

# USDA Egg Markets Overview

A weekly publication of the USDA AMS Livestock and Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

January 24, 2025

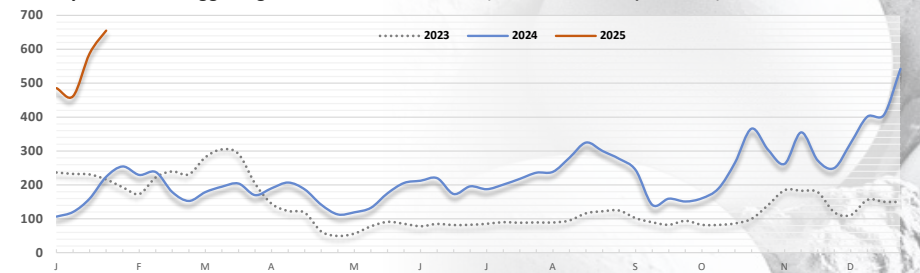
Negotiated wholesale prices for graded loose eggs moved higher on very limited trading. Loose egg demand is moderate to good for very light offerings. Supplies are very light to light and trading is active for available offerings. The volume of trailer load loose egg sales this week decreased 11% with 52% for nearby business. Prices for national trading of trucklot quantities of graded, loose, White Large shell eggs increased \$0.68 to \$6.55 per dozen with a higher undertone. Wholesale prices for formula trading of cartoned shell eggs continue to rise on moderate to very good demand for very light offerings and very light to moderate supplies. Trading is very active for the limited offerings. The wholesale price on the New York market for Large cartoned shell eggs delivered to retailers rose \$0.52 to \$7.24 per dozen with a higher undertone. In the major Midwest production region, the wholesale price for Large, white, shell eggs delivered to warehouses increased \$0.43 to \$6.49 per dozen with a higher undertone while prices paid to producers for Large cartoned shell eggs increased \$0.54 to \$6.84 per dozen. The California benchmark for Large shell eggs declined \$0.41 to \$8.35 per dozen with a fully steady undertone. Delivered prices on the California-compliant wholesale loose egg market increased \$0.72 to \$8.76 per dozen with a firm undertone.

Shell egg demand displayed weakness over the past week as severe inclement weather over much of the nation disrupted normal shopping patterns. The weather only compounded already challenging supply issues resulting from recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in states that had largely escaped outbreaks in 2024. Shell egg availability remains limited and inconsistent in many retail markets with many affected grocers employing steps to limit consumer purchasing to stretch their existing supplies including limiting or ending promotional activity, placing limits on units purchased per shopping trip, and holding prices at record or near-record highs – none of which helps to spur demand. Current demand from egg products manufacturers is very light as spot market offerings are few and far between, leaving breakers to slow production and work from owned production and stocks. Further, a few are taking advantage of record-high prices in the carton market and shifting some of their production to that market.

Feature activity for conventional caged Large shell eggs is not tested this cycle as grocers struggle to maintain a consistent supply and avoid incentivizing consumer purchasing. The pace of specialty shell egg featuring declines sharply as well with free-range non-organic and organic types most commonly on sale. Feature activity for [UEP-defined cage-free](#) shell eggs accounts for 10% of the limited level of featuring and the average ad price is down \$0.14 to \$2.50 per dozen. The price spread on feature between 12-packs of Large caged eggs and UEP cage-free eggs narrows by \$0.14 to within \$0.26 per dozen of the last test for caged shell eggs at \$2.24 per dozen.

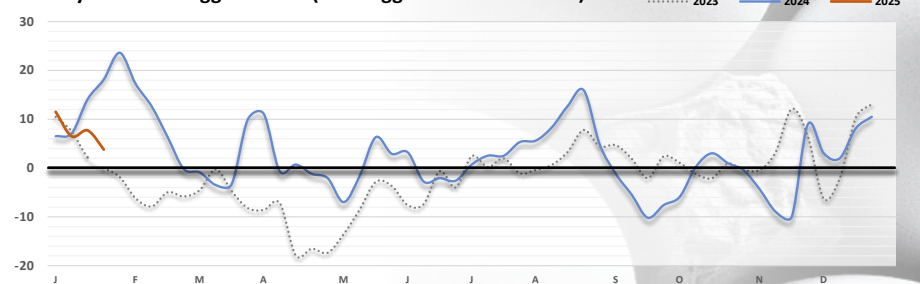
The overall shell egg inventory was down slightly while the national inventory of Large class shell eggs gained 2%. Stocks of Large shell eggs in the key Midwest region declined about a half percent as supply and demand are in an uneasy balance. The inventory share

