

Egg Market Trends in Bidar

No work has been conducted on the fluctuations in price of eggs in Bidar. Studies in other parts of the country have clearly revealed a seasonal trend for demand of eggs (Verghese, 1986) and reduced shell quality of eggs during summer (Nesheim *et al.*, 1979 ; Narasa Reddy *et al.*, 1986 in chicken; Panda and Rao, 1980 in ducks; and Sreenivasaiah, 1977 in Japanese quails). Seasonal trend in demand for eggs is mainly due to the misconception that eggs produce "heat" in the body (Agnihotri, 1986; Sreenivasaiah, 1987). Hence, consumer education is an urgent necessity to improve the demand for eggs even during summer. In the light of the above, this study was aimed to elucidate the demand and price of eggs at Bidar and to identify seasonal fluctuations, if any.

Most of the eggs sold in Bidar are mostly procured from Hyderabad and sold with added profits of Rs.5 to 10 per 100 eggs by middlemen. Survey of the market revealed that most of the shopkeepers do not maintain any records of procurement or sale of eggs. However, data could be obtained from two dealers; one had detailed procurement and selling rates during 1987 and the other had only procurement price during 1988. The data were processed as per the methods described by Snedecor and Cochran (1967).

Mostly mean and standard error values of number of eggs procured, price of procurement and selling, breakages and gross profit during 1987 are presented in Table.

The demand of eggs in Bidar in different seasons of the year could not be directly surveyed, number of eggs procured by the two

dealers was taken as an indicator of the same. The requirement of eggs started to increase from August and remained steady till the end of December 1987, thereafter declined to reach lowest in the peak summer. The overall trend remained more or less same as observed in other parts of the country (Agnihotri, 1986; Verghese, 1986; Sreenivasaiah, 1987). Therefore, a proper consumer education and a suitable flock schedule are necessary so that many birds will be in production during August to December.

Trends in procurement price, selling rate and gross profit were understandably parallel to the number of eggs procured (Table 1). Egg breakage was highest during May followed by March, June and April. The increased breakages of eggs during summer months is due to reduced shell thickness as recorded by Narasa Reddy *et al.* (1986) in chicken, Panda and Rao (1980) in duck and Sreenivasaiah (1977) in quails. Therefore, it is necessary to take suitable steps to alleviate the losses due to breakages during summer months.

Procurement price of eggs during January to August 1988 also showed a significant reduction during January to May except March (Table 2). In addition, proportion of eggs sold during February to June, except during April, was considerable lower than that during January, July and August 1988. These observations support the conclusions drawn from the data of the year 1987.

Therefore, it may be concluded that a clear-cut seasonal demand for eggs exists in Bidar. The eggs fetch higher prices during August to December and hence yield higher profits during that

Table 1. Monthly (Year 1987) mean and standard error values of number of eggs procured, procurement price and selling, breakages and gross profit.

Month	No. of eggs procured (weekly)	Procurement Price (Rs./100 eggs)	Selling rate (Rs. /100 eggs)	Breakages (Per cent)	Gross profit (Rs./100 eggs)
Feb.	6250 ± 854 ^a	49.00 ± 0.71 ^{bc}	55.00 ± 0.41 ^{bc}	0.42 ± 0.04 ^{bcd}	6.00 ± 0.41 ^{bc}
March	5250 ± 479 ^a	48.50 ± 0.87 ^{bc}	54.25 ± 0.48 ^{bc}	0.53 ± 0.09 ^{ab}	5.75 ± 0.85 ^{bc}
April	5000 ± 707 ^a	42.75 ± 1.11 ^f	49.25 ± 1.49 ^d	0.49 ± 0.03 ^{ab}	6.50 ± 0.87 ^{ab}
May	5250 ± 479 ^a	37.00 ± 1.22 ^g	42.00 ± 1.22 ^e	0.57 ± 0.04 ^a	5.00 ± 0.00 ^c
June	5500 ± 289 ^a	45.00 ± 0.00 ^{ef}	50.00 ± 0.00 ^d	0.53 ± 0.03 ^{ab}	5.00 ± 0.00 ^c
July	6000 ± 816 ^a	45.50 ± 0.50 ^{de}	50.00 ± 0.50 ^d	0.44 ± 0.02 ^{abcd}	5.00 ± 0.00 ^c
August	7500 ± 1041 ^{bc}	47.50 ± 0.29 ^{cd}	53.00 ± 0.58 ^c	0.47 ± 0.04 ^{abc}	5.50 ± 0.29 ^{bc}
September	10500 ± 957 ^a	48.00 ± 0.00 ^{bc}	54.00 ± 0.00 ^c	0.33 ± 0.04 ^{cde}	6.00 ± 0.00 ^{bc}
October	10000 ± 816 ^{ab}	48.50 ± 0.29 ^{bc}	54.50 ± 0.29 ^{bc}	0.31 ± 0.03 ^{de}	6.00 ± 0.00 ^{bc}
November	11750 ± 629 ^a	50.00 ± 0.00 ^{ab}	56.50 ± 0.29 ^b	0.25 ± 0.00 ^e	6.50 ± 0.29 ^{ab}
December	11000 ± 913 ^a	51.50 ± 0.29 ^a	59.00 ± 0.58 ^a	0.28 ± 0.01 ^e	7.50 ± 0.29 ^a

Means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly at 5% probability.

Table 2 : Mean and standard error values of prices of eggs during 1988.

Month	Egg price (Rs./ 100 eggs)	Proportion of eggs sold (percent)
January	55.09 (0.39) ^c	18.23
February	56.25 (0.25) ^c	11.60
March	61.67 (0.33) ^b	8.40
April	52.00 (1.58) ^d	13.26
May	56.86 (0.55) ^c	10.77
June	65.71 (2.07) ^a	7.46
July	66.20 (0.81) ^a	14.08
August	67.33 (0.45) ^a	16.57

Means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly at 5% probability.

period. There is a tremendous scope for poultry farming in Bidar and a proper care has to be exercised in preparing a flock schedule so as to obtain maximum number of eggs during August to December months.

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