



# MARKET TRENDS

FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 7, 2018



# MARKET TRENDS

JUNE 7, 2018

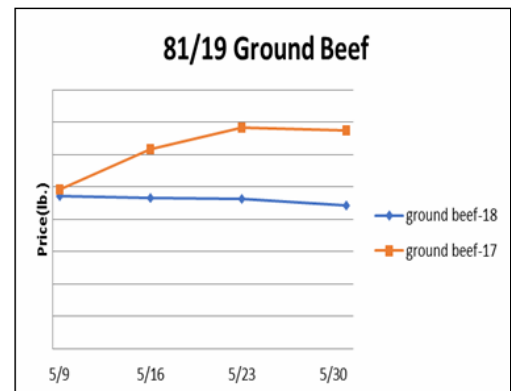
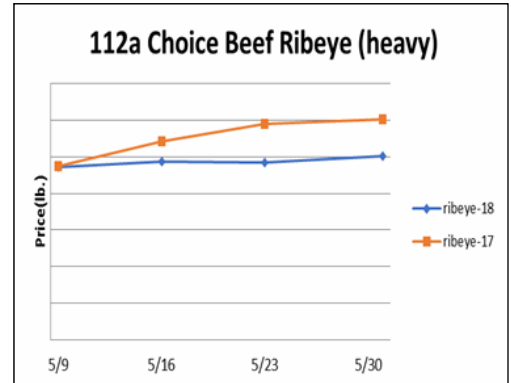
**PERFORMANCE**  
FOODSERVICE



## Beef, Veal & Lamb

Beef output last week fell 2.1% but was 4.9% bigger than the same week last year. Recent cattle on feed data suggests that solid year-over-year gains in beef production should occur this summer. Yet, fewer cattle placements into feedlots the past two months which may equal a cattle-supply gap this fall. Per the USDA, the May 1st U.S. cattle on feed inventory was 5.1% larger than the prior year, but cattle placements into feedlots during April were down 8.3%. Still, the average cattle placement weight was up 3.1% versus 2017. Typically, beef prices seasonally peak soon. Since 2013, the average move for the choice 0x1 strip market from early June through July was down 30.8%.

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	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Ground Chuck	Decreasing	Good	Lower
109 Export Rib (ch)	Decreasing	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)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
116b Chuck Tender (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
120 Brisket (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
120a Brisket (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
121c Outside Skirt (ch/sel)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
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)	Increasing	Good	Lower
174 Short Loin (ch 0x1)	Increasing	Good	Higher
174 Short Loin (pr 2x3)	Increasing	Good	Lower
180 0x1 Strip (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
180 0x1 Strip (pr)	Increasing	Good	Lower
184 Top Butt, boneless (ch)	Increasing	Good	Higher
184 Top Butt, boneless (pr)	Increasing	Good	Higher
184-3 Top Butt, bnls (ch)	Increasing	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	Higher
189a Tender (pr, heavy)	Increasing	Good	Lower
193 Flank Steak (ch)	Decreasing	Good	Higher
50% Trimmings	Increasing	Good	Lower
65% Trimmings	Increasing	Good	Lower
75% Trimmings	Steady	Good	Lower
85% Trimmings	Increasing	Short	Lower
90% Trimmings	Increasing	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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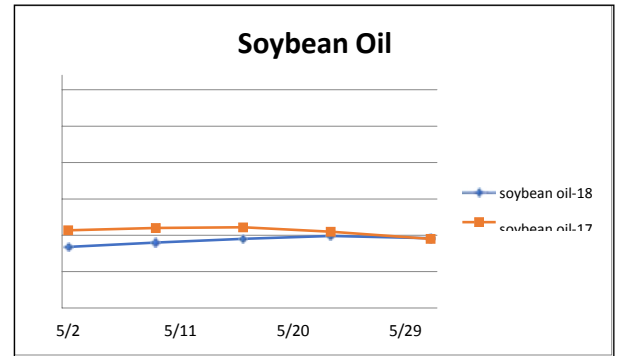
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## Grains

The weather for the 2018-19 domestic corn crop has been nearly ideal since planting. The USDA this week released their first domestic crop ratings for corn, and they were historically very good. If this trend continues, it could lead to a seasonal top in the corn market sometime in the next few months.

