



MARKET TRENDS

FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 19, 2018



MARKET TRENDS

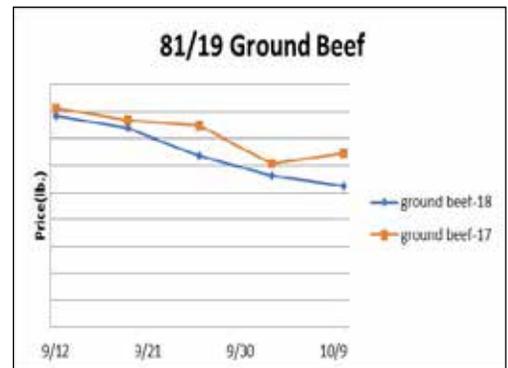
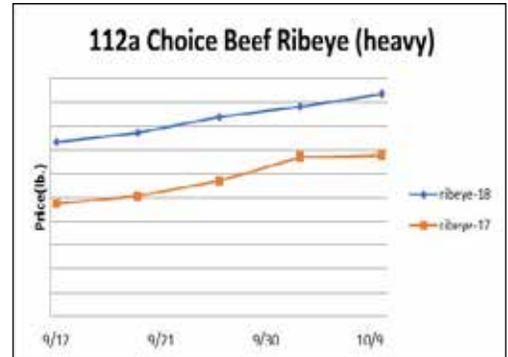
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Beef, Veal & Lamb

Beef production last week fell .7% but was 1.4% more than the same week last year. Solid year-over-year gains in beef output are anticipated this fall, but wet feedlot operations could equal lighter cattle weights. This factor could support the beef markets later this month. Beef imports during August were 3.3% smaller than the previous year but the biggest for the month since 2004. August beef exports were a whopping 9.3% better than last year and were a record for any month. The U.S. was a net importer of beef by only 533 thousand pounds. If beef imports continue to be only modest moving forward, it could temper seasonal declines for the lean beef trim markets that usually occurs during the fall.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Live Cattle (Steer)	Increasing	Short	Higher
Feeder Cattle Index (CME)	Increasing	Short	Higher
Ground Beef 81/19	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Ground Chuck	Increasing	Good	Lower
109 Export Rib (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
109 Export Rib (pr)	Increasing	Good	Lower
112a Ribeye (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
112a Ribeye (pr)	Increasing	Good	Lower
114a Chuck , Shlder Cld(ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
116 Chuck (sel)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
116 Chuck (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
116b Chuck Tender (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
120 Brisket (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
120a Brisket (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
121c Outside Skirt (ch/sel)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
121d Inside Skirt (ch/sel)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
121e Cap & Wedge	Increasing	Good	Higher
167a Knuckle, Trimmed (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
168 Inside Round (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
169 Top Round (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
171b Outside Round (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
174 Short Loin (ch Ox1)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
174 Short Loin (pr 2x3)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
180 Ox1 Strip (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
180 Ox1 Strip (pr)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
184 Top Butt, boneless (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
184 Top Butt, boneless (pr)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
184-3 Top Butt, bnls (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
185a Sirloin Flap (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
185c Loin, Tri-Tip (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
189a Tender (sel, 5 lb & up)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
189a Tender (ch, 5 lb & up)	Increasing	Good	Higher
189a Tender (pr, heavy)	Increasing	Good	Lower
193 Flank Steak (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
50% Trimmings	Increasing	Good	Higher
65% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Lower
75% Trimmings	Steady	Good	Lower
85% Trimmings	Decreasing	Short	Lower
90% Trimmings	Increasing	Short	Lower
90% Imported Beef (frz)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
95% Imported Beef (frz)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Veal Rack (Hotel 7 rib)	Steady	Good	Higher
Veal Top Round (cap off)	Steady	Good	Higher



