



ANIMAL SCIENCE

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

UNL POULTRY NEWS

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Newsletter Editor:

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Pictured left our NE. Extension Staff and Students: Ella Eidson, Ashley Bigge, Ann Dobesh, Brett Kreifels, Alaina Kauffman, KateLynn Ness and Trey Lamkins, working at the 2022 NE State Fair 4-H Poultry Show

Nebraska State Fair 4-H Poultry Winners

Special thanks to Nebraska Poultry Industries for their sponsorship of the Nebraska State Fair 4-H Chicken BBQ contest, our winner was Tucker Robinson from Fillmore County.

4-H Poultry Best of Show - Nevaeh Hill, Pawnee County

4-H Reserve Best of Show—Trey Stewart, Cuming County

4-H Best of Show Egg Exhibit—Andrew Lovelace, Otoe County

4-H Poultry Showmanship—Senior Champion—Claire Woepffel, Holt County

4-H Poultry Showmanship Intermediate Champion—Marylynn Rauert, Lancaster Co



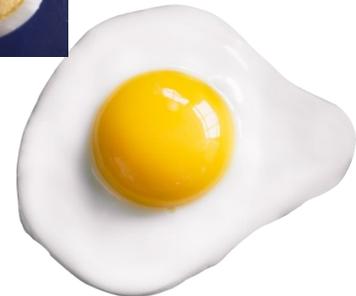
Why are egg prices high and staying high??

There are several factors affecting egg prices this year. They include:

1. Long term and short term effects of Avian Influenza, over 35 million hens have been depopulated due to AI breaks in commercial flocks in 2022. It takes 1/2 year to grow a pullet to produce eggs and replace those lost.
2. Cost of feed has gone up due to high corn and soybean prices and trucking costs.
3. Increased labor and distribution costs.

However, even at prices near or exceeding \$2-3.00/dozen, eggs continue to be one of the least expensive animal proteins available for the consumer. Each egg provides 6 grams protein and is full of essential vitamins and minerals with a negligible amount of carbs.

Total Fat · 5.3 g (62.03 %)	8 %
Saturated fat · 1.6 g	7 %
Polyunsaturated fat · 0.7 g	0 %
Monounsaturated fat · 2 g	0 %
Total Carbohydrate · 1 g (5.2 %)	0 %
Dietary fiber · 0 g	0 %
Sugar · 1 g	0 %
Protein · 6.3 g (32.77 %)	12 %



Turkey Prices are also Affected by Avian Influenza

The U.S. turkey industry has also been hard hit by Avian Influenza and high feed costs. More than 5.6 million turkeys were depopulated in September, 2022 due to AI outbreaks in Utah and North Dakota. The same factors affecting egg prices will affect the selling prices of turkeys for your holiday meals this year. But again, turkey meat is a great source of protein, low in carbohydrates and very low in saturated fats.



A comparison of animal proteins nutrient content per 3.5 oz serving size

Type of Animal Protein	Calories	Protein (gms)	Fat (grms)	Cholesterol mg
Turkey	170	29.3	5.0	76.6
Chicken Breast	173	30.9	4.5	85.7
Beef Pot Roast	210	33.0	7.6	101
Pork Chop	202	30.2	8.1	82.7
Lamb Leg	191	28.3	7.7	89.7

So who can eat only 3.5 oz Turkey during our Holiday dinners?? Go ahead and stuff thy self with turkey, it's low in calories and high in protein!

UNL Poultry Interest Team Contacts

Animal Science Dept: Sheila Purdum, Ph.D. (Co-Leader)
 Gary Sullivan, Ph.D.
 Mary Beck, Ph.D. (Emeriti)

Veterinary Science: Don Reynolds, DVM (Co-Leader)
 Roberto Cortinas, DVM

Food Science: Kaustav Majumder, Ph.D.
 Byron Chaves, Ph.D.
 Bing Wang, Ph.D.

Ag. Engineering: Yijie Xiong, Ph.D
 Rick Stowell, Ph.D.
 Amy Schmidt, Ph.D.
 Tami Brown-Brandl, Ph.D.

Extension Educator: Brett Kreifels, M.S.



Contact info available at: <https://directory.unl.edu/>



2023-2024 Nebraska Poultry Education Scholarship

Nebraska residents, those attending school in Nebraska, or those interested in a career in poultry-based in Nebraska are encouraged to apply for the 2023-2024 Nebraska Poultry Education Scholarship.

