A monthly publication of the USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry, and Seed, Agricultural Analytics Division

Volume 09-16
September 2016

EGGS

Production

Table egg production in July was 613 million dozen, 11 percent higher than last July. Broiler-type hatching egg production in July was down 1 percent compared to 2015. There were 1.05 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 97 million eggs, 15 percent above last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 194 million dozen during July, up 15 percent from July a year ago, but 3 percent below the 200 million dozen broken in June. The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on August 1 was up 8 percent compared to 2015. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were up 15 percent compared with last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was 1 percent below last year. The number of pullets added during July for all types of egg production was down 11 percent year-over-year.

Price

Table egg prices strengthened during August, rising nearly 40 percent to reach 82 cents/dozen (Grade A large in the New York wholesale market). Breaking stock prices began August at 18 cents/dozen but dropped to 14 cents/dozen by mid-month. Prices began increasing again late in the month and ended at about the same level they began, at 19 cents/dozen.

International Trade

Shell egg exports in July totaled 9.2 million dozen with a value of $9.1 million. This was an increase of 16 percent in volume and 10 percent in value compared with June and a 9 percent decrease in volume and a 43 percent decrease in volume compared to July 2015. Through July, 2016 exports were down 25 percent in volume and down 42 percent in value compared to 2015.

Egg products exports in July were valued at $6.9 million, down 4 percent from June and 6 percent from last July. For the first seven months of 2016, egg products exports were down 34 percent compared to last year. The top five destinations for shell eggs and egg products in July were Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, and Jamaica.

TURKEY

Production

The U.S. produced 476 million pounds of turkey in July on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was up 17 percent in pounds produced and 12 percent in number of birds processed compared to June 2015, when processors were dealing with the effects of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The average dressed weight in July was up 4 percent year-over-year. Production appears to have returned to pre-HPAI levels, as poults placed in July and eggs in incubators on August 1 were at or slightly below their 2012 – 2014 averages.

Total cold storage holdings of turkey on July 31 were up 7 percent compared to last July. Stocks of frozen whole hens were 20 percent last year's levels while frozen whole toms were up 9 percent. White meat inventories were 46 percent above last year's value, but this represents a reduction compared to the end of June, when stocks were 60 percent higher. Dark meat inventories were 10 percent above July 3015 levels.

Price

Whole turkey prices have been experiencing large swings throughout the summer, but appear to be following seasonal trends overall and rising slowly. Frozen whole hens ended August at 122 cents/lb. and frozen whole toms were 128 cents/lb. White meat prices were flat during the month, with boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices remaining at 215 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat was also unchanged at 104 cents/lb. all month. Tom drumsticks rose, adding 4 cents over the month to close at 42 cents/lb.

International Trade

Total U.S. turkey exports in July were 21 thousand metric tons valued at $47 million. This was a decrease in volume of 1 percent in volume and an increase of 1 percent in value compared with June, and an increase of 16 percent in volume and a decrease of 2 percent in value compared with last July. Total 2016 exports through July were 3 percent lower in volume and 6 percent lower in value than for the same period in 2015. Mexico, Japan, Hong Kong, the Dominican Republic, and Canada were the five largest importers of U.S. turkey products.

CHICKEN

Production

Chicken production in July totaled 3.24 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was up 2 percent compared with June and up 3 percent compared with last July. Average dressed weights in July were 1 percent below June but 1 percent above July 2015. Production in the early fall is likely to be slightly higher; both eggs set and chicks placed for the four weeks ending August 27 were up 1 percent compared to the same period in 2015.

Total chicken inventories in cold storage on July 31 were up less than 1 percent compared to the end of June and up 7 percent compared to July 2015. Stocks of whole broilers were 22 percent above June and 18 percent above last July. Holdings of white meat products were down 1 percent month-over-month but up 21 percent year-over-year. Dark meat holdings were up 3 percent for the month but down 8 for the year. Leg quarter stocks rose 8 percent compared to June but were 3 percent below last July. Wing inventories were up 2 percent for the month and up 58 percent compared to 2015..

Price

After a small decline at the beginning of the month, whole broiler prices held during August at 79 cents/lb. Parts prices strengthened in the run-up to Labor Day, the last big grilling weekend of the summer. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices rose 25 cents during August to reach 153 cents/lb., its highest level since the beginning of June 2015, and entered September at 149 cents/lb. Leg quarter prices had been drifting lower through most of the summer, but rose slightly in August to finish at 27 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat prices also rose, reaching 117 cents/lb. by month's end. Drumstick prices, however, fell, losing a nickel during the month to close at 37 cents/lb. Wing prices rose 12 cent during August to reach 165 at the end of the month.