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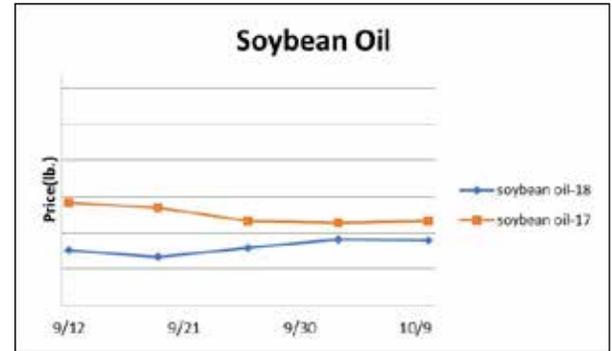
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Grains

The U.S. corn and wheat harvests have slowed due to heavy precipitation in the Midwest. This has brought modest support to the grain markets as of late. However, as the harvest resumes, it could put more downward pressure on prices. Early harvest reviews suggest record corn and soybean yields.

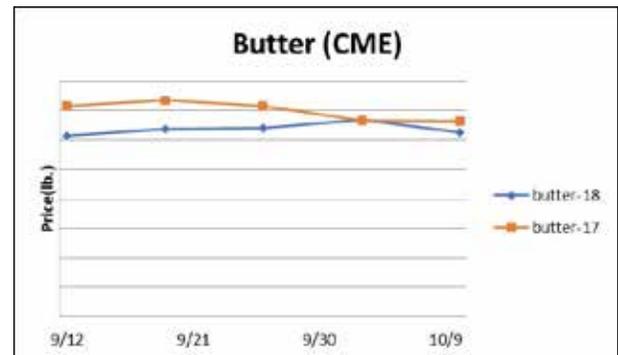
Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Soybeans, bushel	Increasing	Good	Lower
Crude Soybean Oil, lb	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Soybean Meal, ton	Increasing	Good	Higher
Corn, bushel	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Crude Corn Oil, lb	Steady	Good	Lower
High Fructose Corn Syrup	Steady	Good	Higher
Distillers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



Dairy

Declining international prices are tempering U.S. exports. During August, U.S. cheese exports were 6.6% less than the same month last year. Lackluster cheese exports could persist this fall. This factor and adequate domestic cheese supplies are anticipated to limit any further upside price moves in cheese. U.S. butter imports in August were up 41% from 2017 and the second highest for any month on record. Butter exports during the month were up 49.1% from last year. The total butter supply in the U.S. during August was up 3.3%. The upside price risk in butter is likely limited as well.

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



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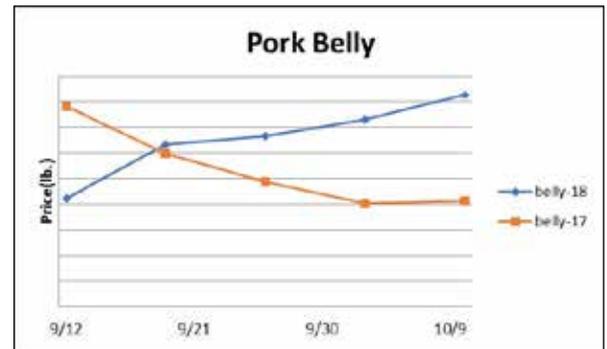
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Pork

Pork output last week declined 2.1% and was down 1.5% compared to the same week a year ago. Hog supplies have tightened due in part to some weather challenges and limited transportation. Still, big year-over-year expansion in pork production is expected to occur this fall which could weigh heavy on the pork markets. Pork belly prices have increased notably over the last six weeks when they were setting a 39-month low. However, U.S. belly stocks are large. The pork belly cutout typically falls near 20% from now through the end of the year.

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



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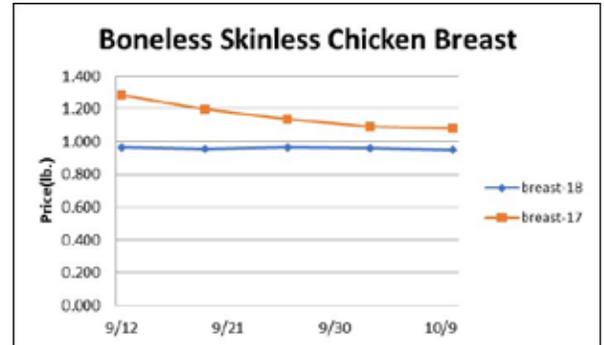
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Poultry

Chicken production for the week ending September 29th rose 5.1% from the prior week and was 2.4% larger than last year. The six-week moving average for chicken output is tracking 1.5% above 2017. Chicken production is expected to trend modestly above 2017 levels during the next few months. But, last week the producer feed cost ratio was the worst for the week since 2012. If profitability continues to fade, it may temper the expected chicken output gains and eventually support prices. The chicken wing markets showed only some strength this fall and may have already seasonal topped. Since 2013, the average move for the ARA Chicken Wing Index average from now through December was down 10.2%. History says breast prices can still decline.

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



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

Eggs

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



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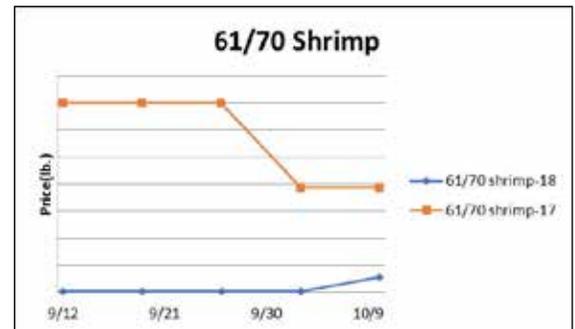
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Seafood

The 2018-19 Alaskan Bering Sea snow crab quota has been set at 27.58 million pounds- up 35% from the prior year and the biggest since 2015-16. However, the quota is still historically small. The bulk of the Alaskan snow crab supply could be available until the winter, but dampening demand is expected to temper snow crab prices during the fall.

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



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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.	Increasing	Good	Lower
PP-HIGP-heavy grade utensils	Decreasing	Good	Higher
PE-LLD-can liners, film, bags	Increasing	Good	Lower

Retail Price Change from Prior Month

Description	Aug-18	Jul-18	Jun-18
Beef and Veal	Decreasing	Increasing	Increasing
Dairy	Increasing	Decreasing	Increasing
Pork	Increasing	Increasing	Decreasing
Chicken	Decreasing	Increasing	Increasing
Fresh Fish and Seafood	Increasing	Decreasing	Increasing
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Decreasing	Increasing	Decreasing

Various Markets

The cocoa market has continued to trade at relatively engaging levels for buyers. Existing cocoa supplies are adequate and are expected to remain so with the new harvests into 2019. That said, history suggests that the greater risk in the cocoa markets 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	Higher
Orange Juice lb ICE	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Honey (clover) lb	Steady	Good	Higher



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Produce

Market Overview

Valencias and lemons are still showing higher prices than normal for this time of the year, but they continue to improve weekly. Due to Hurricane Michael, several commodities will become very short this week and could potentially remain in EXTREME markets for several weeks. We are also closely watching Tropical Storm Sergio as it is expected to make landfall off the coast of the Baja Peninsula this evening.

Watch List

- Mixed Chili Pepper (Jalapeno, Anaheim, Poblano, Serrano)
- Sweet Potatoes and Yams
- Roma, Grape, and Cherry Tomatoes (East, West, and Mexico)
- **Items affected by Hurricane Michael:** Cucumber, Corn, Beans, Green Bell Pepper, Eggplant, Italian Squash, Yellow Squash

We will continue to keep you updated as we receive crop reports from our Georgia and Florida Panhandle growers.

Apples & Pears

New crop Washington Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are on the market. Packer label Honey-crisps are also being shipped. Packer label Braeburn and Pink Lady apples will be available in mid-October. Sugar levels are approximately 13 to 14 Brix. The pear market is unchanged. New crop Washington Bartlett and D'Anjou Pears are available. California Bartletts will continue shipping through this month; small sizes are limited. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Artichokes

Quality is excellent, and demand is good.

Arugula

Quality is fair and product is available.

