



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
SELASA 29 NOVEMBER 2022**

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UKKMAFI

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN MAFI, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

29/11/2022

SINAR
HARIANNEGERI
KELANTAN

28

Ternak rusa bantu hilangkan tekanan

Warga emas dakwa keserasian peliharaan haiwan itu jadikan kesihatannya lebih baik

Oleh **ASWANY OMAR**
KUALA KRAI

Seorang warga emas di Kampung Chatel, Lata Rek di sini tidak menyangka usahanya menernak rusa mampu menghilangkan tekanan selepas menghidap kencing manis.

Mat Roni Senek, 68, mula menernak haiwan itu selepas tidak mampu melakukan kerja berat termasuk menoreh getah lebih 13 tahun lalu.

Menurut Mat Roni, minatnya memelihara rusa sambar sudah lama dan keputusan diambil selepas dia mula bosan kerana tidak melakukan sebarang kerja.

"Saya kemudian membeli enam ekor rusa daripada seorang kenalan di Tanah Merah



Sebahagian daripada rusa peliharaan Mat Roni.

dengan kos RM18,000," katanya ketika ditemui di rumahnya, di sini pada Isnin.

Menurutnya, keserasian memelihara rusa menggalakkan kesihatannya semakin baik manakala rusa yang ditemak mula membiak dan ditambah pembelian baharu sehingga mencecah 17 ekor.

Warga emas itu bagaimana-



Mat Roni memberi rusanya makan di dalam kandang yang dibina di belakang rumah.

ga RM2,800 hingga RM3,800 seekor bergantung kepada fizikal dan keadaan haiwan itu.

"Setakat ini memang mendapat sambutan daripada peminat rusa di sekitar Kelantan," katanya.

Bapa kepada tujuh anak berusia antara 25 hingga 46 tahun itu juga bersyukur kerana minatnya mendapat sokongan

Jabatan Veterinar negeri yang sentiasa memantau keadaan haiwan itu.

Jelasnya, setiap bulan sebanyak RM400 diperuntukkan bagi membeli dedak rusa.

"Rusa tidak cerewet dan saya memberi makan haiwan ini tiga kali sehari selain tidak pernah hilang walaupun terlepas daripada kandang," katanya.

29/11/2022

UTUSAN

DALAM

32

MALAYSIA

NEGERI

Nelayan rayu kerajaan lulus lesen tangkapan udang

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BESUT: Persatuan Nelayan Besut (PNB) merayu kerajaan meluluskan permohonan nelayan untuk mendapatkan lesen tangkapan udang di pesisir pantai di sini pada musim tengkujuh.

Pengerusi Persatuan Nelayan Kawasan (PNK) Besut, Tengku Harun Tengku Ismail berkata, seramai 50 pemilik bot nelayan pantai di daerah ini mengemukakan permohonan lesen tersebut sejak September lalu.

Katanya, nelayan terlibat sedia mematuhi syarat-syarat yang ditetapkan termasuk menggunakan pukot penyisih penyul bagi mengelakkan hidupan laut itu terperangkap dalam pukot.

Katanya, hasil tangkapan udang didapati lebih banyak pada musim Musim Timur Laut yang bermula Disember ini hingga Mac depan.

"Pada musim, tengkujuh, ia



SEBAHAGIAN daripada bot nelayan pantai yang terdapat di negeri Terengganu. - UTUSAN/PUQTRA HARRY ROSLI

adalah musim udang di pesisir pantai namun nelayan tidak dibenarkan menangkap udang sekiranya tidak mempunyai lesen daripada Jabatan Perikanan.

"Nelayan memohon lesen tersebut untuk membolehkan

mereka menangkap udang secara sah pada musim tengkujuh," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di sini, semalam.

Difahamkan, kebiasaannya udang putih adalah antara jenis udang yang banyak terdapat di

pesisir pantai di negeri ini pada Musun Timur Laut.

Tengku Harun memberitahu, hasil tangkapan udang yang banyak itu dapat membantu menambah pendapatan untuk menyara keluarga.

Prices soar as monsoon hits vegetable farms

By **MANJIT KAUR**
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IPOH: The year-end monsoon season has affected the production of vegetables in Cameron Highlands, causing prices to soar by as much as 50%, say farmers.

Cameron Highlands Vegetable Growers Association secretary Chay Ee Mong said low pollination, photosynthesis and temperatures had

affected the production of vegetables.

