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Spanish egg producers looking to export to the United States

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

Approved By:

Rachel Bickford, Agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Carmen Valverde, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

In response to the avian influenza outbreak in the U.S. and the subsequent demand for eggs in the U.S. market, Spanish egg producers are looking to export eggs to the U.S.

General Information:

As a result of the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has received numerous inquiries regarding the requirements to import shell eggs and other egg products, void of the shell (i.e. liquid eggs, dried egg whites), into the United States. The United States, a leading supplier of eggs in the world, has gone from a production surplus of 4 percent to a shortage of around 10 percent.

The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture has started the process to gain permission to export shell eggs to

the United States.

In 2014 Spain produced 798,000 tons of eggs or 982 million dozen eggs, 1 % lower than previous year. Spanish egg production represents 4.9 % of Livestock Final Product and 1.8% of Final Agricultural Product. The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture reports that there are 1,172 egg farms with 40 million laying hens, of which 93 % are located in enriched cages. This places Spain in fourth place within the EU-28 after Italy, France and Germany. The egg production is centered 27 % in Castile la Mancha, 17 % in Castile Leon, 11 % in Aragon and 7 % in Catalonia, Valencia and Andalusia.

Spanish egg per capita consumption is 13.1 kg. Spain's egg production registers a structural surplus of eggs since 2005 that in 2014 reached 122 percent. Spain is a net exporter of eggs (mainly table eggs) and exports in 2014 were up 21 percent with 187,000 tons, following the upward trend since 2012. Intra EU-28 egg exports grew in quantity in 2014 following the upward trend as well as table eggs exports to third countries were up 42 percent in 2014 reaching 16,701 tons.

The egg industry is in an internationalization process. At this time Spanish extra EU exports are growing to Africa such as Angola, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Libya or Liberia, and in Asia such as Oman, Israel, Arab Emirates or Hong Kong. As a consequence of the new animal health situation in the United States, Spanish egg producers want to take advantage of the shortage of egg products and open this new market.

This increase demand is reflected in the egg price growth in the United States. The price of eggs in the U.S. has reached a record level due to the shortage of supply. The average egg price expected for 2015 is 1.63 US dollars per dozen. It is expected that the average egg price will increase to 1.80 dollars per dozen in the fourth quarter of 2015. In 2014, the average price of eggs was 1.42 dollars per dozen.