International Trade

The U.S. exported 256 thousand metric tons of chicken products in July with a value of $248 million. July's exports were up 12 percent in volume and 5 percent in value compared with June, and up 12 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared with July 2015. For the first seven months of the year, total exports were down 3 percent in volume and 14 percent in value. The five largest export destinations in July were Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Cuba, and Taiwan.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

July beef production, at 2.02 billion pounds, was 1 percent lower than last year and 8 percent lower than June. Cattle slaughter was 2.48 million head, down 1 percent from last year and nearly 9 percent from the month before. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,345 pounds. January to July 2016 commercial beef production was up 4 percent from 2015. Veal production fell to an all-time record low at 5.6 million pounds, 19 percent below last year and 13 percent below last month. Calf slaughter was 37,700 head, 3 percent above 2015 and up slightly from June. Average calf live weight dropped 65 pounds from last July to 257 pounds. Accumulated veal production was down 9 percent yearly.

Total stocks of beef in freezers at the end of July were up 3 percent from June and up 2 percent from last July. Boneless beef storage was also 3 percent higher than the month before, and was 3 percent lower than last year. Frozen inventories of beef cuts were down 3 percent on a monthly basis and 5 percent yearly. Veal supplies in cold storage were 1 percent higher on a month-to-month basis, and 110 percent higher yearly.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) continued to fall through August from $119 to $110 per cwt, 21% below last year. The beef cutout value stayed in a tight range around $200 per cwt, ending down slightly at $196 per cwt, 19 percent below the 2015 value. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price also stayed in a narrow range most of the month, but fell slightly to $211 per cwt, 24 percent below the 2015 price. 50 percent lean trim fell sharply through August from $72 to $37 per cwt, 38 percent below the 2015 level. Packer-owned veal carcasses held steady at $322 per cwt, down 30 percent from 2015, while non-packer owned veal carcasses, fell $4 to close at $321 per cwt, 29 percent below 2015. The veal cutout average remained steady at $513 per cwt, down 12 percent from 2015.

International Trade

Compared to July 2015, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) rose 8 percent to 99 thousand MT while the export value fell 5 percent to $527 million. This volume is up fractionally from June, but the value is down 3 percent. 2016 exports for the year to date are 4 percent higher than in 2015, but the value is down 10 percent. Japan, South Korea and Canada were our largest export markets in July. Year-over-year beef import volumes were down 6 percent to 94 thousand MT, and were down 13 percent in value to $494 million. Compared to June, beef imports and value were down 6 and 7 percent, respectively. Total yearly imports for 2016 so far are 10 percent lower in volume and 22 percent lower in value compared to 2015. Australia, New Zealand and Canada were the largest importers of beef.

PORK

Production

July pork production was down 8 percent from 2015 at 1.82 billion pounds, with 2 (9 percent) fewer slaughter days. This was 9 percent lower production than in June. 8.76 million head were slaughtered, down 7 percent from last year and 8 percent from last month. Average live hog weight lost 2 pounds year over year, at 278 pounds. January to July 2016 commercial pork production was down slightly from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 2 percent from June but down 5 percent from last July. Total hams in cold storage were up 13 percent on a monthly basis, and were again down 8 percent year-over-year. Pork trimmings were 3 percent higher than in June but down 18 percent from July 2015. Inventories of ribs were 5 percent greater than last month and up 19 percent from year earlier levels. Pork butts in freezers were 8 percent above the June volume and down 29 percent from last July. Stocks of pork bellies were down 20 percent from last month but up 114 percent from last year.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts lost $21, mostly in the last week of August, closing the month at $47 per cwt, 35 percent under the 2015 price. The pork cutout value fell $5 to $78 per cwt, 12 percent below 2015. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds, regained $10 to $76 per cwt, 9 percent above 2015, while picnic meat combos, cushion out, dropped $30 to $67 per cwt, still up 23 percent from last year's price. Pork trim, 72 percent lean lost another $24 to end at $54 per cwt, 23 percent above the end of August 2015. Pork belly primals fell $36 to $83 per cwt, down 49 percent yearly.

International Trade

Pork exports in July (including variety meats) were up 8 percent from 2015 to 177 thousand MT and the value was up 12 percent to $477 million. Pork export volume was down 4 percent, and the value was down 2 percent from June 2016. For 2016, the total export volume was up 3 percent and down 2 percent in value from last year. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada.

Compared to 2015, July pork imports were up 5 percent in volume to 41 thousand MT, and were 11 percent higher in value at $142 million. The volume of pork imports rose 9 percent from June, and was up 6 percent in value. Year-to-date measures showed pork import volume up slightly and value up 6 percent from 2015. Canada, Poland and Denmark were the largest importers of pork.

