

FARMER'S REPORT

MARKET TRENDS | 3.16.2018





BEEF

The live cattle price traded in a range of \$1.26 to \$1.28, which is steady from the previous week. We are projecting the live cattle prices to remain steady to possibly down one to two cents. The beef industry reported another drop in production levels, and was recorded at 597,000 head, compared to the previous week's total of 607,000. If everything holds true, we expect production levels this week to hit 600,000.

Look for the chuck and round complex to continue the downward trend, while the rib and loin complexes will continue to hold value as the BBQ season approaches.

Grading continues to set records, which has caused the Choice/Select spread to narrow, and that benefits the cutout, as buyers are forced to purchase Choice product at a higher value or pay up for Select.

GRINDS

GROUND BEEF 81/19: Blended grinds ended the week modestly higher once again, and the market remains firm. There is a slight risk to retracement as seasonal production increases, but we should see further gains in mid-to-late March, when retail features increase in time for early grilling season.

GROUND CHUCK: Ground chuck reported modestly lower, compounded by the chuck complex under pressure. We are calling the market unstable at this time, with possible retracement in place. As with blended grinds, ground chuck is expected to appreciate in spring.

ROUNDS

PEELED KNUCKLES: All grades of knuckles reported modestly lower, as demand is slipping and the focus put on grilling items. Modest declines are anticipated as we move into spring.

INSIDE ROUNDS: Insides rounds ended the week with modest declines across all grades. The market could move in more of a sideways pattern before declines are expected in April.

BOTTOM ROUND FLATS: Bottom rounds reported down again this week, with modest to moderate declines from lack of demand. Further declines are anticipated as we move into spring.

EYES OF ROUND: Eyes traded steady to lower as expected. The market is starting to weaken, with more declines predicted into spring.

LOINS

STRIPS: Strips continue to move higher, and the market remains firm. Only a slight risk to retracement exists as we enter early spring.

TOP BUTTS: All grades of sirloins reported increases from the previous week's lows. Top butts remain very vulnerable to price fluctuations, as buyers enter and exit the market at price levels already at spring values.

TENDERLOINS: Choice tenders traded modestly higher for the week, while Select and Ungraded tenders saw moderate increases, based on heavy demand and price advantage over the Choice grade. There is a slight risk to the downside in March, but seasonal gains will take hold when spring weather entices consumers to get out of the house and fire up the grill.

RIBS

RIBEYES: Light ribs are firm on good call, with limited supplies from reduced kills. The market remains firm, especially for Select/Ungraded product due to grading. Heavy ribs remain moderately higher on all grades, with heavy demand in place. There is a risk to retracement in the rib market, but it is also viewed as limited.

CHUCKS

CHUCK ROLLS: Chuck rolls are now seeing pressure for lower costs. Choice saw a modest increase from prior week, while the Select grade saw a steady market. The chuck complex will remain unstable, as export and retail ads are no longer a focus.

TERES MAJORS: Teres Major continues to climb, with robust demand on limited supplies. The Choice grade saw a very small decline, while the Select grade reported modestly higher. The market remains firm, but the rate of increases is slowing. There is not a lot of downside associated with the market at this time.

BRISKETS: Even though we saw modest increases across all grades of the brisket, we are now noticing pressure with brisket, and the market is very close to a tipping point. With St. Patrick's Day behind us, it will bring more availability to the market.

THIN MEATS

BALL TIPS: Choice grades of ball tips barely held value, while the Select grade reported up sharply. Ball tips are at risk of retracement in the coming weeks. The market could maintain its value if the price point entices buyers to enter the market, but this is looking limited with increased beef production on the horizon.

FLAP MEAT: All grades of flap moved higher. Good forward sales are keeping the market firm beyond expectations. Further gains are anticipated through March and early April.

FLANK: All grades of flank were modestly higher on normal demand and lower kills. The market is now showing signs of retracement, and is vulnerable to a setback, with the market already pricing in spring values.

SKIRT STEAK: Outside skirt moved higher again on good demand and limited supply, due to lower kills. The market is showing signs of softening, but remains higher as the week progresses. There is a risk to retracement in late March/early April before seasonal advances.





