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EGGS

Production

Table egg production in May was 661 million dozen, 2 percent above last May. Broiler-type hatching egg production in May was up 3 percent compared to 2017. There were 1.1 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 81 million eggs, 6 percent above last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 208 million dozen during May, up 6 percent from May a year ago, and 8 percent above the 192 million dozen broken in April. The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on June 1 was up 4 percent compared to 2017. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were up 8 percent compared with last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was 4 percent above last year. The number of pullets added during May for all types of egg production was up 8 percent year-over-year.

Price

After their big post-Easter decline, table egg prices stabilized in mid-May, with the price of one dozen Grade A Large eggs in the New York wholesale market at 92 cents/dozen. This price held into early June, when prices began an unseasonal rise. Prices posted daily gains until the end of the first week of July, when prices reached 155 cents/dozen. In contrast to table eggs, breaking stock prices drifted down the first half of June, falling from 66 cents/dozen at the beginning of the month to reach 59 cents/dozen by mid-June. Prices held at that level through the end of the month and into the first week of July.

International Trade

Shell egg exports in May totaled 16.3 million dozen valued at $38.5 million. Compared with April, exports were up 4 percent in both volume and value, and compared with May 2018, exports were 12 percent in volume and 25 percent in value. Through May, exports were up 5 percent in volume and 16 percent in volume compared with the same period last year.

Egg products exports in May were valued at $10.2 million, down 18 percent from April and down 20 percent from May 2017. For the first 5 months of 2018, egg products exports were 5 percent above 2017. In May, our five largest export destinations for shell eggs and egg products were Mexico, Canada, Japan, Brazil, and Hong Kong.

TURKEY

Production

The United States in May produced 506 million pounds of turkey on a on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was up 1 percent compared with April but down 3 percent compared with May 2017. Average dressed weights were down 2 percent from April and down 1 percent from last May. Production in the next few months should be little changed from last year as poults placed in May were down 1 percent from 2017 and eggs in incubators on June 1 were down 5 percent year-over-year.

Total turkey cold storage inventories on May 31 were up 1 percent compared with May 2017, the smallest year-over-year increase since late 2015. Frozen whole birds were up 4 percent, with tom holdings up 15 percent and hen holdings down 5 percent. Stocks of white meat were down 2 percent year-over-year and stocks of dark meat were unchanged from last May.

Price

Most turkey prices were flat in June. Prices for whole frozen hens spent most of the month at 80 cents/lb. instead of following their typical pattern of rising through the month. Whole frozen tom prices were also flat, also trading at around 80 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices were a relative bright spot, rising 4 percent during June to end at 191 cents/lb. Dark meat prices rose slightly during the month, with B/S thigh meat closing at 131 cents/lb. and tom drumsticks closing at 66 cents/lb.

International Trade

Turkey exports in May totaled 22 thousand metric tons with a value of $48 million. Exports dropped 7 percent in volume and 8 percent in value compared with April and dropped 7 percent in volume and 5 percent in value compared with last May. Year to date, exports in 2018 were up 11 percent in volume and 13 percent in volume compared with 2017. Mexico, Japan, Peru, Hong Kong, and Canada were the five largest importers of U.S. turkey products in May.

CHICKEN

Production

May chicken production in the United States totaled 3.7 billion pounds on a on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was 3 percent above April's production and 2 percent above last May. Average dressed weights were unchanged month-over-month but up 1 percent year-over-year. Production in the coming weeks should continue to show modest gains. For the four weeks ending June 30, both eggs set in incubators and chicks placed were up 2 percent compared with the same period in 2017.

Total holdings of chicken products in cold storage on May 31 were 1 percent above the end of April and 12 percent above the end of May 2017. Broiler products overall were up 4 percent from April but unchanged year-over-year. Whole broiler inventories were unchanged month-over-month but down 30 percent from last May. Breast meat holdings were up 2 for both the month and the year. All dark meat in cold storage rose 2 percent from April but fell 10 percent from last May. Leg quarter inventories were down 2 percent compared with April and down 26 percent compared with May 2017, drumstick inventories were up 8 percent and 51 percent respectively, and thighs and thigh meat rose 1 percent and 39 percent, respectively. Wing holdings were up 12 percent month-over-month and 31 percent year-over-year.

