



MARKET TRENDS

FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 21, 2017

 **PERFORMANCE**
FOODSERVICE



MARKET TRENDS

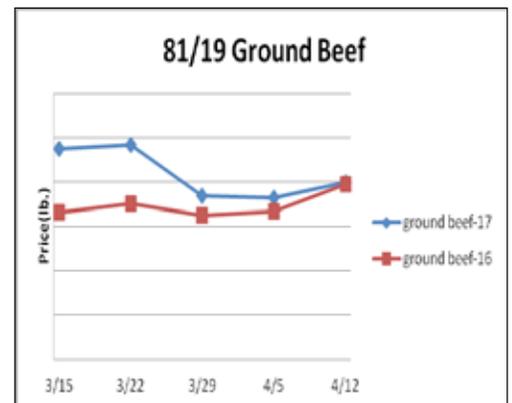
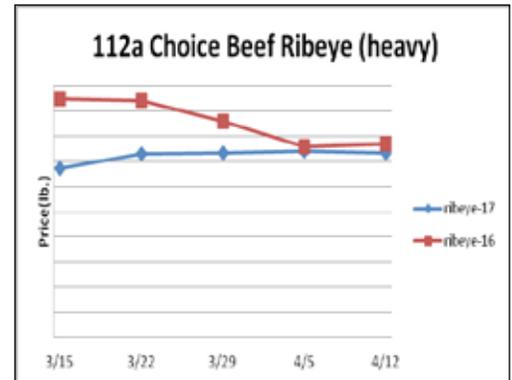
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Beef, Veal & Lamb

Beef production last week declined 3.6% but was still 6.3% larger than the same week last year. Cattle slaughter was the smallest since January. Slaughter ready cattle supplies are expected to improve in the coming months which should fuel strong year over year gains in beef output. Beef demand has picked up and there is evidence that retailers will heavily feature choice steak cuts in the coming weeks. Forward beef sales 22-90 days out for choice boxed beef last week was the largest since the summer of 2015. This could be supportive of the beef middle meat markets this spring. February beef imports were down 12.2% from 2016. This is buoying lean beef trim prices.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Live Cattle (Steer)	Decreasing	Short	Lower
Feeder Cattle Index (CME)	Increasing	Short	Lower
Ground Beef 81/19	Increasing	Good	Higher
Ground Chuck	Increasing	Good	Lower
109 Export Rib (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
109 Export Rib (pr)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
112a Ribeye (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
112a Ribeye (pr)	Increasing	Good	Higher
114a Chuck , Shlder Cld(ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
116 Chuck (sel)	Increasing	Good	Lower
116 Chuck (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
116b Chuck Tender (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
120 Brisket (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
120a Brisket (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
121c Outside Skirt (ch/sel)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
121d Inside Skirt (ch/sel)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
121e Cap & Wedge	Increasing	Good	Lower
167a Knuckle, Trimmed (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
168 Inside Round (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
169 Top Round (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
171b Outside Round (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
174 Short Loin (ch 0x1)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
174 Short Loin (pr 2x3)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
180 0x1 Strip (pr)	Increasing	Good	Higher
180 0x1 Strip (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
184 Top Butt, boneless (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
184 Top Butt, boneless (pr)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
184-3 Top Butt, bnls (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
185a Sirloin Flap (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
185c Loin, Tri-Tip (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
189a Tender (sel, 5 lb & up)	Increasing	Good	Higher
189a Tender (ch, 5 lb & up)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
189a Tender (pr, heavy)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
193 Flank Steak (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
50% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Higher
65% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Lower
75% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Higher
85% Trimmings	Decreasing	Short	Lower
90% Trimmings	Decreasing	Short	Higher
90% Imported Beef (frz)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
95% Imported Beef (frz)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Veal Rack (Hotel 7 rib)	Steady	Good	Lower
Veal Top Round (cap off)	Steady	Good	Lower



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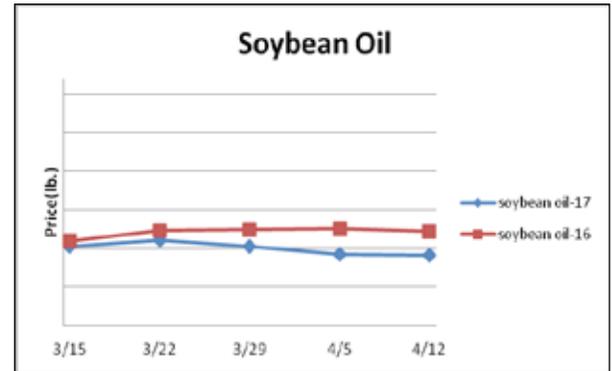
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Grains

The USDA is projecting 2017-18 domestic corn (4.3%) and wheat (8.2%) acreage to decline sharply from the prior crops. Conversely, soybean plantings are forecasted to rise 7.3% to a record high. Rain induced planting delays in the Midwest could bring support to corn prices in the near term.