Weekly Loose Shell Egg, Large, White, National Index (f.o.b. dock, cents per dozen)



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

Weekly U.S. Table Egg Demand (Shell Egg Demand Indicator)



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

## This Week's Retail Large Shell Egg Feature Summary

Advertised Prices to Consumers at Major Retail Supermarkets

	White-Shell		Brown-Shell			
	Activity	Price	Activity	Price		
<b>Caged</b>					caged, conventional	0%
conventional	--	--	--	--	caged, ne	6%
nutritionally-enhanced	29	3.33	--	--	CF, barn/aviary	10%
<b>Cage-Free - Non-Organic</b>					CF, free-range	19%
barn/aviary	--	--	47	2.50	CF, pasture	3%
free-range	--	--	91	4.39	organic	4%
pastured	--	--	15	7.99	organic, free-range	54%
<b>USDA Organic</b>					organic, pasture	3%
organic	--	--	18	3.99		
free-range	--	--	255	6.00		
pastured	--	--	15	9.69		

includes 12 and 18 packs combined; prices weighted by store count.

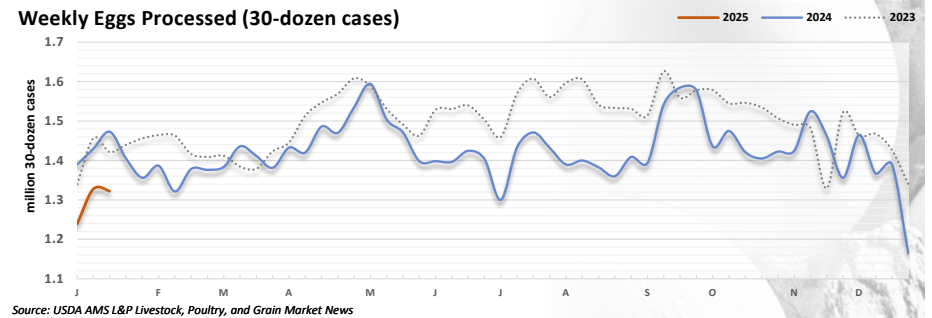
of Large class shell eggs gained 1.5% to a 50% share of all shell egg stocks on inventory at the start of the week. Stocks of cage-free eggs drew down 5% to support retail feature activity in the past week. Stocks of nutritionally-enhanced eggs increased 19.5% to support program promotional activity at retail for these types. Stocks of organic shell eggs declined 3.5% as eggs cleared on recent retail activity. Breaking stock inventory declined nearly 5% as breakers are having to draw on their stocks to operate at full to reduced schedules given very limited spot market offerings. Total estimated table egg production is about unchanged from last week and is 4.5% below year ago levels to a year-to-year deficit the equivalent of 6.5 million cases in total.

Wholesale prices for breaking stock in the Central States remain unchanged at \$3.05 per dozen with a firm undertone. Demand and offerings remain very light with light to occasionally moderate supplies and full to reduced schedules. Trading is moderate. Breakers have been working from stocks and owned production to run at a rate currently 10% below that of one year ago. The volume of eggs processed last week decreased a half percent while the share of weekly table egg production was unchanged at 28%. Production of whole egg was down just over 3% with the focus shifting to egg component production with whites up 5.5% and yolk by 9.5%. Production of dried egg decreased just short of 9% and inedible egg production was down about 3%. Breaking yields without inedible improved slightly to 42.38 pounds per case broken.

Wholesale prices for certified liquid whole eggs are too few to report with a higher undertone. Demand is moderate to very good for light to very light offerings and trading is moderate to active. Wholesale prices on liquid whole egg is \$0.08 higher at \$2.77 per pound while the price for frozen whites is up \$0.25 to \$1.91 per pound. The undertone is higher with moderate to good demand for light to very light offerings. Supplies are light to moderate with moderate to active trading. Prices for whole dried eggs remain too few to report with those for whole dried egg last quoted at \$9.60 per pound and those for dried yolk at \$7.40 per pound. The undertone is higher with moderate to good demand for light to very light offerings and supplies. Trading is moderate to active.

