

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG QUALITY SURVEY
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In the summer of 1996 a national study of retail egg quality was conducted by state extension poultry specialists in California, Illinois, the New England states, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Pennsylvania.

The study included 38 cities, 115 grocery stores, and evaluated more than 770 dozen large eggs. Specialists looked at conventional white, brown, and specialty eggs for price, age from packing date, egg weight, and interior and exterior quality factors.

Specialty eggs included subgroups of nutritionally altered eggs, organic eggs, fertile eggs, eggs from welfare-managed hens, and hens fed all-vegetable diets.

Table 1 Pennsylvania All Egg Summary

TRAIT	Locations						
	Allen	Erie	Harris	Lanc	Philly	Pitts	StCol
Age	20.4	14.4	11.9	10.9	14.9	12.0	15.1
Wt (g)	58.7	58.9	59.2	59.0	58.4	59.6	59.4
Alb ht	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.3	4.5	5.0	4.9
HU ¹	65.5	65.1	63.4	70.1	63.3	67.0	66.1
HU ¹ <55	13.2	15.4	14.6	8.1	18.3	14.6	0.3
Crack (%)	7.4	8.0	7.5	7.6	4.7	5.8	3.9
Leaker (%)	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	0	0
Price (\$)	1.71	1.12	1.26	1.17	1.65	1.38	1.27

Allen: Allentown; Erie: Erie; Harris: Harrisburg; Lanc: Lancaster; Philly: Philadelphia; Pitts: Pittsburgh; StCol: State College

¹Haugh Units

The two largest samples were taken in California and Pennsylvania with 84 and 67 egg brands sampled from 27 stores in both states, respectively.

Pennsylvania eggs were evaluated in Allentown, Erie, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and State College. In Pennsylvania we relied heavily on assistance from Department of Agriculture egg inspectors to gather and evaluate more than 2,400 individual eggs.

National, egg age in the retail setting averaged 11.7 days for white eggs, 14.8 days for brown, and 16.7 for specialty eggs. White eggs in individual states averaged 16.1, 11.7, 11.3, 10.7, 10.6 and 10.0 days for white eggs in Texas, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and the North East respectively. The Haugh unit (HU) values, which are a measure of albumen height (the higher the better, with greater than 72=AA, and greater than 60=A), and an indicator of interior quality averaged 69.1 for the white eggs, 63.5 for the brown and 66.1 for the specialty eggs. White eggs in the different regions had HU values of: North East, 75.5; Illinois, 71.6; Pennsylvania, 69.0; North Carolina, 68.1; Texas, 67.3; and California, 62.8. Cracked eggs in the cartons averaged 5.9 percent for white eggs, 6.9 percent for brown, and 4.9 percent for specialty eggs. The state with the most cracked white eggs was North Carolina at 7.4 percent, followed by Pennsylvania, 7.2 percent; the North East, 6.9 percent, California, 4.9 percent; Texas, 4.7 percent, and Illinois with the fewest cracks at 4.6

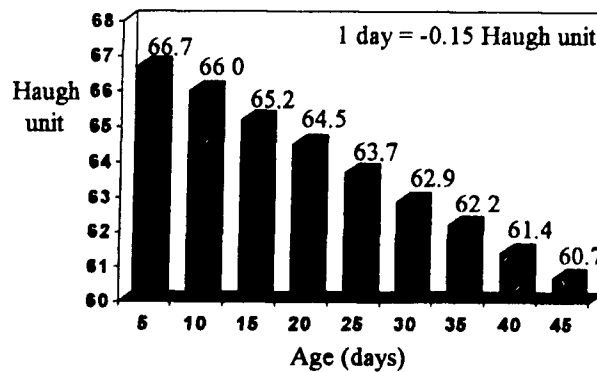
percent.