It has been raining in "the highland over the last few days, and such weather usually creates a prolonged impact on vegetable production.

"Most times it is cloudy, and the low production has caused the price of some vegetables to increase.

"Depending on the types of vegetables, the price increase is easily

between 30% and 50% more," Chay said when contacted.

He said the vegetables expected to see a price hike were tomatoes, cucumbers, chillies, beans, capsicum and selected leafy vegetables.

However, he said consumers could choose 80 other types of leafy vegetables that were still priced low, such as spinach and cabbage or pak choy.

"But for tomatoes, cucumbers

and chillies, there is no substitute and their price increase is inevitable as plant growth is slow," he added.

He said vegetable production would usually return to normal by the end of January once the weather settled.

Chay also said that the farmers were still affected by a labour shortage and hoped that the authorities would look into the problem soon.

Food for thought - this farmer grows padi in pots



KUALA KANGSAR: After seeing his aunt's success in growing padi in flower pots, Eddrus Iskandar Abd Hamid came up with the idea of cultivating padi on a small scale at his house compound in Kampung Kandang Hilir here.

Instead of using pots, Eddrus Iskandar uses recycled paint cans in his padi farming venture.

"Initially, my aunt was using the padi husk ash as fertiliser for her

plants such as chilli.

"In the husks, there were unburnt padi grains and she used them to start growing padi in pots," Bernama.

Eddrus Iskandar, 35, said growing padi in paint cans was simple and cost-effective.

The concept of growing padi in paint cans and in padi fields is the same, including its water require-



Innovation starts at home: (Above) Eddrus Iskandar tending lovingly to his padi shoots at his house in Kampung Kandar Hilir, Perak. (Left) Eddrus Iskandar showing off the harvested padi. — Bernama

ment and control, use of fertilisers, mineral content in the soil and the need for hot weather.

"The seeds sown are either from the rice mill or given by my aunt.

"I am now able to harvest one kilo of padi from three to four paint cans," said, Eddrus Iskandar, who

also grows vegetables such as chillies and spinach.

"Growing padi in paint cans is simple because it does not require a lot of equipment and there is no need to worry about the presence of pests.

"Twenty pots or paint cans are

enough to feed a family of four or five for a month," he said.

Eddrus Iskandar also supports the government's call to grow vegetables and rear livestock for own use as this will help address the problem of insufficient food supply and ease the high cost of living.

'Masih ada tempat tiada telur'

Persatuan penternak dakwa masalah bekalan telur di pasaran masih belum selesai sepenuhnya

SHAH ALAM

Isu kekurangan bekalan telur ayam di pasaran sejak Oktober lalu masih lagi berlanjutan sehingga kini, kata Timbalan Presiden Persatuan Persatuan-Persatuan Penternak Malaysia (FLFAM), Lee Yoon Yeau.

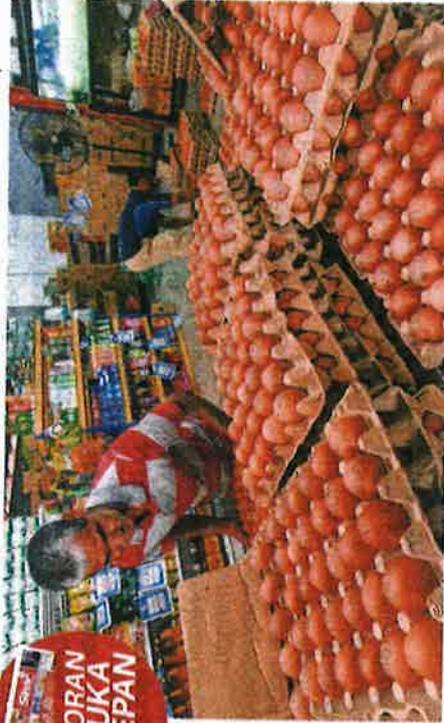
Ujarnya, isu telur ayam kembali pulih seperti yang dipaparkan di media sosial adalah tidak benar kerana beberapa kawasan masih lagi mengalami

masalah sama. "Itu bukan satu fiputan betui. Media sosial yang mainkan isu ini, jadi kita tidak boleh komen. "Hantaran di media sosial yang kata telur (ayam) sudah banyak di pasaran belum tentu sah dan mungkin hanya beberapa sahaja yang merasainya.

