



MARKET TRENDS

FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 25, 2018

 **PERFORMANCE**
FOODSERVICE



MARKET TRENDS

MAY 25, 2018

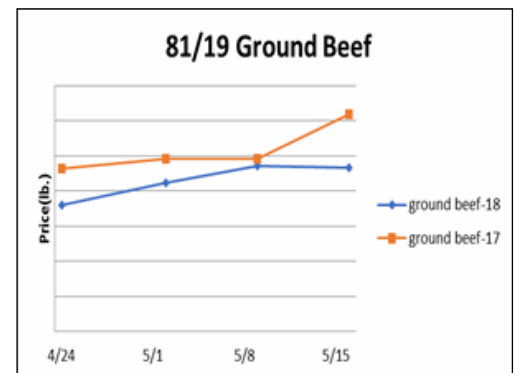
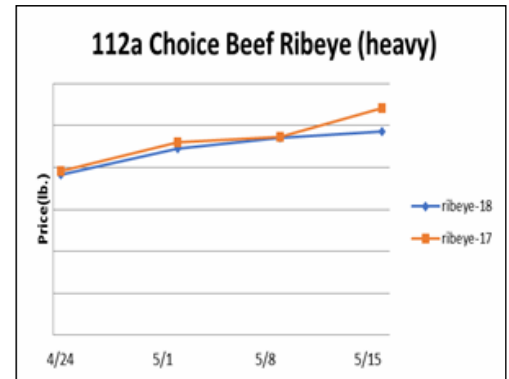
PERFORMANCE
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Beef, Veal & Lamb

Beef output last week fell 1.1% but was 6.1% larger than the same week last year. Better year-over-year production growth is occurring due in part to strong margins for beef packers. Beef imports during April were down 5.6% from last year. Exports were up 11.4% year-over-year and a record for the month. Yet, the U.S. was still a net importer by 7 million pounds, adding .3% to the total beef supply. Typically, the beef markets seasonally peak near Memorial Day. But, this year's top could materialize before then in response to big supplies, including ground beef. Ground beef prices on the forward market are an 8.5% discount to the spot market. Forward strip prices are at a discount as well.

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	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Ground Chuck	Increasing	Good	Lower
109 Export Rib (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
109 Export Rib (pr)	Increasing	Good	Lower
112a Ribeye (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
112a Ribeye (pr)	Increasing	Good	Lower
114a Chuck , Shlder Cld(ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
116 Chuck (sel)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
116 Chuck (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
116b Chuck Tender (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
120 Brisket (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
120a Brisket (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
121c Outside Skirt (ch/sel)	Increasing	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)	Increasing	Good	Lower
169 Top Round (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
171b Outside Round (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
174 Short Loin (ch 0x1)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
174 Short Loin (pr 2x3)	Increasing	Good	Lower
180 0x1 Strip (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
180 0x1 Strip (pr)	Increasing	Good	Lower
184 Top Butt, boneless (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
184 Top Butt, boneless (pr)	Increasing	Good	Lower
184-3 Top Butt, bnls (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
185a Sirloin Flap (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
185c Loin, Tri-Tip (ch)	Increasing	Good	Lower
189a Tender (sel, 5 lb & up)	Increasing	Good	Lower
189a Tender (ch, 5 lb & up)	Increasing	Good	Lower
189a Tender (pr, heavy)	Increasing	Good	Lower
193 Flank Steak (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
50% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Lower
65% Trimmings	Increasing	Good	Lower
75% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Lower
85% Trimmings	Decreasing	Short	Lower
90% Trimmings	Steady	Short	Lower
90% Imported Beef (frz)	Increasing	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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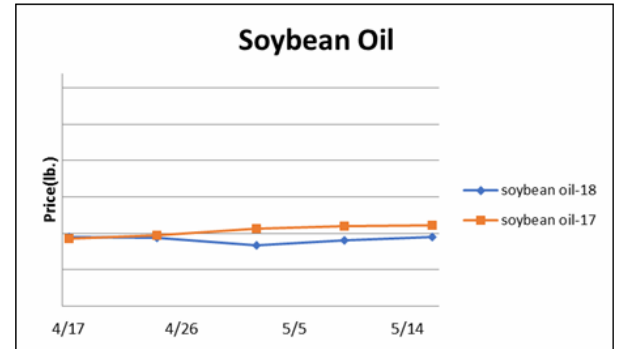
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Grains

American farmers have stepped up their planting pace with the improved weather this month. As of May 14th, corn and soybean planting was close to average levels. Spring wheat planting remains behind but should be sufficient. This could keep a lid on the grain markets in the near term.

