



FARMER'S REPORT

MARKET TRENDS | 5.18.2018

US.
FOODS®

PRODUCE

Growers are still seeing some quality challenges due to past rains and cold weather in the Salinas growing region, with several Wet Veg vendors holding various items to prorates. Cauliflower will continue to be on triggers this week.

KEY

- ⬆ - Anticipating an up market
- ➡ - Anticipating a steady market
- ⬇ - Anticipating a down market

VEGETABLES



POTATOES

- ➡ **Russet:** The market on russets is mixed this week. Product out of both Washington/Oregon and Idaho is steady. Product out of Colorado is up.
- ➡ **Reds:** The red potato market is mixed this week. Product out of North Dakota is down. Product out of Florida and Washington is steady. Guidance reflects product out of Washington.
- ➡ **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 supplies lower. Demand is steady. Oxnard California District; North, Central and South Florida; South Georgia; and Central Coast California are all down.



LEAF LETTUCE

- ⬇ **Green Leaf:** The green leaf market is down this week with normal supplies. Quality has been good, but there is occasional fringe burn. Demand is average.
- ➡ **Romaine:** The romaine lettuce market is flat this week. Both the supply and demand are low. Supplies will be good this week for romaine (including Value Added) and romaine hearts. Supplies exceed demand. Quality has been good with occasional fringe burn, mildew, and some cupping.



ICEBERG LETTUCE ⬇

The iceberg lettuce market is down this week. Supplies will be right around normal this week for Iceberg lettuce with good demand.



GARLIC ➡

There are good supplies for California peeled garlic this week. Chinese peeled garlic pricing remains strong in all markets, but more supply is coming, so pricing will most likely be dropping in the coming weeks.



ONIONS ⬇

The jumbo yellow onion market is down this week. Product out of Washington/Oregon, Texas and Imperial Valley California is down. Supplies are steady with moderate demand out of all growing regions.



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. Product out of Oxnard is steady while product out of Central Coast California is down. There is moderate demand and supply.



CUCUMBERS ⬆

Cucumber prices are flat to up this week. Heavy rains in Florida and Mexico have caused some harvest delays. Georgia is still in the process of ramping up their harvest for the East, and the West is moving to new fields as well. The rain could impact quality and cause a shorter than normal shelf life if the cucumbers are over-saturated with water.



SQUASH

⬇ **Yellow Squash:** Squash prices are down this week. The East Coast has Georgia ramping up, and Florida continues to harvest. Mexico has transitioned to new fields and supplies are improving. The quality of squash is beginning to improve thanks to the new fields.



⬇ **Zucchini:** Zucchini prices are following the squash trend this week. Pricing on both the East Coast and West Coast is down. Georgia has started to ramp up production, and new fields in the West are producing better supplies. Quality remains a concern but has started to improve in the new fields.



GREEN BEANS ⬇

The green bean market is down this week. Hand-picked product and machine-picked product out of Florida is down. Imported haricot verts are also down.



EGGPLANT ⬇

Eggplant prices are dropping in price this week. Supplies are in improving in Mexico and California are improving week over week. Quality looks to be improving as the new fields ramp up.



BELL PEPPERS

- ⬆ **Green:** Green bell peppers continue to go up in all regions. The price increases are dependent on the size and grade. California is still ramping up for the West, and Georgia is still roughly two weeks away for the East. Vendors are looking to start prorating orders due to the limited supply.
- ⬆ **Red:** Red bells prices are mixed this week. Mexico is reporting lower prices as they near the end of their crop. California is reporting up, depending on the size and grade. Quality out of Mexico is poor, with heavy discoloration being reported.

PRODUCE



TOMATOES

- ↑ **Rounds:** Round tomatoes are on the rise again this week. Supplies in the West have tightened up, and heavy rains in Florida are causing a spike in price. Florida prices are up due to the heavy rain and harvest delays. Quality could be impacted by the rains.
- ↑ **Cherry:** Cherry tomatoes continue to go up in price. The East has been hit with heavy rains, causing harvest delays and potential quality issues. The West is looking to transition to new fields, which will hopefully improve the quality.
- ➔ **Grape:** Grape tomatoes are mixed this week. Due to heavy rainfall in Florida, farmers had to move to an unscheduled harvesting plan, causing supplies to tighten. Prices skyrocketed in the East due to these issues. The West, however, remains flat for the most part, but continues to battle some quality issues.
- ↑ **Romas:** Roma prices are up this week. Florida supply has tightened up due to the heavy rains. The West is working toward transitioning to new fields. Quality remains fair.