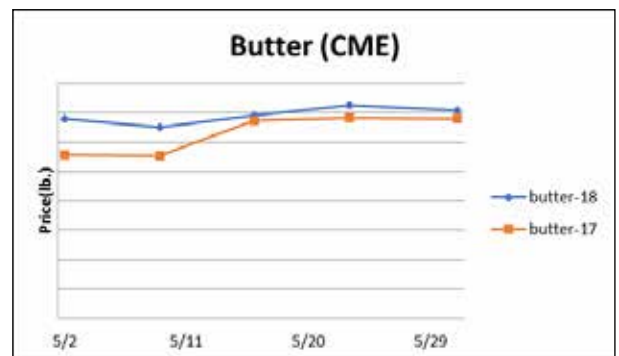
Description	Market Trend	Supplies	Price vs. Last Year
Soybeans, bushel	Increasing	Good	Higher
Crude Soybean Oil, lb	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Soybean Meal, ton	Increasing	Good	Higher
Corn, bushel	Decreasing	Good	Higher
Crude Corn Oil, lb	Increasing	Good	Lower
High Fructose Corn Syrup	Steady	Good	Higher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



## Dairy

U.S. butter supplies have been historically large despite strong export demand. As of April 30th, U.S. butter holdings were 5.2% more than the prior year and the second largest for the date since 1993. The year-to-date build is the second biggest since 2006. However, international butter prices continue to firm which should underpin the domestic markets in the near term. The April 30th cheese inventory was 3.3% bigger than last year and the second largest for any month on record. But like butter, firming global cheese prices could temper the near-term downside in the domestic markets.

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



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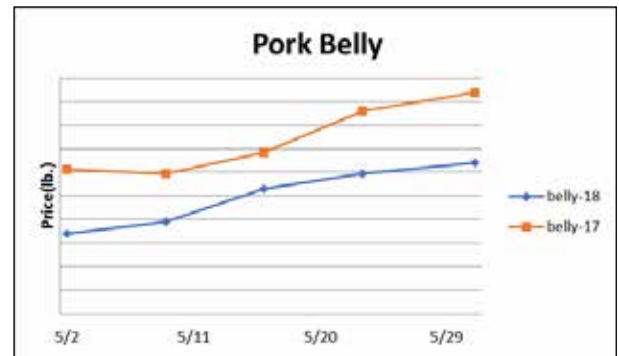
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## Pork

Pork production last week was down 2.1% but was 6.5% larger than a year ago. Pork output this summer is expected to be 4.8% stronger than last year. This should temper the pending seasonal price gains for pork. But, retailers are planning to feature pork, including bacon, in the coming weeks due in part to higher beef prices. This may be supportive of the pork belly markets. Since 2013, the average move for the derind 9-13 pork belly market in the next seven weeks was up 23.3%.

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)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Ham (20-23 lb)	Increasing	Good	Lower
Ham (23-27 lb)	Increasing	Good	Lower
Loin (bone in)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Babyback Rib (1.75 lb & up)	Increasing	Good	Higher
Tenderloin (1.25 lb)	Increasing	Good	Lower
Boston Butt, untrmd (4-8 lb)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Picnic, untrmd	Decreasing	Good	Lower
SS Picnic, smoker trm box	Decreasing	Good	Lower
42% Trimmings	Increasing	Good	Lower
72% Trimmings	Decreasing	Good	Lower



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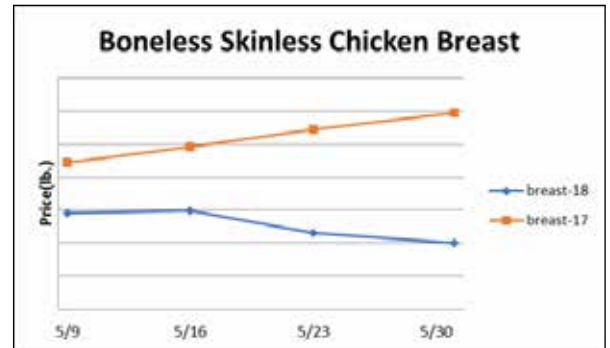
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## Poultry

Chicken output for the week ending May 24th rose 2.3% and was 1.7% better than a year ago. The six-week total of chicken production stands at 1.1% above 2017. Summer chicken output is anticipated to be 1.9% more than last year per the USDA. Alternative protein sources are keeping the chicken markets at bay. The ARA Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast Index last week was at its second lowest level for this time of year since at least 2000. Chicken tenders were the lowest since 2011. But, rising feature activity will likely occur soon and could boost prices. The May 1st table egg laying flock was 2.4% larger than last year but egg output performance remains a challenge. Egg prices are likely to be above prior year levels through the fall.