Price

Chicken prices in June were mixed. Whole broiler prices put in what is likely their 2018 high the first week of the month at 121 cents/lb. and dropped to 114 cents/lb. by month's end. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat prices fell early in June, but jumped almost 20 cents the last week of June and the first week of July to 135 cents/lb. Leg quarter prices continued falling, but late in the month the pace declined, with prices reaching 31 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat traded within a penny of 115 cents/lb. all month. Drumstick prices fell in June, reaching 41 cents/lb. Wings, after reaching their 2018 low of 134 cents/lb. at the beginning of June, rebounded slightly to end at 139 cents/lb.

International Trade

The United States exported 249 thousand metric tons of chicken in May valued at $269 million. This represents a drop of 6 percent in volume and 5 percent in value compared with April and a 4 percent drop in volume and 1 percent increase in value compared with May 2017. For the first five months of 2018, exports were up 1 percent in volume and 9 percent in value compared to the same period in 2017. The top five destinations for chicken exports in May were Mexico, Canada, Angola, Hong Kong, and Guatemala.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

In May 2.31 billion pounds of beef were produced, 7 percent above May 2017 and 9 percent above April 2018 production. Cattle slaughter totaled about 2.91 million head of cattle, up 6 percent from last May and 10 percent monthly. The average live weight was up 8 pounds year-over-year, at 1,315 pounds. Total January to May 2018 commercial beef production added 4 percent more product than the same period last year. May veal production was up 2 percent from last year, and up 5 percent from April at 6.4 million pounds. 46,400 head of calves were slaughtered in May, 18 percent greater than 2017 and up 8 percent monthly. The average live weight was down 38 pounds from last year, at 237 pounds. Year-to-date veal production was up 1 percent. Total beef holdings in cold storage gained 2 percent from the month before and 3 percent from May 2017. Boneless beef stocks were 2 percent higher month-over-month and 5 percent higher year-over-year. Inventories of beef cuts lost 3 percent compared with April and fell 14 percent compared with last May. Veal supplies in cold storage were down 4 percent compared with April but up 30 percent compared with May 2017.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) rose in early June as packers prepared for the holiday, but thereafter lost ground to end the month down $3 at $107 per cwt, another low for the year and 10 percent below last year. The beef cutout value continued its downward trend begun in mid-May, losing $13 in the month of June, to $215 per cwt and 7 percent below 2017. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price stayed mostly flat through June, and ended down by just $1 to $221 per cwt, 5 percent below the year before. The 50 percent lean trim price dropped $17 through June, to close at $63 per cwt, 44 percent lower than a year ago. Non-packer owned veal carcasses varied within a $2 range of the final price for June of $307 per cwt, while packer-owned veal carcasses held mostly steady at $304 per cwt, both even with 2017. The veal cutout average held at $420 per cwt for the fifth consecutive month, 3 percent below last year's value.

International Trade

Compared to May 2017, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) increased 12 percent to 118 thousand MT, and the export value rose 24 percent to $722 million. The export volume and value were up 6 and 7 percent, respectively, from April. Cumulative beef exports were higher in volume by 10 percent relative to 2017, and value was 21 percent higher. Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong were our largest export markets in May. Year-over-year beef import volumes were 3 percent higher at 98 thousand MT, and up 10 percent in value to $551 million. Compared to April, beef imports and value were up 18 and 19 percent, respectively. Year-to-date beef and veal imports were up 2 percent and import values were up 13 percent from last year. New Zealand, Australia and Canada were the largest sources of imported beef to the U.S.

PORK

Production

Yet another record high for pork production was reached in May, with a volume of 2.17 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2017 and 2 percent from April. Total hog slaughter was 10.2 million head, 3 percent more than the prior year and 2 percent above the prior month. The average live weight was up 3 pounds on a yearly basis, to 285 pounds. Accumulated pork production for 2018 was 4 percent higher yearly.

Cold storage holdings of pork at the end of May increased 5 percent from April, and were up 9 percent from last May. Belly stocks grew 9 percent above April and 93 percent over May a year ago. Picnic inventories fell 11 percent monthly but rose 40 percent yearly. Ham inventories were 17 percent higher than in April, and were slightly higher than May 2017. Rib holdings were up 1 percent month-over-month and 6 percent year-over-year. Loin supplies added 2 percent to April supplies, but lost 6 percent from the inventory last May. Pork trimmings gained 2 percent monthly and 42 percent yearly.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts had a net gain of $10, rising to $78 per cwt, 10 percent below 2017. The pork cutout value also added $10, rising to $87 per cwt with typical seasonal demand, but remained down 15 percent from last June. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds took an abrupt counter-seasonal pattern by reversing at the start of June, losing $2 to $60 per cwt, 20 percent lower than the year before. However, picnic meat combos, cushion out prices retained their seasonal pattern by rising $17 to close at $95 per cwt, 11 percent below 2017. Pork trim, 72 percent lean gained $28, also with seasonal demand, ending the month at $88 per cwt, 2 percent lower than last year. Pork belly primals hit their seasonal stride by adding $38 through June. However, at $156 per cwt, the price remained 19 percent below 2017.

International Trade

Pork exports in May (including variety meats) were down 2 percent from 2017 at 212 thousand MT, and the value was 5 percent lower at $529 million. Pork export volume was 6 percent below April while the value was down 4 percent. For 2018 so far, pork exports are up from 2017 by 3 percent in volume and 5 percent in value. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and South Korea. Compared to 2017, May pork import volumes fell 1 percent to 41 thousand MT, and values lost 5 percent at $140 million. The volume of pork imports declined 4 percent relative to April, and the value was 5 percent lower. Year-to-date pork import volume and value are higher than 2017 by 3 and 1 percent, respectively. The countries of Canada, Poland and Denmark imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

LAMB

Production

May production of lamb and mutton was 13.4 million pounds, 14 percent over the prior year level, and 8 percent more than April. Sheep slaughter was 196,800 head, 9 percent above both last year and last month. The average live weight was steady with April at 137 pounds, 6 pounds more than a year ago. Total 2018 commercial lamb and mutton production was 6 percent higher than 2017. Stocks of lamb and mutton were 19 percent higher than 2017 and 5 percent higher than April.