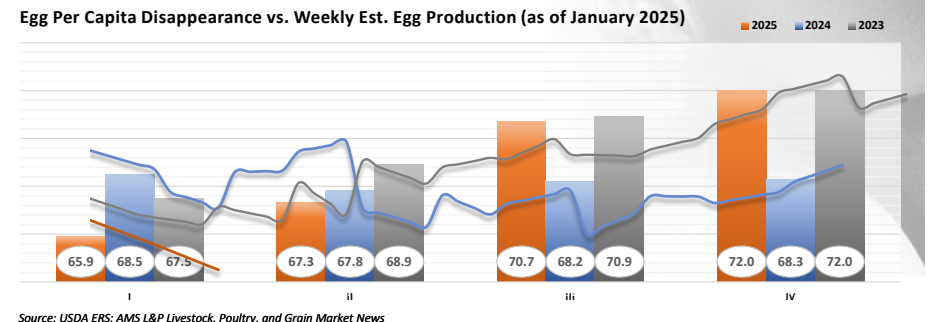
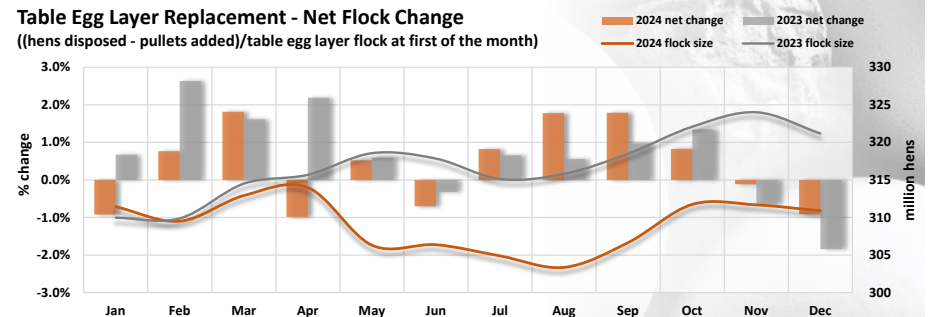
According to NASS, the November monthly volume of frozen eggs in storage declined 4% from October, 19% below the November 2023 level. This is the lowest level of egg products stocks since July 2022. Stocks of whole frozen egg decreased 3%, 5% below last year and the share of whole egg stocks gained 1% to a 45% share of total frozen stocks. Stocks of frozen yolk gained 10% but were 63% under last year's level while stocks of frozen egg whites rose one percent, 32% below year ago levels. Stocks of unclassified eggs were down 7% from last month and 25% from last year. The share of unclassified frozen stocks fell one percent to a 46% share of total frozen stocks.

As of January 1, 2025, the estimated U.S. non-organic commercial cage-free table egg flock stood at 101 million, 33% of the current U.S. table egg flock. This represents a 3% decline in the number of layers from January 2024 with no decline in share. The decline in the non-organic cage-free flock was the result of the loss of 22 million non-organic cage-free layers to HPAI – equal to 21.5% of the flock on January 1, 2024. However, producer recovery strategies were successful in offsetting a significant portion of these losses (82%), resulting in an estimated net loss in the non-organic cage-free flock of 4 million layers by the end of 2024.



Eggs Processed - Week-to-Week Change							
total	share	case yield*	whole	whites	yolks	dried	inedible
-0.4%	0.0%	0.16	-3.3%	5.5%	9.5%	-8.7%	-3.2%

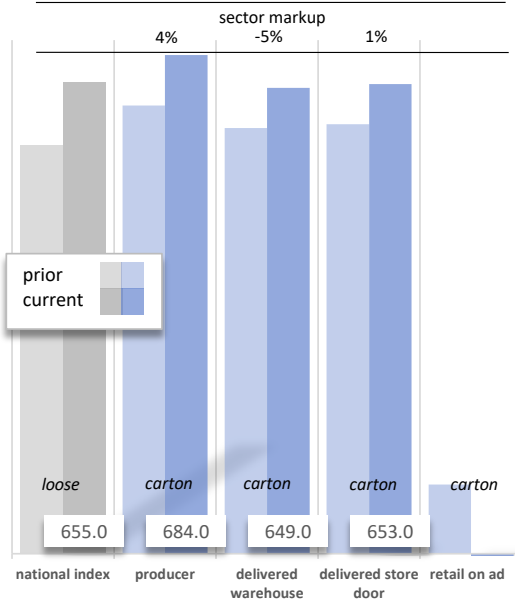
\* case yield w/ inedible in pounds per case.