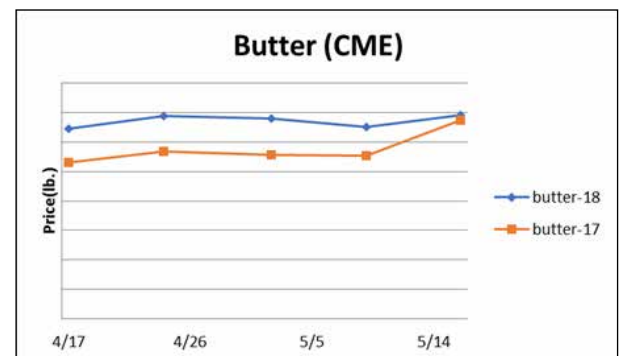
Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Soybeans, bushel	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Crude Soybean Oil, lb	Increasing	Good	Lower
Soybean Meal, ton	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Corn, bushel	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Crude Corn Oil, lb	Steady	Good	Lower
High Fructose Corn Syrup	Steady	Good	Higher
Distillers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



Dairy

The cheese markets have mostly moved sideways recently. U.S. cheese continues to be competitively priced, fueling exports which is underpinning the markets. As milk output seasonally declines in the coming months, it could support cheese prices as well. The butter market remains firm due mostly to strong export interest. History suggests that fairly inflated butter prices could persist into the summer. But, history also says that the greater long-term risk for butter is to the downside. World nonfat dry milk supplies are ample which should temper any additional price gains.

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



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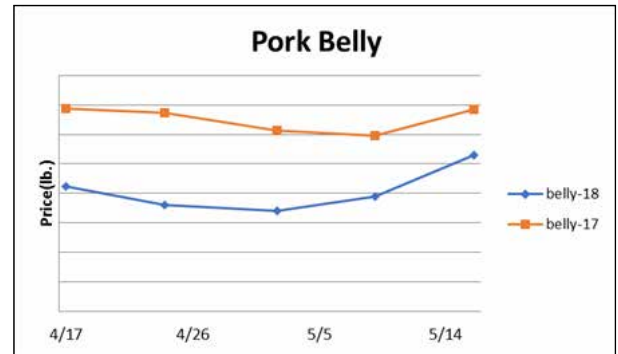
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Pork

Pork production last week fell .7% but was 3.7% better than last year. Solid year-over-year pork output growth is forecasted in the coming months. The USDA is calling pork production during the summer to be 4.8% more than 2017. April retail pork prices were down .7% from last year and the second lowest for the month in five years. Retail bacon prices were down 6.1% from last year and the lowest since February 2017. Though pork belly stocks are larger than a year ago, big retail bacon feature activity should support prices this summer.

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



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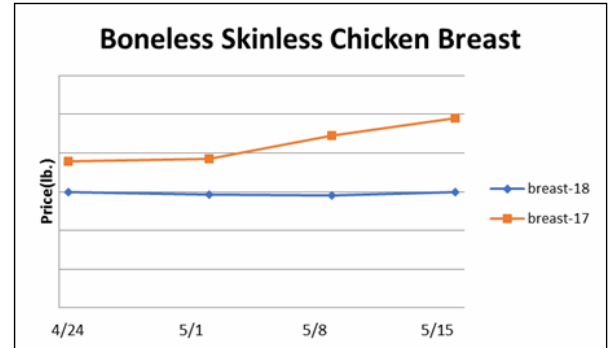
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Poultry

Chicken output for the week ending May 5th, declined .2% from the prior week but was 1.6% better than the same week last year. The six-week running total of chicken production is .8% better than 2017. The USDA is forecasting chicken output this summer to be 1.9% better than a year ago. The wing markets are pricing at levels not seen since August 2014 due to uninspiring demand and better inventories. March 31st chicken wing holdings were 5.3% more than the previous year. And, it was the first time in 13 months that stocks grew from the previous year. Yet, history suggests that the downside risk for wings during this time of year is small. Since 2013, the average move for the ARA Chicken Wing Index over the next six weeks was up 3.7%.

