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INFLUENZA IMPACTS US POULTRY INDUSTRY

In recent months, the U.S. poultry industry has faced significant challenges due to an outbreak of avian influenza. This highly contagious viral disease has had far-reaching consequences for both producers and consumers. Let's delve into the details of this critical situation.

The Avian Influenza disease Virus (AIV) belongs to the species influenza virus type A, family Orthomyxoviridae, genus Alphainfluenzavirus based on the International Committee of Viral Taxonomy. Previous highly pathogenic outbreaks of AI (HPAI) were thought to be the result of flock exposure to a lowly pathogenic strain of AI (LPAI) and during the infection process the virus mutated to the more detrimental HPAI strain.

The Avian Flu Crisis- Avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, has been a recurring concern for poultry farmers worldwide. However, the current outbreak, which began in early 2022, has been particularly severe in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), nearly 82 million birds, primarily egg-laying chickens, have been culled across 47 states to prevent further spread of the virus. The impact has been devastating for farmers, leading to significant economic losses and disruptions in the supply chain.

Economic Consequences

1. **Egg Prices Soar:** More than 40 million egg-laying hens have been culled in the U.S., causing egg prices nationwide to skyrocket. Consumers have felt the pinch as they pay higher prices for this essential protein source.
2. **Record High Turkey Meat Costs:** The previous "bird flu" outbreak drove the cost of turkey meat to record highs. Commercial poultry farms faced extended periods of downtime, affecting production and availability.
3. **Brazilian Poultry Tariffs Eliminated:** In response to the crisis, China has eliminated tariffs on Brazilian poultry, potentially impacting U.S. poultry exports. [The U.S. poultry industry is closely monitoring these developments.](#)

Scientific Efforts and Consumer Awareness

1. **Pathogen Reduction Technology:** USDA scientists have been working diligently to develop

technology that reduces pathogens in intact eggs. This research aims to enhance product safety and protect consumers from diseases like Salmonella.

2. **Consumer Protection:** The USDA has finalized a voluntary "Product of USA" label claim for poultry products. This label is meant to enhance consumer protection by providing clear information about the origin of poultry products.

Conclusion- The avian influenza outbreak has underscored the vulnerability of the U.S. poultry industry to infectious diseases. As farmers continue to grapple with the crisis, scientific advancements and consumer awareness play crucial roles in mitigating the impact. The industry must remain vigilant and collaborate to safeguard both poultry health and consumer well-being.



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Nutrifeds Broiler Grower is a complete nutritional feed that is custom made for birds from 18 to 28 days. Each bird must consume about 1.2kg to obtain target weights. All feeds are available for purchase at any depot store around the country.

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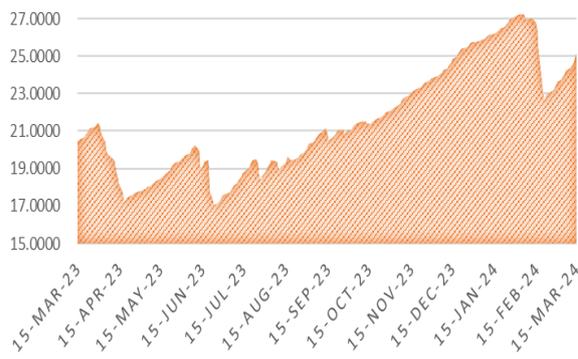
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KWACHA ENDS THE WEEK AT ZMK25.47

KWACHA POSTED SOME MINIMAL LOSSES THIS WEEK THE KWACHA ENDED THE WEEK TRADING ABOUT ZMK25.47 COMPARED WITH THE ZMK25.13, THE LOWEST REGISTERED THE PREVIOUS WEEK THE WEAKER KWACHA WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS ON THE SECTOR GIVEN THE FACT THAT IT WILL PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN THE SUPPLY OF MAJOR INPUTS INTO THE POULTRY SECTOR INCLUDING THE LANDING PRICE FOR THE GRAND PARENT STOCK, IMPORTED MAIZE AND SOYACAKE AS WELL AS PREMIXES