Egg price varied greatly by egg type and region of the country. White eggs averaged \$1.20 per dozen, brown eggs were \$1.47, and specialty eggs were the highest at \$2.16 per dozen. Average

white egg price in the different regions ranged from \$1.71 in California, and \$1.52 in the North East, to \$1.07 in Pennsylvania, \$1.04 in North Carolina, \$0.96 in Texas, and \$0.90 in Illinois.

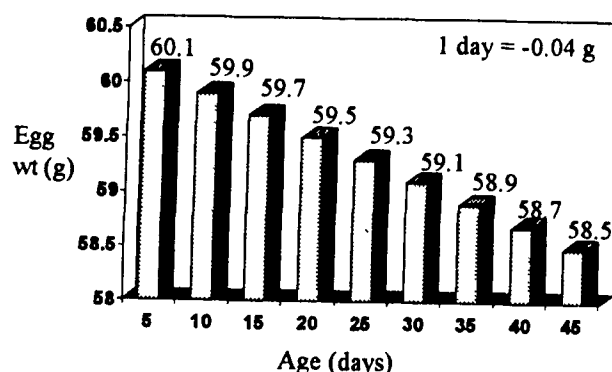
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Egg Age to Haugh Unit Relationship
 all eggs (771 doz)



R square = 0.0269, P = 0.001, 0 = 67.5 Haugh units

Egg Age to Weight Relationship
 all eggs (771 dozen)



R square = 0.0124, P = 0.01, 0 = 60.3 g

Colored Breeds Shine At Solanco Fair

old, Franken Theodore Ulli. Barbara Richardson showed the reserve senior and reserve grand champion, a 2-year-old, Top-O-Hill Merit Thelma.

Suzann showed both the junior champions of the Jersey breed show. Her winter calf, Legend Merit Patti of Ttop-O-Hill, was junior champion, while her spring yearling, Hill Acres Shelly's Sherry, was the reserve junior champion.

SOLANCO FAIR Dairy Shows Colored Breeds

AYRSHIRE
 SPRING CALF: 1.Kennastock Farms, 2.Susan Richardson; 3.Warren Schmuck
 WINTER CALF: 1.Rebecca Nolan, 2 Henry Hambrick
 FALL CALF: 1.Craig Nolan; 2.Karen Hambrick; 3.Kenneth Findley.
 SUMMER YEARLING: 1.James Findley, 2.Thomas Spring.
 SPRING YEARLING: 1.Susan Richardson, 2.Kenneth, Kathy Findley, 3.Kenneth Findley.
 WINTER YEARLING: 1.Susan Richardson; 2.Henry Hambrick.
 FALL YEARLING: 1.Stephanie Pomraning; 2.Karen Hambrick.
 JUNIOR CHAMPION: Craig Nolan, fall calf.
 RESERVE JR CHAMP: Rebecca Nolan, winter calf.
 DRY COWS: 1.Kevin Nolan; 2.James Findley; 3 Stephanie Pomraning.
 2-YR-OLD: 1.James Findley; 2.Karen Hambrick; 3 Stephanie Pomraning.
 3-YR-OLD: 1.Rebecca Nolan; 2.Kennastock Farms, 3 Bonnie Wentworth.
 4-YR-OLD: 1.Stephanie Pomraning; 2.Rebecca Nolan; 3 Karne Hambrick.
 5-YR-OLD: 1.Karen Hambrick; 2.Kenneth Findley; 3 Kenneth Findley.
 SENIOR CHAMPION: Rebecca Nolan, 3-year-old.
 RESERVE SR CHAMP: Stephanie Pomraning, 4-year-old
 GRAND CHAMPION: Rebecca Nolan
 RESERVE GRAND CHAMP: Stephanie Pomraning
 PREMIER EXHIBITOR: Findley family
 PREMIER BREEDER: Hambrick family
 JR DIVISION CHAMPION: Rebecca Nolan
 JR DIV RESERVE CHAMP: Stephanie Pomraning.
 GET OF SIRE: 1 Nolan family, 2 Stephanie Pomraning, 3 Karen Hambrick, Kenneth Findley, James Findley
 BEST THREE: 1 Karen Hambrick, 2 Stephanie Pomraning, 3 Henry Hambrick.
 DAIRY HERD: 1 Nolan family, 2 Karen Hambrick; 3 Stephanie Pomraning
 PRODUCE OF DAM: 1 Nolan family, 2 Went-

worth Farm; 3 James Findley
 DAM, DAUGHTER: 1 Nolan family; 2.Karen Hambrick; 3.James Findley.

