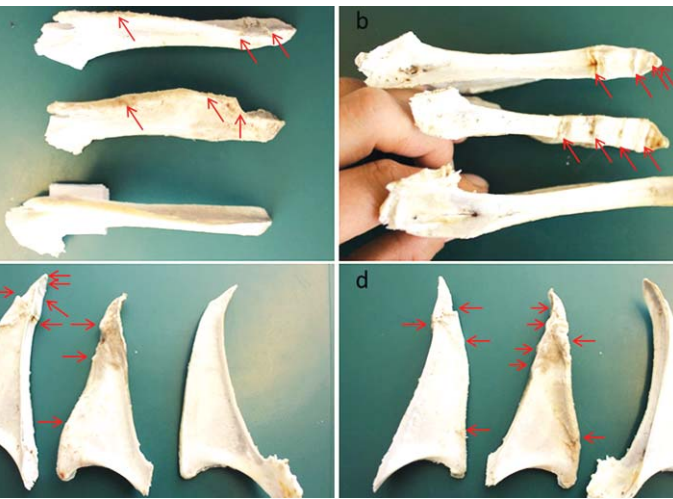


#PAIN

Laying Eggs Is A Breaking Job

85% of hens, laying eggs too large for them, have fractured keel bones



Large eggs appear to fracture the keel bones of laying hens quite often, research in Denmark finds. A modern laying hen produces roughly 320 eggs a year. In other words, being a hen bred for the food industry is a full-time job. In fact, the egg laying appears to be such a strain on Danish, as well as foreign hens that it results in bone fractures.

New research from the University of Copenhagen shows that too large eggs in too small hens affect animal welfare. In the largest study of its kind, the researchers have shown that around 85% of Danish laying hens suffer from keel bone fractures. This is, to all appearances, because the large eggs exert pressure on their bodies from within.

"We knew there was a problem, but we certainly did not expect it to apply to almost all laying hens in the country. These animals suffer, both when the fracture occurs and afterwards, so we are dealing with a huge animal welfare problem here," says assistant professor Ida Thøfner from the department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. She explains that the problem is not just national, but global.

Together with professor Jens Peter Christensen, she has examined almost 4,900 hens in 40 different flocks for keel bone fractures and found fractures in almost 4,100 of them. "We see these types of fractures in all production systems. That is, regardless of whether the hens are kept in cages, or they are organic or barn or free-range hens. In other words, it is a wide-spread problem in all parts of the industry," says Christensen. He explains that fractures usually occur at the

tip of the keel bone, and the nature of these fractures suggests that the hen's body is simply under too much strain due to too large eggs.

"If you have ever tried to fracture a bone, you know that it hurts. A cast and rest is not an option for laying hens, whose fractures probably hurt a lot and take a long time to heal," he says.

The researchers also tried to identify the exact cause of the many fractured bones by pointing out the risk factors in play. "Generally, we can see that the larger the eggs and the smaller the hens, the greater the problem. Their bodies are simply under too much strain because they are bred to be small and to lay a lot of large eggs."

"At the same time, we know that the keel bone takes a long time to mature. Unfortunately, it takes some generations of hen breeding to solve that problem," says Christensen. However, farmers may be able to reduce the problem quickly and without having to involve breeding companies.

"The earlier these hens enter into production, the larger the problem is. We are fairly convinced that you could postpone egg laying for a couple of weeks until the hens are more robust and the keel bone is more resilient to fracturing without losing money, because the hens will simply lay eggs for a longer time if you follow this strategy," explains Thøfner.

The researchers now hope to attract funding for an intervention project in order to study the effect of various measures on solving the problem and improving animal welfare. The study appears in PLOS ONE. The Danish Agriculture and Food Council contributed to the study.



Here's how U.S. automakers are responding to Trump's tariffs

The Trump administration's wave of tariffs, which went into effect at the beginning of April, shocked the automotive industry. Automakers have responded to the trade confusion in various ways, from offering discounts to shoppers who hope to avoid future price increases to adding import fees on vehicles built outside the US. The 'draconian' trade policies, as one Wall Street analyst called the originally proposed tariffs, may also affect autoworkers, with Stellantis pausing production at two assembly plants in Mexico and Canada.