PORK

Last week the USDA reported harvest levels of 2.41 MM hogs, almost 4% over year ago. This week, slaughter numbers are expected to come in about equal to last week and about 3% above one year ago. At this point in time, harvest levels are expected to trend lower through Q3. Packer margins moved lower last week, but are firming up with the expectation of improving cutout values. Lastly, hog weights continue to trend well above year-ago averages. Typically, hog weights begin their seasonal move lower during March/April; this year, weights are holding about 4 lbs. above year-ago levels. This build-up of hogs in the pipeline results in larger primal cuts and an imbalance in supply for “lighter or sized” cuts, such as ribs, hams and bellies.

Pork demand remains fairly lackluster during the Lenten season. Post-Easter, in early April, demand is expected to pick up, supported by improving export orders. Additionally, domestic demand is expected to ramp up in anticipation of warmer temperatures and grilling season. Export demand remains key to supporting prices during Q2.

LOINS

Prices for bone-in and boneless pork loins traded steady to slightly lower last week due to lack of demand. Retailers are not featuring many pork items during the final two weeks of Lent. Prices are trading lower in early-week trade, trade as retail focus turns to seafood promotions. Retailers are expected to re-visit bone-in and boneless loin promotions after Easter, so prices are expected to find support and begin their seasonal move higher around mid-April.

TENDERS

Pork tenderloin prices traded lower last week, due to a lack of retail demand. Prices appear to have firmed up this week, but are expected to trade fairly steady and in a narrow range for the next two weeks. Overall demand for tenderloins is typically hit-or-miss for this time of year, and heavily dependent on retail features. Prices are expected to move higher mid/late April.



BUTTS

Pork butt prices continue to hold fairly steady and trade within a narrow range over the next two weeks. Prices are slightly lower in early-week trade, but current demand levels appear to be consuming available supplies. Typically pork butts are not featured during Lent; however, export demand remains fairly strong, and buyers will step into the market if prices drop to attractive levels. Uncertainty with respect to export demand may increase price volatility over the next few weeks.

RIBS

Pricing on the rib complex was mixed last week. Back ribs were slightly lower last week, due to unexpected supplies of fresh product on the market. Prices are steady in early-week trade, and are expected to continue their gradual (seasonal) move higher through April. Sparerib prices traded higher last week, supported by tight supplies of fresh light spareribs. Heavier hog weights have diminished supplies of light spareribs, and this is supporting higher prices. Spareribs are steady in early-week trade, but strong demand for light ribs may support higher prices through May. Light ribs, both back ribs and sparerib-derived products, are expected to remain in tight supply through April.

BELLIES/BACON

Belly prices posted significant declines last week, due to ample supplies and retailers cutting back on bacon promotions in favor of seafood and Easter features. Belly prices are slightly lower in early-week trade, but their rate of decline appears to be slowing. Bacon processors will continue to move bellies to the freezer in preparation for late spring retail promotions. Belly prices are expected to turn higher during April, but prices remain volatile amidst uncertainty over near-term demand.

HAMS

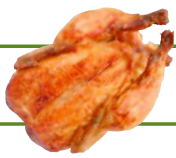
Ham prices traded lower last week and are showing significant declines in early-week trade. Easter buying has concluded, and current prices are reflective of ample ham supplies and a lack of demand. Ham prices are expected to continue their gradual decline through early April; however, export buyers may move back in the market if prices reach attractive levels. Expect ham prices to turn higher in late April.

TRIMMINGS

Trades on pork trimmings were higher last week, with fat 42% trimmings and lean 72% trimmings both moving higher. Both items are forecasted to move gradually higher in a sawtooth-like fashion through summer, especially as processors slowly ramp up for Memorial Day promotions.

PICNICS

The picnic complex was higher last week, with the boneless picnics moving higher and the bone-in picnics trading steady to higher. Boneless picnics are expected to begin their seasonal move higher, as dinner sausage processors begin building inventories for Memorial Day orders.



TURKEY

BONELESS, SKINLESS TURKEY BREASTS

Turkey breasts were slightly up this week. We should expect this market to trend flat to upward for the near term.

WHOLE FROZEN TURKEYS

Whole turkeys were flat this week, as there seems to be ample supply. We expect this market to trend flat to upward in the near term.



CHICKEN

BROILER-TYPE EGGS SET IN THE UNITED STATES UP 2%

Hatcheries in the United States weekly program set 227 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 10, 2018, up 2% from a year ago. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week in the United States was 82%. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Note: Starting in 2018, the 19-State totals have been discontinued.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS PLACED IN THE UNITED STATES UP 1%

Broiler growers in the United States weekly program placed 181 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 10, 2018, up 1% from a year ago. Cumulative placements from the weeks ending January 6, 2018 through March 10, 2018 for the United States were 1.81 billion, up 1% from the same period a year earlier.

Note: Starting in 2018, the 19-State totals have been discontinued.

WHOLE CHICKEN & CUT-UP PARTS

Small bird demand is still very strong, and supply continues to be tight. We can expect this trend to continue through 2018.

BONELESS, SKINLESS BREASTS & CHICKEN TENDERLOINS

Select, medium and jumbo boneless breast markets were up this week. Renewed interest surrounding upcoming retail ads will continue to support seasonal inclines in these markets. We can expect them to trend upward to flat in the near term.

The tenderloin markets were flat this week; demand and supply are well-balanced for the near term. We can expect this market to trend flat to upward in the near term.

WINGS

Small, medium and jumbo markets were flat this week. Interest in building upcoming college basketball tournament inventories will help support these markets short-term. For the near term, we can expect these markets to trend flat to upward.

BONELESS, SKINLESS THIGHS

This market was slightly up this week, and we can expect it to trend flat to upward in the near term. As seasonal and export demand ramp up, labor shortages will come heavily into play.





COMMODITY OIL

SOY, CANOLA & PALM OIL

The soybean complex closed lower last week on the heels of a negatively construed USDA report, and prospects for some rains in Argentina that could help to at least stabilize their faltering soybean crop. Soybean oil prices were dragged into new lows for the move, with higher ending stocks, lower palm oil prices and biodiesel demand uncertainties leading the way.

Last week's USDA report had soybean ending stocks for 2017/2018 raised another 25 million bushels on reduced exports. A big point of interest on this report was the Argentine soybean number, where production was lowered 7 million metric tons from last month. Most of the trade community believes that the USDA's new number is still high by at least 3 to 5 MMT.

CONAB raised their estimate of this year's Brazilian soybean crop production almost 2 MMT.



SOY:

- 2017/2018 soybean oil ending stocks were raised 215 million pounds on larger production, given five consecutive months of record domestic crush. Lower biodiesel consumption was also a factor in the higher soybean oil ending stocks estimate.
- It was another week of political posturing on the biodiesel front, with additional meetings in Washington, D.C., on Monday to discuss potential revisions to the U.S. Biofuels program (RFS) . . .this time without President Trump in attendance. These meetings have been a negative price influence for the soybean oil market, as end users refuse to extend buy programs until some type of outcome is reached.

CANOLA

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) estimated the 2018 area to be planted to canola at 9.73 million hectares, up 5% from last year. 2018 canola production was forecast at a record 21.7 million metric tons, up from 21.313 million in 2017.

PALM OIL

- Malaysian palm oil futures fell to a one-and-a-half-year low last week, as the fallout from the recent Indian tariff rate hikes battered the market. Indian buyers are also said to be looking to cancel or renegotiate as much as 100,000 tons of pre-tariff rate hike purchases. This looks to be a fine line that India is walking, as imports account for over 70% of their edible oil consumption, most of which is palm.

US EXPORTS

- Year-to-date soybean oil sales are still running 28% behind a year ago.

SEASONALS

- Seasonal indicators show a strong history of soybean oil prices in the late-December-through-March period.



DAIRY

BUTTER

Production is strong. Cream remains available and butter inventories are balanced. Demand is seasonally strong, with increased interest in print butter and decreased interest in bulk. Prices are expected to be slightly higher over the next 30 days.

