



## United Egg Producers

1575 Northside Drive • Building 200, Suite 200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30318  
(404) 367-2761 • Fax (404) 523-3483



### **NO SUBSTANTIAL QUALITY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPECIALTY AND CONVENTIONALLY-PRODUCED EGGS, GOVERNMENT STUDY SHOWS, BUT CONSUMERS PAY FOUR TIMES MORE FOR THEM**

**ALPHARETTA, GA (July 12, 2010)** – There is no substantial quality difference between specialty and traditionally-produced eggs, a new government study shows.

A team of researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Egg Safety and Quality Research Unit compared traditional eggs, cage-free, free-range, pasteurized, nutritionally-enhanced and fertile eggs to determine if there were physical quality and compositional differences. While there were differences in size and weight, albumen height, shell strength, membrane strength and total solids, the researchers concluded that no egg type maintained the highest or lowest values. The study was published in the July issue of Poultry Science.

According to USDA Weekly Retail Price Feature Activity Report on July 9, 2010, prices for egg varieties varied greatly. While traditionally-produced white grade AA eggs were advertised for 96 cents per dozen, brown grade AA eggs were advertised for \$1.89; white cage free eggs were advertised for \$2.62 per dozen and large organic eggs were \$4.03 per dozen, according to the USDA report.

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#### **About United Egg Producers**

United Egg Producers (UEP) is the nation's leading egg farming cooperative for U.S. egg farmers, representing 97 percent of U.S. egg farmers, whose members produce eggs including modern cage production, cage-free, free range, organic and other specialty eggs. UEP is based in Alpharetta, GA. To learn more about the egg industry visit [www.uepcertified.com](http://www.uepcertified.com).