FIGURE1: EXCHANGE RATE-KWACH DOLAR- MARCH 2024



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DOC BROILER PRICE STABLE

The prices of broiler day-old chicks remained stable during the week. The lowest chick on the market is trading at ZMK16 and the highest is now selling ZMK16.5 per day old chicks, depending on location and supplier. There were no movements on the prices of pullets on the market which are averaging ZMK19 per day old pullet. The price for DoC SASSOL and Kuroilers is trading at ZMK 15 per DOC. The price for the improved free-range such as Black Austropop's, Bushvelds, Kuroilers are selling between ZMK 15 to ZMK35 depending on the age. The graph captures the national average price trend for the day-old broiler chicks. For the pullets, most of the bookings are open for April and May 2024 depending on the volumes and source. **Check Figure 2** for the price trend, courtesy of PAZ.

PRICE FOR POINT OF LAY STABLE

The prices for the Point of Lay remained stable during the course of the week. The average price is now averaging ZMK150, with the lowest being ZMK145 per bird for bulk consignments and the highest being ZMK155 per bird for small volumes depending on the supplier and location. The bookings for March and April 2024 are available.

For beginners who are interested in getting battery cages, cage prices range between ZMK6500 to ZMK7500 depending on the capacity and also the sources of the cages. The second-hand refurbished cage price range between ZMK4800 to ZMK 5,500 depending on the quality, capacity, age and source. Quails' cages, Rabbit Cages as well as first hand layers cages are all available on the market with different prices depending on the source and location.

WHOLE DRESSED CHICKEN PRICES REMAINED STABLE

The prices for the frozen chicken remained stable during the course of the week. The average price for the whole frozen chicken in Lusaka traded at about ZMK 56.67 per kg same price as obtained last week. The lowest price in some chainstores is still trading at ZMK52.99per kg (promotion) while the highest is trading at ZMK65. per kg. The chicken sizes are ranging between 1.1kg to 2.4kg in different stores.

Please note that the prices are obtained from Pick n Pay, Shoprite, Zambeef, Melisa Supermarket, Chopies, and Cheers Stores, Country Choice and Supreme. Different outlets have different pricing models hence the figures displayed is the average price for all the sampled chain stores. It should also be noted that these are Lusaka prices only. For the price trend, **check figure3** courtesy of PAZ

LIVE CHICKEN PRICES POSTS SOME MOVEMENTS

The national average prices for the live broiler chickens posted some movements in the open markets during the course of the week. However, there were no movements on prices for the x-layers as well as the free-range chickens. The national live broiler bird prices averaged ZMK108 with the lowest price being Lusaka posting ZMK 90.35 per Live Chicken and the highest being ZMK120. The x-layers have also averaged ZMK 62.22 per bird, while the free-range price is averaging ZMK 140. The demand for broiler chicken continues to be on the rise as the market and consumption is now developing. Check figure 4 on the next page, courtesy of PAZ.