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)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Tenderloin Index (ARA)	Steady	Good	Lower
Legs (whole)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Leg Quarter Index (ARA)	Decreasing	Good	Lower
Thighs, Bone In	Increasing	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	Decreasing	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	Increasing	Short	Higher





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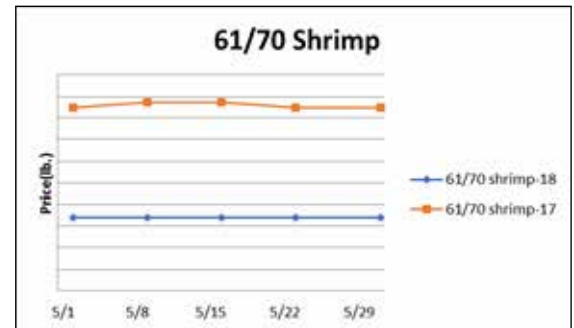
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## Seafood

The Newfoundland snow crab fishing season is progressing. As of May 28th, just over half of the 2018 quota had been landed. However, the Newfoundland snow crab quota this year is down 17% from last year and the smallest in recent history. The Gulf of St. Lawrence quota is down 44%. This should mitigate the downside in snow crab leg prices this summer.

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
<b>WOOD PULP (PAPER)</b>			
NBSK- Paper napkin	Steady	Good	Higher
42 lb. Linerboard-corrugated box	Steady	Good	Higher
<b>PLASTIC RESINS (PLASTIC, FOAM)</b>			
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

Coffee prices have been fairly steady during the last few weeks as the Brazilian chief harvest progresses. Generally adequate coffee supplies are anticipated to persist into 2019. This factor and a rising value to the U.S. dollar should temper the upside in coffee prices.

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



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## Produce

### Market Overview

Most commodities are steady. Valencias are now in an ACT OF GOD with higher prices and shortages in supply. Lemons remain higher in prices and tighter in supply. Lettuces and salad blends are steady.

### Watch List

#### Southeastern Vegetables

Tomatoes and Green Bell Pepper 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 prematurely on some commodities while delaying the spring harvest in South Georgia. We do expect the conditions to improve this week; our growers are going into fields, harvesting good numbers on squash, cucumber and eggplant. Unfortunately, tomatoes are delayed. We expect production to improve daily on green bells and tomatoes in 2-3 weeks. There will be plenty of supply on fresh tomatoes crossing through McAllen, TX and Otay Mesa, CA to substitute. We will keep you posted as we receive crop updates.

#### Apples & Pears

The market is stable. Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious Apples are on the market; large Granny Smith stocks are limited, but all other varieties are ample. Quality is very good: sugar levels range from 14 to 18 Brix. Braeburn supplies will be available through June.

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

#### Artichokes

Quality is excellent, and demand is good.

#### Arugula

Quality has improved, and supplies are good.

#### Asparagus

The market is stable; stocks are sufficient. Quality is best in Mexico: flavor is pleasantly grassy.

#### Avocados

Markets are slightly weaker. Demand over the week started to increase at the border. Some wholesalers were holding off until the last minute trying to get deals. There is still plenty of #2 fruit crossing and putting a small drag on the overall markets. Peru should start to be an option over the next few weeks. California fruit continues to stay steady and has seen some strengthening in the markets, as many western receivers have switched to CA fruit.

### MARKET ALERT

- Green Bell Pepper – ESCALATED
- Lemons – ESCALATED
- Mushrooms – ESCALATED
- Oranges (Valencias) – ACT OF GOD
- Tomatoes (East Coast – Grapes and Cherries) – ESCALATED





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## Produce (continued)

### Bananas

Banana volumes are expected to take a step back from initial projections. With recent projected decreases in volume forecasts and growing demand in other parts of the globe based on crop failures the projected glut of fruit to contend with in the summer months does not appear to be the case.

### Beans

EAST: GA has quickly fired up along with FL still bringing some acreage to the table. However, quality is starting to get a bit sporadic, especially with all the rainfall, so keep a tight inventory. FOBs are starting to rise.

WEST: Volume is limited, but slowly increasing from the desert & Fresno areas. FOBs are slightly split and up, but should ease off as volume rises. Quality is mostly good.

