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food and service

# MARKET CORNER

*Ingredients for your Success*



## Poultry

Overall production is down due to lower availability of market ready birds and labor challenges. Wings and tenders are in high demand while supplies are limited. The breast market is strengthening as foodservice business returns. Boneless dark meat is higher on strong demand and reduced production due to labor. Whole birds and cut up are slightly higher on increasing demand. Look for portion breast to continue to move higher as demand increases.



## Pork

Hog supplies within the plants continue to be tight due to labor shortages. Expect boneless cuts to be volatile going into grilling season. Bone-in butts continue to see strength with slight increases and boneless butts are now becoming a premium because of labor shortages. Cushion meat is a good sub item although exports are causing some increases in this market. Bellies are higher.



## Grains / Oil

Soybean oil ran higher again last week. We are seeing strong foodservice, retail, and biofuel demand continue to strengthen. Canola reached an all-time price record last week. Expect higher prices for commodity soybean oil, mayonnaise, margarine, and Canola.



## Dairy

The natural cheese markets decreased slightly while the processed cheese markets took a large increase. The butter market increased by \$0.04/lb week-over-week. The shell eggs market remained flat week-over-week.



## Seafood

New season Alaskan Pollock is due to arrive in May. Low labor participation in catfish production continues to hamper supply. Domestic white shrimp production is now in the off-season. No decision has been made as to when the new season will kick-off.

## Beef

Even with prices remaining strong and availability tight, there was a hint of some resistance to higher pricing by buyers. Middle meats and thin meats continue to remain hard to find and pricing is holding firm. End cuts continue to see solid export demand, but prices leveled off. Grinds have yet to really see seasonal strength, but sales continue to increase.

## Hot News

### Vegetable Oil

Returning foodservice demand and very large demand from biofuels is causing shortages of most varieties of vegetable oils, especially, soybean and Canola oils.

### Seafood

Cold water and warm water lobster are in limited supply. Replacement opportunities are limited. Canadian crab season is just beginning and prices are staying high due to demand in retail and foodservice.

**To learn more contact your local marketing associate.** Market Corner Produce information reflects both US and Canadian markets. All other commodity information is based on US market data only.



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## Asparagus

East coast mainly steady with good supplies from Peru. West coast is firming up as transition to newer growing regions. Quality is fair to good.

## Avocados-Alert

Mexico- Demand remains strong leading into Cinco de Mayo. The size curve continues to peak on 48's, which are plentiful with promotable volumes, not so for 60's and 70's, these supplies are limited with active markets. California – Seeing strong harvest on a weekly basis. Limited rains will maintain the size curve is heavy on 48s, 50s, and smaller.

## Broccoli

Markets remain steady with steady supply for now to meet all demand needs on all packs and sizes. As colder weather continues, we may see the yields start to drop off and the market look to adjust. Quality continue to be fair to good as supplies continue to outpace demand.

## Green Beans-Alert

Florida supply is light with rain in the forecast. The market will rapidly advance and remain short as a result. Quality has been good. Mexico production is in a gap with limited volume and good demand; possible relief late week.

## Cauliflower-Alert

Markets are active this week as yields have dropped off in the fields due to the consistent colder weather patterns on the central coast of CA. Quality currently is good with good trim and sizing on jacket.

## Cucumbers-Alert

Florida supplies remain light with active markets. Mexico is still in production gap with possible relief late week. Markets will be challenged as a result for the next weeks.

## Green Grapes-Alert

Supplies are very good on reds on both coasts with a wide range in quality. Greens are very limited with poor quality in the West. Greens supplies in the East are slightly better but are expecting to finish in the next week. Green markets are very active.

## Lemons

Demand is good. Supplies are good overall, but sizing is starting to run heavier to smaller sizes. Pricing is adjusting on choice and steady on fancy grade.

## Oranges

Demand is good. Supplies are good on larger sizes but very limited on 113 and 138 counts. Quality is good with good color and sugar. The market is steady on large sizes but adjusting on 113 and 138 counts.

## Limes- Alert

The lime market remains firm, especially on large fruit. The crop is currently peaking on 230's, which accounts for approx. 40% of total yields at this time.

## Mushrooms

Supplies are starting to improve, and better production is coming into the farms. Labor issues coupled with transportation concerns will continue over the next few months and will be monitored closely.

## Mixed Berries-Alert

All mixed berries are challenged from light supplies and strong demand. Weather challenges in multiple growing regions have delayed the start of harvest in new areas and limited supplies continues. Relief on all mix berries is not expected until the mid-May

## Strawberries-Alert

Limited supplies continue to plague the strawberry market. Demand continues to be strong with not enough fruit available to be harvested. California continues with colder than normal temperatures preventing the fruit to come to maturation and for the plants to be yielding what they should for this time of year. Improvements are not expected to be seen until mid-May.

## Leaf and Lettuce

The transition of product from Yuma AZ, to Huron CA and then back to the central coast of CA is finally completed. Harvest has shifted back on all leaf and lettuces and settling into the spring and summer growing seasons. Markets remain calm for now, but with the colder weather patterns that continue. Growth is expected to slow thus bringing potential adjustments in the markets Quality is fair to good on all lettuce and leafy green, although cool weather has slowed growth.

## Tomato

Markets are stable on all varieties both East and West; however, cooler weather out East could strengthen the market in the short term. Quality is good.

## Top Produce Items

Below are additional items on Alerts

### Garlic

Supplies on the remaining CA storage crop are a concern as demand is picking up and supplies are dwindling down. Expect to see a decrease in domestic supply and suppliers look to alternative growing regions to meet all demand for the next few months. Appearance and aromatics may vary as global supply ramps up to fill CA's void.

### Hot House

Medley tomatoes and cucumbers remain very short in supply.

### Carrots

Jumbo carrots are very limited in supply as suppliers are not getting the size needed as they move to a new growing region. Expect active markets and limited supplies on jumbos for the next few months.

### Labor and Freight

Big challenges remains with lack of labor and freight in all segments of the fresh produce business making for challenges in the executions of the supply chain flow from harvest to shipping to receiving.