JERSEY
 SPRING CALF: 1 Barbara Richardson
 WINTER CALF: Suzann Pomraning.
 SPRING YEARLING: Suzann Pomraning.
 JUNIOR CHAMPION: Suzann Pomraning, winter calf.
 RESERVE JR CHAMP: Suzann Pomraning, spring yearling
 2-YEAR-OLD: 1 Suzann Pomraning; 2.Barbara Richardson
 SENIOR CHAMPION: Suzann Pomraning, 2-year-old.
 RESERVE SR CHAMP: Barbara Richardson, 2-year-old
 GRAND CHAMPION: Suzann Pomraning.
 RESERVE GRAND CHAMP: Barbara Richardson

BROWN SWISS
 SPRING CALF: 1 Amanda Shahan; 2.William Reinsfelder, 3.Joshua Hushon.
 WINTER CALF: 1.Lisa Jones.
 FALL CALF: 1.Joshua Hushon; 2 Thomas Spring
 SPRING YEARLING: 1.Joseph Hushon.
 WINTER YEARLING: 1.Joseph Hushon.
 FALL YEARLING: 1.Lisa Jones
 JUNIOR CHAMPION: Lisa Jones, winter calf.
 RESERVE JR CHAMP: Joshua Hushon, fall calf.
 4-YR-OLD: 1.Jacob Hushon.
 5-YR-OLD: 1. Joshua Hushon.
 SENIOR CHAMPION: Joshua Hushon, 5-year-old.
 RESERVE SR CHAMP: Jacob Hushon, 5-year-old
 GRAND CHAMPION: Joshua Hushon.
 RESERVE GRAND CHAMP: Jacob Hushon.
 GET OF SIRE: 1.Hushon family; 2.Lisa Jones
 BEST THREE: 1.Hushon family.
 DAM, DAUGHTER: 1.Amanda Shahan and Jacob Hushon; 2.Joshua Hushon.

GUERNSEY
 SPRING CALF: 1.Tracy Richardson
 WINTER CALF: 1.Megan Spring.
 FALL CALF: Thomas Spring.
 SPRING YEARLING: 1.Tracy Richardson, 2 Kimberly Pomraning.
 JUNIOR CHAMPION: Tracy Richardson, spring calf
 RESERVE JR CHAMP: Tracy Richardson, spring yearling.
 2-YR-OLD: 1 Kimberly Pomraning
 3-YR OLD: 1 Kimberly Pomraning.
 SENIOR CHAMPION: Kimberly Pomraning, 3-year-old.
 RESERVE SR CHAMP: Kimberly Pomraning, 2-year-old.
 GRAND CHAMPION: Kimberly Pomraning.
 RESERVE GRAND CHAMP: Kimberly Pomraning.

SHOWMANSHIP
 12 & UNDER: 1.Barbara Richardson; 2.Lisa Jones; 3 William Reinsfelder.
 13 & OLDER: 1.Craig Nolan; 2.Amanda Shahan; 3 Stephanie Pomraning

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From the left, Joseph Hushon holds the halter of his reserve junior champion of the Brown Swiss show, while Lisa Jones holds the halter of her junior champion, and Amanda Shahan and Harmony Miller hold the respective halters of Jacob Hushon's reserve grand champion, and Joshua Hushon's grand champion.



From the left, Barbara Richardson holds the halter of her reserve grand champion Jersey of the Solanco Fair, while Suzann Pomraning, holds the halter of her grand champion and shows her plaque.