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



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



Eggs

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

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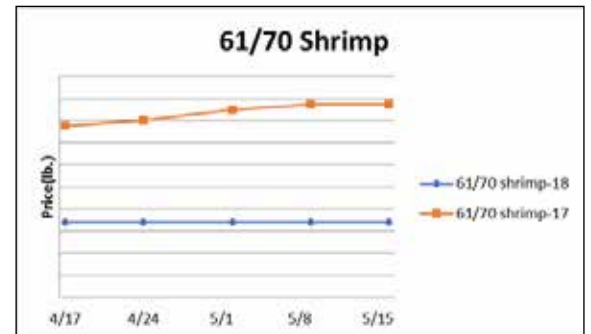
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Seafood

The inflated price levels, and the rising value of the U.S. dollar, are encouraging snow crab imports. During March, the U.S. imported 37.2% more snow crab than the previous year. However, multi-year lows in the Newfoundland and Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab quotas should limit the supply this summer and cause elevated price levels to persist.

Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Shrimp (16/20 frz)	Steady	Good	Lower
Shrimp (61/70 frz)	Steady	Good	Lower
Shrimp Tiger (26/30 frz)	Steady	Good	Lower
Snow Crab, frz	Steady	Good	Lower
Tilapia Filet, frz	Steady	Good	Higher
Cod Filet, frz	Steady	Good	Higher
Tuna Yellowfin, frsh	Steady	Good	Higher
Salmon Atlantic Filet, frsh	Steady	Good	Lower
Pollock Filet, Alaska, frz	Steady	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.	Steady	Good	Lower
PP-HIGP-heavy grade utensils	Steady	Good	Lower
PE-LLD-can liners, film, bags	Steady	Good	Lower

Retail Price Change from Prior Month

Description	Apr-18	Mar-18	Feb-18
Beef and Veal	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Dairy	Decreasing	Increasing	Decreasing
Pork	Decreasing	Increasing	Decreasing
Chicken	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Fresh Fish and Seafood	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Increasing	Decreasing	Decreasing

Various Markets

The chief Brazilian coffee harvest is underway with an historically large crop anticipated. This and a firming U.S. dollar are weighing on coffee prices. The downside price risk for coffee from here is likely limited, however. Arabica coffee futures have not priced below \$1 lb. 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	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Sugar lb ICE	Increasing	Ample	Lower
Cocoa mt ICE	Decreasing	Short	Higher
Orange Juice lb ICE	Increasing	Good	Higher
Honey (clover) lb	Steady	Good	Higher



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Produce

Market Overview

Most commodities are steady. Oranges have hit an EXTREME market with higher prices and shortages in supply. Lemons are also experiencing some similar issues. The markets have improved on Green Leaf and Iceberg. Squash is ESCALATED, and Green Peppers are experiencing a GAP in supply. Strawberries continue to be a great buy.

Watch List

Southeastern Veg: Tomatoes, Zucchini, Yellow Squash, Bell Pepper, Eggplant, and Cucumber grown in Florida and South Georgia this time of year have all been severely impacted by heavy rain over the past two weeks. Due to a persistent sub-tropical flow, up to 5 inches of rain has accrued in some isolated areas of the growing regions. This weather is not damaging to the point of a hurricane; however, it has caused the tail end to the Florida programs to end early on some commodities while delaying the Spring harvest in South Georgia. We do expect the conditions to improve this week as our growers will gradually begin harvesting cucumber and soft squash. We expect to ramp production up on those items next week with green bell pepper to follow. Tomatoes have also been affected in the southeast causing the markets to spike.

Apples & Pears

Prices are unchanged. Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are available; large Granny Smith volume is low, but all other varieties remain plentiful. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix. Honeycrisp stocks are expected to be depleted by the end of May. Braeburn supplies will be on the market through June.