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Stellantis paused production at two factories in response to Trump's tariffs on imported cars while Mercedes-Benz plans to boost US SUV production. Automakers are responding to the Trump administration's auto tariffs. Ford offered customers an employee discount, but is also raising prices on Mexico-made models.

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Wall Street believes the tariffs on imported cars could cost the auto industry more than \$80 billion and slash Detroit's Big Three's earnings by up to 60%, thanks to an additional \$5,000 of input costs per vehicle.

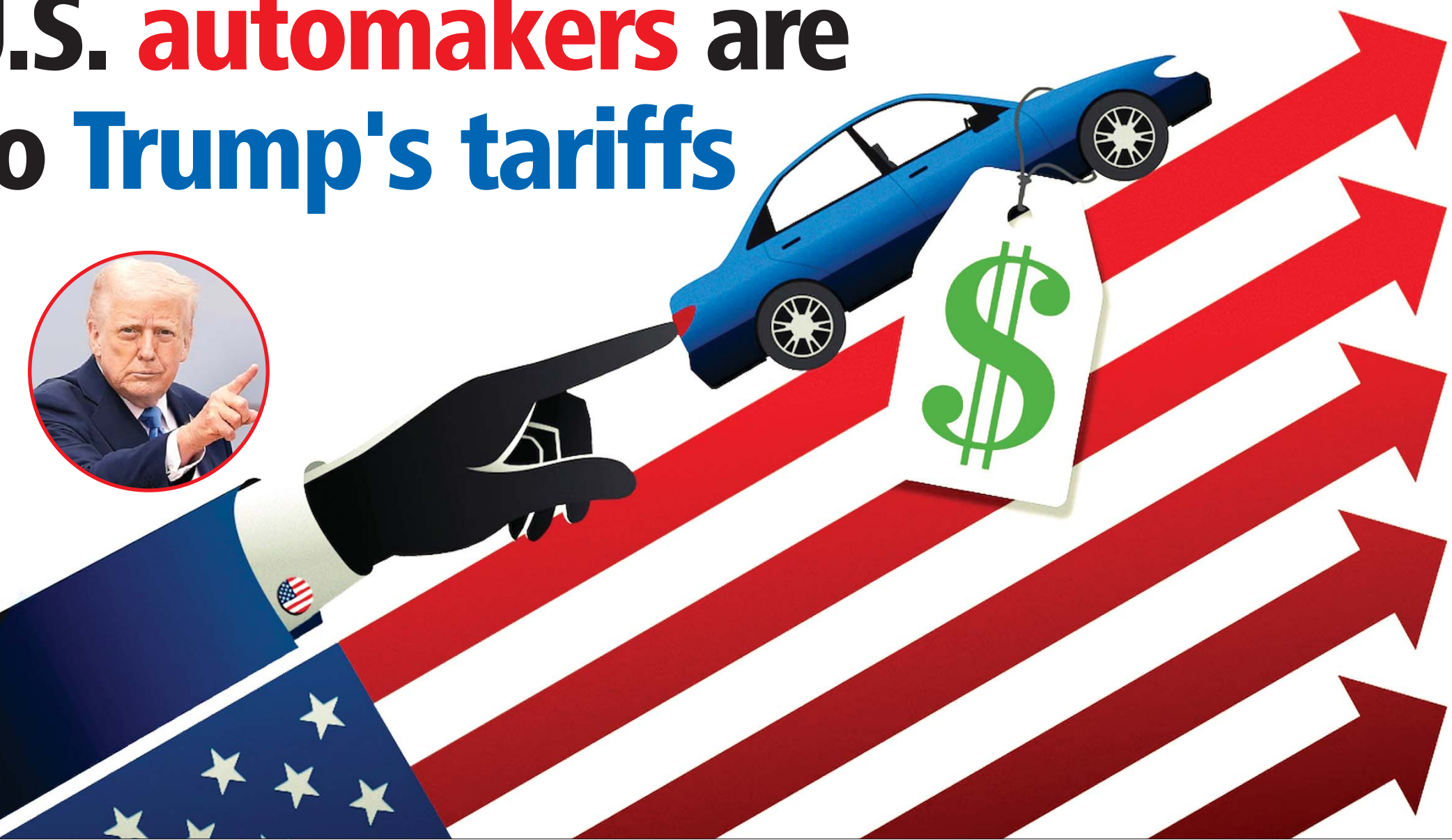


Here's how the industry at large is responding

Nissan is pausing US orders of some Mexico-built SUVs. Nissan said that in April, it would pause new US orders of two Infiniti SUVs, which are built in Mexico. The announcement came after President Donald Trump's auto tariffs went into effect.