"Melainkan jika Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) sendiri yang memuktulkannya, bukannya hanya baca menerusi hantaran media sosial orang ramai," katanya kepada Sinar Harian pada Isnin.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditanya mengenai beberapa hantaran di media sosial yang menyatakan bekalan telur ayam kembali pulih di pasaran.

Kata Yoon Yeau, kebanyakan



Beberapa kawasan masih lagi mengalami masalah bekalan telur yang tidak mencukupi.

ladang ternakan mula mengurangkan produktiviti pengeluaran ekoran kerugian yang dialami sejak tahun lalu disebabkan kenaikan harga dedak dan harga kawalan ayam.

"Tahun ini, (harga) dedak naik tinggi dan agak sukar dikawal kerana ia mengikut harga antarabangsa. Ini antara isu yang

sukar dikawal penternak," jelasnya.

Justeru beliau berkata, kabinet baharu yang bakal dibentuk perlu mencari penyelesaian 'menang-menang' yang tidak akan merugikan penternak mahupun rakyat.

"Kita tunggu dalam dua minggu lagi kerana semalam

(Ahad) pegawai KPDNHEP dan Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali maklumkan telah mengadakan mesyuarat dengan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim," katanya.

Sementara itu, Setiausaha Persatuan Penternak Unggas (Kecil dan Sederhana) Johor, Lau Ka Leng berkata, tempoh masa diperlukan untuk bekalan telur ayam kembali stabil di pasaran. "Setakat ini bekalan sudah beransur pulih, tetapi permintaan an pasaran tempatan cukup tinggi.

"Sebelum ini, penternak berdepan isu wabak dan penyakit ayam penelur. Wabak ini tidak sebabkan ayam mati tetapi telur ayam berkurangan.

"Namun wabak ini sudah diatasi dan bekalan telur ayam semakin stabil," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Isnin.

Untuk rekod, secara purata negara memerlukan antara 30 hingga 31 juta biji telur sehari yang dikeluarkan oleh 1,500 penternak seluruh negara.

Poultry farmers are reaching cracking point

By IMRAN HILMY and PAVITHRA RAMAN
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GEORGE TOWN: Poultry farmers here are claiming that the egg shortage is caused by market manipulators out to make a killing.

Chicken breeder Muhammad Sufi Jamil, 32, alleged that these manipulators hoard their egg supplies that were supposed to be distributed to consumers so the price would increase.

"The egg shortage happened before GE15, but after that, the eggs mysteriously appeared and are available at most grocery and retail shops.

"Some of the eggs on sale now are either expired or close to expiry," said Muhammad Sufi.

He said other factors causing the shortage of eggs included the uncertain weather and threat from wild-life near poultry farms.

"What the authorities can do now is to monitor and control the egg supply so it will not be manipulated. Fix the egg price and make it compulsory for breeders to report their produce.

"This will not only help us control the supply but also the price," said Muhammad Sufi.

Another breeder, who wanted to be known only as Ali, said he had been supplying chicken eggs direct to consumers and grocery shops in Alor Setar.

"I have never used middlemen. I deliver my produce straight to consumers, which is why I have never encountered this problem.

"But I agree the government should control the prices of basic items such as eggs to protect the consumers," he said.

Grocery shop owner Mat Izzudin Idris, 43, said he had no problem getting eggs from his supplier.

"But sometimes, I have to limit the sale of eggs as the supply is also limited. I hope the egg shortage problem will not happen again. Eggs are an important part of the diet for people, especially the B40," said Mat Izzudin, whose shop is in Bukit Gedong.

A check by *The Star* at several grocery shops in Seberang Prai and George Town found no egg shortage. However, many shops are imposing a limit of 10 eggs per customer.

The eggs are being sold at between 38sen and 45sen each according to their grade.

Meanwhile, Sunshine Wholesale Mart marketing and communication manager Bryan Wong said there was no shortage.

"No shortage of eggs. Selling at all outlets," Wong said in a Whatsapp message.

He added the price of eggs - per tray of 30 - was RM13.50 for Grade A, RM12.90 for Grade B and RM11.70 for Grade C.

With the holidays around the corner, the egg shortage continues to worry consumers and sellers in Petaling Jaya.

Nor Zaini Zainul Abidin, 41, who manages a convenience store in Subang Jaya, said getting eggs has been difficult in the last two months.