CHEESE

Milk supplies continue to be heavy, which results in strong cheese production across all regions. Demand continues to be stable across all regions. Mozzarella and Provolone demand is seeing a spike in orders, due to the college basketball tournament coming up.

SHELL EGGS

Egg prices refuse to back off, and are up again this week. There has not been a spike this high in price since the Avian influenza outbreak, as the price continues to be above \$2.00 per dozen. The surge in egg prices has rallied more than expected, as demand has been higher than expected even for the strong pre-Easter timeframe. This demand spike has been driven by retailers using cheaper egg promotions to generate increased foot traffic. We should see a slowdown in the increased prices as we approach Easter, with an expected sharp break in prices as the market normalizes post-Easter.

MILK & CREAM

Milk output is steady to high across the country. Supplies are plentiful with increased inventory. For March: FMO markets were all down except Class I and II skim. Flat to decreased pricing this month is expected for FMO markets. California markets were down, except for Class I SNF. Flat to decreased pricing this month is expected for California markets this month.



SEAFOOD

SHRIMP, DOMESTIC

(WHITES AND BROWNS): Shell-on Browns: Inventories are getting tight. Shell-on Whites: Markets are steady, as there are still a few boats out, with average landings for this time of year. Overall outlook is for higher pricing as we move into early spring.

DOMESTIC PUDS: Inventory positions are now reporting tighter than initially thought from last week. Prices are rising and will continue to do so. Inventory is extra tight on 90/110's and 130/150's.

SHRIMP, IMPORTED

(BLACK TIGER AND WHITES): Production on tigers continues to be very low.

Farmed Asian White shrimp are showing some signs of weakening, but the feeling here is that inventory levels in the US are causing vendors to lower prices. Latin Whites remain steady.

(MEXICAN BROWNS AND WHITES): The season is coming to an end, with catches better than the 2017 season, but still disappointing. Some larger sizes will be hard to come by in a few months. Browns will be in tight supply for the season.

CATFISH

DOMESTIC: Production of farmed domestic catfish has started to pick up, and we are starting to see more inventory and some weakening in prices.

IMPORTED: We are seeing stable pricing on imported catfish. New-season fish is starting to hit the US. The long-term outlook is still uncertain.

SALMON

ATLANTIC FARMED SALMON: Pricing and supply has become stable. Fresh fillet supply has now caught up with demand, and we are seeing a slight decline on fresh sizes out of Chile.

MAHI MAHI

Fishing is coming to an end in Central and South America. Catch has been better than in the past two years. Outlook for the spring and summer is for good supply.

SCALLOPS

SEA: Pricing has turned to a steady tone. The new quota and season began March 1. There is talk about extra trips into restricted areas, and if that happens we could see some lower pricing on U/10's and 10-20's.

BAY: Pricing has turned steady overseas.

TILAPIA

Inventory in the US seems to be good, with pricing starting to stabilize. We should see some consistency through Q1; outlook for the second quarter of the year is for higher pricing.

PANGASIU

Pricing remains high, and inventory on 5-7's and 7-9's are very tight. Inspection of imported product is a slow process, causing delays of products moving out of cold storage.

WHITEFISH COMPLEX

COD: The Atlantic cod quota has been cut 13%, or 115,000 tons. The Pacific cod quota has been cut by 80%. We expect the overall market to remain very firm with short inventory and high prices. Q2 pricing will be moving up.

POLLOCK: The fishery for Pacific pollock has produced only smaller fish, just 2-4 oz. fillets. This could cause an inventory issue for frozen loins if they don't start catching larger fish. Larger fillets 4-6 and 6-8 oz. are very tight.

HADDOCK: Pricing on skin-on fillets and skinless loins are starting to see increases. Even with the increases, we are seeing haddock as a great value. As cod goes, so will the haddock market. Q2 pricing will be moving up.

FLOUNDER: Product from China will remain tight as the catch has been very slow. The Argentine season is underway now, with inventories slowly making their way into the states.

TUNA, YELLOWFIN

(FROZEN STEAKS & LOINS): Tuna is fairly stable in pricing and inventories are good.