Nissan will pause new Mexico-built orders for the Infiniti QX30 and QX55 SUVs for US sales, the Japanese carmaker said in a statement to Business Insider. The model will still be produced for other markets, and production of other US models in Mexico and Japan will continue.

Nissan also said that it would keep two shifts of production of the Rogue SUV at its Smyrna, Tennessee plant, reversing a January plan to end one of the shifts later this month. This will keep 'more localized volume in the US that is free of the new auto tariffs,' Nissan said in the statement.



#THE WAR



Ford offers employee discounts to all customers

Shortly after the tariffs took effect, Ford announced that it would make employee pricing available to consumers for the next two months.

"In times like these, talk is cheap. At Ford, we believe in action," Rob Kaffl, Ford's director of US sales and dealer operations, said in a press release.

Ford said it would offer an employee discount to all buyers of specific models in response to Trump's newly announced tariffs. The discount, which ends June 2, applies to all Ford and Lincoln models except Raptors, the 2025 Expedition and Navigator SUVs, and Super Duty trucks.

How much did Ford lose because of tariffs? \$800 million

Tariffs lopped \$800 million from Ford profits during the second quarter, the company said. Its estimate of \$2 billion in tariff costs for

the year includes the impact of cost-cutting and other measures the company is taking in response to Mr. Trump's trade policies.

Inside BYD's plan to rule the waves

How much a consumer saves depends on the vehicle, but it could easily run into the thousands. The discount would be applied on top of any other deals or promotions a dealership is offering, the company said.

Ford declined to confirm whether the tariffs would lead to higher sticker prices. A company spokesperson told Business

Insider that it has a 74-day supply of vehicles in stock that haven't been affected by tariffs, compared to 50 days for GM and 24 days for Toyota. (Around 60 days of supply is considered healthy in a normal economic environment.)

Analysts say Ford is one of the best-positioned US automakers to weather the tariffs.

Ford later announced plans to raise prices on Mexico-made trucks and SUVs

Ford announced in early May that it would raise prices on select vehicles made in Mexico by as much as \$2,000, Reuters reported. The affected vehicles include the Ford Maverick pickup, the Bronco Sport compact SUV, and

the Mustang Mach-E EV SUV. Only units produced after May 2, which should begin to arrive at dealers in late June, will have the higher MSRP. A Ford spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.



Stellantis paused work at two factories and laid off hundreds at others

Stellantis, which owns former Chrysler brands like Dodge, Jeep, and Ram, temporarily paused production at its Windsor assembly plant in Canada and Toluca assembly plant in Mexico in April, a spokesperson told Business Insider.

The Windsor plant, which makes Pacifica/Voyager minivans and Charger Daytona EV muscle cars, was offline for two weeks and resumed operations the week of April 21, Automotive News reported. The Toluca plant, which builds Jeep Compass and Wagoneer S SUVs, stopped production for the second half of April. The production stoppage at these two facilities resulted in the temporary layoffs of 900 workers from the company's powertrain and stamping plants in Michigan and Indiana, the spokesperson said.



VW tacks on a special fee for tariff-affected cars

German automaker Volkswagen has confirmed that it will add an 'import fee' to the sticker prices of vehicles affected by the tariffs, a spokesperson said. The import fee will be added to the destination charge, which is tacked onto the price of a new car. It's unclear how much the tariffs will affect the cost of new VW cars, as no final pricing decisions have been made, the spokesperson said. Its top-selling Atlas and Atlas Cross Sport midsize SUVs are



made in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Its other top sellers, the Jetta sedan, the Taos SUV, and the Tiguan SUV, are all made in Puebla, Mexico.

