



FRESHVIEW
Foods Ltd

Crop report - May

Crop report - May

The latest updates on the marketplace to help plan menus, what to look forward to and what to avoid.

Potato

As the cost of everything continues to rise, potatoes are following suit. This is mainly due to the stress of the growing period. Other factors have now come into play such as the demand for export to Ireland and Europe being higher than ever and crisping raw material being short. When harvesting time came around, the dry weather caused a lot of damage from bruising and subsequent dry rot which has led to a much higher wastage level than usual.

With lower levels of stock and higher levels of wastage, it is inevitable that we are seeing quality issues within the stored crop. This means the potatoes need to be graded harder, which takes more time, which costs more than ever due to minimum wage increases.

These factors have ultimately caused stock shortages and therefore price increases, particularly for higher quality material. This trend will continue until new crop becomes available in late July.

The planting season has been delayed by the continual wet weather by 2-3 weeks on average, some saying this planting period being the latest they've seen in a long time. This will certainly elongate the old crop season to ensure we have continuity on the new season crop. Thus putting more pressure on the demand for old season raw material.

Fruit

Strawberries

There is a mix of origins as we enter May with Spanish, Dutch/Belgian and UK glass house and outdoor fruit all taking us into the month. UK outdoor production will also get underway with volumes increasing throughout May, some growers will start end of April.

Raspberries

Spanish quality is good with supply in balance, labour availability at source is holding up pricing. The first meaningful UK volumes should begin during May and grow in availability as the weather improves.

Blueberries

Spanish production is now in full swing alongside Moroccan, delivering good volumes into and throughout May. Supply may tighten quickly as these sources stop exporting towards the end of the month on May. Quality remains very nice.

Blackberries

Raw material pricing has continued to increase from Mexico. It is in high demand from the US, Spanish supply should start in May to bridge supply until the UK production begins.



Crop report - May



Stone fruit

New season Spanish Peach and nectarine will start coming through along with Cherry and Apricot

Melons

We will be moving over from Southern hemisphere fruit to Spanish fruit, starting with Almeria and moves over to Mercia.

Citrus and Apples

The citrus works the other way around, the apples and citrus move from the Northern to the southern hemisphere. Prices will be increase on these lines.

Salad

There is a couple of week delay on the UK salad season with the recent cold weather. The little gem, iceberg, cos lettuce/ lollo rosso/oak leaf and lollo Biondi will become more available as the month goes on.

We are also moving away from the Spanish salad season which has been very tricky with the extended cold snaps this year. We will be moving over to the Dutch supply which will be more consistent.

Onion

The Spanish season is reaching its end, Dutch and English remain short in supply. The Chilean season has arrived but prices are much higher than the rest. Prices will continue to rise until July when the new season starts from Spain.



Carrots

We are now on imported carrots earlier than expected due to the earlier frosts in the year. Expect high prices until new season English in July.

Eggs

Free Range eggs are back - Housing Orders are to be lifted in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 00.01 on 18th April 2023.

The UK has been facing its largest ever outbreak of avian influenza.

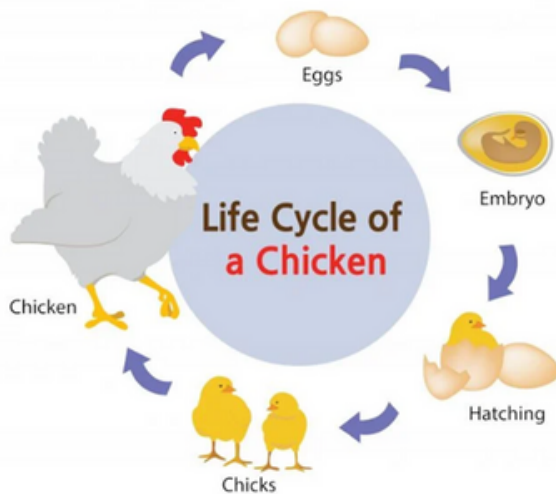
While poultry and other captive birds will no longer need to be housed, unless they are in a protection zone, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said other precautions to protect flocks remain in force. From Tuesday hens are allowed back outside, after the government lifted restrictions imposed last November requiring them to stay indoors.

It means free-range labelling can return to shelves. Since March, the eggs have been classified as "barn eggs" in supermarkets due to the length of time birds had been kept inside.

This is good news but will take several months for the egg prices to come back down to more normal levels.

Crop report - May

Buyer choice - The chicken and the egg



Facts

- A hen will lay an egg every 25-27 hours or so, and this cycle goes on every day.
- A hen will sit diligently on those eggs for 21 days.
- The nutrients in the egg's contents will sustain a chick for about 24-72 hours.
- The chicks will start to sprout their first real feathers, usually during the second week.
- Weeks 3 and 4 see them acquiring more feathers and growing rapidly.
- By week 8, they should be able to spend more time outside, and you can start to expand their tastes: mealworms, grains, and greens, scrambled eggs
- Adolescent hens will start to lay eggs around the 18-week mark, they are small and called pullet eggs. Around week 22 the eggs will be more of a medium size
- There are more chickens on earth than people – 25 billion. There are also more chickens than any other bird species.
- The record number of eggs laid by a chicken in one day is 7. The record number of eggs laid by a chicken in one year is 371.
- The colour of the egg depends on the chicken's earlobes. Red ear lobed chickens lay brown eggs, while white ear lobed chickens lay white eggs.
- The record for most egg yolks in one egg is 9 yolks.
- The colour of the egg yolk is determined by the food eaten by chickens.