideas on what to do about egg price fluctuations there's a growing consensus that something's wrong with present egg pricing methods.

Umer Barry has been under increasing fire from many directions. The New York egg market publication firm, headed by Frank Umer, has responded by pledging establishment of better data gathering and price setting mechanisms, including computerization.

Umer Barry Influence

Wholesale prices in the Northeast South and part of the Midwest set by Umer Barry, influence the whole country, Delano said.

Meanwhile, a group of individuals and firms have filed an injunction in New York to prevent issuance of further price quotations by Umer Barry Publications.

The lengthy complaint alleges instances of price manipulation by traders and alleges the plaintiffs have been harmed by the resulting lower egg prices. Triple damages of \$45 million are sought.

Farm Calendar

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Tuesday, April 7

Annual Meat Packers and Processors Seminar at Penn State

9:30-11:30 a.m.—Pattern Alteration Workshops, Berwyn Red Cross Building, Chester County

9:30-11:30 a.m.—Reupholstery Workshop, Friends Meeting House, South Third Street, Oxford, Chester County

7:30 p.m.—Ephrata Young Farmers meeting, (Forage Management Course), high school vocational room

7:30 p.m.—Warwick FFA banquet, Brunneville Fire Hall

Wednesday, April 8

1:00 p.m.—FFA Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure contests, Warwick High School

2:00 p.m.—Eastern National Antiques Show, State Farm Show Building, Harrisburg

Thursday, April 9

12:00 noon—Eastern National Antiques Show, State Farm Show Building, Harrisburg

7:30 p.m.—Farm Women Societies 21 and 28, Quarryville Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 10

4 H Teen Leader Conference Weekend, Heisley

8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.—Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Tour, York and Adams Co.

12:00 noon—Eastern National Antique Show, State Farm Show Building, Harrisburg

Saturday, April 11

4 H Teen Leader Conference Weekend, Heisley

10:00 a.m.—Eastern National Antiques Show, State Farm Show Building, Harrisburg

1:30 p.m.—Farm Women Societies 2 and 9, annual banquet, Abc Groll Farm, Pinkerton Road, Mount Joy

ght, Umer Barry was still publishing this week. (See page 3)

Elsewhere, UEP is developing what Delano describes as "price discovering data" to help insure orderly egg marketing. The data would include egg inventory, presumably by region, fowl movement, and retail prices.

Among other things, the data presumably would help insure a more uniform and orderly national egg market.

Egg Prices Vary

A major problem at present is that retail egg prices vary drastically from one area of the country to another.

This week, following the sharp egg price drop, some retail outlets in New England were still selling eggs for 65 to 79 cents a dozen. This price "gives some stores a 50 per cent markup," Delano said.

Generally, however, retail prices are 43 to 45 cents on West coast and 59 cents in New England and New York.

Asked why the retail price variance is so great between the West and East, Delano said Department of Labor figures show Northeast stores take a margin twice that of the South and West.

In other comments, Delano said the "cheapest eggs or eggs sold under pressure determines the value of all eggs."

There were reports over the weekend that Southern egg producers were reporting sales of 40 cents in New York.

Weak Sellers Unload

It apparently was these sellers of "large producers who offered eggs at prices they felt would sell" who set the pace for Monday's egg market collapse.

It's because the weak seller does determine the egg price that various egg marketing organizations are concerned about providing up to the minute egg marketing data that would enable rapid transfer of surplus eggs to areas of need. This means development of methods to equalize supply and demand across the country.

The concern now is that a glut in just one region of the country can cause egg price deterioration all over the country.

House Plants Get Sick From Several Causes

When house plants do not seem to be doing real well, the trouble is not always a lack of fertilizer, reminds James O. Dutt, extension home horticulturist at The Pennsylvania State University. Some things to check since they may cause house plants trouble are too much water, too much or too little light, too high temperature, or even gas fumes. All these should be checked when indoor plants appear to be sick.

Reduce Chances of Disease in Garden Plants

Some ways to cut down on chances of having diseases in garden plants include starting with disease-free seed, using sterile media or sterilized soil, clean containers, tools, and water. Producing disease-free plants requires a good control program, says Allen H. Bauer, extension plant pathologist at The Pennsylvania State University.

The Old Timer



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