"We used to get our supplies from supermarkets and local suppliers. Now, even they are out of eggs," said the managing director of the 929 Convenience Store.

Nor Zaini said it was difficult for her to obtain Grade A eggs, which are her customers' preferred choice.

"Nowadays, we can only get Grade D or Grade E eggs, which are rela-

tively small," she added.

Nor Zaini said that although she was not suffering significant profit losses due to the shortage, she was concerned about a decline in customer satisfaction.

The managing director also pointed out the recent increase in the prices of chicken eggs.

"Grade AA eggs used to cost around RM14.40 per carton, but now they cost around RM15.

"Grade A and B eggs used to cost RM13 and RM12.40 per carton, now they cost RM13.50 and RM12.90 per carton respectively," she added.

Egg merchant B. Ravichandran from Balakong, Seri Kembangan, also said the price of eggs had risen due to their scarcity.

"Suppliers have increased their prices, which has been particularly difficult for small business owners like myself.

"Eggs used to cost around 38sen to 40sen each, regardless of their grades, but now they cost nearly 45sen," he lamented.

Consumers are likewise frustrated by the egg shortage.

Housewife Sivakami Elango, 45, said the shelves at supermarkets and

convenience stores remained half empty even early in the morning.

"I have resorted to buying kampung eggs at the morning markets now since it is very hard to get price-controlled eggs in large quantities from the stores.

"Although my children did not like the kampung eggs at first, they have now grown used to them."

Sivakami said it would be much more difficult for her to manage if the egg shortage continues until the end of the year.

"If the shortage lasts until the year-end holidays, it would be challenging since my children will be around, and I will have to cook more often," she added.

Accounting student Jessyca Han, whose family has an annual tradition of baking Christmas cookies together, said the government should act to resolve the shortage.

"If the shortage continues, many families will be robbed of quality family time and delicious Christmas cookies, which are crucial parts of the holiday season tradition.

"I hope the government takes necessary steps to address this issue," added the 22-year-old.

No quick solutions, just a slow boil

Shortage of egg supply likely resolved early next year, says DOSM

By ZAKIAH KOYA and KHOO GEK SAN
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PETALING JAYA: The shortage of egg supply in some parts of the country is due to various factors.

This situation has been made worse by the unexpected behaviour of consumers which have caused a surge in demand, said authorities.

The Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) reported that the projection of the demand was not as predicted and eggs are not an item which can be kept in stock for long.

MAFI secretary-general Datuk Haslina Abdul Hamid said that it is normal for a high demand for eggs at this time of the year, but the problem is usually offset with early preparations and planning since September.

"At the National Council of Cost of Living (Naccol) meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday, MAFI presented the (supply) situation on the seven controlled items, including eggs. We have no shortage on premium eggs which are not controlled items, but there is a shortage on graded eggs A, B and C.

"However, this time around, there was a sudden surge as con-

Eggs under control

Grade A	RM 0.45
65.0 grams to 69.9 grams each per egg	
Grade B	RM 0.43
64.0 grams to 68.9 grams each per egg	
Grade C	RM 0.41
63.0 grams to 67.9 grams each per egg	

Fine up to RM 100,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or both for individuals or fined up to RM500,000 for body corporate if caught selling eggs above maximum price.

Source: Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP)
The Star graphics

sumers are suddenly eating out more and there is more demand for Grade A, B and C (eggs).

"In September, we discussed production issues with egg producers, whose main request was that we relax the subsidy given to them - which is 10sen - as their cost of production has increased.

"The decrease in our currency also lowered their profits as most of

the proteins fed to layer chickens are imported.

"We have looked at (feed) alternatives but these alternatives such as planting corn take up to eight months. We cannot resolve these problems immediately," said Haslina.

She also said that the farms that export and those that produce for local consumption are different as

the eggs for export to Singapore have high specifications which not every farm can meet.

"The complaints of too many eggs in some places while there are none in certain places stem mainly from logistics - and suppliers not being able to replenish stocks in time," said Haslina.

KPDNHEP secretary-general Datuk Azman Mohd Yusof said that the shortage of eggs is not in all parts of the country, but in locations where there is a demand surge.

"We understand that there is a shortage from the farms itself but despite that, we will take action against anyone who raises the prices of Grade A, B and C eggs as these are controlled items. If we find that there are states with no eggs at all, we then request that other states with extra stock to help out.