## Shell Eggs Market Price Comparisons

(as of January 24, 2025)

(National Index on a loose-egg basis, all other prices for cartoned eggs; LG White avg prices in cents per dozen)



Producer, warehouse, & store door = MW; retail no sale NY market; retail on sale Nat'l Retail Feature; loose eggs include minimal material costs.

## Key Egg Markets Overview

	24-Jan	% Change	Recent History				
			17-Jan	10-Jan	3-Jan	27-Dec	20-Dec
<b>SHELL EGGS (Large, White, conventional in cents per dozen)</b>							
National, loose (negotiated; f.o.b. dock prices)	655.00	11%	587.50	461.71	485.33	542.36	406.50
California-compliant, loose, (negotiated delivered)	835.33	-5%	876.00	804.41	757.80	722.00	689.00
Midwest, cartoned (formula sales; dlvr'd to warehouse)	649.00	7%	606.00	591.00	575.00	551.00	448.00
New York, cartoned (formula sales; dlvd to store)	724.00	8%	672.00	625.00	606.00	594.00	574.00
California-compliant, cartoned, benchmark	897.00	0%	897.00	897.00	897.00	897.00	819.00
<b>National Retail Shell Egg (avg. ad price in dollars per dozen)</b>							
Conventional Caged, Large, White	n/a		2.24	2.36	1.87	2.14	2.14
UEP Cage-Free, Large, Brown	2.50	-5%	2.64	2.99	n/a	3.01	2.99
<b>EGG PRODUCTS (f.o.b. shipper dock prices)</b>							
Breaking Stock (negotiated; dlvd prices cents per doz)	305.00	0%	305.00	305.00	305.00	305.00	305.00
Whole Frozen Egg (dollars per pound)	2.77	3%	2.69	n/a	2.69	n/a	n/a
Whole Dried Eggs (dollars per pound)	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Processed Share of Weekly Shell Egg Production	28.1%	0.0%	28.1%	26.2%	24.5%	28.4%	27.9%
<b>SHELL EGG DEMAND INDICATOR (no units)</b>							
	3.8	-3.9	7.7	6.5	11.5	10.5	8.1

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News; "n/a" = not available.

## Key Shell Egg Markets Snapshot - 2025

(Large, White, Conventional Shell Eggs in cents per dozen)	24-Jan	Change	17-Jan	2025 High	2025 Low
National, loose (negotiated; f.o.b. dock prices)	655.0	▲ 11%	587.5	655.0	461.7
California-compliant, loose, (negotiated delivered)	835.3	▼ -5%	876.0	876.0	800.0
Midwest, cartoned (formula sales; dlvr'd to warehouse)	649.0	▲ 7%	606.0	649.0	575.0
New York, cartoned (formula sales; dlvd to store)	724.0	▲ 8%	672.0	724.0	604.0
California-compliant, cartoned, benchmark	897.0	▬ 0%	897.0	897.0	897.0
Breaking Stock (negotiated; dlvd prices cents per doz)	305.0	▬ 0%	305.0	305.0	305.0
Whole Frozen Egg (dollars per pound)	2.77	▲ 3%	2.69	2.77	2.69
Whole Dried Eggs (dollars per pound)	n/a	▬ 0%	n/a		
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Conventional caged	n/a	▬ 0%	2.24	2.36	1.87
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - UEP Cage-free <sup>2</sup>	2.50	▼ -5%	2.64	2.99	2.50
Shell Egg Demand Indicator	3.8	▼ -3.9	7.7	11.5	3.8

