**MARKET CORNER**

**Poultry**
Wings are the hottest selling part of the bird demand is expected to stay firm through March. Jumbo tenders supplies are tightening as demand in QSR and retail is strong. The jumbo breast market is expected to stay solid with chicken sandwich wars, retail demand, and decreasing slaughter sizes. Boneless dark meat is higher on strong export demand and lower production due to labor. Whole birds are flat.

**Pork**
As hog harvest decreases, live hogs have moved higher. Butts continue to move higher as retail and foodservice demand has continued to increase. The loin complex’s demand is slowly increasing. Expect this trend to continue forward. All ribs remain scarce and as weather improves this market will rise and availability will be even tighter.

**Grains / Oil**
Continued tightness in available stocks for soybean oil and Canola are forcing these markets higher. Commodity soybean oil, mayonnaise, and commodity Canola are all increasing, yet again. Palm based margarine pricing will remain flat to slightly down.

**Dairy**
The natural cheese markets increased by $0.06/lb this week while processed cheese decreased by $0.03/lb. The butter market decreased week over week, however, has begun to increase this week. All shell egg sizes have increased by $0.03-$0.04/dz over the past week with the exception for smalls who saw no change.

**Seafood**
Cold water and warm water lobster are in limited supply. Replacement opportunities are limited. Domestic Catfish production remains tight in supply as producers struggle with having enough workers to process fish. Cod sales increased despite a tightness in supply.

**Beef**
Packers did all they could to hold market steady, but sales slowed, and inventory continued to grow. Buyers stopped picking up the phone and are expecting a correction this week, possibly through next week. The window of opportunity may be small & quick as likely cattle price increases.

**Vegetable Oil**
Heads up on continuously higher vegetable oil markets, which are moving shortenings, oils, mayo’s and margarines higher again this week.

**Chicken Wings**
Wings demand continues to be high while availability is scarce and prices continue to rise. Demand is expected to continue through March as wings continue to be a hot commodity in both food service and retail.

**Produce**
Mother’s Day Exclusive LTO Offering Alert-
Check with your site on the LTO for Mother’s Day, a box featuring Fresh Berries and Dipping Chocolate! Get your pre-books in by March 10th before supplies run out!
Asparagus
The peak volume from Mexico is behind us and we are starting to see the market increase. Quality is good to very good.

Avocados-Alert
Market very active. Lighter harvest from Mexico resulting from a stricter control of harvest, as growers manage volume over the next few months to see the season through. California increasing harvest due market prices. Peru arrivals expected late May – early June.

Green Beans
Florida bean supply and quality are good. Market is lower. Mexico volume is moderate for the week with good demand. Market could rebound if farms walk over fields due to current market.

Cauliflower-Alert
Market has become very active as yields have decreased on the remaining supply out of the desert growing regions and the crop gets ready to transition back to the Salinas Valley. Quality is fair to mostly good with light cream color and minor yellowing being reported.

Broccoli
Supplies continue for now to be good on all commodity and value-added packs. Market showing signs of starting to strengthen the coming weeks. Quality is fair to good with occasional large and brown bead.

Celery
The market on commodity celery has calmed with better supplies now being seen in CA, MX and Fl. Very good quality out of Oxnard and Yuma both, watching for light insect damage.

Lemons / Limes / Oranges
Lemons- Demand is improving due to the Lenten season. Supplies are good. Quality is good. Prices are adjusting due to increased supplies. Oranges-Demand is steady. Supplies are increasing. Quality is good with color and sugar improving weekly.

Mushrooms-Alert
Supplies have been impacted by the lack of labor available to harvest all needed product to keep up with demand. Expect possible disruptions as suppliers work through the current labor challenges.

Mixed Berries-Alert
Raspberries and Blackberries: The market remains challenged as we start March. Blueberries are more active this week as supplies have started to be reduced. There is continued concern due to rains out of Chile, that supplies in the coming weeks could become more challenging.

Strawberries
The market on strawberries has been helped by slower demand. CA is starting to see some stronger number out of Oxnard and Santa Maria. Florida and Mexico continue to produce and are able to keep up with demand. The start of the Salinas/Watsonville CA season is 4-6 week away, baring any major changes to the weather.

Leaf and Lettuce
Good supplies of all leaf and lettuces are available. Transition back to the Salinas CA growing regions is on the horizon with about 4-6 weeks away from its start. Iceberg: Quality is fair to mostly good with some oversized puffy heads, wind damage, and occasional weak tip. Leaf: Very good quality with occasional fringe burn, wind damage, insect damage, and excessive dust. Romaine: improved to good, still seeing cupping, along with fringe burn and increased insect activity.

Peppers
Florida green bell supply good, quality good and market stronger. Red and yellow bells available, quality good and markets lowest all season. Mexico green, red and yellow bells moderate in volume, anticipate better demand across the board, in slight transition.

Tomato
Markets are strengthening on all varieties both east and west due to a rapid surge in demand. Growers did not anticipate the rapid increase and are struggling to fill the void.