Figure 2: BROILER AND PULLET DAY OLD CHICK PRICES-MARCH 2024

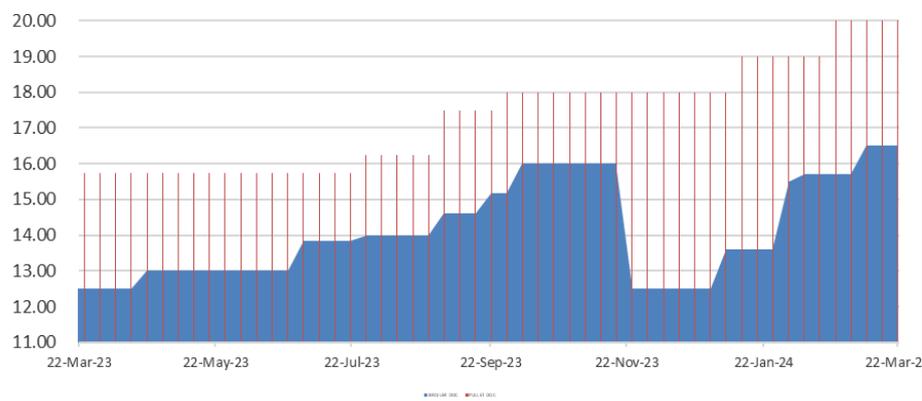


Figure 3- 3 YEAR AVERAGE PRICES FOR FROZEN CHICKEN-MARCH 2024

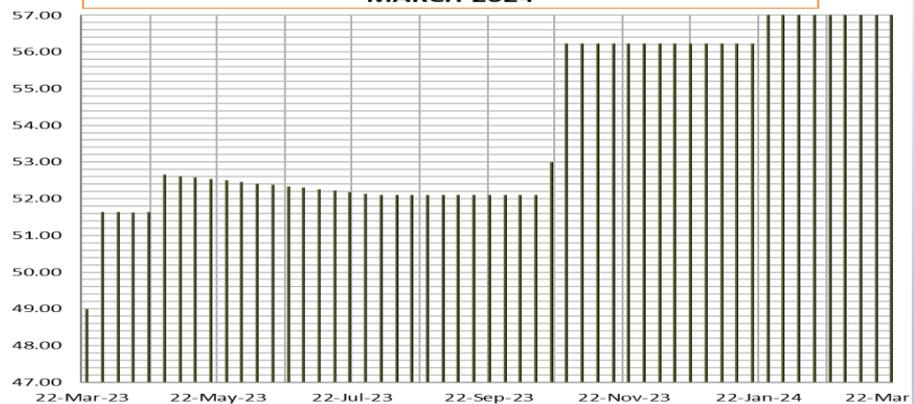
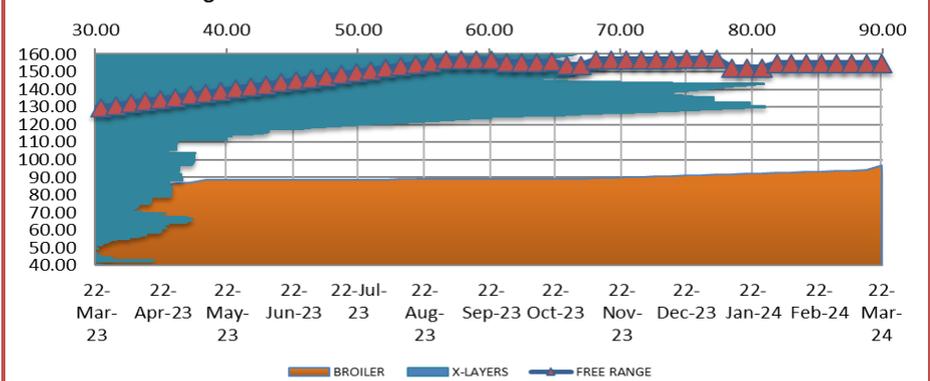


Figure 4- 3 YEAR AVERAGE LIVE BIRD PRICES- MARCH 2024





NATIONAL EGG PRICE POSTS SOME MOVEMENTS

The egg prices in the domestic and export market continued to adjust upwards. The adjustments observed in the market are mainly attributed to the weaker kwacha, which is pushing the prices of inputs upwards and also making the Zambian eggs much cheaper in the export markets. The retail prices in open markets are ranging between ZMK57.45 to ZMK75.27. Most farm gate prices average ZMK 58 per tray to ZMK 62 per tray depending on the location. The retail prices in some Chain stores averaged between ZMK65.99 to ZMK89.99 per tray of 30 eggs depending on the supplier, packaging and chain stores. Most of the traders in the open market are now selling an egg between ZMK2.5 to ZMK 3 in some markets. For the price, trend refer to figure 5, courtesy of PAZ.

FEED PRICES POSTS SOME UPWARD MOVEMENTS

The national average prices for poultry feed posted some upward movements during the course of the week. Broiler starter is trading at ZMK 587 per 50kg bag up from the prices as obtained last week. Broiler Grower averages ZMK576 while Broiler Finisher also averages ZMK560 per 50kg bag. In the same vain there were some upward movements in the price of the Layer feed. The prices ranges from ZMK557 for pullet starter, ZMK410 for pullet grower, ZMK 395 for pullet developer and ZMK454 for layers mash. For those compunding their ownfeed, ingredients prices have also been on the increase during the week especially #3 meal which is trading between ZMK 5.2 to ZMK7 oer kg as portrayed in the graphs from 6 to 9 below, curtesy of PAZ.