<sup>1</sup> mostly high; <sup>2</sup> non-organic

### U.S. Table Egg Layer Flock Estimates

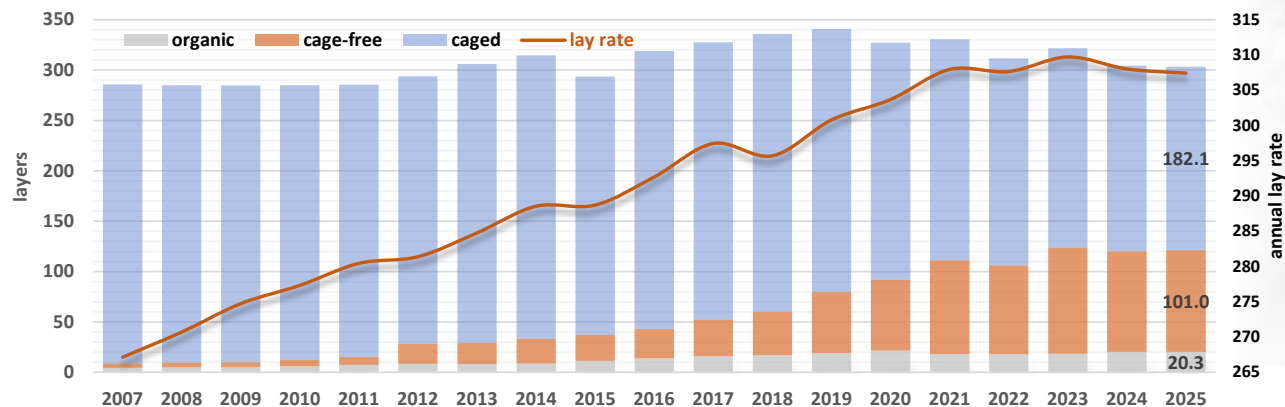
As of January 2025	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Total U.S. Caged<sup>1</sup> Flock:</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>59.2%</b>	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>65.9%</b>	<b>66.4%</b>	<b>72.0%</b>	<b>76.6%</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>84.0%</b>	<b>86.6%</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>89.5%</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>90.4%</b>
Layers (millions)	182.1	184.0	197.7	205.3	219.4	235.5	261.0	276.1	275.1	276.1	256.1	281.6	276.4	265.5
<b>Total U.S. Cage-Free Flock:</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>38.7%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>
Layers (millions)	121.3	120.3	123.9	106.2	111.1	91.7	79.7	59.9	52.4	42.9	37.3	33.2	29.6	28.3
<b>NON-ORGANIC Cage-Free:</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Layers (millions)	101.0	99.9	105.4	88.0	92.9	69.9	60.3	42.9	36.4	29.0	26.0	24.5	21.4	19.8
▪ Barn/Aviary	28.1%	27.2%	30.2%	27.0%	26.9%	19.9%	15.9%	11.6%	10.0%	7.9%	7.7%	6.7%	6.0%	5.7%
Layers (millions)	85.6	84.5	97.1	84.1	89.0	65.1	54.1	39.0	32.9	25.3	22.5	21.0	18.5	16.9
▪ Free-Range	2.6%	2.5%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Layers (millions)	7.8	7.8	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.9	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.6
▪ Pastured	2.5%	2.4%	1.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Layers (millions)	7.6	7.6	5.2	1.5	1.5	2.1	3.3	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.3	1.3
<b>USDA ORGANIC Cage-Free:</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Layers (millions)	20.3	20.3	18.5	18.2	18.2	21.8	19.4	17.0	16.0	13.9	11.4	8.7	8.2	8.5
▪ Organic	4.1%	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%	3.5%	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	3.4%	3.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%
Layers (millions)	12.5	12.5	11.9	11.7	11.7	15.1	14.9	13.1	12.3	11.0	9.0	7.0	6.7	7.3
▪ Organic Free-Range	1.5%	1.4%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Layers (millions)	4.5	4.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.0
▪ Organic Pastured	1.1%	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Layers (millions)	3.3	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3

Note: percentage of U.S. table egg layer flock as reported by NASS; past year annual numbers reflect flock as of the end of each year.

1 - battery and enriched systems

Source: USDA Livestock and Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

### U.S. Table Egg Layer Flock by Production System v. Avg Lay Rate (as of January 2025)



Source: USDA AMS Livestock & Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

## 2025 Commercial Table Egg Flock HPAI Losses

Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial table egg layer flocks that resulted in the depopulation of 13.2 million birds in December 2024 continue into the opening weeks of 2025. As of this week, 8 APHIS-confirmed outbreaks in 5 states (CA, NC, OH, MO, and IN) have resulted in the loss of 8.3 million birds – 6.8 million (82%) in conventional caged systems and 1.3 million (18%) in cage-free systems. These losses represent 3.7% of the conventional caged layer flock and 1.5% of the non-organic cage-free flock on January 1, 2025,

The impact of these losses in the marketplace continues to be influenced by the timing of the losses relative to demand patterns, the type of production systems affected, legislated restraints in certain states, and the intended use of the production either for in-shell or egg products use with most impact currently being felt in the retail cartoned sector.

