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EGGS

Production

Table egg production in September was 533 million dozen, 10 percent lower than last September due to losses from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Broiler-type hatching egg production in September was up 4 percent compared to 2014. There were 1.0 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 78 million eggs, 4 percent above last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 167 million dozen during September, down 15 percent from September a year ago, and slightly below the 168 million broken in August. The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on October 1 was down 10 percent compared to 2014. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were up 3 percent compared to last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was up 4 percent compared with last year. The number of pullets added during September for all types of egg production was up 9 percent year-over-year.

Price

The table egg market is beginning its annual holiday price run-up a bit early this year. The price of a dozen Grade A large eggs in the New York wholesale market began October in a decline, leveled off in mid-month, and began rising again the last week of the month. From their mid-month level of 156 cents/dozen, prices began rising rapidly and reached 191 cents/dozen the first week of November. Breaking stock prices began the month falling and reached 116 cents/dozen by mid-October. Prices held at that level through month's end.

International Trade

September shell egg exports totaled 9.5 million dozen valued at $13.1 million, down 27 percent in volume and 3 percent in value compared to August and down 34 percent in volume but up 13 percent in value compared to September 2014. For the first 3 quarters of 2015, exports of shell eggs were down 9 percent in volume and up 10 percent in value compared to 2014. U.S. egg product exports in September were valued at $7.7 million, even with August but down 41 percent compared with last September. Through September, egg product exports were down 32 percent compared to 2014. The five most important export destinations for U.S. egg and egg products in September were Canada, Mexico, Japan, Hong Kong, and Jamaica.

TURKEY

Production

September turkey production was 450 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis, up almost 1 percent compared to August but down 8 percent compared to last September. Average dressed weights for September were up 2 percent for the month, but down 2 percent year-over-year as producers were working to fill holiday commitments at the expense of the larger processing toms. Post-holiday production will continue to significantly lag year-earlier levels. The number of poults placed in September, which should be ready for processing in January, was down 8 percent from 2014 levels, and the number of eggs in incubators on October 1 was down 13 percent. Total cold storage stocks of turkey on September 30 were 6 percent below September 2014. Whole toms were 3 percent below year-prior levels, but whole hens were down 16 percent. Parts inventories, however, were above last year's levels, with white meat holdings up 18 percent and dark meat holdings up 50 percent.

Price

Whole turkey prices continued to rise to record levels in October. Whole frozen hens closed the month at 139 cents/lb., a record-high level, and toms closed at 136 cents/lb., a penny below the record set in August. Breast prices were also in record territory, with boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat closing at 585, a record. Dark meat prices, however, are not experiencing similar highs. B/S thigh meat traded between 139 and 140 cents/lb. all month, about 35 cents/lb. below last year's October prices. Tom drumstick prices were 61 cents/lb. all month, where they have been since April.

International Trade

U.S. turkey exports in September totaled 20 thousand metric tons with a value of $50 million. This was an increase of 4 percent in volume and 1 percent in value compared to August, but a 38 percent decrease in volume and a 27 percent decrease in value compared to last September due to product shortages and import restrictions imposed as a result of the spring outbreak of HPAI. Through September, turkey exports were down 30 percent in volume and 21 percent in value compared to the same period in 2014. September's top five export markets were Mexico, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, and Guatemala.

CHICKEN

Production

Broiler production in September was 3.5 billion pounds, ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was up 2 percent from August and 5 percent from September 2014. Half of the month-over-month increase and three-fifths of the year-over-year increase were due to increases in average dressed weights. Continued increases in production due to increases in the number of birds slaughtered appears unlikely as chicks placed and eggs set for the four weeks ending October 31 were down 2 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

Total inventories of chicken in cold storage on September 30 were up 2 percent compared to the end of August, but were up 28 percent compared to last September, largely on higher stocks of dark meat items. Whole broiler holdings fell by 34 percent from August, but were up 19 percent over September 2014. White meat stocks were up 5 percent on the month and 23 percent on the year. Overall, dark meat inventories were up 8 percent compared to the end of August and 39 percent from last year. Leg quarter holdings were up 9 percent month-over-month and 37 percent year-over-year. Thigh and thigh meat stocks were up 3 and 4 percent, respectively, compared to August and up 67 and 59 percent compared to September 2014.