Figure 5: 3 YEAR AVERAGE ANNUAL EGG PRICES- MARCH 2024

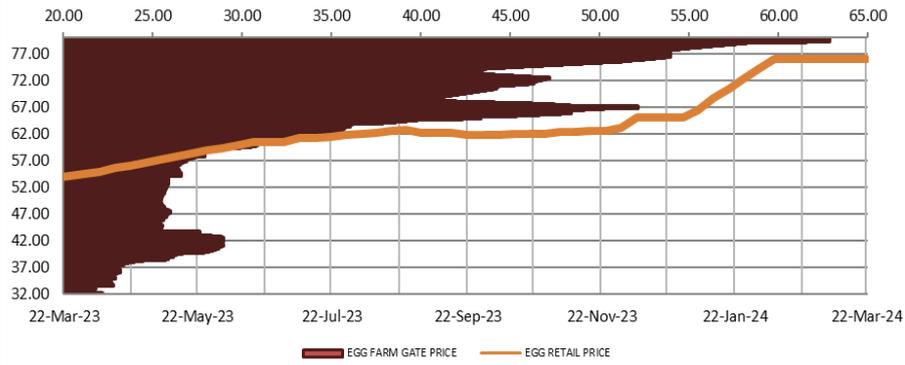


Figure 6: NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICES FOR BROILER FEED- MARCH 2024

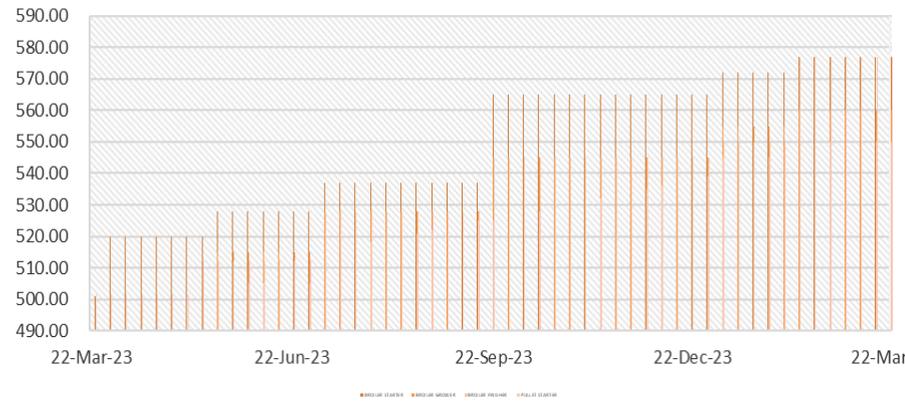


FIGURE7: AVERAGE LAYER FEED- MARCH 2024

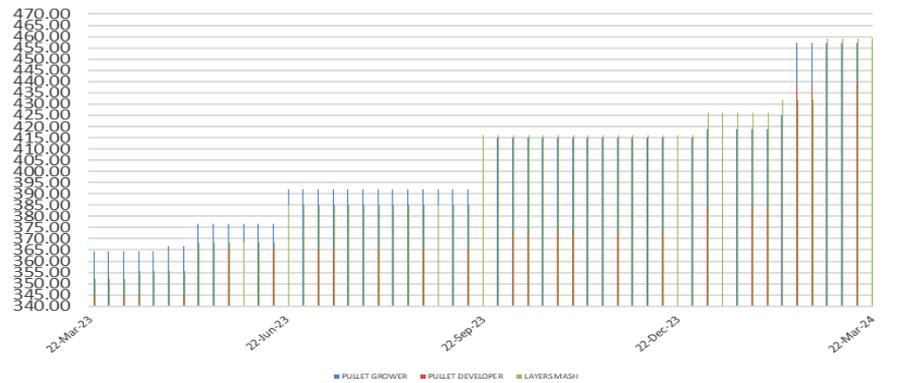
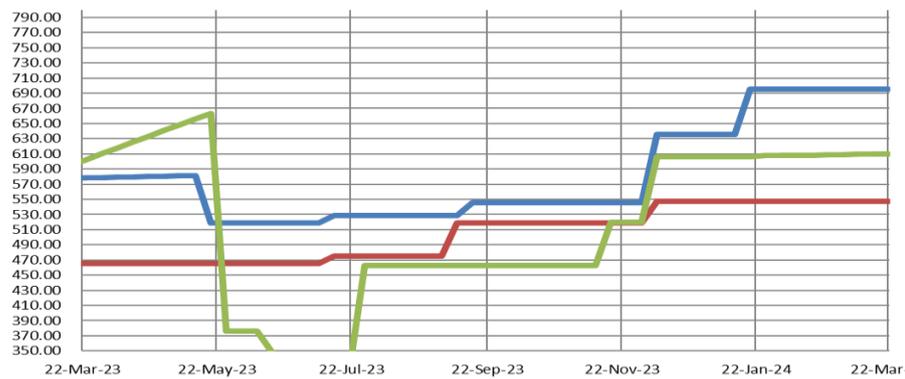