Mercedes-Benz and Volvo plot production shifts

Mercedes-Benz said that it would move production of the popular GLC SUV to its factory near Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The GLC will be produced alongside the larger GLE and three-row GLS SUVs at the plant. "It's our best-selling model in the United States, so I think it's a fairly logical choice for us to expand our product lineup out of Tuscaloosa," said Jason Hoff, the new Mercedes-Benz North America CEO, on a media call on May 12.

Hoff and Mercedes-Benz CEO Ola Källenius expect US production of the GLC to commence by the end of 2027. The Alabama-made GLCs will be sold in the US and in other parts of North America, like Canada. The CEO of Swedish brand Volvo Cars told Bloomberg in April that the carmaker would look to build more vehicles at its South Carolina factory in response to the tariffs. "We will have to increase the number of cars we build in the US, and surely move

another model to that factory," said Håkan Samuelsson, who recently returned to Volvo as CEO. Samuelsson said the company would 'look closely' at which model it moves to the factory, which already builds the EX90 and Polestar 3 EVs. Volvo did not immediately respond to a request for comment from BI. A company spokesperson told Reuters that the Swedish automaker laid off 5% of its workforce at its Charleston factory in May, which equates to 125 of its 2,500 employees. However, the company confirmed to the outlet that it remains committed to expanding production at the South Carolina facility and creating 4,000 jobs. A spokesperson for rival BMW told BI that the luxury carmaker was also still 'evaluating' the new levies but called on the US and Europe to reach a deal quickly to avoid further pain for consumers.

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#FRUKILL

From Delicacies to Poisons

A Global Botanical Roundup

From healing remedies to hidden poisons, nature's bounty has long played a complex role in human history. Across continents, cultures have learned to harness the powers of local plants, some delicious, some deadly. Whether it's Jamaica's beloved ackee, Germany's immune-boosting elderberries, or the Caribbean's fearsome manchineel tree, each of these natural wonders tells a story of survival, innovation, and cultural identity. Here's a journey through nine fascinating plants from around the world!

1. Ackee - Jamaica's Culinary Jewel with Many Tricks

Jamaica's national fruit, ackee (Blighia sapida), forms the backbone of the famed ackee and saltfish dish, with its creamy, egg-like texture when ripe and prepared properly. Beyond this iconic dish, ackee appears in patties, stir-fries, stews, salads, and even soups.

Ackee's versatility extends beyond the kitchen. Its saponin-rich pods can be used as soap; its bark, seeds, and capsules serve as fish poison; its durable wood is valuable in construction



(used for oars, paddles, railway sleepers); and its fragrant flowers make excellent cologne. The fruit also plays a vital economic role, Jamaica exports canned ackee globally, contributing millions to its economy and supporting rural livelihoods.

2. Elderberries - Germany's Immune-Boosting Berries

In Germany, the European elder (Sambucus nigra) has long stood as a staple of folk medicine and cuisine. Its berries, poisonous when raw, become edible and healthful once cooked, and are often transformed into jams, jellies, chutneys, or the traditional Fliederbeersuppe elderberry soup. The flowers also yield popular infusions, elderflower cordial, used across Northern Europe. Elderberries are wide-



ly recognized for their immune-supporting anthocyanins; available in syrups, teas, and supplements. They're commonly used in Germany to help combat colds and flu.

3. Manchineel - Caribbean's Most Dangerous Tree

The Caribbean's manchineel (Sapindus saponaria) is infamously one of the most toxic trees on Earth. Its sap inflicts painful burns, even from contact in rain, and the fruit, deceptively apple-like, can elicit severe gastrointestinal distress or worse if ingested. Indigenous

people historically exploited its toxicity: sap was used to poison arrows, bark was cautiously crafted into furniture, and burned wood found limited medicinal and utilitarian uses. Friars even marked it with warning signs or painted bands to alert passersby.

4. Pangium edule - Fermented Flavour from Indonesia



Pangium edule, native to Indonesia's mangrove regions, bears highly poisonous seeds loaded with

cyanide. But after meticulous processing, boiling, fermenting, and burying, they morph into keluak, a prized ingredient in East Javanese dishes like rawon, Peranakan cuisine, and Torajan specialties. Besides its culinary fame, the tree's leaves and bark are pressed into pest-control remedies or wound-healing treatments, and its hard wood finds occasional use.