LAMB

Production

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.4 million pounds, was down 12 percent from July 2015, in part because there were 2 fewer slaughter days. On a monthly basis, production was down 14 percent. Sheep slaughter totaled 170,100 head, 10 percent below last year and 13 percent below June. The average live weight was 134 pounds, down 4 pounds from July a year ago. Year to date commercial lamb and mutton production was 1 percent lower than in 2015. Lamb and mutton freezer stocks were 4 percent higher than the month before, and 5 percent higher than year earlier levels.

Price

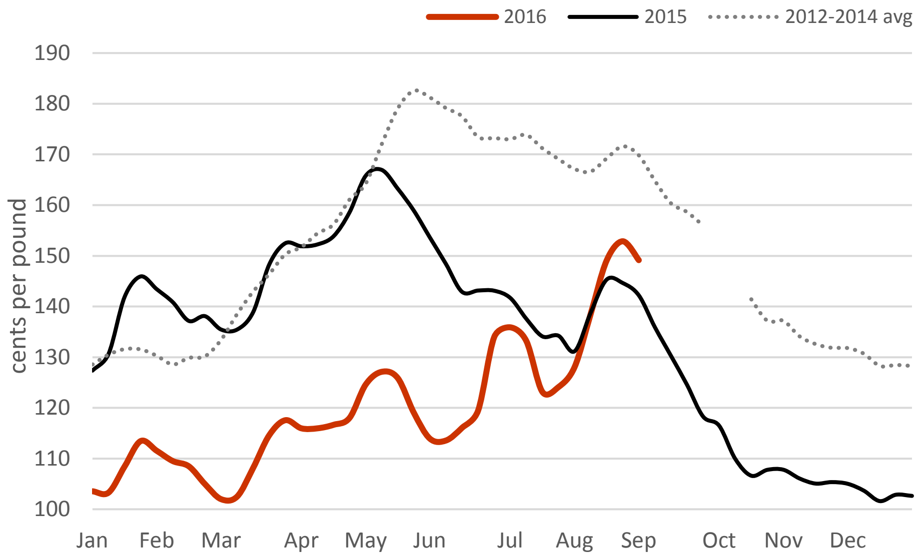
Negotiated live slaughter lamb remained fairly stable through August, closing at the same price it started with, $165 per cwt, up 6 percent from the 2015 value. The lamb cutout increased $7, ending August at $354 cwt, 2 percent below the 2015 value. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices gained $7 to $353 per cwt, 2 percent above the 2015 price. Boneless lamb shoulder prices lost $16 per cwt in August, down 1 percent from last year.

International Trade

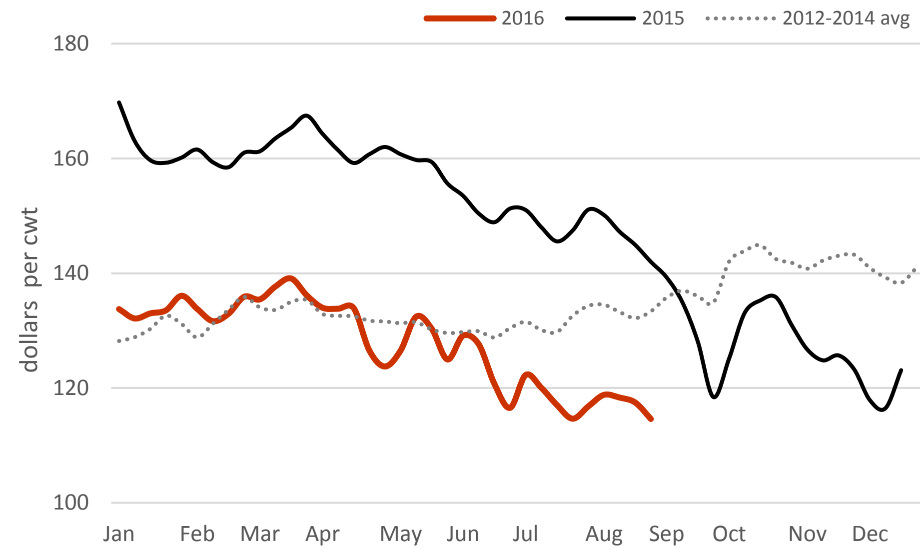
July lamb exports were up 68 percent from 2015 levels to 215 MT, and were up 24 percent in value to $1 million. Compared to June, export volume was up 70 percent and the value was up 35 percent. Total exports for 2016 are higher by 3 percent for both volume and value compared to 2015. Mexico, Hong Kong and the Philippines were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in July were up 13 percent over 2015 at 6 thousand MT, with the value of imports up 9 percent to $49 million. Compared to June, both the import volume was 14 percent lower and value was 5 percent lower. For 2016 to date, imports are up 14 percent in volume and 4 percent in value over last year. 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.