CARROTS ↓

The jumbo carrot market is down this week. Product out of California, Mexico and South Georgia is down. There are good supplies with moderate demand. There continues to be a wide range in quality coming out of Mexico.



CELERY ↓

The celery market is down this week. Supplies are steady, and forecasts for the next two weeks are steady as well. Demand is better, with slightly higher prices. Quality is good.



GREEN ONIONS ➔

The green onion market is mixed this week. Product out of Mexico is down on small and medium. Product out of South Carolina is steady. There is moderate supply and lighter demand this week.



CAULIFLOWER ↓

The cauliflower market is down this week, as volume is down in all growing regions. Prices are higher. Some spotting on heads has been reported. Cooler temperatures are slowing production down. Supplies are short again this week, due to quality issues at the field level. Triggers will be in place for cauliflower this week. Vendors are hoping to fill all orders to 70% of 6-week averages.



ASPARAGUS ➔

The asparagus market is mixed this week. Product out of Mexico and California is down. Product out of Washington is steady. Supplies continue to be lighter out of all regions.



BROCCOLI ↑

The broccoli market is up, with strong demand while supplies are tight out of Mexico and California. This is driving prices up. Supplies will be light this week on broccolini, broccoli, and broccoli crowns (including Value Added). Volume is predicted to increase towards the end of the week. Supplies are also light this week, due to quality issues at the field level. Vendors are hoping to fill all orders to 100% of 6-week averages.



MUSHROOMS ➔

Mushrooms are in good supply and quality.

TROPICAL



PINEAPPLES ➔

Pineapple volumes continue to be very healthy and are expected to increase during the coming weeks. Quality will be excellent. Volumes are expected to stay strong for the next several weeks.



BANANAS ➔

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.



AVOCADOS ➔

The avocado market is flat to down this week. 48's and smaller sizes are seeing a drop, while larger sizes stay flat. Mexico continues to have good production and California is following them. Demand has dropped after Cinco de Mayo, allowing the supplies to jump back up. Quality looks to be good.

MELONS



CANTALOUPE ↑

The cantaloupe market is up this week. We are expecting to have a small gap between the end of the offshore season (May 16) and the beginning of the Arizona domestic season (May 24). The harvest is starting for cantaloupes in White Wing, Arizona on May 24. Volumes during this week will be limited. Volumes should increase by May 28.

HONEYDEW ↑

The honeydew market is up this week. Honeydew harvest is set to begin on May 28. Production during week 22 will be good and should be able to cover all orders. The peak of the early Arizona season will be during week 24.

PRODUCE

BERRIES



RASPBERRIES ➔

Some crops have been damaged by the recent lingering rain, while some show no sign of damage. Quality is still holding up; however, there are some ranches that are struggling with overripe, soft, and rain-damaged fruit.



STRAWBERRIES ⬇

The strawberry market is down this week. Strawberries are plentiful as we hit peak production in Santa Maria. Quality is good with full color and sizing 14-18, mostly 14-16 count per 1 lb clamshell in Santa Maria. Salinas and Watsonville production continues to ramp up weekly, and will peak by early-to-mid June. Quality is good in this region as well, with slightly larger fruit size, ranging from 12-16 count, but mostly 12-14 count. The Oxnard season is done.



GRAPES ➔

The grape market is mixed this week depending on the variety and size. The Chilean season is winding down. Crimson seedless and Red Globes are steady on all sizes. Flame seedless and Perlettes are down on Large.



BLUEBERRIES ⬇

We are seeing a slight decline in production for the next 3-4 weeks. With that being said, quality still is looking good. Warm and sunny weather is forecast in the upcoming days.



BLACKBERRIES ➔

Some crops have been damaged by the recent lingering rain, while some show no sign of damage. Quality is still holding up; however, there are some ranches that are struggling with overripe, soft, and rain-damaged fruit.

CITRUS



LEMONS ➔

Lemon prices remain stable for now. D-1 will start to ramp down in the next couple of weeks. D-2 is in the middle of their harvest. Quality is still spotty, with some clear rot being reported.



ORANGES ⬆

Orange pricing remains steady to up. Small-size fruit continues to be tight as navel season nears the end. Valencia volumes will increase as the navels wind down. The biggest challenge will be quality as navels ramp down.