SWORDFISH

Swordfish pricing is very stable. Inventory levels are in very good shape.

KING CRAB

(RED & GOLDEN): Product is very short in the marketplace across all sizes. The outlook is for pricing to be higher with lower inventory.

CRABMEAT

(BLUE & RED, PASTEURIZED): Blue swimming crab pricing is up, with bidding wars going on for raw product. We expect this trend to last for a month or two. Red swimming crab pricing is stable after gains in January. Mexico blue crab season is in full production with stable pricing. Inventory positions are very good at this time.

SNOW CRAB

ALASKAN: The majority of the 2018 crabbing fleet is on the fishing grounds, with poor results to date. With the cut in the quota, there is still a dark cloud hanging over how much inventory will be available for US consumption. There have been a few loads quoted.

CANADIAN: Fishing in Canada will start in the next few months. Ice flow will be the deciding factor as to when the fishermen can go fishing. There is talk of quota cuts in all zones, so time will tell on costs. There seems to be plenty of 5-8 clusters available.

LOBSTER TAILS

NORTH AMERICAN LOBSTER: Tails are in very bad shape. The category as a whole saw limited catch, so they will be an issue until May/June of 2018. We do expect to see pricing surge and inventory firm as we go forward.

LOBSTER TAILS WARM WATER: Supply on warm water tails is in a good place; however, pricing is heating up as the shortages in the cold water market continue to put pressure on larger-sized warm water tails.

LOBSTER MEAT: The Maine season has wrapped up. As inventory depletes, we will see prices rise accordingly. Be careful not to get subpar meat quality. We are seeing some poor quality meat on the market.

PRODUCE

The Easter pull could bring better demand, higher markets and tighter supplies. The mushroom industry as a whole continues to have tight supplies on white mushrooms, with some suppliers prorating orders. This is expected to continue for another week. For most suppliers, brown mushrooms are not affected. The banana market will be back to normal starting next week. Bananas arriving at the ports this week are back to full supplies. Limes are seeing major issues, with rain and cold weather hitting the majority of the crop in Mexico. Harvest delays, quality issues, and lime growth are all being affected by the weather in the harvesting fields. The tomato market is seeing a slight gap as farmers transition from winter crop to spring crop. Both Florida and Mexico are battling colder weather, which stops the fruit from growing and could result in some sizing issues. Weather in the Arizona and California growing regions continues to affect lettuce, cauliflower and broccoli items. Expect to see light supply on iceberg and romaine lettuce, cauliflower and broccoli. Mexico will also be shutting down harvest as the pre-Easter Holy Week approaches.

KEY

- ↑ - Anticipating an up market
- ➡ - Anticipating a steady market
- ↓ - Anticipating a down market

VEGETABLES



POTATOES

- ➡ **Russet:** The market on russets is mixed this week. Norkotah variety out of Washington/Oregon is steady. Burbank and Norkotah variety out of Idaho is up. Good quality and supplies are being reported, with moderate demand.
- ➡ **Reds:** The red potato market is mixed this week. Product out of Washington is steady, while product out of North Dakota is down. Product out of Florida is also steady.
- ➡ **Yellows:** The markets out of both Florida and California are steady. Quality is good with moderate supply and demand.



CABBAGE ↓

Round Green: The cabbage market is down this week with steady supplies and demand. Quality is good.



LEAF LETTUCE

- ↑ **Green Leaf:** The green leaf market is up this week with lighter supplies than normal. Quality and demand has been good. Cold weather is causing some issues.
- ↑ **Romaine:** The romaine lettuce market is up this week. Supplies are lighter than normal. Demand has been strong. Cold weather may have an effect on the market in a week or two. Quality is average.



ICEBERG LETTUCE ↑

The iceberg lettuce market is up this week. Supplies continue to be lighter. Harvest has been delayed due to rains. Lower quality is being reported.



GARLIC ↑

Chinese peeled garlic pricing remains strong, and moved up this week in the West. The West Coast does not have much supply, and containers are arriving at a slower pace. It is predicted that pricing will hold or continue to increase until the Chinese New Year is over. Demand is steady for California peeled garlic and supply is good.