Asparagus

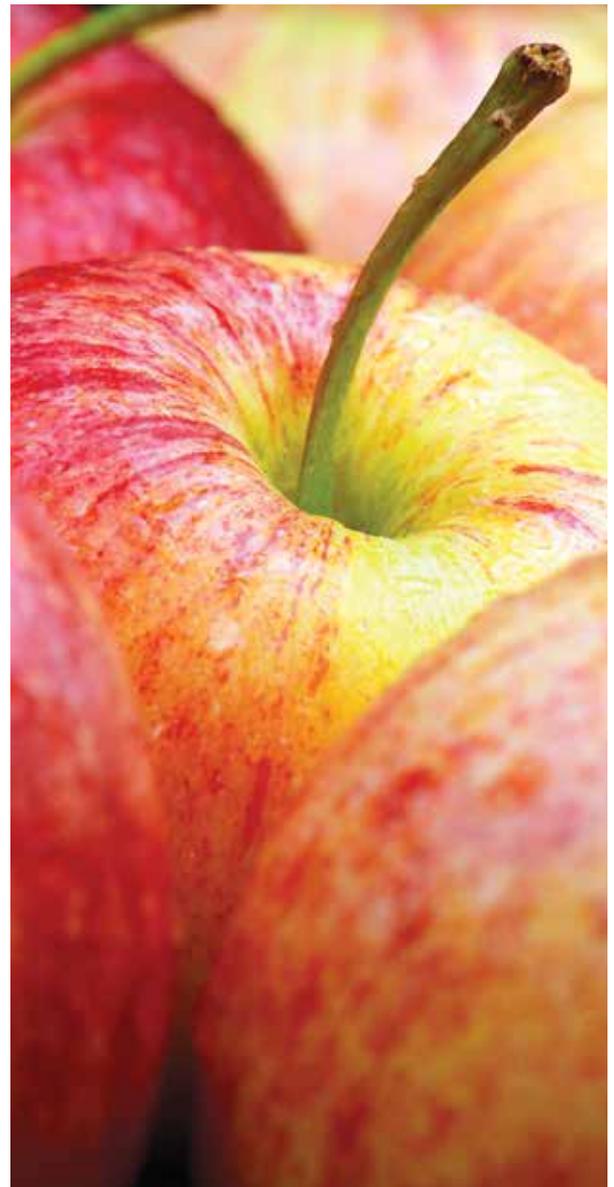
Prices are steady. Mexican and Peruvian stocks are available. Quality is very good in Mexico: spears are deep green and tips are compact.

Avocados

The market is unchanged. The California season is winding down. Mexican volume is higher. Peruvian supplies are also available. Quality is average: oil content is highest in Peru.

MARKET ALERT

- **Cabbage (Green and Red) – EXTREME**
- **Cilantro – EXTREME**
- **Corn – EXTREME**
- **Green Onions – EXTREME**
- **Lemons – EXTREME**
- **Mushrooms – ESCALATED**
- **Oranges (Valencias) – EXTREME**
- **Sugar Snap Peas - EXTREME**



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Produce (continued)

Bananas

Demand on this item remains firm and supplies are expected to remain good through the rest of the year. Quality is good.

Beans

East: Things are very short and the primary growing region is about to take a direct hit from Michael. We could see a catastrophic bean market by the end of the week. Quality is very poor and FOBs have risen significantly already.

West: Limited supply from central valley & coastal California are keeping FOBs high, but steady. Quality is fair to good.

Berries:

Blackberries

Prices are steady. The California season has ended. Mexican supplies are meeting demand. Overall quality is very good: berries are plump and juicy with sweet, yet slightly tangy flavor. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries

The market is stable. Stocks are abundant in California and Mexico. Domestic quality is very good: berries are deep blue with a slight blush and sweet, yet tangy flavor.

Raspberries

The market is unchanged. New crop harvesting is underway in Oxnard and Santa Maria. New crop Mexican supplies will be on the market next week. Flavor is sweet: sugar levels are moderately high, ranging from 13 to 14 Brix.



Strawberries

The market is stable at the high end. Salinas/ Watsonville supplies will be available through October. Sugar levels range from 14 to 15 Brix.

Bok Choy

Quality is average, and demand is fair.

Broccoli

Prices are average to slightly higher. California supplies are adequate, but stocks are tighter in Mexico (due to rain). Domestic quality is very good: hollow core and pin rot are slight issues.