Price

Whole broiler prices usually hit their annual lows in September and begin rising again in October. Prices this October, however, showed no strength and fell about a penny over the month to 73 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices fell a dime in October, ending at 108 cents/lb. Leg quarter prices continued their steady fall, dropping 1 cent to 13 cents/lb., a level not seen since April 2006. B/S thigh meat also fell, dropping almost 10 cents over the month to close at 83 cents/lb. drumsticks traded at 29 cents/lb. the entire month. Wing priced were also relatively steady, trading within 2 cents of 170 cents/lb. and ending October at 169 cents/lb.

International Trade

The U.S. exported 218 thousand metric tons of chicken products valued at $219 million in September. This was 4 percent lower in quantity and 3 percent lower in value compared to August, and 22 percent lower in quantity and 37 percent lower in value compared to September 2014. The year-over-year decrease is largely attributable to trade restrictions imposed due to the outbreak of HPAI last spring. For the first three quarters of 2015, exports declined 13 percent in volume and 23 percent in value compared to the same period in 2014. For September, the top five export destinations for U.S. chicken products were Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Angola, and Taiwan.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

Beef production in September was 2.09 billion pounds 1 percent above September 2014 and up 8 percent from August 2015. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.47 million head, down 2 percent from last year and 6 percent from last month. The average live weight was up 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,383 pounds. Veal production totaled 6.8 million pounds, 5 percent below 2014 but up 6 percent from August. Total calf slaughter was down 12 percent from 2014 but up 8 percent from August at 37,200 head. Average live weights were up 22 pounds from last year, at 312 pounds. January to September beef production was down 4 percent from last year while veal output was down 16 percent. Total pounds of beef in freezers were up 6 percent from August at 496 million pounds and up 31 percent from last September. Total beef is a record high for the month of September, since the data was first recorded in 1915. Boneless beef supplies were 6 percent higher than last month, and 36 percent above year ago levels. Stocks of beef cuts were down 4 from August, and 5 percent higher than last September. Frozen veal stocks were up 45 percent on a monthly basis and up 155 percent on a yearly basis.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) appear to have hit a bottom early in October at $125 per cwt, regaining $11 to $136 per cwt, 20 percent below the price in 2014. The beef cutout value had a similar pattern, dropping to $204 per cwt in the first third of the month, but rising to close the month at $219 per cwt, 13 percent below the 2014 value. However, the 90 percent lean boneless beef price plunged $33, closing at $224 per cwt, 24 percent below last year. Beef trim, 50 percent lean, helped the gain in the cutout by increasing $27 to $64 per cwt, 46 percent below the 2014 price. Packer-owned veal carcasses remained nearly steady around $460 per cwt while non-packer owned veal carcasses fell $11 to $439 per cwt. The veal cutout continued steady at $585 per cwt, 1 percent above the 2014 price.

International Trade

Compared to 2014, September beef and veal exports (including variety meats) fell 20 percent to 79 thousand MT while the export value fell 27 percent to $457 million. This volume is down 6 percent and the value is down 8 percent from August 2015. Total exports for the year so far are down 12 percent in volume and 8 percent in value from 2014. Japan, Mexico and Canada were our largest export markets in September. Year-over-year beef import volumes were up 12 percent at 101 thousand MT, and were up 8 percent in value to $593 million. Beef imports were down 7 percent in volume and 5 percent in value from August. Total beef imports for the year are up from 2014 by 28 percent in volume and 40 percent in value. Australia, Canada and Mexico were the largest importers of beef.