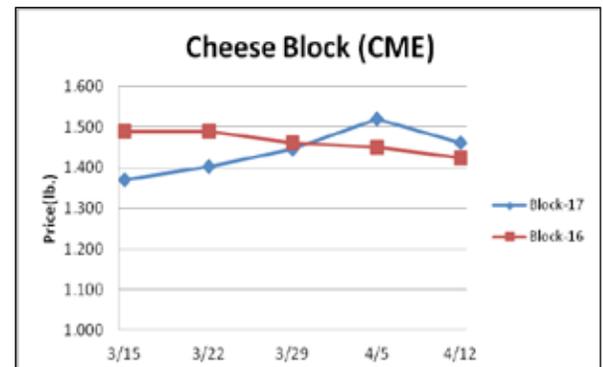
Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Soybeans, bushel	Increasing	Good	Lower
Crude Soybean Oil, lb	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Soybean Meal, ton	Increasing	Good	Higher
Corn, bushel	Increasing	Good	Lower
Crude Corn Oil, lb	Decreasing	Good	Lower
High Fructose Corn Syrup	Increasing	Good	Same
Distillers Grain, Dry	Increasing	Good	Lower
Crude Palm Oil, lb BMD	Decreasing	Good	Higher
HRW Wheat, bushel	Increasing	Good	Lower
DNS Wheat 14%, bushel	Steady	Good	Higher
Durum Wheat, bushel	Decreasing	Short	Lower
Pinto Beans, lb	Increasing	Good	Higher
Black Beans, lb	Steady	Good	Higher
Rice, Long Grain, lb	Steady	Good	Lower



Dairy

Deflated nonfat dry milk prices are causing class III milk to trade above class IV encouraging cheese output in lieu of butter. Cheese production during February was 2.1% more than 2016 while butter output was down by 2.4%. March 1st domestic nonfat dry milk stocks were 19.9% more than last year and the fourth biggest for any month. This suggests that fairly engaging nonfat dry milk and cheese prices could persist. Conversely, the CME butter market may continue to trade at a premium. Butter prices have been higher in May from April in eight of the last 10 years.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Cheese Barrels (CME)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Cheese Blocks (CME)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
American Cheese	Increasing	Good	Higher
Cheddar Cheese (40 lb)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Mozzarella Cheese	Increasing	Good	Higher
Provolone Cheese	Steady	Good	Same
Parmesan Cheese	Increasing	Good	Lower
Butter (CME)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Nonfat Dry Milk	Decreasing	Ample	Higher
Whey, Dry	Increasing	Good	Higher
Class 1 Base	Steady	Good	Higher
Class II Cream, heavy	Increasing	Good	Higher
Class III Milk (CME)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Class IV Milk (CME)	Decreasing	Good	Higher



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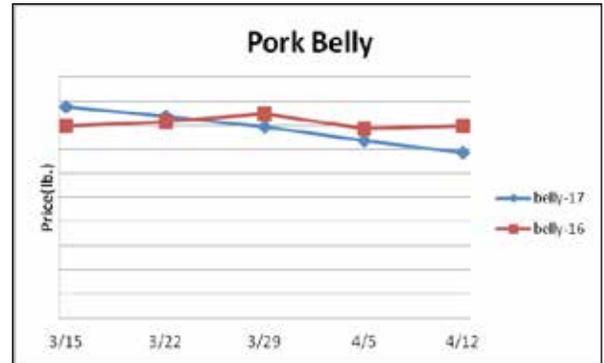
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Pork

Pork output last week fell 1.6% but was 6.2% bigger than the same week a year ago. Hog slaughter reached a four-week low. Solid year over year gains in pork production are anticipated during the next several months. The USDA pork cutout index of prices recently declined to its lowest level since early December. However, solid export demand could limit the downside in prices this spring. U.S. pork exports during February were 19.6% better than the prior year with Mexican imports up 27.3% and a record for the month.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Live Hogs	Decreasing	Ample	Lower
Sow	Increasing	Ample	Higher
Belly (bacon)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Sparerib(4.25 lb & down)	Increasing	Good	Lower
Ham (20-23 lb)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Ham (23-27 lb)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Loin (bone in)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Babyback Rib (1.75 lb & up)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Tenderloin (1.25 lb)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Boston Butt, untrmd (4-8 lb)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Picnic, untrmd	Steady	Good	Higher
SS Picnic, smoker trm box	Increasing	Good	Higher
42% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Lower
72% Trimmings	Increasing	Good	Higher



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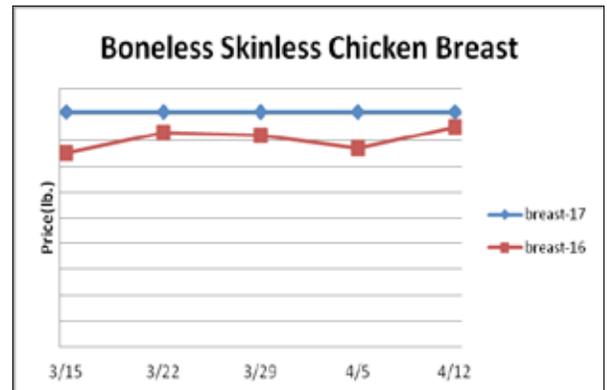
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Poultry

Chicken production for the week ending April 1st rose 1.1% from the previous week and was 1.4% larger than the same week last year. The six-week moving average for chicken output is just 1.3% more than 2016. This is due in a large part to lighter bird weights which have been tracking .8% below a year ago. Chicken producer margins have improved as of late which could lead to better year over year output expansion in the coming months. U.S. chicken exports during February were 2% larger than last year and the biggest for the month since 2013. Unless trade is disrupted with the largest importer Mexico, solid chicken export demand is expected to endure which should be supportive of the leg quarter markets. February U.S. chicken exports to Mexico were down 17.9% from 2016.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Whole Birds WOG-Nat	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Wings (jumbo cut)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Wing Index (ARA)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Breast, Bnless Skinless NE	Increasing	Good	Higher
Breast, Bnless Skinless SE	Increasing	Good	Higher
Breast Boneless Index (ARA)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Tenderloin Index (ARA)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Legs (whole)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Leg Quarter Index (ARA)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Thighs, Bone In	Increasing	Good	Higher
Thighs, Boneless	Increasing	Good	Higher
Thighs, Bone In	Increasing	Good	Higher
Thighs, Boneless	Increasing	Good	Higher



Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Whole Turkey (8-16 lb)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Turkey Breast, Bnls/Sknls	Steady	Good	Lower

Eggs

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Large Eggs (dozen)	Steady	Short	Higher
Medium Eggs (dozen)	Decreasing	Short	Higher
Liquid Whole Eggs	Decreasing	Short	Lower
Liquid Egg Whites	Decreasing	Short	Lower
Liquid Egg Yolks	Increasing	Short	Higher
Egg Breaker Stock Central	Steady	Short	n/c



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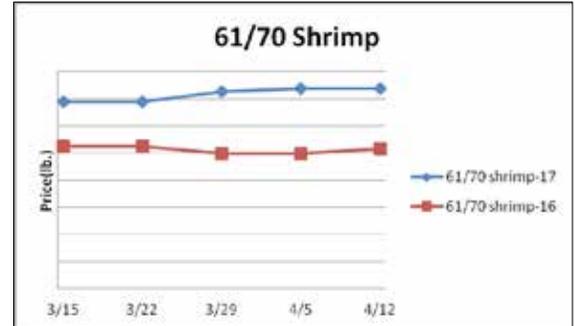
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Seafood

The shrimp markets continue to mostly trade above the previous year levels. This is due in part to lackluster imports. During February, the U.S. imported 7.1% less shrimp than the prior year and the smallest volume for any month since May. Shrimp imports could improve as 2017 progresses due in a large part to a relatively inflated value of the U.S. dollar.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Shrimp (16/20 frz)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Shrimp (61/70 frz)	Steady	Good	Higher
Shrimp Tiger (26/30 frz)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Snow Crab Legs (5-8 oz frz)	Steady	Good	Higher
Snow Crab Legs (8oz & up frz)	Steady	Good	Higher
Cod Tails (3-7 oz frz)	Steady	Good	Lower
Cod Loins (3-12 oz frz)	Steady	Good	Lower
Salmon Portions (4-8 oz frz)	Steady	Good	Higher
Pollock Alaska, Deep Skin	Steady	Good	Same



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Paper and Plastic Products

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
WOOD PULP (PAPER)			
NBSK- Paper napkin	Steady	Good	Higher
42 lb. Linerboard-corrugated box	Steady	Good	Higher
PLASTIC RESINS (PLASTIC, FOAM)			
PS-CHH-utensils, cups, to-go cont.	Steady	Good	Higher
PP-HIGP-heavy grade utensils	Steady	Good	Higher
PE-LLD-can liners, film, bags	Increasing	Good	Higher

Retail Price Change from Prior Month

Description	Feb '17	Jan '16	Dec '16
Beef and Veal	Increasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
Dairy	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Pork	Increasing	Increasing	Decreasing
Chicken	Increasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
Fresh Fish and Seafood	Decreasing	Increasing	Decreasing
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Increasing	Decreasing	Decreasing

Various Markets

After establishing a four-year high of \$3,422 in Q4 of 2015, nearby cocoa futures declined 45% to a nine-year low of \$1,881 last fall. They are on the decline as of late once again. Cocoa futures haven't trade appreciably below the \$1,800 level in over a decade.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Whole Peeled, Stand (6/10)	Steady	Good	Higher
Tomato Paste-Industrial (lb)	Steady	Good	Higher
Coffee lb ICE	Increasing	Good	Higher
Sugar lb ICE	Increasing	Ample	Higher
Cocoa mt ICE	Decreasing	Short	Lower
Orange Juice lb ICE	Increasing	Good	Higher
Honey (clover) lb	Steady	Good	Lower



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Produce

This month has been very unstable for the industry. We are experiencing **extreme markets** on **all** lettuce commodities, broccoli and cauliflower. We are also experiencing extreme markets with avocados, blueberries, celery, cilantro, garlic, and lemons. The continuing theme in the Salinas Valley is "Desperate measures for desperate times."

Leaf shippers have abandoned the desert and are entering Salinas's fields 10 to 12 days prior to the prescribed harvest dates. Shippers must do this or they will go without product. However, reaching this far ahead is "Robbing Peter to pay Paul." The results are very light weights and it delays the industry's eventual return to normal production. Green leaf 24ct shipping from Salinas currently weighs 17 to 19 lbs., romaine 24ct weighs 28 to 32 lbs., and romaine heart 12/3ct weighs 22 to 26 lbs.

The Yuma lettuce season will conclude in a matter of a few days. Huron will continue into early or mid-next week. Salinas's lettuce shippers will reach early and offer supplies beginning early next week. Initial lettuce production will be 40% to 60% below normal levels. Full production is not expected until the week of May 8 or May 15.

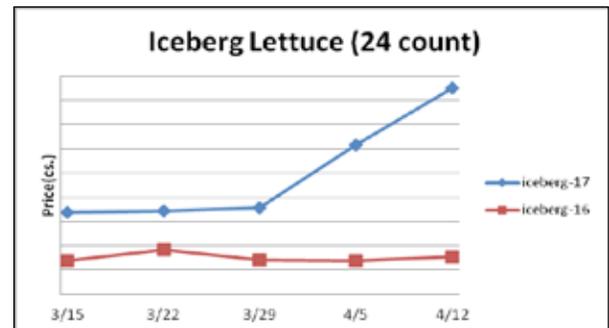
Broccoli is the tightest commodity at the moment and the market is undefined. The few lucky shippers with carton broccoli are offering the product with ICE ONLY.

Oxnard is the only west coast district harvesting celery. Celery prices are steady at current levels. Shippers are consolidating product to Salinas for mixer business. The Santa Maria season will begin in May and Salinas in June.

Driscoll will offer Salinas berries beginning Monday, April 24.

MARKET ALERT

- **Avocados – EXTREME**
- **Blueberries – EXTREME**
- **Broccoli – EXTREME**
- **Cabbage (Napa) – EXTREME**
- **Cauliflower – EXTREME**
- **Celery – EXTREME**
- **Cilantro – EXTREME**
- **Garlic – EXTREME**
- **Lemons – SIZING**
- **Lettuce – All Varieties – EXTREME**



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Produce

Apples & Pears

Most prices are weak, but the small-size Golden Delicious and Granny Smith markets are rising. Quality is excellent: flavor varies from sweet to tangy. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix. Prices are unchanged. D'Anjou volume remains high. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix. The California Bartlett season will begin in July.

Artichokes

We are seeing very high prices and very short supply. Quality is good.

Arugula

Supplies of both baby and wild arugula are light due to mildew.

Asparagus

The market is up due to strong demand for the Easter holiday. Limited stocks of packer label asparagus are being loaded in California.

Avocados

Prices will remain high through June. California volume will start to increase soon. Mexican supplies are adequate, but demand is strong. Quality is very good: texture is smooth and flavor is nutty.

Bananas

Demand and quality are good and supply is steady.

Berries:

Blueberries

Prices remain elevated; harvesting is in transition between growing regions. Domestic supplies are ramping up, while the Mexican season is winding down. Domestic quality is highest: berries are tangy, yet sweet.

Blackberries

Lower-than-normal temperatures have tightened supplies and pushed the market up from low levels. Quality is very good: fruit is plump, juicy, and sweet. Sugar levels vary from 12 to 13 Brix.

Raspberries

The market is steady; Mexican supplies are plentiful. Quality is best in Mexico; fruit is juicy and sweet. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Strawberries

Prices are stable; supplies are ample. Quality is fair: expect shorter-than-normal shelf life this week due to last week's light rain showers.

Green Beans

East: Supplies and demand continue to be good. FOB prices are higher than they were at this time last week but we expect prices to fall as we continue into the week. Quality is good.

West: FOB prices are higher this week. Quality is variable. MX fields should be finishing up by the end of April.

Bok Choy

Quality is good and we are seeing some higher quotes on WGA cartons.

Broccoli

The market is high; stocks are extremely limited. Supplies will increase in late April when production ramps up in California's Salinas Valley and Santa Maria. Mexican volume is low due to inclement weather. Quality is average: brown/ yellow beading is a minor problem.

Brussels Sprouts

Higher prices and tighter supplies. Quality is improving.

Celery

EXTREME MARKET / EXTREME SHORTAGES Unfortunately, we have not seen much improvement in this market. Prorates have been ranging between 35 %-50% this week. We are done in Yuma and the Oxnard crop is behind schedule. Quality is just fair. There will be issues for another 4-6 weeks.

Cantaloupe

Market steady with generally good supplies of 12's but a bit snug on the 9's and 15's due to good demand, the fruit quality looks very nice with excellent internal color and sugar and for the most part a nice clean green to straw netting and very firm. We expect to have good volume of the offshore fruit through April and then transition into the domestic fruit out of the Imperial Valley around the first week of May.



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Produce *(continued)*

Carrots

There is a good supply with solid quality.

Cauliflower

EXTREME MARKET/EXTREME SHORTAGES

Quality is improving. We expect to see prices increase and supplies to shorten up. Some growers are already in a gap and have no supplies at all.

Cilantro

EXTREME MARKET/EXTREME SHORTAGES

Quality is variable as there is still yellowing with some decay. Price are high and we are seeing shortages.

Cucumbers

East: Supplies continue to ramp-up from FL fields. FOB prices are generally steady on the supers and continue to drop on the select. Quality is good.

West: Nogales crossings continue. Baja crossings have started. Better supplies have caused FOB prices to fall from last week.

English Cucumber

Availability is plentiful in Nogales. Hot-house production will continue through April.

Eggplant

East: FOB prices are generally steady on the fancy and lower on the choice. Quality is good.

West: Nogales crossings continue and quality is good. FOB prices are down this week.



Fennel

Supplies for the week will be light.

Garlic

EXTREME MARKET

The supply of domestic garlic remains tight. Pricing on domestic peeled 4x5s is still high.

Ginger

Chinese ginger is in good supply. It is being offered at a substantial discount compared to ginger from Brazil.

Grapes

Market is strong on reds (Crimsons, Perlones, Timco) which are mostly 700 and 900 code and very few 500 code coming in. The overall quality of the reds is very good with full red color and clean with few to no splits and nice crunch to the berries with fair to good sugar content. The greens are looking fair with most lots needing to be repacked and we will continue to repack as most of the storage type fruit is just starting to arrive and it looks like we will be short on greens and that is starting now and prices will continue to climb on good solid fruit. We should have enough reds to get us through April and then we will start Mexico and Coachella Valley fruit around the first week of May, but the green grapes are going to be very tight and we could see a gap in supply in the next few weeks until we start Coachella and Mexico. The crop out of Mexico and Coachella looks excellent at this point but we will keep you posted as we learn more.

Green Cabbage

Green cabbage is in light supply and should be steady this week. Quality is good.

Red Cabbage

Quality and sizing have been great, with good color. Overall, the market is strong.

Green Onions

Iced: This market has leveled off with steady crossings last week. The crossings should remain at current levels with good supplies to promote for Easter.

Iceless: This market has leveled off and should remain steady. Contracts and pre-commitments are holding the market firm. With good supplies for the Easter pull coming up.

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Produce (continued)

Honeydew

Market is mostly steady as well with fair supplies on 5s, and a bit lighter on the 6-8's. The overall quality looks very good with a nice clean exterior condition with a green to cream color and excellent internal color and sugar and nice tight cavity. We will also have some good supplies going forward through April and transition into the Imperial Valley and Mexico volume around the second week of May.

Jicama

Normal prices, however, we expect this commodity to go up in price next week due to Easter. Quality is excellent.

Kale (Green)

Demand is steady and quality is average. We are seeing some mildew.

Kiwi

Supplies are good. We are still seeing slightly higher prices with quality being average.

Lemons

Market very strong and demand exceeds supply, especially on 140's and smaller as we are seeing some very large fruit here in dist. 1 and also size picking in dist. 2 which is also yielding larger sizes keeping the smaller fruit very strong. The overall quality is good to fair, with some clear rot showing up due to all the moisture in the ground and warmer weather which promotes mold spores. We will see the market continue to increase as demand has been very good across the board, this will be the trend as we start heading further into the spring which is normal. We will finish here in dist. 1 around the end of April and then we will be dependent upon only dist. 2 fruit until we see the Chilean fruit arrive around the first of June and they will increase their volume by mid-July and then Mexico starting around the first of August going through October.



Lettuce:

Butter

EXTREME MARKET

Prices are still moving higher and supplies are very light.

Green and Red Leaf

EXTREME MARKET/EXTREME SHORTAGES

We are seeing a lot of dirt due to the heavy winds, seeders and tip burn. We are seeing very short supply on green leaf, as well as very high prices, quality is good. Red leaf is now in very short supply and some growers are seeing a gap in supply.

Iceberg Lettuce

EXTREME MARKET/EXTREME SHORTAGES

Supplies are tight. Quality is average although we are starting to see improvement. Expect some rib light, cracked rip, and pale color.

Romaine

EXTREME MARKET/EXTREME SHORTAGES - Very light supplies. Quality is hit or miss with epidermal peeling and very light color. Please substitute this item with Iceberg if you can.

Romaine Hearts

EXTREME MARKET/EXTREME SHORTAGES

Supplies are VERY light. Prices are very high, we are seeing a very short supply.

Limes

Prices will start inching up due to labor shortages (due to Holy Week in Mexico); stocks will tighten.

Napa

EXTREME MARKET Supplies are very tight.

Onions

Markets have gotten very active and fob prices are moving up quickly. Right now there are only a few sheds in Idaho, Oregon and Washington that are still running old crop as the majority of the sheds have wrapped it up for the season. New crop onions out of Mexico are an option but so is south Texas. Texas is now offering all varieties and the quality has been nice. Southern California will begin its onion crop in a small way on April 19th and they will be in full production by Monday 4/24.

Oranges

Market is steady and strengthening as demand has been good domestically and export wise, we are into some of our late navel varieties that will be stronger than the regular season navels and also very light on the 113's and smaller on these late varieties. The fruit quality is good right now with

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Produce (continued)

excellent color and sugar and the fruit eats like candy, we are starting to see some puff and crease and some softer fruit due to the excessive amount of rains and the warm weather we have experienced. We are starting to see some fruit drop as well due to the bloom we are experiencing and the tree is trying to take care of the new set and the weaker fruit hanging on the tree will drop. We will for sure come up short of our original estimates for this year's navel crop, but will have supplies probably through May and not stretch it into July like last year. We have started some Valencia's and this year's crop looks like it is going to come up short as well and some of the most recent estimates are about 15-20% lighter than last year so we will probably see some strong prices starting out and do not expect to see things come off much but we will keep you posted as we go forward. Also with this lighter Valencia crop we are going to experience very light supplies on 113's and smaller through the summer and we expect August through mid-October until we start navels again, that we will be in a demand far exceeding supply on the smaller fruit.