Brussel Sprouts

Supplies are light, and quality is good. Prices are steady.

Cantaloupe

Market strengthening as we are transitioning to the desert for the Fall deal this week. We are still going with light volume out of the Westside and overall quality is fair to good, most of the varieties a ESL Harper they are very strong and have good sugar. We are peaking on 9's and 12's lighter volume on the smaller fruit. This will be the case as we get started in the desert and then in about a week should see some smaller fruit showing up once we get through the first pick. We will be going out of the desert through November.

Carrots

We are seeing both good quality and volume.

Cauliflower

The market is near the bottom; supplies are plentiful. Quality is good: creamy color is a slight issue.

Celery

Prices are unchanged. Large sizes (24-count celery) are ample; small (30-count bundles) are scarcer. Quality is very good: dry pith and growth cracking are minor problems.

Cilantro

EXTREME Supplies remain below normal, demand is good, and quality is fair to good.

Corn

EXTREME Supplies will be disrupted out of South Georgia until crop evaluations are made post-Hurricane Michael for all South Georgia production; markets are currently very active and supplies are limited.

Cucumbers

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Produce (continued)

East: GA is the main player with a few local programs lingering in NC. Production in GA has been light, but steady, and producing enough volume to cover demand. FOBs are down coming off a high market, with fair to good quality available.

West: Rain has been the biggest concern between the two storms that hit Baja & Mainland MX. However, there is still a fair amount of product available with decent quality. FOBs are still high, but steady. Nogales is still very slowly starting their season, but hopes to be in full swing soon.

English Cucumbers

Good supplies are now available from Spain and Holland eliminating pro-rates as well as showing decreases in the market. We should continue to see improvements; new crop from Mexico should ramp up in two weeks.

Eggplant

East: GA is the main player in the game with majority of supply and demand. However, some scattered local deals are still available in NJ, SC & NC. Quality has been fair at best recently, but is expected to improve as growers get into new acreage in the next 2 weeks.

West: Good supply is expected through the rest of the Fresno season, with the desert area and MX to begin in the next few weeks. Assuming no major weather events occur, we expect a good consistent supply from the west for the next few weeks.

Fennel

Supplies for the week will be good and quality is good.

Garlic

The market is about 50% done with the 2017 crop. Supplies are steady and prices remain high on domestic product.

Ginger

Chinese ginger markets are mixed, but quality is good. Also, product is available at higher costs from Brazil, Costa Rica and Honduras and Peru with no major quality issues being reported.

Grapes

Market is steady as we are picking throughout the Central Valley which will take us through December. The crop here in the central valley is looking very good as we have a good set and the fruit is fairly consistent in size. We are expecting to have good quality fruit through the year barring any major weather situations, and the estimated volume is about 114 million packed cartons.

Green Cabbage

EXTREME - The cabbage market has turned back around and have firmed up as supplies have become critically short in the West causing escalation of pricing for the entire category.

Red Cabbage

EXTREME - The cabbage market has firmed up as supplies have become critically short in the West causing escalation of pricing for the entire category.

Green Onions

EXTREME - Iced – Due to the heavy rains last week in the growing regions, production has been very slow to start back up. Supplies will continue to be very light this week. We anticipate this shortage will drive the market up to a new price level not seen before. Coupled with already light supplies due to a very hot and humid summer, and local production winding down in Eastern growing areas, we will see demand exceeding supplies over the next two weeks. Iceless – As with the iced market, we also anticipate demand exceeding supplies over the next two weeks.

Honeydew

Market is strengthening with tight supplies of 5's, 6's and better supplies of 8's on the Westside and overall quality is good and sugars are very good as well. We will be going through this week on the Westside, and have started in a light way on desert dews and Mexico is also going. Desert is peaking on Jumbo 5's and 5's with very few of the smaller ones coming at this point. We should start to see some smaller fruit in about 10 days once we get through the first picks.

Jicama

Markets remain firm due to ongoing short supplies and will continue to see some quality and shelf life issues.

Kale (Green)



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Produce *(continued)*

Quality and supplies are good.