PORK

Production

September pork production increased 9 percent from last year, and 4 percent from last month, to 2.04 billion pounds. Hog slaughter totaled 9.73 million head, up 10 percent from September 2014 and 4 percent from August. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 280 pounds. Accumulated pork production for the year to date was 8 percent higher than in 2014. Total pork stocks were at a record high for the month of September. Frozen pork supplies at the end of September were up slightly from August and were up 19 percent from last year at 656 million pounds. Bone-in picnics in cold storage were down 10 percent from August, and up 1 percent from last year. Total hams were up 4 percent on a monthly basis and 27 percent yearly. Compared to August, both total loins and butts were down 6 percent and ribs were up 17 percent. On a year-over-year basis, loins and ribs were up 50 and 57 percent, respectively, while butts were down 14 percent. Pork trimmings in freezers were 6 percent below July's level, but 14 percent above 2014 supplies. Stocks of pork bellies were 21 percent lower than last month, and 68 percent below last September.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts was steady near $70 per cwt until the last week of October, when it fell to $65 per cwt, 25 percent lower than in 2014. The pork cutout ended the month down a few cents at $85 per cwt, 30 percent below the 2014 value. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds, hit a mid-month high of $72, but ended down at $57 per cwt, 39 percent below the price in 2014. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, saw a $10 gain to close at $76 per cwt, still 22 percent below 2014. Pork trim, 72 percent lean, fell $2 to $59 per cwt, 37 percent below last year. Pork belly primals rose to $164 per cwt, but fell sharply in the last week of the month to $150 per cwt, remaining 57 percent above the 2014 price.

International Trade

September pork exports (including variety meats) were up 7 percent from last year at 168 thousand MT although the value was down 11 percent to $441 million. Pork export volume and value were both up 7 percent from August. Year-to-date export volume is 4 percent lower than in 2014, while the value is down 17 percent. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2014, September pork imports were down 1 percent in volume to 43 thousand MT, and were down 8 percent in value to $145 million. Pork import volumes and value both increased from August by 1 percent. Cumulative imports for 2015 were up 15 percent from 2014, though the value was down 8 percent. Canada, Denmark and Italy were the largest importers in September.

LAMB

Production

Lamb and mutton production fell slightly from September 2014 output, to 12.2 million pounds, but was 4 percent greater than August production. Sheep slaughter totaled 190,800 head, slightly below last year and 9 percent below last month. The average live weight was 128 pounds, unchanged from September a year ago. January to September 2015 commercial lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent from last year. Lamb and mutton supplies were on par with August's levels, and 6 percent higher than in September 2014.

Price

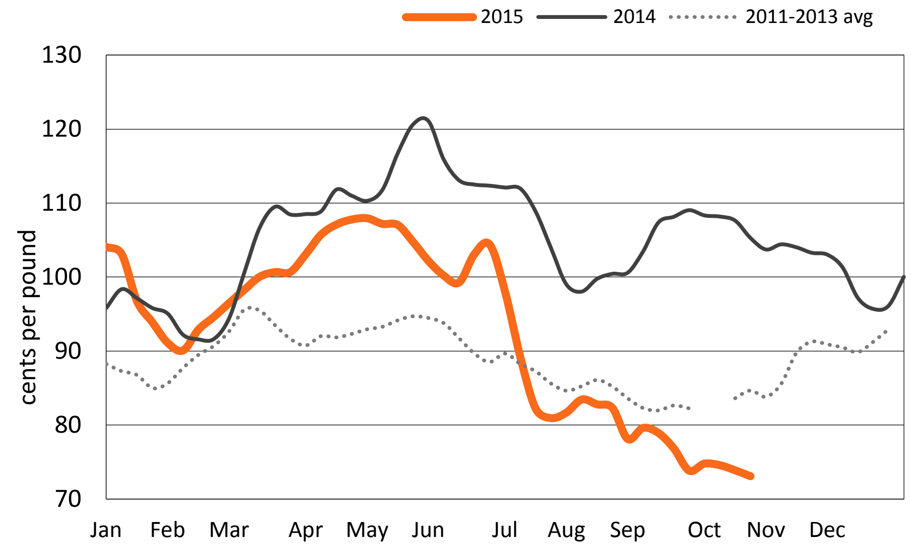
Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices fell $4 in October to end at $155 per cwt, 6 percent below the 2014 price. The lamb cutout fluctuated in a $4 range, but closed the month again at $359 per cwt, 5 percent below 2014. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices declined $8 to $342 per cwt, 3 percent below 2014 prices. Boneless lamb shoulder prices hit a mid-month high of $575 but by the end of October dropped to $545 per cwt, 1 percent below last year.