LIMES ⬇

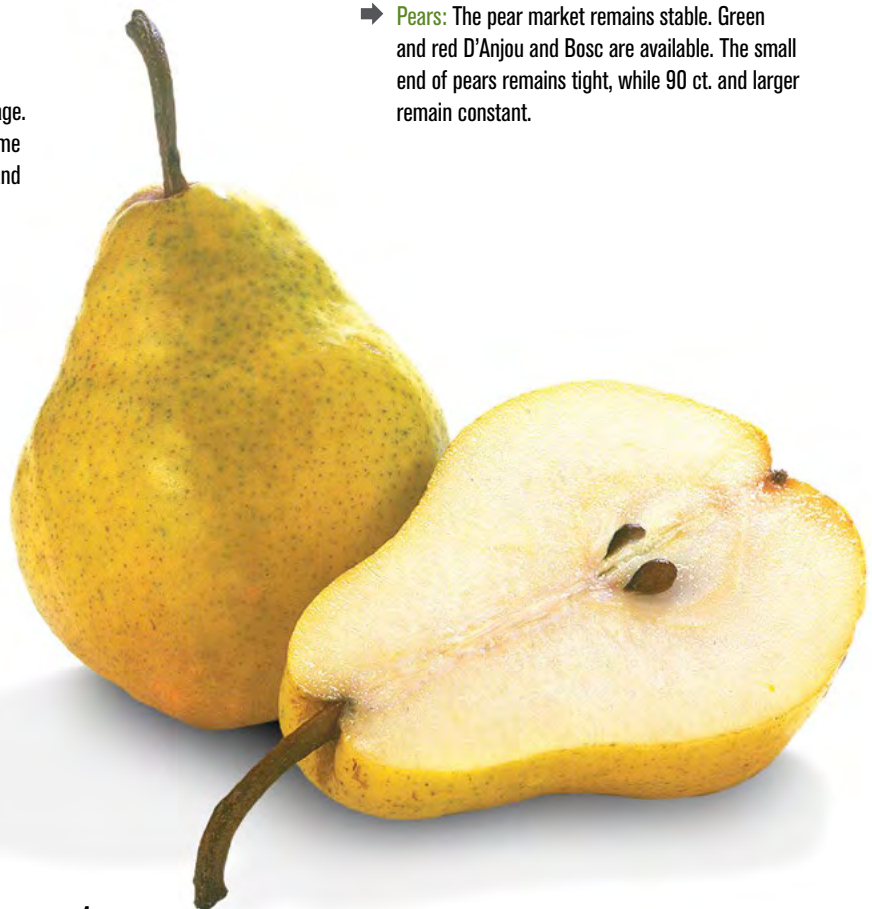
Lime prices are dropping this week. Quality is down on limes, as Mexico hasn't pruned their trees, causing some color issues. Limes will also be suffering from thinner walls, which will impact the shelf life.

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 90 ct. and larger remain constant.





BEEF

The spring rally for box beef appears to be coming to an end, as live cattle traded last week mainly in the \$122/cwt. area, which was down \$4 from the previous week's price; and so far this week, light trading has been reported between \$115 and \$117. Futures pricing, too, is on the decline, as we have seen it come off nearly \$3 so far this week on the near-term contracts. Last week's harvest came in at 645K head, and of that, 523K were of the steer/heifer variety, which is an increase of 37K head. Production levels are forecasted to continue increasing into June. The grade remains good, with just over 77% of all the steers and heifers grading Choice or higher.

GRINDS

GROUND BEEF 81/19: Blended grinds saw a modest increase from the previous week. The market is expected to exhibit seasonal gains as we go through May and the start of grilling season, being led off by Memorial Day later this month.

GROUND CHUCK: Ground chuck, too, saw a modest increase week-over-week. Better weather in advance of the grilling season should support pricing through May, with modest gains anticipated.

ROUNDS

PEELED KNUCKLES: Peeled knuckles advanced modestly across all grades last week. We are anticipating a declining market as we move into the latter part of spring and into the summer months.

INSIDE ROUNDS: All grades of inside rounds saw modest to moderate increases last week, and are continuing this pattern so far in the current week on the Select grade, while the Choice grade has reported flat.

BOTTOM ROUND FLATS: Bottom round flats decreased slightly across all grades. The market is continuing to look soft currently, as the cost of cattle that packers paid last week appears to be having some impact on the end cuts.

