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EGGS

Production

Table egg production in July was 645 million dozen, 3 percent higher than last July. Broiler-type hatching egg production in July was up 3 percent compared to 2016. There were 1.09 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 75 million eggs, 22 percent below last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 187 million dozen during July, down 4 percent from July a year ago, and 5 percent below the 198 million dozen broken in June. The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on August 1 was up 1 percent compared to 2016. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were down 17 percent compared with last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was 5 percent above last year. The number of pullets added during July for all types of egg production was down 8 percent year-over-year.

Price

Table egg prices began August steady, with a dozen large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market trading at 98 cents/dozen. Prices tumbled in mid-month but quickly recovered, and rose to 102 cents/dozen by the beginning of September, their highest price of the year. Breaking stock prices, which had changed little from their post-Easter levels, began rising in mid-August and by month's end climbed nearly 50 percent, reaching 57 cents/dozen, a level not seen since mid-March 2016.

International Trade

July exports of shell eggs totaled 10.6 million dozen valued at $9.1 million. July's exports were up 16 percent in volume and 4 percent in value compared to June and up 16 percent in volume, with no change in value, compared with July 2016. Year-to-date exports of shell eggs through July were down 1 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared with 2016 totals.

Egg products exports in July were valued at $11.4 million. This was an increase 0f 8 percent compared with June and 65 percent compared with last July. For the first seven months of 2017, the value of egg products exports was up 51 percent compared with 2016. Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, and Brazil were the five largest importers of U.S. eggs and egg products in July.

TURKEY

Production

U.S. processors produced 465 million pounds of turkey on a on a ready-to-cook basis in July. Daily production in July was down 1 percent from June's levels and down 2 percent from last July. Average dressed weights for July were down 1 percent compared with June but up 1 percent compared with 2016. Producers appear to be scaling back production. After strong year-over-year growth in the first months of 2017, poult placements in recent months have been sharply down; placements in July were 5 percent below last year. Eggs set in incubators are not showing a similar decline, however. On August 1, eggs set were 2 percent above 2016 levels.

Total supplies of turkey in cold storage on July 31 were 11 percent above the levels seen at the end of July 2016. July marks the third month in a row that the year-over-year surplus has decreased, as processors slow production levels. Whole bird inventories continue strong, with both frozen hen and tom stocks 24 percent above last July. White meat supplies were 18 percent above last year, but dark meat supplies were 30 percent lower than July 2016.

Price

Turkey prices continued in the doldrums in August. Whole frozen hens traded most of the month in the mid-90s, but did end the month above $1 at 102 cents/lb. Frozen whole toms also traded primarily in the mid-90s, but also saw a spike one week to above $1/lb. White meat prices were essentially flat, boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat was unchanged at 152 cents/lb. After trading at or near 120 cents/lb. since April, B/S thigh meat prices dropped 13 percent in August and were below $1 at 97 cents/lb. by month's end. Tom drumsticks were unchanged through the month at 60 cents/lb.

International Trade

Total U.S. exports of turkey and turkey products in July were 23.5 thousand metric tons with a value of $47.8 million. This was a drop of 3 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared with June but a rise of 10 percent in volume and 1 percent in value compared with last July. Through July, 2017 exports have been above 2016 levels by 10 percent in volume and 3 percent in value. The top five destinations for exports of turkey in July were Mexico, Chile, Hong Kong, Canada, and Japan.

CHICKEN

Production

Total chicken production in July was 3.35 billion pounds on a on a ready-to-cook basis. July's daily production was up 4 percent compared to June and up 3 percent compared to July 2016. The production increases were primarily due to more birds being slaughtered. Average dressed weights for July production were even with June, but up nearly 1 percent from last July. Hatchery information indicates growing production in the coming weeks. For the four weeks ending August 26, chick placements were up 3 percent and eggs set in incubators were up 4 percent.