D'Anjou Pears are on the market. Red D'Anjous and Argentine stocks are also available. New crop California Bartletts will start shipping in late June. Sugar levels range from 12 to 14 Brix.

Artichokes

Market is steady, and quality is good.

Arugula

Quality has improved, and supplies are good.

Asparagus

Market is steady, and quality is good. Prices are a bit higher than average.

Avocados

Markets are steady; a lot of this is due to delays in MX to ship fruit into the US, as a result of rain. After the last few weeks of promoting avocados, many retailers are taking them off promotion, which will hurt demand. Supplies are good from both MX and CA. Peruvian fruit will begin to land stateside over the next couple of weeks. Markets may continue to slide due to these factors although a big slide is not predicted. Smaller fruit and #2's have cleaned up but more volume is predicted shortly from MX.

MARKET ALERT

- Cauliflower – ESCALATED
- Cucumber – ESCALATED
- Grape Tomatoes – ESCALATED
- Green Bell Pepper – EXTREME
- Lemons – ESCALATED
- Limes – ESCALATED
- Mushrooms – ESCALATED
- Oranges – EXTREME
- Zucchini and Yellow Squash – ESCALATED



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Produce *(continued)*

Bananas

Summer has arrived; conventional banana supplies are strong along with supplies of organics and plantains. This strong supply should continue well into June. Quality is expected to be excellent.

Green Beans

Western green bean production has fully transitioned from Mexico to California where supply is still on the light side. The East is looking to Georgia's increasing bean volumes to meet demand, but still has the option to pull from Florida where quality is beginning to decline in some areas.

Berries:

Blackberries

The market is steady. California supplies are limited, but starting to increase in Oxnard and Watsonville. The majority of stocks are being harvested in Central Mexico. Quality is average: berries are plump and juicy with sweet, yet slightly tangy flavor. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix.

Blueberries

The market is level despite tighter Mexican supplies. Volume is average in Santa Maria and Watsonville, California. Overall stocks are expected to increase over the next month. Quality is average: berries are deep blue with a slight blush and sweet, yet tangy flavor.

Raspberries

The market remains elevated. California supplies are beginning to increase, but the Mexican season is nearly over. Prices should inch down in the coming weeks. Quality is good: sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

Strawberries

Prices are starting to ease; stocks are ample in Santa Maria and the Salinas/Watsonville regions. Harvests are winding down in Oxnard. Quality is very good: berries are firm, yet juicy and sweet.

Bok Choy

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

Broccoli

Prices have escalated. Supplies are extremely tight; erratic weather patterns have stunted growth and decreased stocks. Quality is very good: hollow core and yellow oxidation are minor problems.

Brussels Sprouts

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

Cantaloupe

The Market is very tight on supplies due to the cooler than normal weather in the California and Arizona deserts. We have started the desert regions in a light way and will see some better volumes next week out of Arizona and the Imperial Valley. The first fruit looks very good with a clean net a nice internal color and descent sugars. The first fruit has been peaking on 12's and 15's and then in the next 2 weeks we will see the fruit size shift to heavy 9's and fewer small sizes. We will be in the Imperial Valley and Arizona through June and then start here on the Westside around the first of July.

Carrots

We are seeing both good quality and volume.

Cauliflower

ESCALATED We are seeing a shortage in supply and prices are escalated; however, we are seeing improvement and expect this to normalize quickly.

Celery

Demand is steady, and suppliers are lighter than normal. Quality is good.



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Produce *(continued)*

Cilantro

Supplies are average, and quality is fair.

Corn

Good volume continues on yellow and bi-color.

Cucumbers

Georgia's cucumber volumes are coming on and quality has been very nice so far. Northern Florida has also been harvesting good numbers, but the southern part of the state is down to mostly off grades. The West has two main areas for cucumber production this week: the Mainland and Baja. Mainland fruit has some quality issues as they look to wrap up the season over the next 2-3 weeks. Baja farms have very nice quality but aren't up to full harvest levels for another few weeks.

English Cucumber

There are excellent supplies crossing through Nogales and McAllen.

Eggplant

South Florida is still in production and Plant City crops are flushing, providing an excess of eggplant to Eastern markets. Look for this deal to tighten up as growers may soon choose to walk away from fields due to depressed market conditions. The West is transitioning fairly smoothly from Mexico to the California desert with promotional volumes available from the desert due to heat bringing on supply.