ONIONS ➡

The jumbo yellow onion market is mixed this week. Product out of Washington/Oregon and Idaho is down, while product out of Mexico is steady. Good supply and quality are being reported with moderate demand.



CHILE PEPPERS ➡

The Chile pepper market is steady this week. Supplies continue to be on the lighter side for Jalapeños and Poblanos. Quality is being reported as good.



CILANTRO ➡

The cilantro market is mixed this week, depending on the growing region. Product out of Imperial, Coachella, Arizona, Texas, and Mexico is down. Product out of Oxnard is steady. Most suppliers are seeing better supplies this week with good demand.



CUCUMBERS ➡

Cucumber prices are flat to up this week. Florida is still relying on the limited supply from Central America, while Mexico continues to battle cooler weather. The Florida crop is about a week or two away from harvest. Quality is fair, but could get rough near the end of import season.



SQUASH

- ↓ **Yellow Squash:** Squash prices are down this week. Florida is starting to gain some ground on their squash harvest, and Mexico is starting harvest in a new growing region. Quality is still a huge struggle right now. Heavy scarring, bruising and discoloration are the main concerns.
- ↓ **Zucchini:** Zucchini prices are down this week. Supply out of Florida is improving, and Mexico is switching growing regions. Quality for Zucchini is doing better than yellow squash, but still not great. Once warmer weather hits the growing regions, quality should start to improve.



GREEN BEANS ➡

The green bean market is mixed this week. Hand-picked product and machine-picked product out of Florida is down. There are moderate supplies and demand out of Florida with variable quality. Imported haricots verts and hand-picked green beans out of Mexico are up.



EGGPLANT ➡

Eggplant prices are flat this week. Warmer weather in the growing region is stimulating production, allowing volumes to increase. Even with the warmer weather, crops are still trending in the fair section for quality.

PRODUCE



BELL PEPPERS

- ➔ **Green:** Green peppers are flat this week. Florida and Mexico are reporting steady volumes out of their fields. There are some quality issues being reported in the field. The biggest concern is out of Mexico, which is reporting thinner walls and shorter-than-normal shelf life. This is mainly caused by the cooler-than-normal temperatures.
- ➔ **Red:** Red bell peppers are flat this week, as supply is meeting demand. Mexico continues to battle the cooler weather. Red peppers are in the tightest supply of all the colored peppers. Similar to the green peppers, the main quality issue is the thinner walls and possible shorter-than-normal shelf life.



TOMATOES

- ⬆️ **Rounds:** Round tomatoes are up this week as supplies tighten up. Florida is producing low volumes, with the tail end of the winter crop winding down. Mexico is transitioning to a new growing region and is running into the same issue as Florida. Larger-sized tomatoes are feeling the biggest tension, due to the cold weather over the last couple weeks.
- ⬆️ **Cherry:** Cherry tomatoes are up this week. Mexico and Florida are awaiting spring crop to start, which is about a week away from harvest. Cooler weather is also hindering the harvest and growth cycles of the fruit. Quality remains strong.
- ⬆️ **Grape:** Grape tomatoes are up this week. They are following the same trend as the rest of the tomatoes. Once the spring crop starts, the supplies should start to improve. Quality remains strong for grape tomatoes.
- ⬆️ **Romas:** Romas are following the round tomatoes. Mexico and Florida are transitioning from winter crop to spring crop, causing tightening supply. Spring crop is about a week away from harvest. The cooler-than-normal weather is impacting the sizing portion of the fruit. Quality remains good.



CARROTS

The jumbo carrot market is down this week out of both California and Mexico. There are good supplies and quality coming out of both California and Georgia. There is still a wide range in quality coming out of Mexico.



CELERY

The celery market is flat this week with steady supplies. Demand and prices are steady. Quality is good.



GREEN ONIONS

The green onion market is mixed this week. Product out of South Carolina is steady, while product out of Mexico is down on medium size and up on small size. Supplies are lighter with moderate demand.



CAULIFLOWER

The cauliflower market is down this week, with good quality being reported. Demand is fair and supplies are light.