### Berries:

#### Blackberries

The market is steady. California supplies are ramping up in Oxnard and Watsonville. Most stocks are being harvested in Central Mexico. Quality is average: berries are plump and juicy with sweet, yet slightly tangy flavor. Sugar levels vary from 12 to 13 Brix.

#### Blueberries

Prices are rising; stocks are limited in Santa Maria and Watsonville, California, as well as Mexico. Supplies will increase over the next month. Quality is good: berries are deep blue with a slight blush and sweet, yet tangy flavor.

#### Raspberries

The market is stable. Although the Mexican season has ended, California supplies are increasing. Prices will continue to inch down through June. Quality is good: berries are plump and sweet. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

#### Strawberries

Prices are steady; stocks are ample in California's Santa Maria and Salinas/Watsonville regions. Expect a comparable market for several weeks. 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 are elevated. Domestic supplies are tight; erratic weather patterns have stunted growth and decreased stocks. Quality is average: hollow core is a minor problem.

### Brussels Sprouts

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

### Cantaloupe

Market 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 fruit looks very good with a clean net a nice internal color and descent sugars. The first fruit has been peaking on 9's and Jumbo 9's keeping the smaller fruit very tight. We will be in the Imperial Valley and Arizona through June sand then start here on the Westside around the first of July.

### Carrots

We are seeing both good quality and volume.

### Cauliflower

Prices have fallen; although Mexican stocks are tight, California volume is high. Light bruising, decay, and oxidation are occasional issues.

### Celery

The market is weak. The Florida season has ended. Quality is very good: pith and growth cracking are minor problems.

### Cilantro

Supplies are good and quality is fair.



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## Produce (continued)

### Corn

Good volume continues on yellow and white out of the desert. Georgia sweet corn (yellow, white and bi-color) market is marginal; quality has been hit and miss due to the recent rains.

### Cucumbers

EAST: Slightly less volume is pushing FOBs up. FL's crop isn't producing a solid retail quality product, with quality demand leaning on GA. However, GA is a few weeks behind production, thus limiting some availability. NC should come into the mix in about 7 days.

WEST: There is a MAJOR split market between Nogales & Southern California. MX fruit is subpar quality, hence the lower price points. SoCal's cucs are better quality, but not enough supply is available to meet demand. Look for this market to balance out in the next 10 days approximately as more farms come on board.

### English Cucumber

There are excellent supplies crossing through Nogales and McAllen.



### Eggplant

EAST: Great volume is still coming from the Plant City flush talked about last week. FOBs remain low, but are expected to rise soon as quality is diminishing. GA is expected to start in about 10-14 days.

WEST: Current warm weather conditions in the west are providing optimal growing conditions. Thus, the transition is moving along smooth into the CA desert area. FOBs are steady and quality is excellent from the CA area.

### 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 lighter volume 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 flames and palettes and Sugarones with very 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 but, light volume on reds and perlettes and also starting some sugarone, 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, also the way things are looking the volumes out of both districts look to be lighter than projected it could stay tight through June and first of July.. We should start here in the central valley around the third week 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.



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## Produce (continued)

### 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.

### Honeydew

Market 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

Red leaf quality is good with occasional fringe burn, and supplies are normal. Green leaf supplies exceed demand and quality has been good with occasional fringe burn.

#### Iceberg Lettuce

Supplies have decreased due to cooler weather patterns. Quality has improved. Prices will be slightly higher this weekend.

#### Romaine

Supplies exceed demand. Quality is good with occasional fringe burn.

#### Romaine Hearts

Supplies exceed demand and quality is very good.

#### Limes

Prices are near the bottom; Mexican volume is high, especially 175-count and smaller fruit. Quality is very good: breakdown is minimal and occasional discoloration is merely cosmetic and doesn't affect taste or shelf-life.

#### Napa

Supplies and demand are steady.



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## Produce *(continued)*

### Onions

The market is stable; stocks are sufficient. Washington onions will remain on the market for another week. Adequate supplies of fresh-run Red and Yellow Onions are available in California, New Mexico, and Texas.

### 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

EAST: Plant City is still producing only limited supply, especially with the recent rains limiting the harvest schedule. Quality has also been affected negatively by weather. However, Georgia should start in a light way later this week which will ease market conditions.

