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MARKET WATCH



Ingredients for your Success



Poultry

► Production is constrained from lighter birds weights and lower bird placements. The jumbo wing market has been dropping and supply is readily available. Tenders availability is tightening. The random breast market is very strong. Portion control breasts have strong demand and have tight supplies due to labor.



Pork

► Butts came down again for next week, the markets are expect to level off for the time being. Backribs remain flat and availability increasing. St. Louis and spares are still trending up with increased demand. Loins are trending up with increased retail demand. Bellies are still showing signs of weakness for next week as well.



Beef

► As Easter approaches, the market confidence and outlook appear bullish, expecting sales and demand to roll into the months ahead. Middle meats continue to show subtle increases, as are expected, ribs, strips and tenders are all in good shape. End cuts, rolls, eyes and knuckles, need slight discounting to keep pace with rest of the end complex.



Dairy

► The cheese and butter markets are up this week due to stronger demand. The egg market declined for the week due to higher pricing curbing demand leading into the holiday season.



Grains / Oil

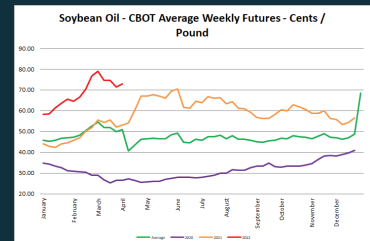
► Soybean exports increased as the South American crop is worsening. Strong demand for both food and fuel pushed the soybean oil market higher, and Canola moved with it. Palm oil lowered last week with increased production.



Seafood

► There is a shortage of Gulf Oysters. They will remain in tight supply until November. Lent is wrapping up with Good Friday and Easter Sunday marking the end of the religious holidays. Please make sure to include seafood items in your featured menu to mark the occasion. Portico Simply Alaska Cod is now available.

Market Headlines



Turkey

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza is having it's worst outbreak since 2015. As of today 3.7 million Turkeys have been lost which make up 1.7% of the US Turkey population, mostly in the Midwest.

Seafood

Record low harvest for Gulf Oysters due to mortality rate and several fishing areas being shut down. All Texas public fishing areas are closed. Oyster companies are scrambling to get raw materials to freeze.

Produce

Texas and Mexico Border crossing issues may impact several fresh produce items as trucks are being held for inspection times taking upwards of 24-36 hours for trucks to cross that typically took 3-6 hours



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Asparagus

- ▶ Market active as Mexico production in the main growing region starts to wind down. Peru arrivals are improving but supply chain issues continue to disrupt the production ramp up. End of April expected to struggle with supply.

Avocado - Alert

- ▶ The industry has seen a steady decline in harvest and shipments out of Mexico over the past few weeks. With the no-harvest days this week for Holy Week, the limited availability and harvest are expected to continue affecting the overall market. The crops from Mexico and California continue to peak on grade 1 fruit, size 60 and smaller. Markets are active.

Artichokes - Alert

- ▶ Active markets and shorter supplies to be seen for the next 7 days.

Broccoli & Cauliflower

- ▶ Supplies improved on both for this week.

Brussels Sprouts - Alert

- ▶ Over the last few months when sprouts were in heavy supplies, growers had to walk by fields. Lack of supplies coupled with warm weather has caused the sprouts to be very large in sizing and border crossings are not helping the situation either. Trucks are delayed 1-2 days just waiting for reefers to become available to re load in Mexico. Market will be active, and supplies will be short for the next 2-3 weeks.

Carrots - Alert

- ▶ No change on the carrots out of CA. Suppliers still are struggling at times with capacity issues on snack packs. Jumbos are still short out of CA and one shipper has stopped shipping Jumbos in cartons. Carrot sticks for some also remain a challenge with the main carrot processor only packing a 2-inch stick, instead of a 4-inch stick.

Cucumber - Alert

- ▶ Florida cucumber supply is good, quality good and demand very strong, market steady at current prices. Mexico supplies still very tight, good demand and market active.

Corn - Alert

- ▶ Florida spring crop has started; reports of sporadic supply and quality varies by grower. Cool morning temps have kept size and maturity at a lower level; expect better volume by the end of the week. Mexico supplies extremely limited as the season winds down over the next 10 days.

Citrus - Alert

- ▶ Lemons: Supplies are good with moderate demand. Sizing is peaking on the large sizes fancy grade. Pack outs are 75-80% fancy. Small choice grade is less abundant. Market is higher on small sizes.
- ▶ Oranges: Market is steady with moderate to good demand. Color and sugar are very good. Sizing is heavy to 72's and larger fancy grade and lighter on smaller sizes choice grade. Pack outs are 75-80% fancy. Small sizes are becoming shorter in supply and prices are starting to increase.
- ▶ Lime: Supply continues to be limited in 110's through 175's. Peak volume on 200's and smaller. Key lime market is lower, and this will also help demand slow down on Persian limes in Mexico. Due to the extremely strong market growers are harvesting everything they can to take advantage of the pricing, not allowing fruit to allowing fruit to stay on the tree long enough to size up. Flexibility is needed on sizing as suppliers will have to sub sizes with due to the larger sizes being extremely tight.

Garlic

- ▶ Supplies of CA Garlic continue to dwindle down. As a result, more product from Argentina to be seen in the coming weeks.

Green Beans - Alert

- ▶ Florida bean supply lighter, demand strong and market trying to get better for the weekend. Mexico still very limited supplies at this time due to gap in production; expect new supplies in the next 2-3 weeks.

Onions

- ▶ Market active, Mexico border issues, if prolonged, will start to have a deeper impact as Texas does not have all the volume without support. S California will start next week. WA/ID markets softer as they are now in clean up mode, Texas firmer with rain and border issues. Quality varies by region.

Tomato - Alert

- ▶ Tomato market remains unchanged out east. Availability will improve as the transition from South FL to Central FL is completed in the next 1-2 weeks. Markets from Mexico remain unchanged on round, roma, and grapes.

PRODUCE MARKET Updates

Iceberg, Leaf, & Romaine

Markets on iceberg, romaine and romaine hearts are starting to adjust as demand has calmed and new growing regions have started. Market is expected to be unsettled still for the next 7-10 days as the transition from AZ to CA wraps up

Peppers - Alert

Florida green bell supply light, with active markets. Red and yellow bells very short supply. West green bells remain short and will continue to be short for another week or more; Mexico production winding down quickly and California slowly ramping up. Red and yellow starting to finish in mainland Mexico, volume in Baja picking up.

Raspberries & Blackberries

All berries crossing from Mexico through Texas are getting delayed and is impacting timely shipments. Raspberries & Blackberries have been impacted the most as Mexico currently is the largest area producing this fruit.

Watermelons, Cantaloupes, & Honeydews

Light supplies on all melons as the transition from growing regions has started and limited ocean freight is delaying some arrivals for suppliers.