5. Strychnine - India's Poison-Tonic Paradox

India's strychnine tree (Strychnos nux-vomica) yields seeds rich in potent alkaloids, strychnine and brucine. While fatal in higher doses, small amounts were historically used as stimulants and tonics for digestion, appetite, and nervous conditions. Today they remain in some Ayurvedic, Unani, and homeopathic medicines

(though unapproved by modern regulators). In the early 20th century and even into the 1904 Olympics, athletes used tiny doses of strychnine to boost performance. Folk medicine claims span ailments like insomnia, constipation, motion sickness, flu, and various chronic conditions, though the margin for error is terrifyingly small.

6. Wild (Green) Almonds - Iran's Tangy Snacks

In Iran, green or wild Almonds (chagale badam) are enjoyed fresh and salted as a crunchy, tangy snack. Another treat, nogh, consists of candied almonds served

alongside tea and coffee. Almonds (both fresh and dried) are also used to enrich desserts and ceremonial foods like harire badam, a traditional soothing drink for babies.

7. Jatropa - Mexico's Multipurpose Plant Power

The Jatropa genus in Mexico boasts impressive versatility. Ornamentals like J. integririma brighten tropical gardens, while J. podagrica provides tanning leather and red dye. The widely cultivated Jatropa curcas is a biofuel superstar: its oil turns into biodiesel; its leftover seed cake, once detoxified, serves as animal feed or fertilizer; and the biomass fuels power plants or biogas generators. Traditional uses include medicinal treatments using latex from species such as J. neopauciflora to combat dental and oral diseases, some species also offer protein-rich seeds safe for consumption after detoxification.

8. Apricot - Turkey's Fruity Legacy

While not deeply detailed in our sources, apricots are a staple of Turkish agriculture, renowned for consumption, drying, and jam-making across the country.

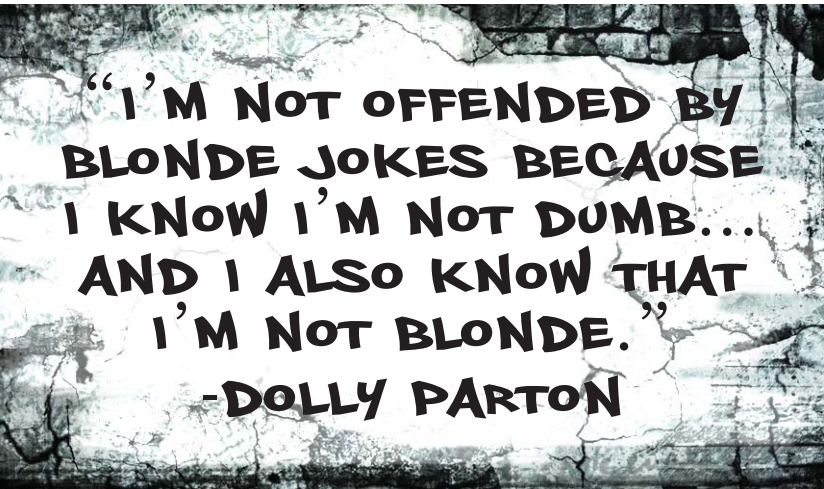
9. Yew Berries - The UK's Sweet-Deadly Paradox

In the UK, the yew tree produces famously tempting red berries (arils), though their seeds (and virtually all other parts of the tree) are toxic and can be fatal if consumed. Still, the aril remains safe to eat in isolation. Historically, yew wood created the legendary longbow; today, yew is prized for its cancer-fighting compound taxol, used in treating ovarian, breast, and lung cancers.

Final Thoughts

From the delectable (ackee, apricot) to the dangerously toxic (manchineel, strychnine), these plants reveal humanity's ingenuity, and its risks, in harnessing nature. Whether fermented to eliminate poison, delicately processed for health, or domesticated into sturdy materials or fuels, each one underscores a unique cultural and biological story.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman