



MARKET TRENDS

FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 8, 2017



MARKET TRENDS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

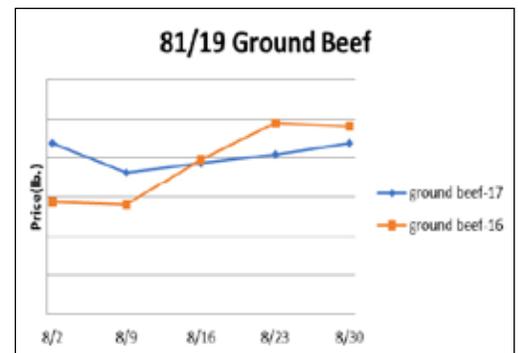
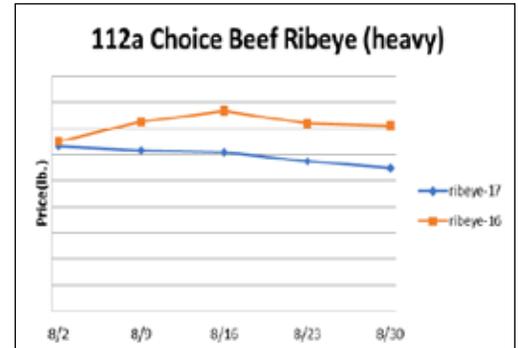
PERFORMANCE
FOODSERVICE



Beef, Veal & Lamb

Last week beef output rose 1.2% and was 2.9% larger than the same week a year ago. Cattle slaughter was the largest for any week since the summer of 2013. Cattle slaughter could be slowed some due to the demand impacts from Hurricane Harvey. This will be followed by a shortened week of output due to the holiday. This could temper the downside in the beef markets in the near term. In the weeks thereafter, solid year-over-year gains in beef production could keep a lid on beef prices. Beef demand elsewhere seems to be improving with the four-week total of forward beef sales up 20.4% versus last year. Funny what the lowest choice beef prices for late August since 2011 will do.

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



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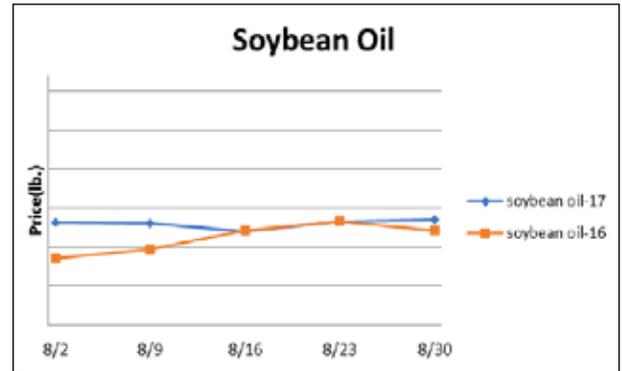
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Grains

The U.S. Department of Commerce recently instituted sizeable tariffs on imports of biodiesel from Argentina and Indonesia. This could lead to stronger domestic soybean oil use for biodiesel in the coming months, which would be supportive of food oil prices. Still, the initial soybean oil market reaction has been tame.

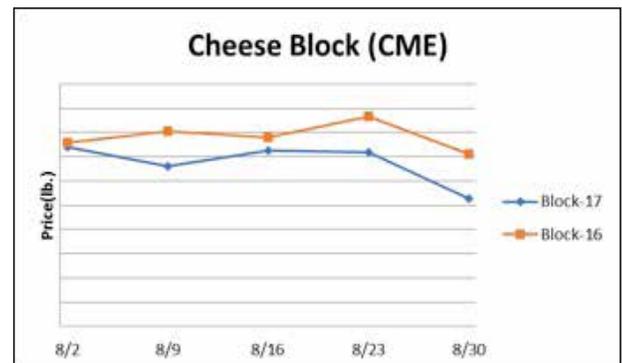
Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Soybeans, bushel	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Crude Soybean Oil, lb	Increasing	Good	Higher
Soybean Meal, ton	Increasing	Good	Lower
Corn, bushel	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Crude Corn Oil, lb	Steady	Good	Lower
High Fructose Corn Syrup	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Distillers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



Dairy

The cheese markets have softened due to ample supplies. July 31st cold storage cheese holdings were 7.8% larger than the previous year and a record. Further, the cheese inventory expanded during July by a record level for the month. CME cheese continues to be priced well below the international markets. This suggests that cheese export interest should expand in the coming weeks, limiting the downside in prices. July 31st butter supplies were down 7.4% from last year with the biggest drawdown for the month since 2014. Butter prices usually firm during the early fall.

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



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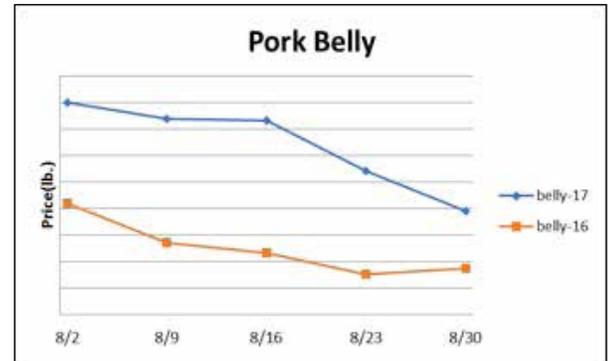
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Pork

Pork production last week rose .3% and was 3% bigger than the same week a year ago. Hog slaughter was the biggest since February and started this week even stronger. Pork output is forecasted to seasonally build in the coming months, which should generally put downward pressure on the pork markets. July 31st pork stocks were down 7% from the prior year with picnics (19%), ribs (14%), butts (11%), trims (17%), and bellies (65%) all lower. Belly holdings were a record low for the month. Still, lower belly prices are expected this fall.

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



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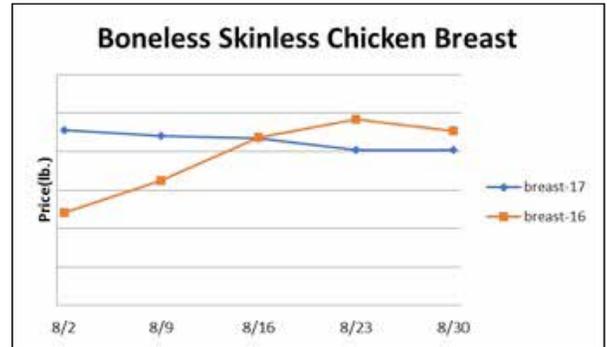
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Poultry

Chicken output for the week ending August 19th rose .4% from the previous week and was .9% larger than last year. The USDA monthly estimate for domestic chicken production was 3.1% bigger than 2016 due to a 2.2% rise in broiler slaughter and a .9% rise in bird weights. Despite this, chicken wing prices set record highs for the month and set new all-time highs last week. Chicken wing demand remains robust, which is supporting prices, and interest will seasonally expand in the coming weeks. The USDA is forecasting chicken output during the fall to be 2.8% larger than last year. The hope is that this will temper any further seasonal price increases for chicken wings. Lower chicken breast markets are anticipated in Q4.

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

Eggs

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



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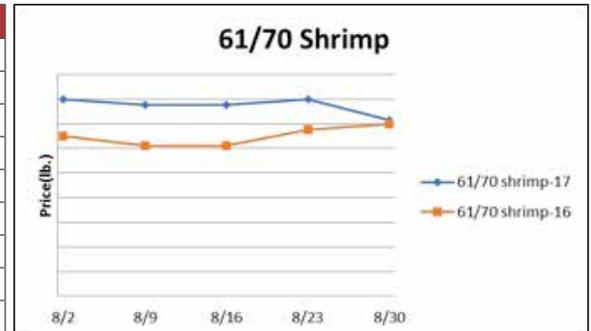
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Seafood

The Newfoundland snow crab harvest season has culminated with 33.5 thousand metric tons landed which is 96% of the quota. The Newfoundland quota this year was down 22% from 2016. This has helped keep world supplies of snow crab tight and inflated the markets. However, the elevated price levels are expected to temper demand during the fall.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Shrimp (16/20 frz)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Shrimp (61/70 frz)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Shrimp Tiger (26/30 frz)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Snow Crab, frz	Steady	Good	n/a
Tilapia Filet, frz	Steady	Good	n/a
Cod Filet, frz	Steady	Good	n/a
Tuna Yellowfin, frsh	Steady	Good	n/a
Salmon Atlantic Filet, frsh	Steady	Good	n/a
Pollock Filet, Alaska, frz	Steady	Good	n/a



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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	Steady	Good	Higher

Retail Price Change from Prior Month

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

Various Markets

The Arabica coffee market has been relatively range-bound during the last week. There is a notable volume of coffee that is typically stored in the Houston area but the initial market reaction suggests supplies should fine. Still, the greater longer-term price risk in coffee is to the upside.

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	Lower
Sugar lb ICE	Increasing	Ample	Lower
Cocoa mt ICE	Increasing	Short	Lower
Orange Juice lb ICE	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Honey (clover) lb	Increasing	Good	Higher



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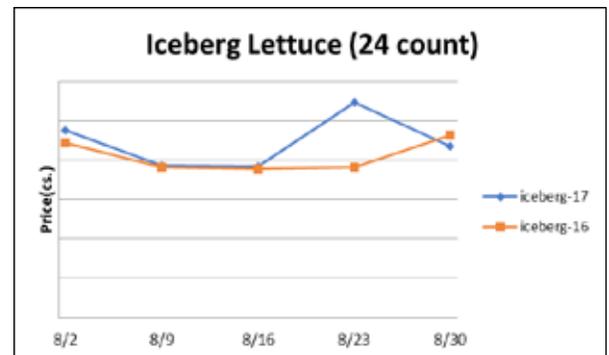


Produce

Lemons and oranges continue to be in a very **extreme market**. We are seeing a shortage in supply as well, which will continue until early fall. Asparagus is escalated on larger sizes. Avocados are in a very extreme market with some growers under an Act of God. Subpar imports from Mexico continue to underpin the avocado markets. Avocado imports last week were 16.6% less than the same week last year. Lettuce is active but stable. We are seeing some quality issues in tender leaf product and with heat in the forecast we may see more and more quality issues with product. All the eastern growing regions continue to experience rain in the form of heavy afternoon thunderstorms. The weather forecast calls for additional rains this week for all growing regions. This type of weather almost always causes less than ideal quality and suspect shelf-life. The Idaho potato markets remain inflated due to seasonally limited supplies. The main fall potato harvest is slowly getting underway with just 5% in the bin as of August 27th. This compares to 9% last year and 5% for the five-year average for the date. As the harvest builds, it should put downward pressure on potato prices. The five-year average price move during the next four weeks for the 70 count Idaho potato market is a decline of 33%.

MARKET ALERT

- **Apples – EXTREME**
- **Avocados – EXTREME**
- **Asparagus – ESCALATED**
- **Cilantro – ESCALATED**
- **Cucumbers – ESCALATED**
- **Garlic – EXTREME**
- **Lemons – EXTREME**
- **Oranges – EXTREME**
- **Onions – ESCALATED**
- **Potatoes – ESCALATED**
- **Grape Tomatoes – ESCALATED**
- **Cherry Tomatoes – ESCALATED**
- **Round Tomatoes (East) – ESCALATED**



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Produce

Apples & Pears

New crop California Gala and Granny Smith apples are on the market. Storage crop Red Delicious Apples from Washington remain available. Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, and Granny Smith Apples are limited. Sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix. New crop Washington Gala apples are also on the market. California Bartletts and New crop Washington Bartletts are available.

Artichokes

We are seeing prices come down. Quality is good.

Arugula

Supplies are good for baby and wild. Quality is fair. Prices are rising.

Asparagus

Prices are high; demand is strong. The Peruvian season is winding down. Mexican quality is best: stalks are firm and straight with grassy flavor.

Avocados

The market is up. The California and Peruvian seasons are nearly over. Mexican growers are harvesting the lower volume, summer Flora Loca crop. Expect high prices until the Mexican fall season starts in late September.

Bananas

Demand and quality are good and inventories are unchanged this week.

Beans

East: Cooler temps have slowed harvest; however, TN, NY & MI are producing good supplies. Prices are steady and quality is still looking good.

West: Watsonville volume and quality are great; however, some questionable quality remains in the marketplace. Pricing is steady.



Berries:

Blackberries

Prices are level, but will start to inch up over the next few weeks as the California season wraps up. Supplies are sufficient, yet beginning to diminish. Quality is very good: berries are plump, juicy, and sweet, yet tangy. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries

Market is stable. Michigan growers will harvest through September, then transition to South American. Pacific NW quality is good: heat-related softness is a minor issue. Michigan quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy.

Raspberries

The market is unchanged; California stocks are ample. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and sweet. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Strawberries

Prices are steady. Most shippers Strawberries are meeting specifications at this stage. Some shippers are beginning to observe some quality issues like: bruising, decay, smaller size, and soft texture.

Bok Choy

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

Broccoli

Prices are low. California stocks are abundant. Mexican volume is low due to erratic weather. Quality is best in California: hollow core, uneven size, and yellow beading are slight issues.

Brussels Sprouts

Higher prices and tighter supplies remain but are leveling out. Quality is improving.

Cantaloupe

Market has eased a bit and we are going in a good way here on the Westside, demand good and fruit is moving but has slowed a bit this week and some shippers have some descent volumes on the floor, there are deals to be made. The overall quality is very nice, fruit is firm and clean with a nice clean net, and overall just a very nice opening box. The extreme heat is causing a little sugar drop but fruit is still eating excellent we are peaking on 9's and 12's but getting a few smaller. We will have good volume going forward here through mid-October; this is an excellent time to promote melons.

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Produce *(continued)*

Carrots

Due to the heat, we are seeing some quality issues with cellos in Bakersfield.

Cauliflower

Prices are low; California stocks are plentiful. Quality is excellent.

Celery

The market is weak; Salinas Valley stocks are abundant. Quality is very good, but pith is an occasional concern.

Cilantro

ESCALATED - Quality is poor; there is still yellowing with some decay. Prices are high.

Corn

Increased volume available from Michigan and New York on Bi Color. White, Yellow and Bi-Color corn loading in the Central CA District are now available with good volume on white.

Cucumbers

East: Summer crops are winding down which is resulting in an active market. In addition to that, some fields have experienced heavy decay due to rains as well as disease. Look for an increase in FOBs by a few dollars, mostly on super selects. Relief is expected from the NC fall crop within the next 10-14 days.

West: Baja's summer production is coming to an end with little to no relief in the next 10-14 until the next crop begins. Quality is still good from the area.

English Cucumber

Supplies have tightened up and we are seeing higher prices due to lower production yields because of cooler temperatures in the Canadian growing regions. Supplies are also lighter in California.

Eggplant

East: Good volume and steady pricing is coming from mostly MI, NJ & SC. Look for GA to begin within the next week.

West: Solid volume from the west with good demand is resulting in a steady market. Quality is still generally good; however, some concerns could be present due to heat.

Fennel

Supplies for the week will be light.

Garlic

EXTREME - The 2017 crop is dying down. We are shipping US product; the market has somewhat stabilized.

Ginger

Chinese ginger supplies have tightened up putting upward pressure on prices across the country. This is still a better dollar value than ginger from Hawaii, Brazil, Thailand and Costa Rica.

Grapes

We are going here in the central San Joaquin Valley now and we will be harvesting grapes here through November. The overall crop looks very good with a nice set and some very nice quality. We are seeing some burn due to the extreme heat we have been experiencing in some vineyards but at this point it looks to be minimal damage. We are harvesting a few different varieties (Sugarone, Ivory, Princess, Green Globe) of green grapes now and all look excellent with good sugar and very clean and green, the reds have been primarily flames and we are getting started in a light way on Sweet Scarlett's and Scarlett royals, and there will be more varieties of reds starting in the next few weeks.

Green Cabbage

Green cabbage is steady and quality is good on both coasts.

Red Cabbage

Quality and sizing have been great with good color. Market is stable.

Green Onions

Iced: Prices are up, quality is poor with heat related damage. Iceless: This market is steady and we are seeing heat related quality issues.



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Produce (continued)

Honeydew

Market has eased as well here on the Westside with volumes getting better, the fruit is very nice with a green to cream color and internal fruit color and condition is excellent. We are peaking on 4's and 5's keeping the smaller fruit very strong and tight, we will start to see some smaller fruit in a few weeks. We expect to have some better volumes by then as well, but the overall volume will be a bit lighter overall than last year. We will keep you posted as we go forward.

