

# WJZ Baltimore, Maryland News Weather Egg Prices On The Rise

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## Business

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### Shell Shocked: Egg Prices On The Rise

(CBS) Egg prices are on the rise, nearly 30 percent higher than they were at the end of 2006, according to the National Egg Processor Trade Bureau Association. The national average for a dozen large eggs is \$1.51, 33 cents higher than at the

"The cost of eggs has gone up dramatically in the past several weeks," according to Dale Riley, owner of Dale's Eggs in Minn. "Sixty percent of the cost of eggs is due to the feed, and the feed costs are just about double compared to last year.

So why are feed prices rising? Many experts blame increased ethanol production.

The corn-powered fuel has seen a 30 percent hike in production from January 2006 to January 2007, according to the U.S. Energy Department.

"With the ethanol plants, corn prices have been going way up because the demand is way high," said Dale Mitchell, who said he and his dad keep their cows on a farm near Hudson, Wisconsin.

The Mitchell's purchase their feed, which is largely made up of corn. Mitchell said corn prices are almost double what they were a year ago. He sees truckloads of corn headed off to ethanol plants in the area.

"I think that's where it starts, that drives the milk prices up, which drives the market value up, all the way through the chain," Mitchell said.

According to the Minnesota Farm Bureau, close to 99 million dozens of eggs are sold the week before Easter. The national average is \$1.51 a dozen, because retailers like Target are selling eggs as loss-leaders, in order to get them into the store.

products.

However, with ethanol production on the rise, farmers and grocers are watching closely to see what demand for corn will bring.

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