Figure 8: AVERAGE PRICES FOR SOYAMEAL MARCH 2024



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Growth Farm	K2,628/year	K249/month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farming 2 things 301 to 3000 Chickens 5 to 20 Sows(pigs) 6 to 25 Cows Less than 5hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Free Physical Visit 2hrs/Month on Calls Farm Input Discounts Linkages to off takers
Flyer Farm	K6,372/year	K531/month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farming above 2 things Agroprocessing 3001+ Chickens 21+ Sows(pigs) 6 to 26+ Cows Higher than 5hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input Supplies 4hrs/Month on Calls Export linkages

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Figure 9: AVERAGE PRICES FOR SUNFLOWER CAKE AND #3MEAL- MARCH 2024

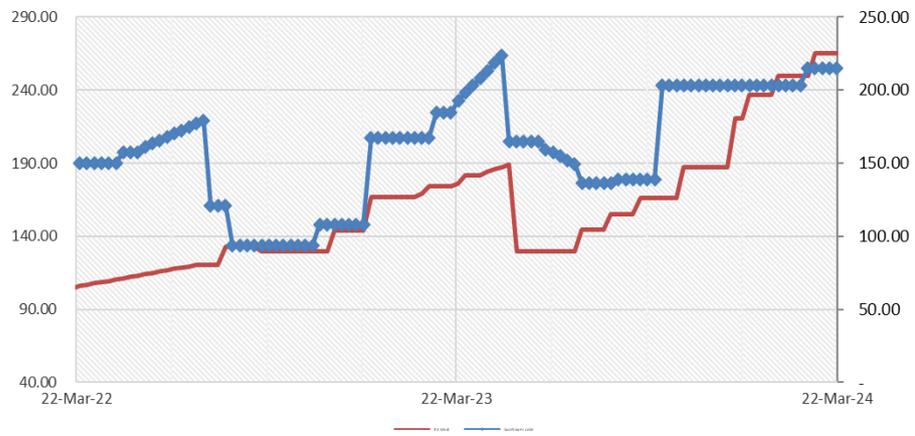
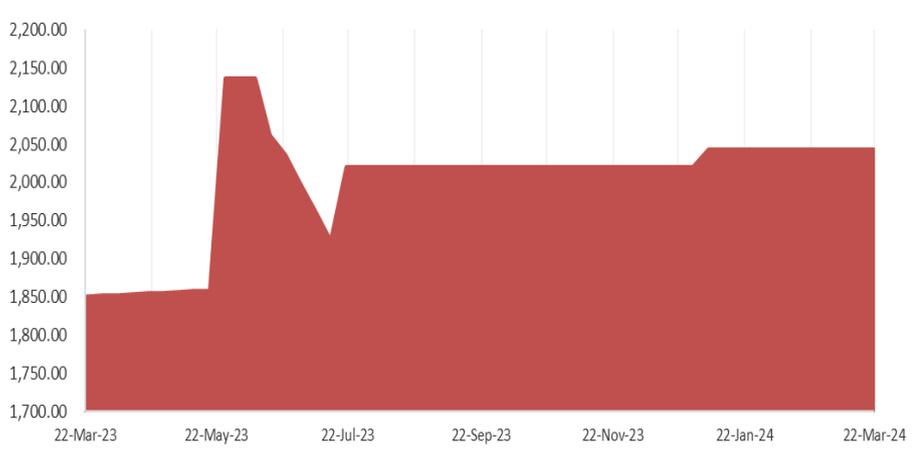


Figure 10: AVERAGE FISH MEAL PRICES- MARCH 2024





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