



# MARKET WATCH

Published: April 29, 2022



*Ingredients for your Success*



## Poultry

- Production has been constrained from lighter bird weights and lower bird placements. Wings (all sizes) are lower, readily available and seen as the best value in the complex. Tenders availability is tight. The random breast market is very strong. Portion control breast have strong demand and have tight supplies due to labor.



## Pork

- Butts are taking a slight lift in the market next week, expected to begin to trade sideways. Ribs are moving higher as suppliers prepare for Memorial Day and summer bookings. Loins remained relatively flat for next week. Bellies are moving down for next week, finally giving concessions. Hams are relatively flat as well for next week, with potential gains later in the week.



## Beef

- The Cattle on Feed report was released and reflected: cattle on feed higher than expected @ approximately 12.1 million head, while placements came in strong. The placement # is an indicator of feeders sending cattle to feedlots due to continued drought conditions. Heifers make up a large percent of cattle on feed; this shows less ability to rebuild out-front cattle supply.



## Dairy

- Higher butter demand has caused a drop in the butter market. Cheese demand is up but exports are causing a decline in the cheese market. Eggs are up for the week despite the continued effect of Avian Influenza.



## Seafood

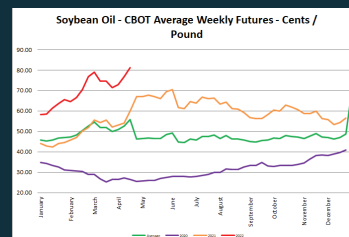
- Mother's Day and Cinco de Mayo are next on the calendar for restaurants to feature seafood on their menus. Among the popular species featured are shrimp and salmon. Record low harvest for Gulf Oysters due to mortality rates and several fishing areas being shut down. All Texas public fishing areas are closed.



## Grains / Oil

- Indonesia shut off exports of refined palm oil, sent soybean oil futures markets, once again, into record territory. Palm oil is the globe's largest food oil. The markets were sent scrambling on a real supply need to fill the void. All veg oil varieties moved higher.

## Market Headlines



## Beef

Supply continues to be tight around items that take many head of cattle to fill 1 case, causing prices to climb. Teres majors, for instance, will be extremely tight throughout the market.

## Eggs

Due to avian influenza being identified in 3 of 4 flyways, infected laying chickens are being euthanized and causing egg prices to rapidly increase with declining stocks.

## Soybean Oil

Soybean oil futures traded at all-time highs, over 88 cents per pound.



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## Asparagus - Alert

- ▶ Market firmer, volume continues to drop in Mexico and Peru is a few weeks away from stronger volume. Domestic supplies are slowly ramping up, but not enough to offset. Industry not expected to keep up with Mother's Day demand.

## Avocado - Alert

- ▶ Mexico – Seeing more availability out of Mexico on sizes however, the size curve is peaking on 48ct with 60s trailing. #2 fruit is making up 10-20% of the pack out. California – Harvest has increased about 33% week over week but even with a 33% increase, supplies are still not expected to all needed demand.

## Brussels Sprouts

- ▶ Market continues active with lower supplies being reported. Unsettled markets for the next 7-10 days

## Cabbage & Bok Choy - Alert

- ▶ Market is active with less overall supplies available. Active markets for the next 7-10 days.

## Broccoli & Cauliflower

- ▶ Good supplies to meet demand needs for both broccoli and cauliflower.

## Carrots - Alert

- ▶ Suppliers are still struggling at times with capacity issues on snack packs, shredded and peeled jumbo carrots. Jumbos remain short out of CA and one shipper not 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. limited with good demand. Coachella starting next month in a limited manner.

## Tomato

- ▶ Out East, supplies continue to improve as availability increases out of the central FL growing region. Crown picking continues to yield larger sized round fruit with good quality.

## Citrus - Alert

- ▶ Lemons: Market is mainly steady with a slight increase on large fancy due to better demand. The crop is heavy to mostly large fancy grade. Small choice is lighter in supply.
- ▶ Oranges: Small sizes 113 and 138 counts are limited in supply, with markets getting very active.
- ▶ Lime: Supply continues to be limited in 110-175's, the lack of rain, high temperature and frequent harvesting has not allowed fruit to grow size into those sizes, still seeing majority of 230's, 250's. Do not expect volume on large sizes until possible late May, if the growing region receives the much needed rain.

## Leaf, Iceberg, Romaine

- ▶ Good supply on all iceberg, romaine, and leaf lettuces to meet all demand needs.

## Green Beans- Alert

- ▶ Mexico very limited volume nearing the end of season and Coachella starting in a very small way. Florida - Bean supply lighter as crops transition north. Demand strong, quality good, and market much stronger.

## Onions - Alert

- ▶ Market active. Texas experiencing on and off rain, which is impeding harvesting. S California is picking up as new crop continues to come on. Washington and Idaho in clean up mode and basically done.

## Melons

- ▶ Cantaloupe: The market is strong with limited availability. Prices will start to decrease as volume from Mexico increases in the coming weeks. Honeydew: The market is very short with limited supplies. The market is expected to decrease as Mexico picks up steam over the coming weeks.

## Peppers - Chilies - Alert

- ▶ Florida Hot pepper supply scattered, quality good, and limited supplies from day to day. Mexico all chiles remain active and should remain that way all month.

## Peppers - Green, Red, & Yellow - Alert

- ▶ Florida Green bell supply better on off-grades only, demand slower, quality hit and miss. Mainland Mexico continues to slowly wind down, expect to keep shipping product through Nogales for 2 more weeks. Baja in good production on reds/yellows and Coachella is up and running with green bells. Coachella reds in mid-May. Green bell pricing remaining active but expected to adjust at the end of next week.

## PRODUCE MARKET Updates