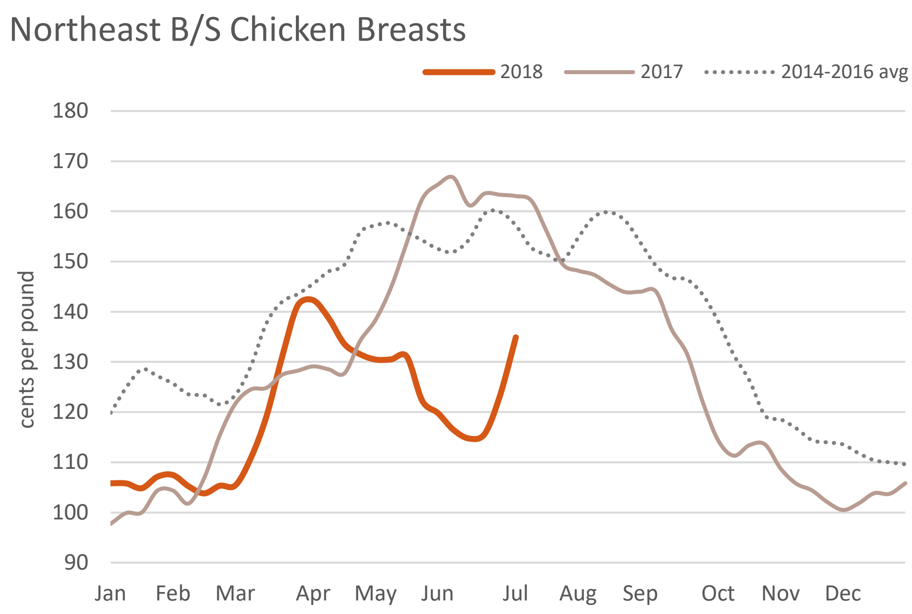
Price

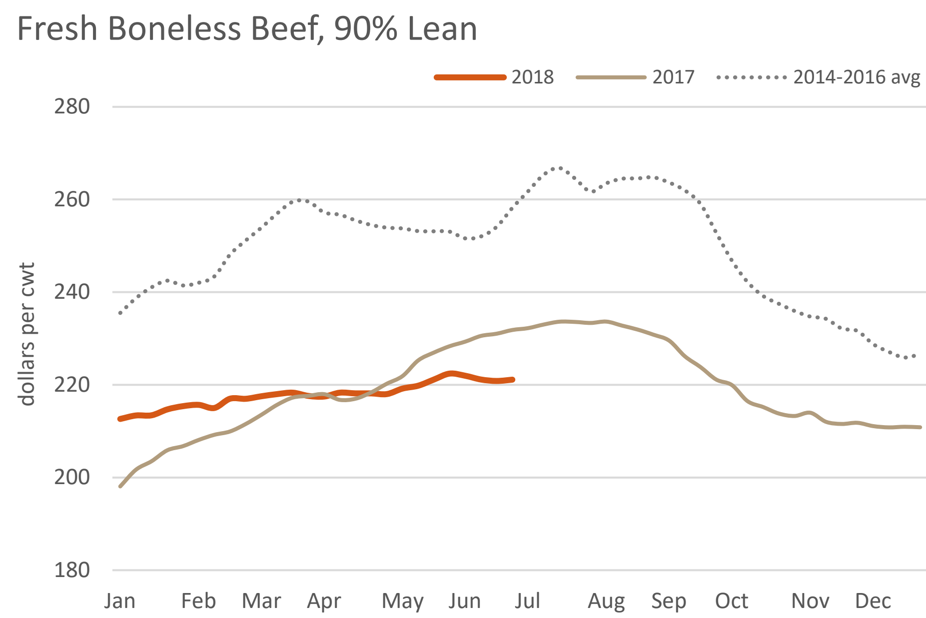
Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices bounced between $157 and $163 per cwt through June, and ended the month back at its starting point of $163 per cwt, 12 percent below 2017. The lamb cutout value began with a gain of $5 to $379, but the gain fizzled when it ended with a net loss of $2 at $372 per cwt, down 14 percent yearly. Leg of lamb, trotter-off values lost a mere 5 cents, ending flat at $364 per cwt, 14 percent below 2017. Boneless square-cut lamb shoulders added $17, ending the month at $568 per cwt, down 18 percent from last year.