ASPARAGUS

The asparagus market is up this week out of Mexico, with lighter supplies and good demand. Production out of Mexico has slowed, due to cooler temperatures that are keeping growth at a stagnant pace. Larger sizes are affected the most. Peru doesn't have enough volume to cover the demand. Higher prices, along with the expected increase in demand for the Easter holiday, is expected to keep markets up well into the first week of April.



BROCCOLI

The broccoli market is down, with lighter supplies in northern Mexico. Imperial Valley and Salinas seasons have started. The market is a little soft and demand is good, which is creating a wide range in pricing. Supplies and quality are good out of central Mexico. There are some pro-rates from some suppliers on broccoli this week.



MUSHROOMS

The industry as a whole is seeing tight supplies on white mushrooms. The shortage is expected to continue for another week.

TROPICAL



PINEAPPLES

Pineapple volume continues to improve week over week. The volume on 7's is still limited, as sizing continues to trend toward the larger sizes. Quality is expected to stay strong as increased Easter demand hits the market.



BANANAS

Banana supplies are getting back to normal volumes. Organic volumes should be back to normal in about a week. Quality remains good. On a side note, due to the weather, vessels are running behind schedule, which could tighten up the markets.



AVOCADOS

Avocado prices remain flat for the week. Smaller-sized fruit has tightened up and could see some price increases. Steady supplies are coming out of Mexico and California. #2 fruit still has good volume, but that could change as Mexico starts to move to higher elevations. Quality remains good.

PRODUCE

MELONS



CANTALOUPE ↑

The cantaloupe market is up this week. Most shippers are still peaking on 9s and jumbo 9s and have mostly larger fruit. Sizing is expected to remain steady. Quality has been good.

HONEYDEW →

The honeydew market is flat this week. Supplies and quality have been good. Most packers are peaking on 5s and 6s, with only a few 8s.

BERRIES



RASPBERRIES →

Raspberries are a little darker in color, due to warmer days. Smaller sizing is being reported.



STRAWBERRIES →

The strawberry market is flat. Due to cold and wet weather, production volumes are low. Quality is good. Mexican strawberries have been consistent, but quality may be a challenge with soft and wet fruit.



GRAPES →

The grape market is mixed this week, depending on the variety and size. Crimson, flame seedless, Perlou and White seedless out of Chile are steady. Black Seedless out of Chile are down on XL and Large. Quality and supplies are good with lighter demand.



BLUEBERRIES ↑

Oxnard blueberries are seeing some damage from the recent weather conditions, but are on the rebound, with quality looking better. Mexican blueberries are experiencing minimal defects and are looking good.



BLACKBERRIES →

Blackberries are showing a little regression from heat. There are minimal issues aside from that.



CITRUS



LEMONS ↓

Lemon pricing is slightly down this week. D-1 and D-2 fields are both producing fruit. D-1 is in full production with sizes peaking toward the 115 and 140 range. D-2 is also in full production with sizes peaking at 165 and 200, with mostly Choice grade. Scarring and clear rot continue to be a struggle, especially on old product pack dates.



ORANGES →

Orange pricing remains steady this week. Heavy thunderstorms are forecasted for the growing regions, which could impact supplies in upcoming week. Sizing issues remain the largest challenge for oranges. 88's and smaller-sized fruit continue to be tight, as fields are pushing out larger fruit. The smaller sizes will get tougher and tougher to find until the end of Navel season. Blood Oranges are nearing the end of their harvest in April, while Cara Caras will end in May.



LIMES →

The lime market is flat for now. The lime fields are expected to get hit with heavy rain, which could delay harvests and shipping. Thunderstorms are expected to last 3 to 5 days. Quality remains good, but if vendors pick fruit when it is still wet, it could cause black spots on the fruit.

HANGING FRUIT



APPLES & PEARS

- ➔ **Apples:** Gala and Golden Delicious markets are steady to slightly down this week, depending on the growing region. All other varieties are stable. Demand is moderate and quality is good.
- ➔ **Pears:** The pear market remains stable. Green and red D'Anjou and Bosc are available. The small end of pears remains tight, while larger sizing remains constant.