



MEDIA UPDATE ON POULTRY AND EGGS SUPPLY SITUATION IN SINGAPORE

1. Since the suspension of poultry and eggs from Malaysia on 18 August 2004, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) has been working closely with importers and wholesalers to increase their imports of poultry and eggs from other sources.

Poultry supply situation

2. The supply of chilled chicken in the markets has decreased and has been replaced by frozen chicken. Current stocks of frozen poultry in Singapore are sufficient to meet the shortfall in supply from Malaysia. Nevertheless, importers are increasing their orders for frozen poultry from Brazil, the Netherlands and USA.

Egg supply situation

3. The supply of table eggs in the market has decreased. Major retailers are actively seeking new supplies of table eggs from other countries. Since the suspension, two consignments of table eggs (totaling 37,800 eggs) from New Zealand have been imported by a major retailer. Another consignment of table eggs from Australia (totaling 240,000 eggs) is expected to arrive in early September.

4. AVA will continue to encourage and facilitate traders to bring in supplies from alternative sources quickly. AVA is currently liaising with the veterinary authorities in Australia, Denmark and the Netherlands to expedite the accreditation of more farms to allow the export of table eggs to Singapore. This would increase supply to supplement local production which accounts for one third of total consumption.

5. Importers are also increasing the import of liquid and powdered eggs which should begin to arrive in two weeks' time.

Market prices of poultry and eggs

6. Findings from a daily survey of seven supermarkets and five wet markets, indicate that the price of frozen chicken in supermarkets is relatively stable at \$3.50 per kg.

7. The price of eggs has also increased from \$1.50 (before the suspension) to approximately \$2.20 for 10 eggs.

Poultry and eggs in Singapore are safe for consumption

8. AVA would like to reiterate that the poultry and eggs available in the market are safe for consumption.

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