Fennel

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

Garlic

We are about 50% done with the 2017 crop. Supplies will remain tight between now and July. Prices remain high.

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

We are getting a slower start than normal out of Coachella and Mexico as the weather has been cooler than normal and fruit coming on slower due to the weather, we have a few flames and palettes going but light volume. We are expecting about 15 million cartons out Mexico compared to last year's crop of 20 million, which will probably keep prices fairly firm. The Coachella Valley fruit is also behind schedule due to the cooler than normal weather but have started with light volume on reds and palettes, their volume down about a million as well estimated about 5 million cartons. The overall quality looks good and sugar will continue to get better as the weather starts to warm up. We should start here in the central valley around the end of July and that will carry us through the first of December.

Green Cabbage

Supplies have improved in the southeast as well as in the West. FOB calls are down, and quality remains very nice.

Red Cabbage

Quality has been hit and miss while sizing remains good. We are seeing some external quality and color issues causing markets to remain firm in the East as well as Texas. West Coast volume is improving.

Green Onions

Market is firm with good supply, although we are seeing some slight insect damage.



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Produce (continued)

Honeydew

Market is strong with good demand across the board on all sizes, they are on the tight side. The overall quality has been very nice with a nice green to cream exterior and very good sugar and a tight cavity. We have started in a light way out of Arizona and Mexico and the Imperial Valley and volume will hopefully increase next week. The overall honeydew volume in the ground is lighter than normal, and the overall supplies will be lighter than normal so the market will probably stay strong through the deal. We will also start some Westside volume around the first week of July and that will carry us through mid-October.

JICAMA

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

Kale (Green)

Quality and supplies are good.

Kiwi

New Crop, Chilean fruit is available. Supply and quality are both good.

Lemons

Market is steady as we will be finishing harvesting Dist. 1 next week. The Dist 2 fruit does have some smaller fruit but we are size picking getting the larger fruit off the tree. The 165's and smaller are getting tight and limited, expect prices to start strengthening especially on the smaller fruit. The overall quality is good with some good color and excellent juice content, but the choice will be a bit more scarred up due to dist. 2 wind scar and snail damage etc. and just an overall rougher texture. There will be some of the first Argentinean lemons arriving in about a week or 10 days as well, it is yet to be seen what the fruit will be, but once we get the first inspections on that fruit we will keep you posted. The first of the Chilean will start to arrive around mid-June as well. We will also start some Mexican fruit around the end of July; the Mexican volume is expected to be about 30-40% lighter than normal. Hopefully we have a good summer with no gaps and quality stays good on all the imported and domestic fruit.

Lettuce:

Butter

Demand is good, and quality is average.

Green and Red Leaf

Quality is good, and supplies are steady. Green leaf is very active due to the past situation with romaine; but the market is leveling out.

Iceberg Lettuce

The market is active but has improved. Quality has been all over the board between growers.

Romaine

Supplies have returned to normal. Quality is good with occasional fringe burn.

Romaine Hearts

Supplies are normal. Demand and quality are good.

Limes

ESCALATED Bigger fruit continues to remain tight and shippers are having to grade the fruit to obtain quality needed for shipping which is making this market remain steady. However, this has caused some tighter supplies on the 175-200ct and pricing remains elevated (though it has improved). We expect to see this market improve weekly.

Napa

Supplies are better this week and demand is steady.



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Produce (continued)

Onions

Production has significantly increased in the Imperial Valley, California. This increase in volume is making up for Idaho/Oregon finishing up their crop, with much fewer supplies remaining in Washington. Please note, Washington is susceptible to sprouting and some internal issues shortly after arrival. Texas onions remain shipping in heavy volume; however, they will begin to wind down in the next week. The size profile in Texas remains heavier to smaller onions, therefore Colossals and Supers are becoming a bit short as of late, with more availability on Medium Yellows. Uvalde, TX and Las Cruces, NM are expecting to start in the next 7-10 days and will replace the volume lost from south Texas as they finish. We are seeing much better availability of Colossal and Super Colossal in California as their onions are running much larger. We are seeing reds that are much heavier than jumbos and mediums being fairly tight in both regions. Yields have been healthy in both Texas, as well as California, and we do not anticipate any major spikes in pricing at this point.