WEST: There continues to be a split market between Nogales & California, both on pricing and quality. MX's quality is poor while CA has better bells available, but still with some conditional defects. As volume from CA increases, FOBs are starting to fall depending on the grade and quality purchased.

### Jalapenos (Chiles)

EAST: Good steady volume coming from Plant City is keeping FOBs at a reasonable price point. Quality is excellent.

WEST: Two areas are bringing good supply to market, however, quality is split. Baja product is strong, but a bit more expensive as there is not large volume available. Mainland MX's chiles are feeling the heat and showing signs of weakness. Prices are split between the two markets.

### Red and Yellow Bell Pepper

Prices are inching down. Stocks range from adequate to plentiful. Quality varies from good to very good: skins are smooth and flavor is subtly sweet.

### Pineapple

Prices are level; volume is climbing. Quality is good: fruit is tangy and juicy. Sugar levels range from 13 to 16 Brix.

### Idaho Potatoes

These very little market activity or change this week. As the potatoes get older more 2's get generated so this will help soften this market going forward. Carton sales are good and the markets are retaining their strength.

### Radishes

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

### Salad Blends

The market is level; supplies are sufficient. Quality is average: 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.

### Spinach (Baby)

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





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## Produce (continued)

### Spring Mix

Prices are unchanged; Salinas Valley supplies are adequate. Quality is very good: yellowing is a problem in tango and breakdown is a minor issue in green/red romaine.

### Yellow Squash / Zucchini

EAST: Major quality concerns in the east are still a big trouble maker. FL has some supply available, but quality is poor. GA has slightly better quality, but more limited supply. North Carolina will be starting in the next 7-10 days, hopefully giving much needed relief. FOBs are steady.

WEST: Santa Maria & Fresno are the core areas at this time with fair quality available. As volume picks up, FOBs have fallen some depending on quality.

### TOMATOES-EAST

#### Rounds

Continuous rainfall is significantly impacting the tail end of the Palmetto/Ruskin crop. Volume is lower due to not being able to harvest as frequently. With the fruit staying the vine longer, smaller sizes are a bit less available than extra-large sizes. Both Quincy and South Carolina are set to start in about 7-10 days which will bring much needed size relief. Additionally, demand has dwindled downward coming off the holiday weekend and MX has great volume available. Thus, FOBs move downward a little. Quality will be strenuous until new crop begins. During this time we recommend keeping a tighter than usual inventory.

#### Romas

Like rounds, rain has greatly affected the end of the Palmetto/Ruskin crop. Volume is down due to not being able to harvest as frequently, however, most sizes are readily available. FOBs move downward slightly. Quality will be strenuous until new crop begins. During this time we recommend keeping a tighter than usual inventory.

#### Grapes

Light supplies from Palmetto/Ruskin continue to harvest. However, demand has recently tapered off. Therefore, FOBs actually move downward on both cases and bulk. Quality is currently poor and will be strenuous until new crop begins. During this time we recommend keeping a tighter than usual inventory.

#### Cherries

Light supplies continue to come from Palmetto/Ruskin. FOBs are mostly steady. Quality has diminished. It is recommended to keep a tight inventory through the transition period.

### TOMATOES-WEST/MEXICO

#### Rounds

Mature greens have mostly ended in Mexico with California still only scratching the surface. The CA mature green crop will ramp up in mid-June. Vine ripens from MX are still plentiful with good pricing available. Quality is mostly good, but there is some tenderness to the recent fruit crossing. With weather temps forecasting high this early in the season, we could be in for an interesting summer.

#### Romas

Great supply and quality is coming from multiple regions, Western MX, Northern MX, and Baja. FOBs remain low as we head towards June. Great supply is expected to continue and quality remains excellent.

#### Grapes

Grapes head upwards another few dollars. Nogales quality is suffering and Baja has not built any volume yet. Look for improvements in about 10 days as Baja brings more volume to the table. Until then, it is recommended to keep a tight inventory until new crop kicks in.

#### Cherries

Most demand and volume has shifted to Southern CA as Nogales' quality is too poor to ship. FOBs are steady week over week and quality is mostly good.

#### Tree Fruit

California nectarines and peaches are on the market. Plums will become available next week. Quality is very good: sugar levels will rise as the season progresses.

#### Watermelons

Prices are up. Domestic supplies are tight due to rain in Florida. Quality is very good: melons are juicy and flavor is mildly sweet. Sugar levels are climbing.