Parsley (Curly, Italian)

We are seeing prices remain high and supplies being short.

Green Bell Pepper

East: Good supply. FOB prices are currently steady but we expect higher prices as supplies are tighter and demand is stronger. We expect the market to continue to be active until the CA crop begins with adequate volume which we expect to be the week of 4/23. Quality is good.

West: Good supplies continue. FOB prices are generally down. Sizing is on the smaller side. Quality is generally good.

Jalapeño Pepper

East: FOB prices are slightly higher this week. Quality is generally good.

Red & Yellow Bell Pepper

Prices are steady; supplies are sufficient. Growers will start harvesting in Coachella, California soon. Quality is very good: color is vibrant and flavor is spicy, yet sweet.

Pineapples

The market is slightly lower; expect better pricing after Easter. Quality is good: sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.

Idaho Potatoes

All the cartons except 100cts have gotten moderately stronger this week. Overall supply still seems good, but we do expect prices to slowly inch up through the month of April. Spring planting in Idaho has begun.

Radishes

Quality is good and supply is slowing down.

Salad Blends

The market is high. Romaine is limited; iceberg supplies are bit more plentiful. Heat-related defects are problems in the desert region.

Snow and Sugar Snap Peas

Snow and sugar snap peas are in high demand with good quality.

Spinach (Bunched)

Supply is average, quality is only fair. We are still seeing some mildew in this product.

Spinach (Baby)

Baby and clipped spinach supplies are light. Quality is fair to good, with good prices. There are some reports of mildew.

Spring Mix

Prices are unchanged. Growers are moving north to the Salinas Valley next week; the desert season is ending. New crop quality is excellent: large size is a slight problem in some lots.

Green Squash

East: Good supplies and quality. FOB prices remains generally steady on the fancy and mediums. Prices are down on the large.

West: FOB prices remain in a narrow trading range in the west. Quality is generally good.



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Produce (continued)

Yellow Squash

East: Good supplies continue out of central FL. The south GA crop has started to be harvested. FOB prices are a little stronger than they were at this time last week but we expect downward pressures as we head into the weekend. Quality continues to improve.

West: CA desert fields have begun to be harvested. FOB prices are generally steady on the medium and down on the fancy grade.

Tomatoes

East

Rounds

We continue to be in the gradual transition from our southern Florida (Immokalee) fields to the central Florida fields (Palmetto/Ruskin). Another central Florida grower started harvesting today and another is scheduled to begin around this weekend. Demand continues to be weak and supplies are good. This situation is putting downward pressure on FOB prices for the extra-large and large sizes. FOB prices remain steady on the medium size. Quality continues to be very good and should continue to be very good for the foreseeable future.

Romas

Medium sized Romas are tight this week. FOB prices are up on all sizes. Quality this week is very good.

Grapes

New and more supplies are causing FOB prices to fall this week. Prices are down for the 12/1 pt. flats. Due to lack of supplies and quality in the west, a large portion of the country continues to come to FL for supplies. Quality remains very good to excellent.

Cherries

Due to poor quality and supplies in the west, demand remains good in Florida. FOB prices are steady with upward pressure this week. Quality remains very good.

West/Mexico

Rounds

Demand continues to be light. Crossings continue at Nogales, McAllen and Baja. FOB prices remain at Suspension Agreement minimums. Quality is ok and sizing is on the small side. We are using MX2-layers for the largest sizes. The California crop should begin around June 10 with one grower. All growers should be going around the first week of July. Vine ripens from Mexico remain plentiful with poor demand. Prices remain at Suspension Agreement minimums except for the largest sizes which is seeing upward pressures due to tighter suppliers.

Romas

Nogales, Baja and McAllen crossings continue. FOB prices are off the minimums for the first time this winter and spring due to lighter yields and increased holiday demand. Quality continues to be variable and only mostly fair.

Grapes

Quality is variable and only fair at best on any available grapes. Re-packers are going east for supplies and quality product.

Cherries

Quality continues to be suspect and variable this week. We are continuing to see a wider-than-normal range in FOB prices which correspond to the quality. Many suppliers continue to go east to find quality product.

Watermelons

The market will start inching down in the next few weeks; supplies continue to increase. Quality is excellent: color is deep red, texture is firm, and flavor is mildly sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

