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MARKET WATCH



Ingredients for your Success



Poultry

► Production has been constrained from lighter birds 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 shifted down for next, with possibly maybe one more week of softness before demand increases and the market moves up. Spareribs are in short supply as packers are converting to St. Louis. Loins moved up as there has been some interest in the retail market. Bellies had another week of large concessions. Hams are seeing large gains as exports are up.



Beef

► Last week was disappointing, with demand from consumers under performing; large harvest #'s and sporadic bad weather were the key drivers. Packers have had to entice buyers w/ lower offers on middle meats leading into Mother's Day. Rib, strips, tenders should soften after the holiday this weekend. Chucks and rounds can only hope to maintain current levels and not lose more ground.



Dairy

► The barrel market is down for the week due to increased milk availability. Eggs are still up because of the Avian Influenza situation and butter is down for the week as demand falls for the week.



Seafood

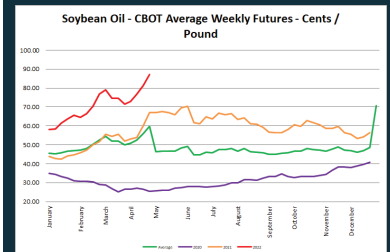
► Supply chain concerns from Asia extend lead times for seafood products. Canadian crab cluster season has begun, there are reports of a Right Whale spotted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and there is an expected partial closure. Pricing in short term will move up. Scallop season has begun, the landings are increasing.



Grains / Oil

► Indonesia increased their export mandates which caused the soybean oil market to trade over 90 cents last week, which is, again, another record. Palm markets are in record territory. It looks like Canada will not plant as much Canola this crop year, so Canola is moving higher.

Market Headlines



Seafood

The domestic shrimp season is now over. The new season will commence sometime in May for Whites and in July for Browns. The jumbo headless shell-on shrimp, the larger sizes P&D/Peeled shrimp supplies are getting tight.

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

The soybean oil market, once again, hit another record high, moving over 90 cents per pound.



MARKET WATCH

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Asparagus - Alert

- ▶ Market remains active as supplies are still short. Mexico still in transition, Peru is beginning to improve, and we have domestic supplies that should come on in the next week or so, which should help to settle the market.

Avocado - Alert

- ▶ MX- The size curve is peaking on 48ct /60s #2 fruit is making up 15-20% of the pack. Current crop outlook is for tight supplies until the end of the season in late June. CA-In peak season with harvest increasing each week. The size curve is heavy to 48s and smaller.

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

- ▶ Increased market activity being seen this week on both broccoli and cauliflower.

Carrots - Alert

- ▶ Shredded carrots, rainbow shredded carrots and 2 in peeled carrots are now short in supply in addition to shortages on snack pack and jumbo carrots out of California. 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.

Tomato

- ▶ Eastern supplies continue to improve out of Central FL. Crown picking continues to yield larger sized round fruit. Mexico continues to have a steady supply on all rounds, grapes, & cherries. Roma market remains active.

Parsley

- ▶ Parsley is being challenged with quality issues causing lighter supplies and stronger markets. Heavy seeder is being seen for some suppliers.

Citrus - Alert

- ▶ Lemons: The crop is heavy to mostly large fancy grade. Small choice is lighter in supply.
- ▶ Oranges: Volume is peaking on large fancy grade. Small choice grade 113-138 counts are getting short in supply. Valencia's are starting in a light and are being used to fill in on small sizes.
- ▶ Lime: Markets starting to adjust however, flexibility is needed on sizing as suppliers will have to sub sizes due to the larger sizes being extremely tight.

Leaf, Iceberg, Romaine

- ▶ Stronger markets being seen this week with good demand on all leaf lettuces, romaine, romaine hearts and iceberg lettuce.

Green Beans- Alert

- ▶ Mexico very limited volume as season ends, quality fair and Coachella starting in a very small way. Market active. Florida - Bean supply extremely limited as South Florida finishes up and transitions North, current production gap. Markets extremely active.

Onions - Alert

- ▶ Market active, more so in Texas as they are in transition to the central region and experiencing on and off rain which is impeding harvesting and adding market pressure. S California volume is picking up as new crop continues to come on.

Melons

- ▶ Cantaloupe: Increased supplies from Mexico is causing the market to adjust. All sizes available. Honeydew: The market is also adjusting as volume from Mexico increases. Sizing is heavy to large. Watermelon-Supplies are increasing as the crop transitions to new growing areas.

Peppers - Chilies - Alert

- ▶ Florida Hot pepper supply scattered, quality good, and markets strong for most varieties. Mexico moderate supplies with good demand.

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