

30. Domestic Poultry Flock (DPK) egg layers

All valuations expressed in pence per bird

Age (weeks)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Valuation	575	606	637	669	702	735	769

Age	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Valuation	755	742	729	716	702	689	676

Age	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Valuation	663	650	636	623	610	597	583

Age	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Valuation	570	557	544	531	517	504	491

Age	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
Valuation	478	465	451	438	425	412	398

Age	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
Valuation	385	372	359	346	332	319	306

Age	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
Valuation	293	279	266	253	240	227	213

Age	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
Valuation	200	187	174	161	147	134	121

Age	73	74	75	76
Valuation	108	94	81	68

The valuation figures contained in the above table are based on higher costs for chicks and feed typical of an enterprise purchasing small quantities of stock and other key inputs. They assume the purchase of 'conventional' commercial strains of laying hens, and the use of conventional feed supplied in bags. They also assume that the flock are disposed of at the end of the first year of egg production.

Where the age of the birds is unknown, valuers will have to use whatever evidence and information that may be available to arrive at an equitable valuation.

Where flocks contain **birds that have been kept for a second or third cycle of production** (more common with DPK flocks), a flat rate valuation of £1.50 per bird should be allowed (irrespective of age). This figure is intended to cover the cost of the birds from end of lay from the previous cycle to the point at which egg revenue begins to flow again. This is in line with the valuation principles used for all egg laying birds.

Whilst there is no strict definition of what constitutes a "domestic" flock (rather than a "commercial" one), a distinction is usually made on the grounds of size of the enterprise and outlet of the products from the birds.

- Where the numbers of birds on the enterprise are counted in tens or hundreds it is likely that it will be the holding of a domestic poultry keeper. Where birds are counted in thousands, it is likely that the enterprise will be a commercial one.

- If the eggs are for the producer's own consumption, or sold at the farm gate or farm shop, then this will indicate domestic poultry production. On the other hand, if the eggs produced are sent to a packing station this would indicate production on a more commercial scale.

The valuations are not specifically intended for use in situations where the cull of a few back-yard birds is being undertaken (e.g. in the case of chickens kept as pets). Similarly, they are not intended to reflect the value of a flock of pure-bred layers (or limited crosses). In this situation guidance will have to be sought through Contingency Planning Division.