"I have ordered that there be more enforcement checks by KPDNHEP personnel to ensure that there is no profiteering. The pictures on social media of heaps of eggs being sold out immediately is a common occurrence when there are pocket surges.

"However, I ask that consumers posting these (images) on social media be specific as to where this is happening and if there is profiteering, we can take action.

"It is not an item which retailers can keep or freeze to increase the

prices. Furthermore, it is a controlled food item, so be patient," said Azman, urging consumers to file complaints of profiteering or hoarding to KPDNHEP.

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said that the shortage of eggs is an issue tied closely to the reopening of the economy post-Covid-19.

"Egg consumption is high now as it is an ingredient in many Malaysian dishes. With the economy now fully reopened and people confident enough to travel and spend, there is an increase in food consumption beyond what was expected.

"Unlike pre-Covid-19, data shows that Malaysians are not waiting for weekends to travel and go out for meals with their family and friends," said Mohd Uzi.

"However, the supply readiness to meet the surge in demand has not yet reached an equilibrium, causing the shortage.

"We project that this will be resolved by early next year, when demand for food items, including eggs, stabilises. The price of feedstock, which is used in production of food such as eggs, will also hopefully stabilise by then.

"This is something that is happening across the world, not only in Malaysia," said Mohd Uzi.

No truth to sabotage claims, says farmers' association chief

PETALING JAYA: The egg shortage is a global phenomenon and unlikely to be resolved soon, say livestock farmers.

They also scoffed at sabotage claims on social media that there was a shortage before the recently-concluded 15th General Election, and eggs were now flooding the market.

Federation of Livestock Farmers' Associations of Malaysia (FLFAM) president Tan Chee Hee said the sabotage claim is not logical as eggs

are perishable items that cannot be hoarded.

"Generally, the whole world has an egg shortage and Malaysia is no exception.

"Farmers are working very hard to produce more but we have been badly affected by poor demand during the pandemic (lockdowns), then a sudden surge of demand after the economy reopened, followed by an increase in raw material prices, and disease challenges," said Tan.

"Currently we are facing a short-

age of layer chicks (or chicken reared to lay eggs).

"This is one of the main causes," he explained.

"The other cause is the controlled price (of Grade A, B and C eggs) that is not encouraging farmers to produce more as the subsidies are not sufficient for them to cover their costs.

"It is a very tight margin for big farms to produce at these prices despite a recent 10sen subsidy by the government," he added.

Since July 1, the government has fixed the ceiling price for Grade A chicken eggs at 45sen each, 43sen for Grade B and 41sen for Grade C.

"We don't think there's sabotage by producers. Eggs are highly perishable items.

"Layer farms do not have large storage areas to keep eggs for more than two or three days.

"We are not like other industrial producers who can keep their stocks for longer periods to wait for better timing to sell at a better price," said Tan.

He also said there is no clear shortage at present, but it is more of shortages in certain areas with a sudden surge in demand due to weddings or in areas facing logistic and delivery issues.

He said the authorities should understand that farmers cannot rectify the low production situation immediately, due to the cycle of egg production.

'Production affected by lower quality feedstock'

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He urged the government to increase the subsidies during the control price period or let the market dictate prices.

"We also hope that the authorities would facilitate soft loans to farmers immediately to ease the cash-flow problem that FLFAM members have been dealing with," said Tan.

The association's deputy president Lee Yoon Yeau said egg production has also been affected by lower quality feedstock, which influences chicken growth, as well as the weather which is not conducive for egg-laying.

"We have to set purchase limits among customers, but not for hawkers."

Datuk Lim Choon Se

Mydin managing director Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin said egg suppliers can only meet 20% of his supermarket chain's demand.

"Except for the Mydin hypermarket chain, we have checked on the ground at various supermarkets. At 10am (yesterday), there were empty shelves everywhere," he said.

Supermarket chain NSK Group is also facing problems, with its group senior adviser Datuk Lim Choon Se saying suppliers can only meet 40% of his supermarkets' demand.

He added that the shortage must be resolved as soon as possible as the demand for eggs would be huge one week before Chinese New Year.

"It will be bigger before and during Ramadhan and Hari Raya Aidilfitri, in March and April respectively.

"We have to set purchase limits among customers, but not for hawkers," said Lim.