EYES OF ROUND: The eyes traded flat on the Choice grade to up just modestly on the Select grade last week, and are following the same pattern currently this week.

LOINS

STRIPS: Choice strips continued to move up in a firm fashion, while Select grade declined modestly. Currently the Choice product is continuing to gain in value, while the Select product looks to be losing steam, and we may see all grades start to fall off once the Memorial Day holiday passes.

TOP BUTTS: Top butts were up modestly last week across all grades and are continuing that pattern currently. Steady to firm is the forecast on these, but they are still a good value when compared to the rest of the loin and rib complexes.

TENDERLOINS: All grades of tenderloins continued to post gains last week; however, this too could be short-lived, as we believe that the market is poised to come off later in the month now that Mother's Day is behind us.

RIBS

RIBEYES: All graded products reported up last week with the exception of the light Select graded product, which fell modestly. Downside risk is possible with the declining cattle prices, but so far this week the Choice product has been able to hang on, while the Select grade is showing signs of softening already.

CHUCKS

CHUCK ROLLS: Chuck rolls, traded flat last week across all grades, and currently are showing signs of softening this week. Both export sales and ground chuck features are just about the only support this item is receiving. The duration of exporting will be a major influencing factor on price going forward, and it is believed that exports could continue into mid-June or early July.

TERES MAJORS: Teres Major ended the week down modestly to moderately on all grades, on weak demand. These are expected to stay soft as we move further into late spring and early summer.

CLODS: Clods reported up modestly last week, and we may have seen the peak, as packer's demand for ground chuck for Memorial Day will be delivering next week, and then the demand will begin to slide until late June in front of the July 4th holiday. Currently the market is trading sideways at best this week.

BRISKETS: Briskets last week traded steady in the Choice grade to up just slightly on the Select product. All grades are trading at steady money through three days of trading this week.

THIN MEATS

BALL TIPS: Choice ball tips were down moderately last week, while the Select product traded almost flat. The market remains questionable, with peak seasonal demand concluded, and it appears that retail may be moving away from ball tips temporarily, as top sirloins, have become more attractive pricewise.

FLAP MEAT: Flap meat moved up just modestly last week, and looks to be continuing this pattern so far this week as well.

FLANK: Flank steaks, reported up modestly on the Choice grade last week, while the Select product reported down modestly. The market is looking almost identical so far this week.

SKIRT STEAK: Outside skirt continued to decrease modestly again last week, but is reporting a modest increase in price so far this week. Moderate declines are expected as we move into and through the summer as kill levels are projected to continue to increase.





PORK

Last week the USDA reported harvest levels of almost 2.31 MM hogs, 2% above year-ago levels, but lower than the week prior. This week, hog slaughter numbers are projected to come in about 2.5% above year-ago levels. The supply situation is showing signs of tightening on a relative basis, as evidenced by the declining hog harvest levels. Weekly harvest numbers are in a seasonal decline, which is expected to last through August. Hog weights remain above year-ago levels, but are expected to trend lower, week over week, through August.

Commodity pork demand remains strong, as retailers increase their pork features for their May and Memorial Day promotions. Domestic pork demand is expected to remain strong with the onset of warmer temperatures and grilling season. Overall commodity pork prices, supported by increased retail promotions, are expected to move higher during May.

LOINS

Loin prices, both bone-in and boneless, held steady week-over-week. Strong retail demand for May promotions is expected to support loin prices for the balance of this month. Retailers are expected to aggressively feature bone-in loins/pork chops for grilling in Memorial Day ads. Boneless loins will also be featured, but ample supplies, along with competition from lower-priced boneless chicken breasts, are keeping prices “in check.” Prices for both bone-in and boneless loins are steady in early-week trade.

TENDERS

Pork tenderloin prices finally turned higher last week, supported by stronger retail demand for May promotions. Prices are higher in early-week trade and will be heavily dependent on retail features. Seasonally, tenderloin prices are expected to move higher throughout May as summer demand increases.

BUTTS

Once again, pork butt prices took significant gains, supported by strong retail demand for May features and anticipated Memorial Day features. Retailers intend to feature pork butts and country style ribs throughout the month of May, so demand will remain strong. Prices are higher in early-week trade, and supplies are tighter than expected despite having more hogs available. As warmer temperatures and summer demand kicks in, pork butt prices may show significant week-over-week price increases through late May.