International Trade

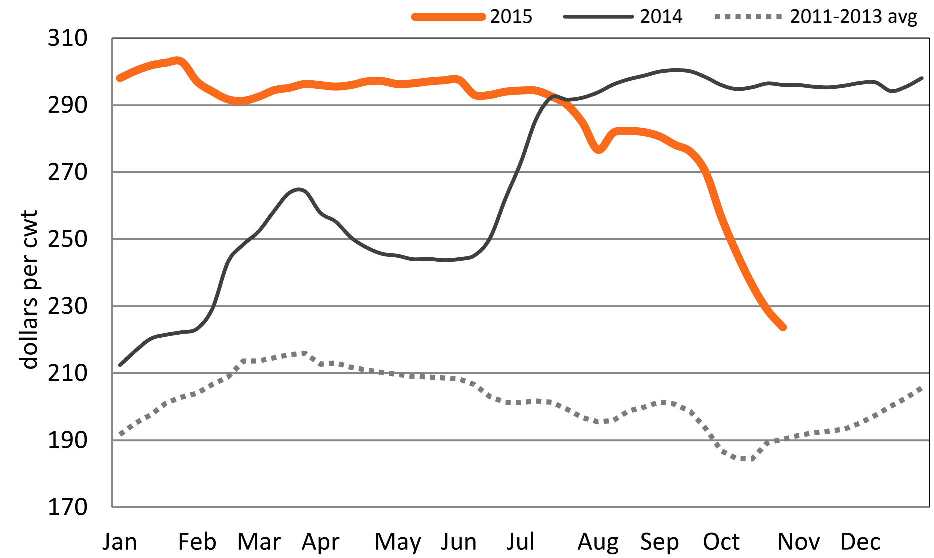
Lamb exports were down 49 percent from September 2014 levels to 96 metric tons, and were down 40 percent in value to $745,000. Compared to this August, export volume was down 30 percent and export value was 18 percent lower. Year-to-date lamb exports were down 40 percent in volume and 38 percent in value from 2014. Mexico and Canada were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in September were 29 percent greater than in 2014 at nearly 7,400 MT, with the value of imports rising 9 percent to $56 million. On a monthly basis, the import volume was 14 percent higher and the value of lamb imports increased 6 percent. Cumulative lamb imports for 2015 were 9 percent higher in volume and roughly equal in value to that in 2014. Australia and New Zealand were the largest importers.

Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles? Contact Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov or Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.

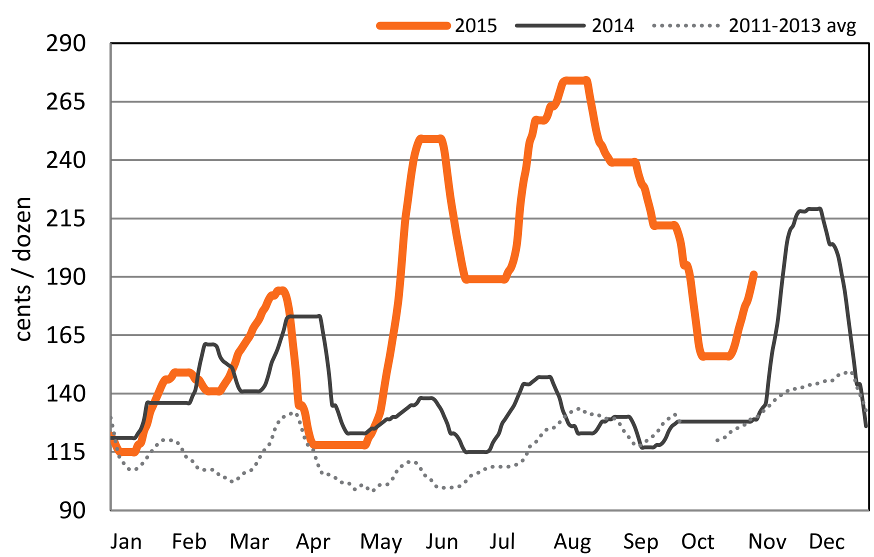
Whole Broilers (National composite price)



