

## Eggs

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product within the past six months, they're not allowing us to purchase it due to the limited supply. Our food supplier is not taking on any new customers at this point for eggs and egg products. And since the eggs are under allocation, there is not a guarantee that when we order eggs on our food truck that we will receive eggs on our food truck."

Jarvis said, at this time, the hospital is still getting its eggs.

"So far, we have received eggs as we have ordered them," she said. "We have not been shorted to this point, but the supply is much more limited than it used to be."

Dr. David Zeman of the South Dakota Poultry Industry Association told the *Press & Dakotan* that while a lot of egg producers have been impacted nationwide, most of the industry is still working normally.

"Roughly 10 percent of the layers in the U.S. are impacted by the disease,"

Zeman said. "So we still have 90 percent of the supply chain still intact."

However, he added, the number is much higher at the state level due to the low number of chicken operations.

"In South Dakota, we only have two large operations," he said. "Of course, one of them is impacted so that's about half of our production impacted in South Dakota."

Zeman said each operation used about 1.2 million chickens each and that it will take several months to restore capacity.

Despite the vast majority of producers still operating normally, prices for eggs have been climbing. In its June "World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates" release, the USDA lowered projections for egg supplies this year and in 2016 due to the avian influenza outbreak, and forecast a dozen eggs wholesale cost would be between \$1.60-\$1.66 nationwide — up 30 cents from May projections. CNN also reported Wednesday that in some places in the Midwest, a dozen eggs has climbed from \$1.19 to \$2.62.

Local grocery stores were contacted for comment, but

did not return calls before press time.

Jarvis said they have not felt cost strains yet, owing to the fact that they'd paid for egg products well ahead of the outbreak.

But this could change if the crisis worsens.

"Our costs have not increased terribly at this point in time because we have contracted pricing through our food supplier," she said. "We have the potential for those contracts to be discontinued due to the severity of the egg shortage. We're not sure if and when that may happen, so we're just trying to take a proactive approach."

She added this approach has meant the discontinuance of some items in the hospital's cafeteria.

"We've really cut back on eggs in our cafeteria for the menu for our customers out there," she said. "So far, we have removed scrambled eggs from our menu in the morning for breakfast. We are no longer putting eggs on our breakfast pizza when that's on the menu. We continue to have eggs on our breakfast sandwiches, but again, we'll monitor that depending on supply and pricing as well. We removed an egg salad

sandwich that was on our lunch menu in the cafeteria and we have also discontinued putting diced hard-boiled eggs on our salad bar menu."

Jarvis said no modifications have been made to patient menus so far.

She added they're also looking at possible alternatives to using eggs in other items that also require eggs.

"We're going to be watching the mixes that we use for cake mixes and muffin mixes — anything that has an egg in it will potentially be affected in the future," she said. "We're also trying to come up with some other ideas because we do a lot of baking in our kitchen — trying some alternatives for eggs in baking even and alternatives for binders like if we do breading on meats."

Zeman wanted to assure the public that they don't have anything to worry about when it comes to the safety of the eggs they consume.

"There is no public health issue at all with this disease," he said "This is just a bird-only disease. ... With this strain, we don't expect any (human involvement) really."

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

## Flood Victims Pleaded For Help In 911 Calls

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) — Recordings of 911 calls reveal frantic requests for help from people staying in homes along the flooded Blanco River in Central Texas, including a woman who said the house she was in was "floating."

Hays County released the recordings Tuesday to the *Austin American-Statesman*. The calls came in over Memorial Day weekend, when the area saw heavy rains and massive flooding.

Nine bodies have been recovered in Hays County. The victims include Laura McComb, 34, who called to report water was creeping higher and there was no way to escape.

"We are on the Blanco River in Wimberley, and the water is up to the second story into the house," McComb said. "It's coming up to the second floor. I mean it's so high up. And we have no exit out."

The dispatcher advised

avoiding the attic, where rising water can trap people, and said rescuers would be there soon. McComb did not say during that call that she was sharing the house with eight other people, including three children, who were vacationing, the newspaper reported.

Fifteen minutes after McComb's call, a man who didn't identify himself called from the same address, got disconnected and then called back. "We need emergency rescue," he said. "The river has flooded around the house. We're at the bottom of Deer Crossing Road."

The operator told him that the address was already in the system for a rescue and asked, "Has anything changed?"

"Well, I mean we're running out of breathing room," the man said. The operator said get everyone to the roof. Five minutes later another

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