Kiwi

Good supplies available on Chilean product.

Lemons

Market is adjusting as we continue to see Chilean arrive and also seeing more Mexican fruit crossing, also need to keep in mind that the Mexican volume is about 40-50% lighter than normal. The Chilean will continue to arrive through October and that should be the last of the arrivals for us. We are going on our D3 fruit and are going with some descent volume, fruit is peaking on 140's and 115's at this point but will see better volumes of smaller fruit as we are size picking at this point. The overall quality of the lemons is good to fair, you will see some heavier scarring and some green tinge on fruit depending where the fruit is coming from. D3 Fruit has been through a lot of heat and is being gassed so you will see some skin breakdown is some of the weaker lots. We expect the market to stay steady, and we anticipate starting Dist. 1 around the first of November.

Lettuce:

Butter

Supplies are normal, and demand and quality are both good.

Green and Red Leaf

Green leaf supplies are light, but demand and quality are good. Red leaf supplies are normal, demand is average, and quality is good.

Iceberg Lettuce



Supplies are slightly higher than last week, but they still continue to be below budget. Quality has been very good.

Romaine

Supplies are slightly below normal, demand is strong, and quality is clean.

Romaine Hearts

Demand and quality are good, and supplies are slightly below normal.

Limes

The market has eased. Stocks are abundant; the crop is dominated by small sizes. Quality is very good.

Nappa

Supplies are below normal this week. Demand is steady and quality is good.

Onions

The Northwest is finishing harvest and starting to ship out of storage. Quality is strong to start, and sizing and yields appear to be very good. Skin is starting to get better as the onions continue to cure down. We are seeing a surplus of Colossal and Super Colossal in better supply, which has resulted in some reduced pricing on these items. White onions are still in short supply and remain elevated in price. Reds are much more plentiful as well, and those prices have also been reduced. Overall, the season appears to be leaning toward a more 'normal' year in terms of size, yield and quality. What was once expected to be a very large crop has reduced size in part to the heat wave that the Northwest has been experiencing over the last several weeks.

Oranges

Market very strong across the board we are seeing several other Valencia shippers finished for the season, Valencia's are peaking on larger sizes so we are seeing much fewer of the small ones demand exceeds supply on 88's, 113's and 138's and this will be the case going forward through the Valencia season. It is also a lighter crop so we will be fighting supplies of fruit through the remainder of the season until we start navels around the third week of October. The overall quality of the Valencia's are just fair with descent color some green tinge which is normal for Valencia's and fruit is not near as firm as a navels and a fair amount of stem end breakdown, juice and sugar content is very good. We will be subbing some Chilean navels when possible to cover the 88's, 113's and 138's on orders just a heads up, if you do not want navels please let us know. Please keep in mind that this fruit is about 19 months old on the tree, and the trees are also carrying next year's crop which puts lots of stress

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Produce (continued)

on the tree this is when we see re-greening and softer fruit, stem end aging or skin breakdown. The Valencia's are pretty rough and will only get rougher. The California navel crop estimate for about 20% more volume than last year and we will be peaking on 88's and smaller as we start the season in a couple of weeks.

Parsley (Curly, Italian)

Quality and supplies are good.

Green Pepper

East: Good volume is coming from the GA & SC region, but quality has been subpar recently. There are still some local eastern deals with a range of quality. FOBs are steady for now.

West: Things have ebbed and flowed out west, but recently have found a good rhythm. FOBs are steady for next week with good to excellent quality available.

Jalapeño (Chiles)

East: GA is the main player in the game as most local deals are done. Production in both the east and west has been a little light, putting some upward pressure on prices. However, quality is good at this time.

West: We're in the typical October decline for western Chiles. Add in the recent storms, and things are getting a little shaky. New crop is expected to start by the end of October to bring relief. FOBs are up.

Red & Yellow Bell Pepper

The market has risen a bit; supplies are sufficient, but demand is strong. Quality is very good: peppers are deeply colored and subtly sweet.

Pineapples

The market is up; stocks are limited. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.

