



Published : August 19, 2021

MARKET CORNER

Ingredients for your Success



Poultry

Whole birds were up. Breasts were up. Tenders are higher on very strong demand. Wings were flat but still in heavy demand. Boneless dark meat has solid demand and was up. Bone-in dark meat is flat.



Pork

Butts continue to be the value buy compared to other proteins; however, they continue to trade sideways as supplies are tight and demand remains strong. Loins are also following suit with butts, expect the concessions to slow down and for them to begin to trade sideways. Bellies have come off their highs from the last few weeks, but supplies remain constrained.



Grains / Oil

The USDA report out last week highlighted less soybean oil stocks, so the soybean oil market rose. But it is still trading within a range and while the futures market is higher, cash values are mostly unchanged. Canola is in the beginning stage of harvest, which is showing smaller seeds, so less oil, due to the drought. Palm is higher.



Dairy

The cheese markets increased week over week with milk tightness due to schools' return. The butter markets were also increased week over week also with tighter milk supply. All shell eggs were increased significantly week over week with strong demand from retail and foodservice.



Seafood

The North Atlantic Lobster tails (6-7oz and larger) are on allocation until at least December when the Nova Scotia season starts. Warm water lobster tails from the new season have started to arrive in the US. Portico brand lobster tails will be available in a few weeks. Pasteurized crab meat is extremely short.

Beef

The availability of meat is now overshadowing price increases; with back-to-back reduced harvest, the supply chain once again is dry. The whole beef complex benefited from overall market strength, with nothing showing a drop in pricing. Ribs, briskets, and chucks led the way in pricing gains as all are in high demand for Labor Day ads. Grinds are increasing with the nearing holiday.

Hot News

Beef

Beef demand at home and around the globe are at 30-year highs as the U.S. and global economies recover. Demand remains strong in 2021, a trend that will continue in 2022, especially with tight global protein supply.

Produce

Challenges remain with lack of labor, freight and operational challenges in all segments of the business, making for challenges in the executions of the supply chain flow from harvest to shipping to receiving.

Seafood

Pasteurized crab meat is extremely short with no immediate replacement opportunities. The supply situation is not expected to improve until late fall. The US ports continue to experience delays due to labor issues.

▶ To learn more contact your local marketing associate. Market Corner Produce information reflects both US and Canadian markets. All other commodity information is based on US market data only.



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Asparagus

Market active. Central Mexico fields are starting to wind down and expect supplies to get tighter. Quality reported as ok.

Avocados-Alert

Volumes out of Mexico continue to be limed with very active markets as a result. There is no big fruit being harvested – 40s and larger are non-existent. #2s have dropped to less than 2% of the harvest, with extremely limited availability on 48#2s and larger.

Cauliflower and Broccoli

Markets are steady this week as supplies on both have improved out of CA. Quality issues due to warmer weather on both are more present this week.

Brussel Sprouts-Alert

Market remains in a demand exceeds supply situation. Sizing is still a challenge thus reducing overall yields. Very limited supplies and active market conditions to remain for the next 2 weeks.

Bell Peppers-Alert

Red and yellow bells are extremely short supply for both the east and west coasts. Green bells are available with better supplies reported.

Chili Peppers-Alert

Hot pepper supply very light and markets are active. Inconsistent supplies out of California due to labor and moderate supplies out of Mexico will keep this market strong and limited on availability.

Cilantro-Alert

Market is extremely active with limited supplies. Unprecedented cool, spring-like conditions in late July/early August have driven a combination of leaf spotting, yellowing, and seeder throughout each production block during the last handful of weeks. Good quality has been a challenge to come by. Expect conditions to last another 2-3 weeks.

Grapes

Green grapes mostly steady on good volume. Red grapes are in short supply as we transition out of flames into new varieties. Heat and labor issues pushing good red volume out another two weeks.

Lemons, Oranges and Limes-Alert

Limes: market is very active and large size fruit is very hard to come by. Lemons: Supplies are improving due to increased import volume. Oranges: 88ct, 113, and 138ct are light in supply with active markets.

Leaf and Lettuce

Yields continue to drop across the industry. Markets are expected to start to see increasing signs of market activity over the next 2-4 weeks. Quality has moved from good to fair as weather conditions start to change.

Mushrooms-Alert

The mushroom category remains challenged on supply and labor issues. Several varieties are impacted. Challenges are expected to last for several months. Shiitake and oyster mushrooms remain in a demand exceed supply situation. Other varieties such as white buttons and portabellas also are seeing supply challenges as well.

Mixed Berries-Blueberry Alert

Raspberries and Blackberries: Good supplies on both to meet all demand needs. Quality is being reported as fair to good. Blueberries: Market is more active this week as supplies start to slow down with the reduced production out of the Pacific Northwest. New fruit coming in from Peru is expected in the next few weeks. Quality is being reported as fair.

Potatoes

Market active, the transition to new crop has started in a light way, size profile is smaller, and yields are lower. The next 4-6 weeks will be very challenging in particular 40 – 70 ct. Quality reported currently as fair at this time.

Strawberries-Alert

Market is firmer this week. Strong demand continues as yields continue to drop in the Salinas/Watsonville regions. More reports of labor challenges are on the arise as well from suppliers. Expect to see firmer markets as we finish out the summer months.

Squash-Alert

Zucchini and yellow squash remain short supply, demand is strong, and quality is good on the few being harvested in the east. West Coast, yellow and zucchini in short, limited supplies on yellow and zucchini to lesser extent; no relief until late next week. Demand and movement very good.

Top Produce Items

Below are additional items on Alerts

Labor and Freight

Continuing into this week are loading issues due to lack of consistent labor. Driver shortages coupled with higher freight rates continue to be ongoing topics of concern across the produce industry as well as others.

Shallots

Market remains very active and limited in supplies on fresh shallots. Relief not expected till September.

Hot House

Long English cucumbers are very short in supply. Campari, Beefsteak and medley tomatoes extremely limited supplies.

Eggplant

Supplies light in the East, demand good and market steady due to New Jersey supply. West supplies very short on larger sizes, predominantly 24's and smaller, industry wide including Mexico and U.S. production; possible prorates unless smaller size can be subbed.

Arugula

Supplies are shorted this week as yields have dropped due to quality issues in the felids.