A total of eight \$1,000 scholarships may be awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year. The eight scholarships are awarded based on college credit hours completed (0-26 Freshman, 27-52 Sophomore, 53-88 Junior, 89 or more Senior, Bachelors Degree as of June 2023 Post-Grad). Read and follow the instructions carefully prior to submitting your application. All winners will be notified no later than February 1, 2023.

If awarded, the scholarship will be awarded directly to the educational institution. Applicants and winners are encouraged to apply each year and can be awarded the scholarship multiple times but not totaling more than \$1,000 per academic year. **Winners are required to attend the Nebraska Poultry Industries conference on March 15, 2023 to be presented the scholarship.** Non-traditional students are encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline - January 13, 2023

To apply, go to: <http://www.nepoultry.org/>

SAVE THE DATE – UNL Chick Days



March 25, 2023—UNL East Campus, Animal Science Commons



Workshop Topics: Housing and Predator Protection
Humane Slaughter for Backyard Poultry
Egg Grades and Sell of Home-Raised Eggs
4-H Poultry Showmanship- Do's and Don'ts

Competitions: Egg Art – Adult & Youth
Poultry Photography- Adult & Youth
Poultry Quiz Bowl – Adult & Youth Teams
Youth Only Teams

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Avian Influenza (AI): "It ain't over 'til it's over."

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The famous saying "It ain't over 'til it's over." is credited to the baseball legend Yogi Berra regarding his team's chances of winning the 1973 national league championship*. This quote has been used many times to remind us that we cannot predict the outcome of things before it is finished. Such is the case with the 2022 AI outbreak. If we compare some facts and figures with the earlier 2014-2015 AI outbreak, which resulted in the deaths of over 50 million birds, there are some interesting similarities and differences. In the AI outbreak of 2014-15 there were 211 detections in commercial flocks and only 21 detections in backyard flocks. The outbreak began in the winter months of 2014 with only a few detections in backyard flocks and wild birds. Then, in the early spring there was an explosive number of commercial flock detections peaking in April, May and June. By late June the outbreak was over with no further detections. This pattern of AI outbreaks occurring in the early spring and then followed by a decline and cessation of the outbreak by early summer has been attributed to the wet springs (from rain and melting ice / snow) providing favorable conditions for AI virus survival, migratory patterns of wild birds (especially waterfowl) that can spread the AI virus, and the warmer weather that changes the environment to be less suitable conditions for the survival of the AI virus. This time / seasonal pattern observed in 2015 was used to predict the 2022 outbreak. It was thought that if only we could minimize the outbreaks in the spring and get to summer, the outbreak would die out and be over. In fact, the number of detections in both commercial flocks and backyard flocks dropped precipitously in the early summer months of 2022. However, low numbers of AI detections continued with AI detections in backyard flocks being higher than commercial flocks. Another intriguing observation from the 2014-15 outbreak was the very low AI detections in backyard flocks (only 21) compared to 303 AI detections in backyard flocks in 2022. Why so many backyard flock detections? Perhaps it is because of increased surveillance and monitoring of these flocks. During the summer months of 2022 (June, July and August) AI detections averaged about 5 detections per month in commercial birds and about 17 AI detections per month in backyard flocks. In September of this year AI detections reemerged in commercial flocks with 33 detections and another 17 occurring in October (as of this writing). The number of detections in backyard flocks also increased in September (37) and October (45). The overall number of AI detections in 2022 (as of this writing) for commercial flocks is 245 and 303 for backyard flocks with 47.7 million birds affected.

The bottom line: "It ain't over 'til it's over.". Surprisingly, AI has reemerged this autumn and we must not be complacent and lower our guard especially regarding biosecurity, monitoring and surveillance. To date, Nebraska has had AI detections from commercial birds in four eastern Nebraska counties and AI detections in backyard flocks from six Nebraskan counties (including eastern and western). The latest Nebraska AI detections were reported on October 3rd, 2022. If you suspect or are concerned about AI in your flock please do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian, those in the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (via the state veterinarian's office) or me. We must all work together to get through this until it is finally over.

*The New York Mets, under the leadership of manager Yogi Berra, won the national league championship in 1973