RIBS

Back and sparerib prices posted significant gains last week, supported by strong demand for fresh ribs. Warmer temperatures along with heavy retail promotions are supporting strong demand and higher rib prices. Rib prices are trending higher in early-week trade, and are expected to move higher during May.

BELLIES/BACON

Belly prices posted their second week of gains, supported by increased retail promotion for bacon items. Belly prices are expected to continue their seasonal move higher, supported by retail bacon features. Ample cold storage numbers should keep a “lid” on runaway bacon prices during late summer. While belly prices are not expected to reach year-ago levels, the general direction for belly prices is higher through August.

HAMS

Ham prices continued their third week of counter-seasonal declines, pressured by ample supplies and higher-than-anticipated cold storage inventories. Prices have firmed and are slightly higher in early-week trades. Increased demand from spiral ham processors, along with increased retail features, is expected to support higher ham prices late May through June.

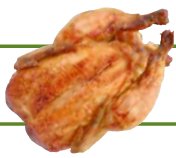
TRIMMINGS

Trimming prices were mixed last week and remain volatile for this time of year. Fat 42% trimmings moved lower, while lean 72% trimmings found support and traded higher. Directionally, trimming prices are expected to move consistently higher through summer; however, ample cold storage supplies and reports that retailers will feature ground beef items over hot dogs in Memorial Day features could keep a lid on trimming prices during May.

PICNICS

Picnic prices continue to gain upward momentum as demand across all channels improves. Processors are pulling steady on picnics, as retailers are featuring picnics for pulled pork. Expect picnic prices to increase gradually through the summer months.





TURKEY

BONELESS, SKINLESS TURKEY BREASTS

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

WHOLE FROZEN TURKEYS

Whole turkeys were flat this week, as we move closer to the holiday season. We expect this market to trend flat to upward in the near term.



CHICKEN

BROILER-TYPE EGGS SET IN THE UNITED STATES UP 3%

Hatcheries in the United States weekly program set 230 million eggs in incubators during the week ending May 12, 2018, up 3% 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 2%

Broiler growers in the United States weekly program placed 185 million chicks for meat production during the week ending May 12, 2018, up 2% from a year ago. Cumulative placements from the week ending January 6, 2018 through May 12, 2018 for the United States were 3.28 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

The select/small and medium boneless breast markets were flat this week with supply and demand balanced. We can expect the select/small and medium markets to trend flat to upward in the near term. The jumbo boneless breast market was down this week, as a significant rise in live weights has put the market in an oversupply situation. We can expect this market to trend flat to downward in the near term.

The select/small tenderloin market was flat this week. It continues to receive a good call from further processors looking to replenish inventories. We can expect this market to trend flat to upward in the near term. As with jumbo boneless breasts, the jumbo tenderloin market was down this week, as a significant rise in live weights has put the market in an oversupply situation. We can expect this market to trend flat to downward in the near term.

WINGS

The small, medium and jumbo wing markets were flat this week. We should expect these markets to trend flat to downward in the near term.

BONELESS, SKINLESS THIGHS

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





COMMODITY OIL

SOY, CANOLA & PALM OIL

U.S. soybean planting as of Sunday was reported at 15% complete, up from 5% last week and just ahead of the five-year average of 13%. Solid progress should have been made again this week, as weather conditions were mostly favorable.

We have finally started to see some unwinding of the long-held buy meal/sell oil spread positions. The market rallied just over 115 points last week off of the \$3015 low posted on May 1, while spot oil share has gained back 1.7% of its recent losses.

China's top economic advisors will be in the United States next week to meet with their U.S. counterparts to discuss the current trade rift between the two countries. China's trade surplus with the U.S. expanded to \$22.19 billion in April, up from \$15.4 billion in March.

SOY:

- The July soybean oil contract closed at \$3131, up 54 points last week. July soybeans closed down 33 1/2 cents at \$10.03 1/4, while July soybean meal settled at \$378.60 per ton, down \$16.70.
- The USDA's March crush number was released last week, up almost 22 million bushels from March 2017. End-of-March soybean oil stocks were higher than expected, compared to February.

CANOLA

- Statistics Canada pegged their March 31st canola stocks at 9.1 million metric tons, up 14.4% from a year ago. New crop canola seed futures have been steadily grinding higher since the beginning of the year, but have now encountered some resistance just above the \$520 level.

PALM OIL

- The palm oil market saw some underlying support, as Malaysian stocks fell for a fourth straight month to a 7-month low of 2.17 million metric tons. Exports are not faring so well, however, as they dropped nearly 10% during the first ten days of May.