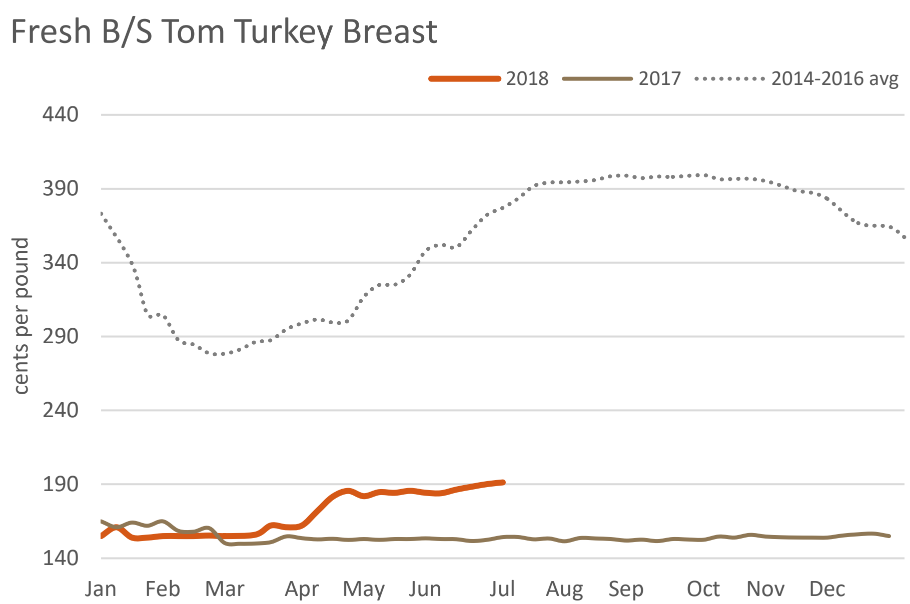
International Trade

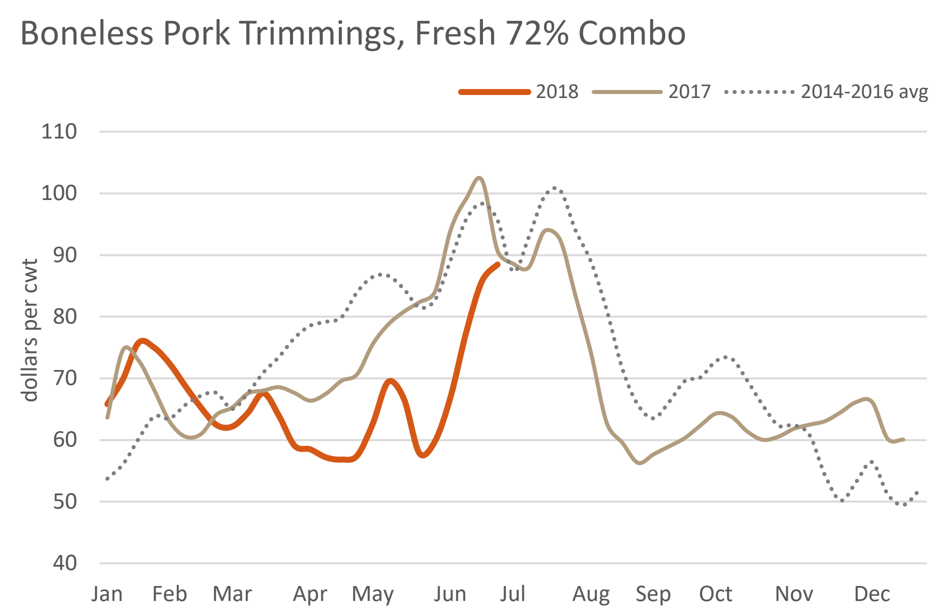
May lamb exports were up 53 percent from 2017 at 214 MT, and down 2 percent in value to $1.04 million. Compared to April, export volume was up 18 percent and the value was down 9 percent. Year-to-date exports of lamb added 6 percent in volume and 3 percent in value over this period in 2017. Mexico, United Arab Emirates and The Bahamas were the largest export markets for lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in May were up 2 percent from 2017 at 9 thousand MT, and the value rose 22 percent to $83 million. The May import volume was unchanged from April but the value increased 18 percent. 2018 total lamb imports were up 2 percent in volume and 11 percent in value from last year. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest sources of imports.

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









Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division

T-Bone Time

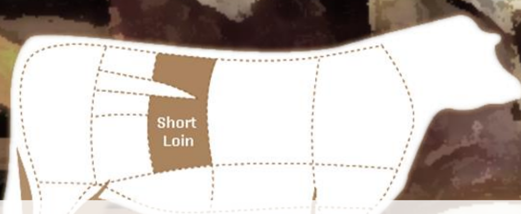
The T-bone steak is the most popular bone-in beef steak among U.S. consumers. In 2017, T-bones represented **16** percent of supermarket featuring of beef steaks and **41** percent were marketed between May and August.

In 2018, T-bones dominated all beef steak offerings at retail during both Memorial Day and Father's Day with **24** percent and **26** percent of ad share, respectively, easily doubling their closest competitor the boneless ribeye steak.

The T-bone gets its name from the shape of the lumbar vertebra when it is cut in half with the transverse process making up the downward leg.

During Memorial Day 2018, t-bone steaks led all types with **16** percent of grocery promotional activity. Value packs made up **61** percent of offerings with an average ad price of **$6.09**/lb.

The **Kansas City T-Bones** play in the American Association of Independent Baseball against such teams as the Wichita Wingnuts and the Texas Airhogs. Their mascot is "**Sizzle the Bull**".



The T-bone is cut from the beef short loin. In 2017, the U.S. processed **25** million young beef yielding **3** million short loins each of which yields **14** T-bones steaks of at least 1 inch in thickness. If all were sold as T-bones (they weren't), that would represent **37** million T-bone steaks. Of course, not all short loins are cut into T-bones.

IMPS 1174 - Beef Loin, T- Bone Steak - The steaks shall be prepared from any IMPS short loin item. The maximum width of the tenderloin shall be at least ½-inch when measured parallel to the length of the back bone.
(*USDA Institutional Meat Purchasing Specifications*)

Source: USDA AMS LP Agricultural Analytics, Market News, NASS, American Association of Independent Professional Baseball