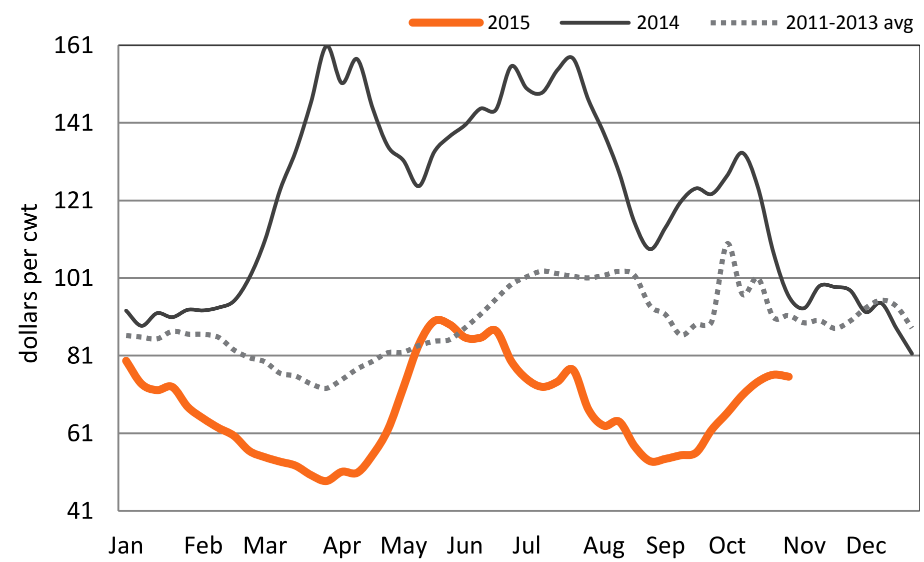
Fresh Boneless Beef, 90% Lean



NY Shell Egg Price (Grade A large - wholesale)

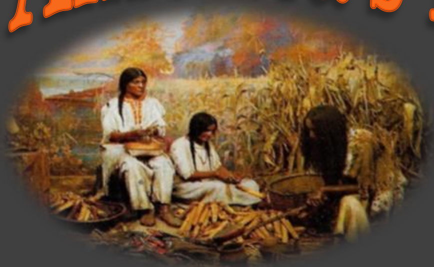


Picnic Meat Combo, Cushion Out



Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division

America's First Farmers



Native American Heritage Month

IROQUOIS

THE THREE SISTERS

The three main agricultural crops of various Native American groups including winter squash, maize (corn), and climbing beans. This method of companion planting benefitted the crops.

The Iroquois Confederacy was one of the primary groups to use this farming technique.

SNAP GREEN BEANS

In 2014, Florida was the top producer for fresh market use with 133,000,000 lbs.

Wisconsin was the top producer for processing with 625,000,000 lbs.

SEMINOLE

MENOMINEE

CORN

In 2014, Iowa was the top producer of grain corn with 2,364,000,000 bushels.

MESQUAKI

IOWAY

SQUASH

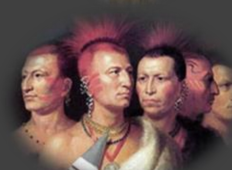
In 2014, Michigan was the top producer of squash with 120,000,000 lbs.

CHIPPEWA

OTTAWA

MAPLE SYRUP

In 2015, Vermont was the top producer of maple syrup with 1,390,000 gallons.



ABÉNAKI

MOHICAN

BISON

The largest inventory of Bison is in South Dakota with 33,637 head, followed by Nebraska with 23,152 head.
The US Processed 51,662 in 2014

SIOUX

MANDAN

SALMON

Alaska leads the nation in salmon harvest with preliminary numbers for 2015 of 263,500,000 fish.

ATHABASKAN

TLINGIT

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics, USDA NASS; Note: identified tribes are representative only and not inclusive of all tribes in the respective areas.