Frozen stocks of chicken in cold storage on July 31 were 1 percent below the end of June 2017 and 3 percent below July 2016. Stocks of all broiler items were down 4 percent on the month and 10 percent on the year. Whole broiler inventories were even with June and down 7 percent from last July. Breast meet supplies were down 6 percent month-over-month but up 2 percent year-over-year. Dark meat inventories were down 2 percent from June and 10 percent from last year, with leg quarter stocks down 5 percent and 14 percent, respectively. Drumstick supplies were up 23 percent for the month and 20 percent for the year. Wing inventories were unchanged compared with June, but down 35 percent from 2016.

Price

Whole broiler prices fell seasonally in August, with the National composite broiler price falling 6 percent through the month to end at 89 cents/lb. Parts prices were more stable. The price of boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat fell 3 percent to 144 cents/lb., while B/S thigh meat prices rose 1 percent to 143 cents/lb., near parity with breast meat. After putting in a 32-month high value of 36 cents/lb. in early August, leg quarter prices dropped to 35 cents/lb. by the beginning of September. Drumstick prices fell 1 percent to 45 cents/lb. Wing prices reached their highest levels since January 2013 in August, at 211 cents/lb., and remained there at month's end.

International Trade

U.S. chicken exports in July totaled 255 thousand metric tons valued at $272 million. This was an increase of 7 percent in volume and 4 percent in value compared with June and no change in volume but a 10 percent increase in value compared to July 2016. For the first seven months of 2017, chicken exports were up 4 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared to 2016. In July, our five largest export destinations for chicken were Mexico, Canada, Angola, Cuba, and Hong Kong.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

July beef production was 2.11 billion pounds, 4 percent above 2016 but 8 percent less than June, which had two fewer slaughter days. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 6 percent from July 2016 but 9 percent lower than the month before. The average live weight was down 12 pounds from last year, at 1,333 pounds, and year-to-date beef production is up 5 percent from 2016. Veal production in July totaled 5.7 million pounds, up 1 percent from last July, but down 10 percent from June. Calf slaughter totaled 39,000 head, up 3 percent from July 2016 and down 3 percent from June. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from last year, at 250 pounds. Accumulated veal production for 2017 was down 1 percent from last year. Frozen beef supplies at the end of July rose 4 percent from June closing levels, but were down 8 percent from June 2016. Boneless beef in cold storage increased 3 percent compared to the prior month, but declined 8 percent year over year. The inventory of beef cuts grew 7 percent monthly and also fell 8 percent yearly. Frozen veal stocks in cold storage jumped 33 percent from the month before and 86 percent from last year.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) fell through August, losing $8 to $109 per cwt, slightly below the 2016 price. The Choice beef cutout value continued its seasonal decline, taking off $15 to close at $192 per cwt, down 4 percent from 2016. The 90 percent lean boneless beef slowed $3 to end at $231 per cwt, 8 percent above last year. However, the 50 percent lean trim price dropped $36 to end the month at $54 per cwt, surprisingly still up 27 percent year-over-year. For the first time in 2017, both packer and non-packer-owned veal carcasses broke the $310 per cwt barrier, each ending up $7 at $317 and $314 per cwt respectively. These values were 2 percent lower year-over-year for both carcass types. The veal cutout average changed for the first time since February, falling $25 to $410 per cwt, 20 percent below last year's value.

International Trade

Compared to July 2016, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) rose 4 percent to 105 thousand MT. The export value was up 17 percent to $624 million. The export volume was 5 percent lower while value increased 4 percent from June. The first seven months of the year beef export volume rose 11 percent from last year, and was up 15 percent in value. Japan, South Korea and Canada were our largest export markets in July. Beef import volumes were up 11 percent from 2016 to 107 thousand MT, and were 10 percent higher in value at $551 million. Compared to June, beef imports saw 2 percent growth in volumes and value. However, year-to-date imports of beef and veal volumes were down 6 percent and value was down 7 percent from 2016. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were the largest importers of beef to the U.S.

PORK

Production

In July, 1.86 billion pounds of pork were produced, up 2 percent from last year, but down 9 percent monthly (with June having two fewer production days). 9.02 million hogs were slaughtered, up 3 percent from last July but down 9 percent from June. The average live weight was down 1 pound from 2016, at 277 pounds. January to July 2017 pork production was up 3 percent from last year.