US EXPORTS

- Weekly soybean oil export sales for the 2017/2018 marketing year were reported at 45,400 metric tons, near the high end of the range of trade expectations between 15,000 and 60,000 tons. The USDA recognized the past several months of solid soybean oil exports by raising their crop year estimate 300 million pounds on last Thursday's report.



DAIRY

BUTTER

Cream supplies are ample, and production is heavy across most of the country. Inventories are sufficient to meet all customer needs. Demand is balanced in the United States, and export demand continues to grow as butter prices are favorable. Market forecasters predict pricing to be steady over the next 60 to 90 days.

MILK & CREAM

Milk output is steady to high across the country, with warmer weather increasing volumes. Supplies are steady, and inventory is balanced. For April: FMO markets were all up except Class II skim. Flat to increased pricing this month is expected for FMO markets. California markets were down except for Class I skim. Flat to decreased pricing this month is expected this month for California.

CHEESE

Cheese production is strong across all regions. Demand is strong specifically for processed cheese. We are in a historically slower time of the year, as we approach the grilling season in the next few weeks. Cheese manufacturers are operating at full capacity, with milk production increasing.

SHELL EGGS

Increased selling pressure has been brought about by weak retail demand patterns, partly because of slower seasonal demand. Demand still has been rather limited, but it could start to pick up, given the last round of price declines.





SEAFOOD

SHRIMP, DOMESTIC

(WHITES AND BROWNS):

Shell-on Browns: Inventories are adequate.

Shell-on Whites: Markets are steady to down as there are still a few boats out, with average landings for this time of year. The season is here now.

DOMESTIC PUDS: New season is here, and we are starting to see our first weakening in pricing.

SHRIMP, IMPORTED

(BLACK TIGER AND WHITES): Production on tigers continues to be very low. Larger sizes are extremely tight.

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, but do offer some spot opportunity.

(MEXICAN BROWNS AND WHITES): Some larger sizes will be hard to come by through the summer season. Browns will be in tight supply for the season.

CATFISH

DOMESTIC: Feeding is now going well and fish are starting to grow. Production is picking up and there is a good amount of inventory in the country. Larger fillets are getting tight, and it will just be a matter of time before the fish grow to 9-11 and 11-up sizes. Outlook for 2018 is for a very strong year with inventory.

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 overall is stable, and there is good supply both from Chile and Europe. We expect this trend to last for a while.

MAHI MAHI

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

SCALLOPS

SEA: Pricing has started to take some declines now that fishing is underway. We will see pricing decline as things get going. Expectations are for a good yield of U-10's and 10-20's – especially on 10-20's.

BAY: Pricing has turned steady overseas.

TILAPIA

Inventory in the US seems to be good. Demand is increasing with other species struggling.

PANGASIU

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



WHITEFISH COMPLEX

COD: We expect the overall market to remain very firm, with short inventory and high prices. We expect the trend to continue.

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 of 4-6 and 6-8 oz. are very tight.

HADDOCK: Pricing on skin-on fillets and skinless loins are starting to see increases. We expect pricing to continue to increase following high demand.

FLOUNDER: Product from China will remain tight as the catch has been very slow, and Q2 pricing will be moving up significantly. 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 way up. The overall catch in Indonesia which is the heaviest overall producer of crab, is currently off by 42%. Weather is a main contributor; also, the overall catch is producing much smaller crabs. Only 15% of the total catch is falling into JL and COL. This will be another record-setting year in blue crab. Seasonal demand is really starting to create a much larger issue in this category. Red swimming crab pricing will be moving up for next week. Inventory is becoming nonexistent and we expect to see this continue thru the summer season. 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 are 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. Prices continue to rise.

CANADIAN: Fishing in Canada is now underway in all zones. Pricing continues to move up, as sales are strong by buyers trying to fill the gap from the 2017 season. Outlook is for pricing to remain at these levels or a bit higher for the next few weeks. Time will tell once we start hitting quota restrictions. Most suppliers are off the market at this time.

LOBSTER TAILS

NORTH AMERICAN LOBSTER: The spring Canadian season is underway. Live has started to show some signs of price decreases, and we expect tails to bounce back as production continues. Bad weather is keeping fishing at a slow pace.

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: We are seeing some poor quality meat on the market. Markets are still uncertain, as pricing is starting to set with the new season underway.