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MARKET WATCH



Ingredients for your Success



Poultry

Hot weather in the south continues to affect bird weights. Breast markets have started to strengthen as supply has tightened. Tenders are strengthening and are still in short supply. Whole birds are mostly even. Wings of all sizes are in high demand and supply is very tight. Dark meat is steady on solid demand.



Pork

Bellies continue to be the driver of gains, while the remaining primal's are seeing declines. Butts are continuing their race to the bottom, with loins following suit. Ribs continue to trend downwards and should continue on that trend until we get closer to Labor Day. Green hams continue to trend up with strong exports to Mexico.



Beef

Market activity is mixed, as reduced harvest, reduced demand, and higher cattle prices appear to be impacting market confidence. Middle meat is steady. Tenders and ribs have firmed. Interest is flat on loin cuts but may garner attention w/ the rib showing gains. End cuts continue to show a steady balance. Grinds continue to reflect mixed offerings and a steady tone.



Dairy

Shell Egg markets mostly steady, however some softness continues in California markets. Cheese markets rally this week but could stay firm for next week. Butter markets are steady. Cream and Culture pricing will be flat to slightly up depending on categories listed below.



Grains / Oil

Weather has improved in the growing region for soybeans, so soybean oil futures fell last week; although, biofuel demand is high keeping volatility high. Canola is lower with pressure from lower soybean oil and European Canola. Palm also moved lower with pressure from soybean oil, but also due to increasing stocks.

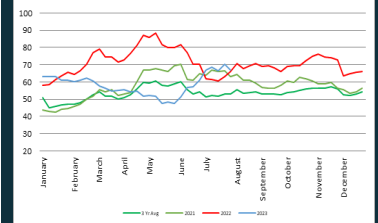


Seafood

Snow crab season is closing mid-August and pricing is firming up. Any remaining inventories of Russian King Crab should be depleted. Operators looking for replacements should look to S. American Santolla Crab and Golden King Crab as a sub. Imported shrimp inventories are at equilibrium.

Market Headlines

Soybean Oil - CBOT Average Weekly Futures - Cents / Pound



Seafood

Snow crab season extended in multiple areas into August due to full quota not being caught. Delayed season opener caused by the hold out of the FFAW over pricing is the main driver of these extensions.

Chicken

High temperatures across the south is keeping bird weight down and limiting production on Jumbo Chicken products. Expect an already tight wing and tender market to continue to experience constraints.



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Asparagus- Alert

Jumbo and extra large sizing is extremely short with shippers experiencing issues with other sizes as well. Hail in Central Mexico delayed harvest for two days. Outlook is at least 8 weeks of continued limited volume.

Avocado- Alert

Markets remain elevated on 48's and larger; supplies are very tight and extremely limited on 32s/36s as demand exceeds supplies. Flexibility on size, grade and COO is needed to get orders filled.

Broccoli

Markets continue to hold firm to a bit higher. Expect things to remain like this for another week or two.

Brussels Sprouts

Short supplies continue, quality good to fair, but the overall crop remains well behind normal supply for this time of year. Anticipate 3-4 more weeks before we see improvement.

Cabbage - Green & Red

Market steady to lower on both red and green cabbage.

Cauliflower

Good supplies. Sizing has improved and quality is good. Markets are steady and demand is light.

Celery

Supplies much better, quality very good, market down.

Cilantro/Parsley

Cilantro supplies are market is softer. Good supplies on Italian parsley but a little tighter on curly parsley, but no supply issues anticipated.

Eggplant - Alert

East – Eggplant supply lighter, quality is hit and miss, and market is steady. West – Strong Market, expected to see better volume in two weeks. For now, market is volatile.

Potatoes

Demand remains light. Prices are declining, mostly on large sizes as growers unload inventory prior to new crop Idaho ramping up. Old crop is getting tired and pack outs are also decreasing. Idaho new crop has started with a few sheds this week and more to come next week.

Citrus - Alert

Lemons –California supplies are tight and expected to remain so through at least mid-September. There are some Argentina, Chilean, and Mexican lemons in the market that may be a better-quality alternative for some.

Oranges– Valencia's are peaking on 88/113/72. Starting to see more availability on choice grade. With schools starting back up demand of smaller fruit has increased. Anticipate things getting tight at the end of the month early September.

Limes- Supply is heavier in combo quality and small sizes. Still seeing limited supply in large sizes 110/150's. Demand has not been optimal, keeping prices high but stable. Expect tighter volume on anything larger than 175's next week.

Grapes

Great quality coming from the San Joaquin Valley, this market remains steady.

Peppers-Red&Yellow-Alert

East – Green bell supply better, quality is good, and demand lower. Market lowering some. Red and yellow bells are short supply in the east. West- Growing area shift has colored peppers in short supply and moderate quality. Green is better market is mostly steady.

Onions

Markets are slightly soft due to excess inventory in the pipelines. California will be winding down this week and New Mexico next week. Washington to be starting in earnest next week and Idaho the following week

Pineapple

Supplies remain very tight especially on the large sizes and expected to remain that way until early September; this condition is industry wide spread.

Squash

East – Zucchini and yellow squash supply very light, quality is hit or miss due to weather. Market is strong. West- Moderate demand and steady supplies. Quality issues in yellow.

Tomatoes

Round & roma supply remains steady on light demand and good quality. Grape and cherry markets are increasing due to light supply both east and west.

PRODUCE MARKET Updates

Leaf, Iceberg, & Romaine

Market is active and supply varies by grower with some holding to averages but there is open market available. Romaine and all leaf good quality, supplies good and market steady.

Peppers-Chilies

Quality just fair and supplies short in pockets of the East and extremely short in the West with very high demand.