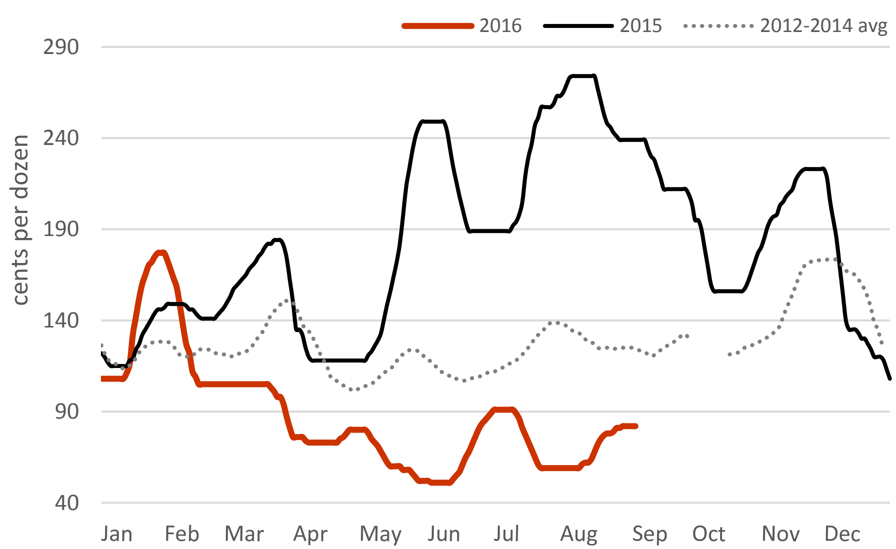
Northeast B/S Chicken Breasts



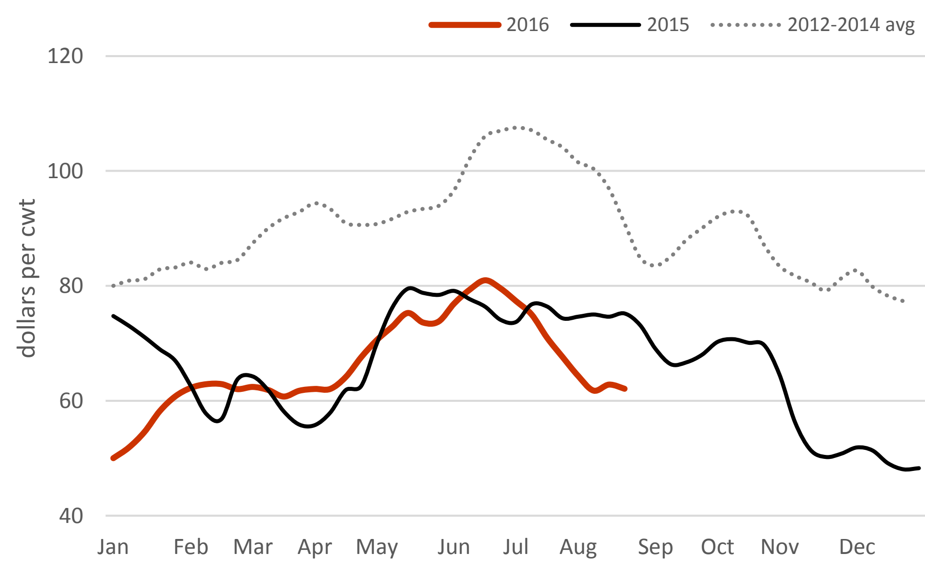
Negotiated Slaughter Cattle (Live, FOB)



New York Shell Egg (Grade A large - wholesale)



Weekly National Negotiated Barrow & Gilt



BACK to SCHOOL

55,000,000
students in public and private schools at the start of the 2015* school year**

MILK

208,000,000,000 lbs. marketed in 2015
That's enough to produce 381,000,000,000 8-oz. cartons or 38 per student per day during the 2015 school year.

FRUIT/VEGGIES

Apples
21,000,000,000 fresh use lbs. produced. That's 2 apples per student per day during the school 2015 year
(better give one to the teacher!)

GALA is the top variety sold, averaging $0.31 each in stores at the 2015 school year start.

Carrots
48,600,000,000 lbs. produced for fresh use, averaging $1.25 per lb. in stores at the start of the 2015 school year, enough for 5 lbs. per day per student

TURKEY SANDWICH

Sliced Turkey
141,000,000 lbs. of sliced produced, enough to make 752,000,000 3-slice sandwiches.

Leaf Lettuce
1,200,000,000 lbs. produced in the U.S. Enough to make 300 sandwiches with 2 leafs each for every student.

Sliced Cheese
3,400,000,000 lbs. cheddar produced in the U.S., enough to make 90,500,000,000 slices.

Whole Wheat Bread
1,400,000,000 bushels hard red wheat produced, enough to make 1,386,000,000,000 whole wheat turkey sandwiches!

Source: USDA Agricultural Analytics, NASS, US Apple Association, National Center for Education**, National Association of Wheat Growers – **all data reflect the year 2015***.