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BIRD FLU AFFECTING LIVESTOCK SPREAD

Highly pathogenic avian influenza – called avian or bird flu – has been found in diagnostic samples from dairy operations in Texas, Idaho, New Mexico and Kansas, as of April 2. The list of states continues to grow. Diagnostic samples of unpasteurized milk from affected cattle collected from two dairy farms in Kansas and one in Texas were confirmed March 25 to be positive for the disease.

Veterinarians and the dairy industry are working collaboratively with state and federal officials during the ongoing investigation. "This outbreak has quickly grabbed the attention of the agriculture industry on a national level," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said. "Understanding the details surrounding the transfer of avian virus to livestock is the top priority of animal-health professionals and agriculture agencies. While troubling, this outbreak is not currently expected to threaten our nation's commercial dairy supply."

Veterinarians and animal caregivers first reported seeing decreased feed intake and milk production in affected dairy cattle. Dairies are reporting about 10 percent of the milking cows become sick. There have been no confirmed deaths in cattle due to the disease; cattle appear to recover in two to three weeks with supportive care. As federal veterinary officials and their state and local research partners continue investigations, the findings have prompted a flurry of new questions among livestock and influenza experts.

They say it's not clear if the virus was the only cause of the mystery illness in cows. And experts say the presence of dead wild birds that carried the virus at affected farms raises new issues about biosecurity in livestock settings. In a recent notification to the World Organization for Animal Health, the U.S.

Department of Agriculture said H5N1 is the subtype and belongs to the 2.3.4.4b clade, which has been circulating in many world regions and has spread all the way to Antarctica. The virus isolated from the cow samples descended from the B3.2 genotype first seen in wild birds in November 2023. An analysis found no markers for mammalian adaptation or antiviral resistance.

Dr. Joe Armstrong, veterinarian, a cattle-production expert with the University of Minnesota, said the unexplained illness syndrome had been reported in certain dairy

herds in the Texas panhandle and other locations since late January and early February. During several weeks, the animals were tested extensively for different illnesses. "When they started coming up short on everything, they started thinking outside the box about what this could possibly be," he said. "They started testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza." Source: [Bird flu affecting livestock spreads \(agupdate.com\)](http://Bird flu affecting livestock spreads (agupdate.com))

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KWACHA ENDS THE WEEK AT ZMK24.78

KWACHA POSTED SOME MINIMAL LOSSES THIS WEEK. THE KWACHA ENDED THE WEEK TRADING ABOUT ZMK24.78 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.

FIGURE 1: EXCHANGE RATE-KWACHA DOLLAR- MARCH 2024



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DOC BROILER PRICE ADJUSTS UPWARD

PRICE FOR POINT OF LAY STABLE

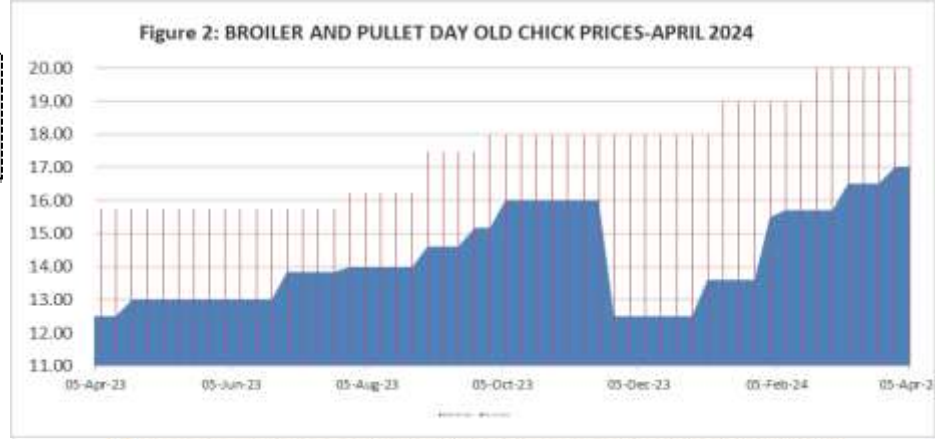
The prices of broiler day-old chicks remained stable during the week. The lowest chick on the market is trading at ZMK16 and the highest is now selling ZMK17 per day old chicks, depending on location and supplier. There were no movements on the prices of pullets on the market which are averaging ZMK20 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

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 63 per kg same price as obtained last week. The lowest price in some chainstores is still trading at ZMK62.99per kg (promotion) while the highest is trading at ZMK68. 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.