Jicama

Normal prices and quality is good.

Kale (Green)

Demand is steady and quality is just fair. Supplies are starting to lighten up with product being affected by heat damage.

Kiwi

Shipments are beginning to wind down out of Chile and we are starting to see upward pressure on FOB prices. California should start in 3-4 weeks. Quality is still very nice.

Lemons

Market is adjusting as we are seeing better volumes crossing from Mexico and the Chilean arrivals on both coasts has been steady and will continue to see good volumes arriving from both of these regions through the month. We expect the Chilean fruit to slow down in the next 2 weeks and the Mexico fruit to continue crossing through September. We are also harvesting California dist. 2 fruit and will be doing so through the month as well. The overall quality is fair on the California fruit with some skin breakdown and fruit just not as strong as we would like but this is typical for this time of year and some of this fruit is coming out of storage as well. The Imports are pretty strong and we are repacking if need be here once they have been through protocol. We expect to have good volume of lemons going forward and will also start our new crop Dist. 3 fruit around the first week of September.



Lettuce:

Butter

Prices are stable. Quality has been good.

Green/Red Leaf

Prices are near the bottom; volume remains high. Quality is decent: but hot weather will cause more mildew pressure.

Iceberg

Prices are mostly unchanged; supplies are plentiful. Quality is very good, but recent heat spikes are causing leaf miner, mildew, and wind damage. Harvesting crews are removing outer leaves, reducing head weights.

Romaine

Prices remain low; stocks are abundant. Recent heat spikes are expected to cause increased levels of mildew pressure.

Romaine Hearts

Supplies are good and prices are up. Quality is good to average however we can control some of the quality issues by peeling off some of the outer layers.

Limes

Improved weather has increased Mexican supplies. The market will decline over the next week. Styler breakdown is an issue, but improving.

Napa

Supplies are normal. Quality is good.

Onions (Idaho/Oregon)

Size on yellow onions is still a big issue. Normally at this time of the year the onions have been in the ground growing an additional two weeks. Onions can really size up during this time frame. It's also the reason Colossal yellows and Super Colossal yellows are so short in supply. The rush to market has also caused some quality issues with red onion. This is issue is now under control and quality is improving daily. You will also start seeing white onions again, most shippers should have product ready to go in the next day or two.

Oranges

Market is very strong and demand exceeds supply on 88', 113's and 138's but very tight on all other grades and sizes as well, Valencia's will continue to stay very strong through the season as we are at least 20% lighter in volume versus last year. The overall quality of the fruit is fair to good, but they are Valencia's so you will see a tinge of green and fruit will be on the softer side and some skin breakdown and some of this is due to our extreme heat we have been experiencing and is pretty typical for the summer Valencia's, The

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Produce (continued)

juice internal color and sugar content are excellent right now. We also need to remember that the fruit we are harvesting now bloomed in march of 2016 so the tree is carrying next year's crop as well as this years, this fruit has been through the elements and hanging on the tree for 16 months. We will start California Navels around the middle of October, we are probably going to have a gap between Valencia's and navels probably around the end of September until we start navels around the third week of October, hopefully not but we will continue to keep you posted.

Parsley (Curly, Italian)

We are still seeing higher prices with the warm temperatures.

Green Bell Pepper

East: Prices remain flat with great supplies still coming from multiple areas. Quality is good, however, there is some pepper coming from older fields that may pose a risk. The cooler temperatures with the later pickings is showing some slight size drop off.

West: Stockton is still harvesting a good amount of pepper to keep pipelines filled on all sizes. Quality remains good and pricing is steady.

Jalapeño Pepper

East: Steady prices driven by both good supply and good demand are present. Quality remains good.

West: Quality is good with pricing still stable. Good supplies are being harvested.

Red & Yellow Bell Pepper

The market has eased; red bells are ample, but yellows remain limited. Quality is very good: incidences of chocolate coloring on red bells have diminished.

West: Although supplies are somewhat improving, prices remain steady. Quality is good.

Pineapple

Prices are easing; supplies are increasing in both regions. Quality is very good: fruit is juicy and sweet, yet tangy. Sugar levels are high, ranging from 13 to 16 Brix.