Oranges

Market very strong across the board demand exceeds supply on 88's, 113's and 138's which will continue as we have been saying this crop is about 40% lighter than normal and will finish up much sooner than the past few years probably next week. We have started some Valencia's which will help on the smaller fruit but it is also a lighter crop so we will be fighting on smaller fruit through the year until we start navels around the first of November. The bloom for next year's crop was real heavy but we are experiencing some heavy bloom drop already and there are several different stages of the blooms due to our erratic weather we have had this winter. We will keep you posted going forward as we learn more over the next few months as to what next year's crop is looking like for Navels and Valencia's. The overall quality of the navels is good with excellent sugar and beautiful color, we are seeing some internal separation and puff and crease which is pretty normal for this time of the year.

Parsley(Curly, Italian)

Quality is fair and supplies are good.

Green Bell Pepper

Bell peppers continue to be very limited in the East. With just a few growers in the Plant City area shipping fruit and recent rains affecting their harvests, there's not nearly enough to go around. Quality has been okay, but we expect to see rain-related concerns as early as this weekend. However, very light production is expected to start in Georgia at the end of next week which may start to ease the pain. More "normal" supply isn't expected until more farms get up and running in Georgia during the first or second week in June. As for the West, Mexico continues to ship product due to the strong markets but quality is less than desirable. Somewhat better fruit is available out of California but there are shape, size and scarring concerns.

Jalapenos (Chiles)

Baja Mexico's chili volumes are increasing and quality has been excellent. Mainland growers are still in production but are battling heat-related quality problems.

Red and Yellow Bell Pepper

Domestic prices are up; stocks are average in all regions. Quality ranges from good to very good: skins are smooth and flavor is subtly sweet.

Pineapple

The market is level; volume is rising. Quality is good: sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.



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Produce (continued)

Idaho Potatoes

Markets are steady this week with good demand. Planting for the 2018/2019 has been completed. Everything went in on time and as expected. We expect to move into new crop the first week of August.

Radishes

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

Salad Blends

The market is level; stocks are sufficient. Quality is good: inspectors are selecting the best fields for harvesting.

Snow and Sugar Snap Peas

Snow and sugar snap peas supplies are steady through Miami and prices are higher.

Spinach (Bunched)

Quality is fair with some sizing issues. Supplies are good.

Spinach (Baby)

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

Spring Mix

Prices are steady; Salinas Valley supplies are sufficient. Quality is very good: mildew damage and yellowing are minor issues.

Yellow Squash / Zucchini

With most Georgia farms in production now, yellow and zucchini squash availability is finally improving in the East. Overall quality has been nice, and is improved over what many of the remaining Florida shippers have to offer. Western markets are snug on squash this week, as they wait for the Santa Maria and Fresno areas to ramp up production. Northern Mexico farms will ship for another 7-10 days, or as market conditions permit, but product quality is declining.

TOMATOES-EAST

This week's rainy weather pattern has created harvesting issues for Ruskin/ Palmetto area tomato growers and availability has been light on all varieties. With 2-3 weeks of crown picks yet to go, there's reasonable volumes of fruit on the vines but rain could affect quality and packouts in the near future. Better details regarding the outlook for these crops will be coming as the rains slow down and fruit reacts.

TOMATOES-WEST/MEXICO

Between the mature greens in the California desert and vine-ripes in Eastern and Baja, Mexico, the West has good volumes of round tomatoes to ship. All sizes are available, but some areas are heavier to larger fruit (Baja) and others (West Mexico) are stronger in the 5x5/5x6 range. Roma supply is also in good shape as Eastern Mexico and Baja are expecting consistent/increasing supply as we roll into June. Grape tomatoes are the challenge this week as current production areas in Mexico are near the end of the season and Baja hasn't really kicked into gear yet. Quality has been nice on rounds and romas, but is challenging on grapes.

Watermelons

Prices are average; Mexican stocks are becoming more plentiful. Quality is very good: melons are juicy and flavor is sweet. Sugar levels are increasing.