### 2025 Table Egg Layer Losses by Production System

System	Loss	Share
Conventional Caged.....	6,777,600	82%
Cage-Free.....	1,507,200	18%
Organic.....	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,284,800</b>	

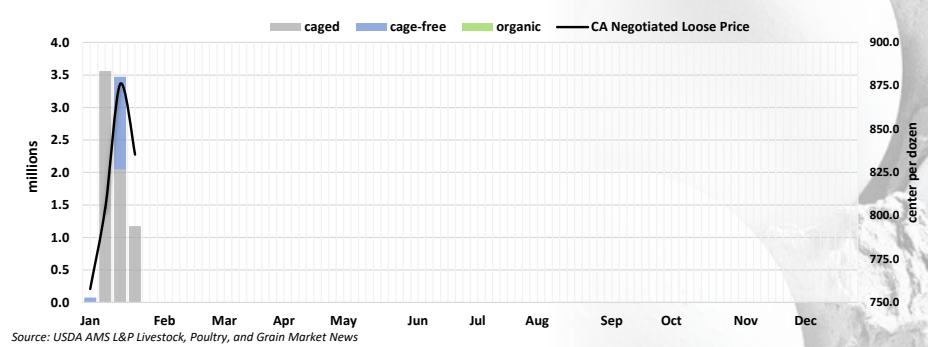
### 2025 Table Egg Layer Losses

(layers lost to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI))

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
CA	75,200												75,200
NC	3,314,900												3,314,900
OH	1,780,500												1,780,500
MO	2,760,900												2,760,900
IN	353,300												353,300
													-
													-
													-
													-
													-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,284,800</b>												<b>8,284,800</b>

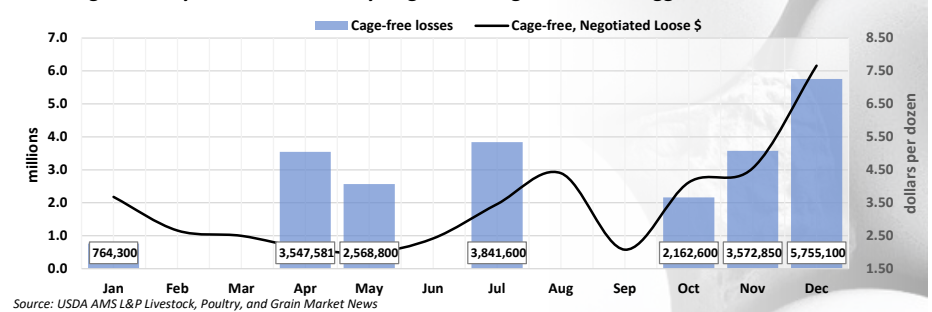
Source: USDA AMS Livestock & Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

### 2025 Table Egg Layer Losses by Production System v. California Loose Egg Price



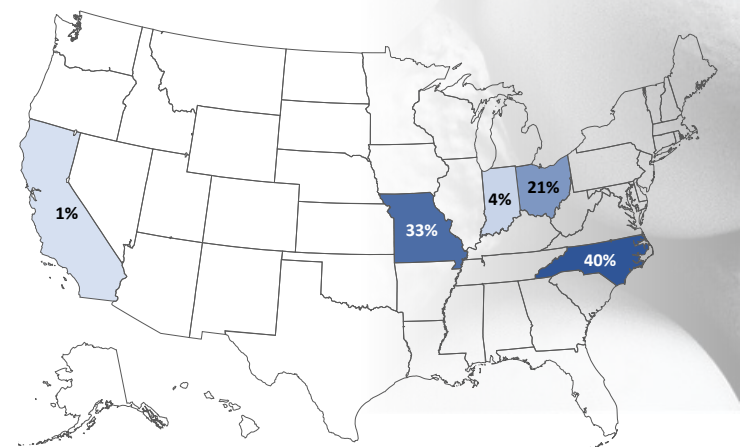
Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

### 2024 Cage-Free Layer Losses v. Monthly Negotiated Cage-Free Loose Egg Price



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

### Share by State of Total 2025 Commercial Table Egg Layer Losses



Egg Markets Overview