Potatoes (Idaho)

Harvest continues as the state is approximately 80% finished. There has been some rain and cold temperatures, and the farmers are trying to get everything under cover as quickly as possible. Field run will wrap up this week and by next week the majority of sheds will begin to run out of storage. The size profile in Norkotahs remains on the larger side and the Burbanks seem to be smaller than average.

Pumpkins

Now available out of Indiana and Michigan.

Radishes

Supplies are steady, and quality is good shipping through Arizona and Florida.

Salad Blends

The market is level; supplies are sufficient. Inspectors are closely monitoring packs for chunks and core material to ensure the highest quality packs.

Snow & Sugar Snap Peas

EXTREME - Sugar snap peas are currently experiencing a shortage in supply resulting in price increases. This is due to the fact that the Salinas growing region has completed its growing season, and the next seasonal region in Mexico has been negatively impacted by the rains from Hurricane Rosa. This extreme weather has affected the crop resulting in very poor quality and a delay in harvest.

Spinach (Bunched)

Quality is fair and product is available.

Spinach (Baby)

Baby and clipped spinach supplies are good, and quality is fair.

Spring Mix

The market is steady; volume is average. Quality is good: mildew problems have improved.

Sweet Potatoes and Yams

WATCHLIST - This market has spiked due to heavy damage in the Carolinas. Growers are currently assessing the damage, so it is still too soon to react. However, supplies are still good out of Mississippi.

Yellow Squash/Zucchini



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Produce (continued)

East: Yellow is still plentiful while zucchini is a bit more difficult to source. Things should loosen up as FL gets started soon and GA continues to build volume. Quality is good to excellent.

West: Things are improving quickly out west with a few different regions with good supply and quality available. FOBs are down on both yellow and green.

Tomatoes

East

Rounds

TN is quickly wrapping things up with only a minuscule amount harvesting. Quincy is just getting starting, but about to take a direct hit from Hurricane Michael. Quality from the older local programs can be questionable, ranging from fair to good, and will continue to be touch and go until first frost or the growers call it quits. FOBs are up today with the assumption Quincy will carry us through the end of October. Bear in mind this could quickly change by next week.

Romas

As we patiently away Palmetto/Ruskin to begin at the end of October/beginning of November, we will continue to see very light supplies and high FOBs. TN & other various eastern crops are at the very tail end, with hardly any supply. With Quincy and GA being the main gap fillers and Michael on the cusp of landfall, we could see a very high market in the near future. Right now, FOBs are steady, and quality is good.

Grapes

VA will be done by the end of this week, with limited miscellaneous local deals scattered throughout. Ruskin/Palmetto have begun in a light way, and are expected to continue to grow supply over the next few weeks. FOBs are down slightly and quality is good.

Cherries

Cherries are still a big snug, but FOBs are steady. Quality is fair to good.

West/Mexico

Rounds

CA will continue to run through October, with MX starting their winter season in late October/early November. Vine Ripes are still snug this week as all major growing areas are in a brief gap. Additionally, the recent major storms that hit last week, and Sergio headed straight towards Baja, will most likely delay volume deals as many growers are having to replant. FOBs are up on XL & LG, and flat on medium. We still recommend keeping a very tight inventory as fruit is soft and has a short shelf life.

Romas

Production in both Baja & California remains very light and supply is very tight. FOBs are mostly stagnant due to light demand. Fruit is in the hands of only a few suppliers. Baja fall crop will begin around the 3rd week of October, but until then, expect higher FOBs and tight supplies. Quality has been mostly good.

Grapes

Supply will remain tight for the next few weeks, but will soon loosen up as new regions get started towards late October (depending on weather). FOBs are down for this next week, but this is unstable due to the forecast. Quality has deteriorated and is only fair at best.

Cherries

Supply is snug, but steady. Look for FOBs to remain constant for next week. Quality is fair to good.

Tree Fruit

The market is high. The domestic nectarine and peach seasons are over; plums will remain on the market for approximately two more weeks. Quality is very good: plum sugar levels range from 12 to 16 Brix.

Watermelons

Prices are slightly higher than last week. Growers are moving to the Arizona/California desert regions and Mexico. Overall quality is very good: sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.