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 ZMK64.45 to ZMK89.27. Most farm gate prices average ZMK 60 per tray to ZMK 64 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 597 per 50kg bag up from the prices as obtained last week. Broiler Grower averages ZMK586 while Broiler Finisher also averages ZMK570 per 50kg bag. In the same vain there were some upward movements in the price of the Layer feed. The prices ranges from ZMK567 for pullet starter, ZMK430 for pullet grower, ZMK 420 for pullet developer and ZMK454 for layers mash. For those compunding their ownfeed, ingredients prices have 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- APRIL 2024

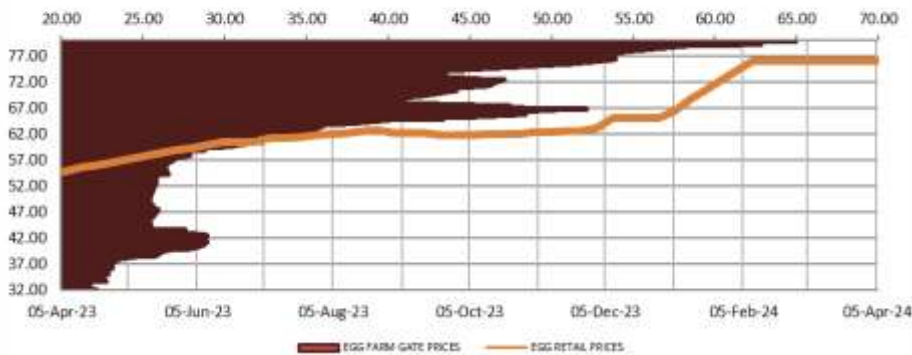


Figure 6: NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICES FOR BROILER FEED- APRIL 2024



FIGURE7: AVERAGE LAYER FEED- APRIL 2024

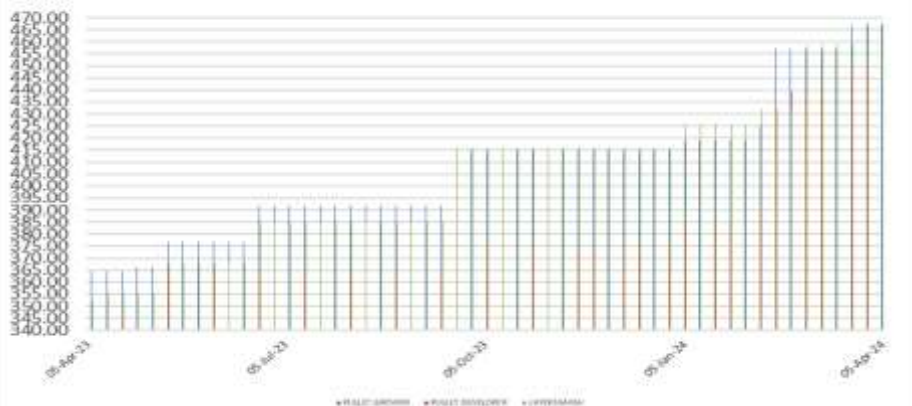
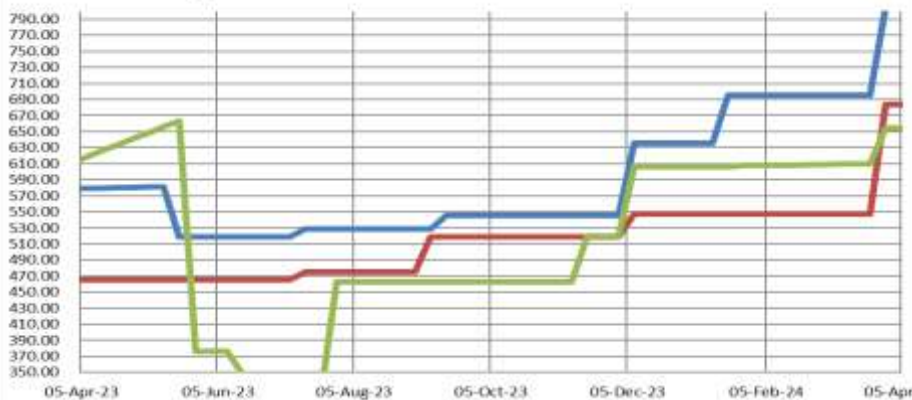


Figure 8: AVERAGE PRICES FOR SOYAMEAL APRIL 2024



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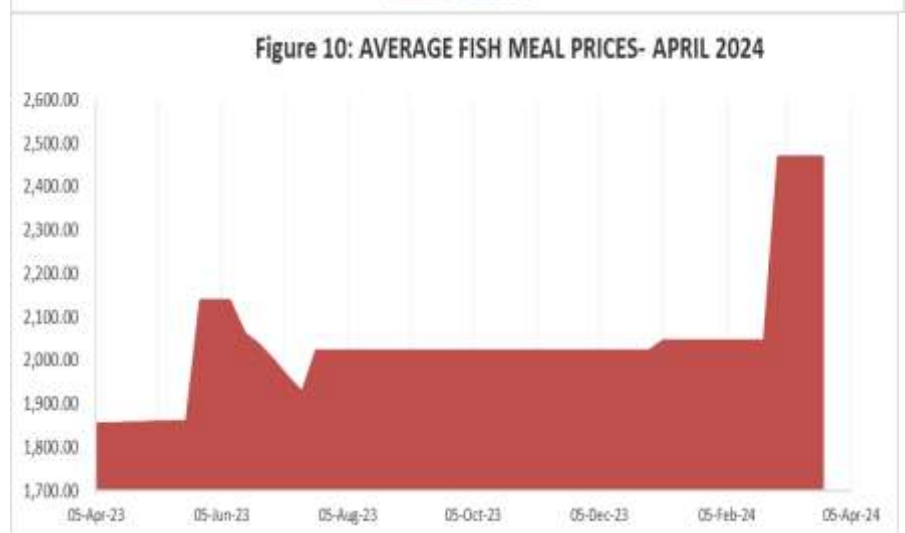
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