Potatoes (Idaho)

The market is still trading at a steady level on all sizes. We still expect the market to adjust downward soon. Last week we had the eclipse that cut production by a couple days and next week we have Labor Day will shut us down Monday. These shutdowns are most likely the reason the market has stayed where it's at. After next week it will be 5 day a week production. It's this production during harvest that will probably result in weaker FOB pricing. Quality has been very nice so far

although we have run into the occasional immaturity.

Radishes

Quality is good and supply is slowing down. Expect to see stronger markets through the summer.

Salads & Blends

The market is weak. Raw product iceberg and romaine stocks are plentiful. Quality is good, but recent high temperatures may increase mildew pressure. Our inspector are closely monitoring shelf-life for best quality.

Snow and Sugar Snap Peas

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

Spinach (Bunched)

Supply is good and quality is fair due to heat related issues. We are seeing prices rise.

Spinach (Baby)

Baby and clipped spinach supplies are good. Quality is fair due to heat related issues and occasional reports of mildew. Prices are somewhat up.

Spring Mix

Prices are stable; stocks are ample. Quality is good, but heat spikes are impacting raw product quality, supply levels, and shelf-life in some regions. Maintaining the cold chain is vital for optimal shelf-life and the highest quality of these delicate greens.



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Produce *(continued)*

Green Squash

East: Supply is slightly tighter with a little upward pressure on prices. Quality concerns mostly in the form of shorter shelf life are due to the heavy rains.

West: Supply is slightly tighter, however not quite as much as yellow squash. FOBs are relatively steady but experiencing some upward pressures. Overall quality is good.

Yellow Squash

East: MI has experienced cooler temperatures which is slowing the production from the area. Thus, FOBs are seeing upward pressure. Quality is fair at best with signs of wind scar and bruising.

West: Santa Maria is on the backside of their harvest and volume is down. Look for a slight increase in FOBs. Quality is fair to good and showing trouble spots in the form of wind scar and bruising.

Tomatoes

East Rounds

Another light production week from NJ, NC, VA, MI & TN while demand and prices remain mostly steady. Most growers have passed their summer peak and are awaiting the fall crop. Cooler temperatures in the mountain regions have slowed the harvest; however, fall plantings are still on track to start in September. This will improve supplies and quality options. Quality continues to vary throughout the entire region due to the continuous rainfall, with much more in the forecast. To put it into perspective, it has rained 33-40" and rained more days than not on the summer tomato crop.

Romas

Similar to rounds, Romas are experiencing a light production period as well due to cooler weather. Demand is steady and FOB prices are down slightly. A wide variance in quality is available.

Grapes

As the end of the summer crop approaches, light supplies from mostly VA, TN, NC and AL are driving prices up a few dollars. Quality is fair to good as this crop has seen an abundance of rain and summer time heat. We look forward to the fall crop to relieve the pressure.

Cherries

Driven primarily by the western market, FOB prices have firmed up. Supply is looking slightly lighter moving into next week and quality is mostly good.

West/Mexico Rounds

Temperatures are back in the 100s and expected to remain that high for 14 consecutive days through the entire valley. Due to this heat, the early October fall crop could potentially experience soft and tender quality. FOBs remain relatively steady and quality is good. Jumbo and XL sizes are still light in supply while large and medium are steady.

Romas

Very light volume is coming from the central CA area but is expected to improve slightly towards the end of next week. There is a large range in quality from the area. A strong national market is affecting the amount of fruit crossing from MX & Baja. Current volumes will continue until the new crop begins at the end of September or early October.

Grapes

Supply levels are snug, but stable. FOB prices have fallen slightly and leveled out. Quality is still good. We look forward to fall crop to increase supply and help ease current FOBs.

Cherries

Supply continues to be tight, however, pricing remains steady. Quality has improved, but there are still some slight shelf life concerns.

Tree Fruit

Prices are level. California apricot, nectarine, peach, and plum supplies will be shipped through September. Volume is diminishing; small sizes are especially tight. Nectarine and peach sugar levels range from 11 to 12 Brix; plum sugar levels vary from 14 to 16 Brix.

Watermelons

Prices are nudging up; Labor Day demand is strengthening. Quality is excellent: color is deep red, texture is firm, and flavor is sweet, yet refreshing. Sugar levels average 11 Brix.