Cold storage of pork declined 1 percent from June and 7 percent from last July. Supplies of bone-in picnics were 16 percent lower month over month, and were down 19 percent from 2016. Total frozen ham stocks increased 9 percent monthly and 4 percent yearly. However, storage of pork trimmings fell 10 and 17 percent, respectively, from the previous month and year. Frozen loins were down 14 percent on a monthly basis but rose 2 percent annually. Rib stocks were 10 percent lower than the prior month and 14 lower percent than July 2016. Pork butts in freezers decreased 14 percent from June, and 11 percent from the year before. Pork belly stocks were down 21 percent from last month and for the second month in a row, down 65 percent from 2016 on seasonal demand.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts fell through August, closing down $18 to $64 per cwt, still remaining up 8 percent from 2016. The pork cutout value lost $16 per cwt, to $85 per cwt, up 9 percent from last year. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds ended the month down $4 to $76 per cwt, 8 percent below 2016. Picnic meat combos, cushion out lost $19, closing August at $78 per cwt, 12 percent above last year's price. Pork trim, 72 percent lean dropped $37, closing at $56 per cwt, up 1 percent year-over-year. Pork belly primals ended the high season by crashing $86 to close the month at $129 per cwt. Despite the loss, this value was 80 percent higher than the price in 2016.

International Trade

Pork exports in July (including variety meats) were down 5 percent from 2016 to 169 thousand MT, with the value down 3 percent to $467 million. Pork export volume was down 13 percent, and value was down 7 percent from June. Year-to-date exports declined 13 percent in volume and 10 percent in value. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2016, July pork imports were up 2 percent in volume to 42 thousand MT, and up 10 percent in value to $156 million. The July import volume declined by 3 percent while value rose slightly from June. Cumulative pork imports were 1 percent lower in volume, but 4 percent higher in value. The countries of Canada, Poland and Denmark imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

LAMB

Production

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.0 million pounds, was down 4 percent from July 2016, and with two fewer operating days, down 11 percent from June. Sheep slaughter totaled 167,400 head, 2 percent below last year and down 11 percent monthly. The average live weight was 132 pounds, 4 pounds lower than last July. 2017 cumulative commercial lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent. Lamb and mutton cold storage was up 2 percent from the end of June, but was 35 percent lower than last July.

Price

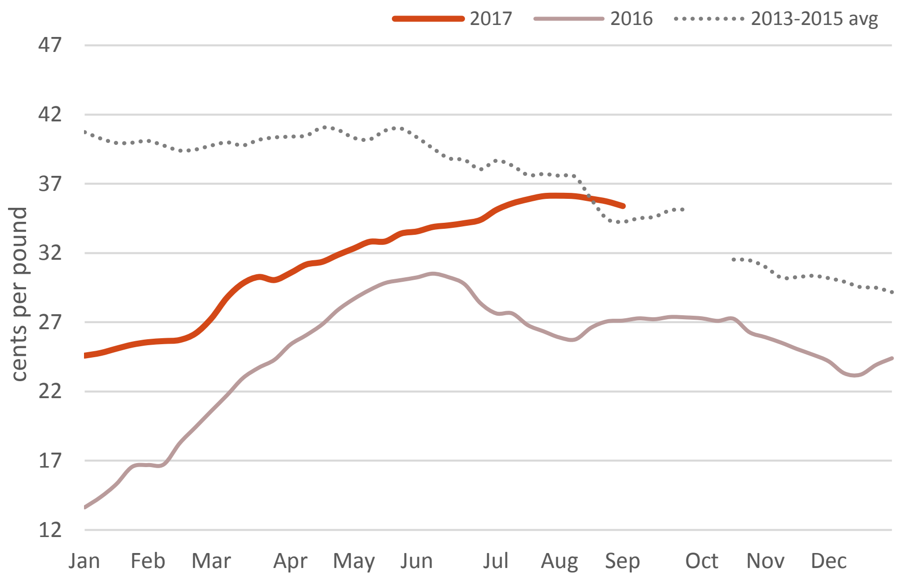
Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices continued falling in August, losing $7 to $167 per cwt, but gaining $2 in the last week, to close up 2 percent from last year at $169 per cwt. The lamb cutout followed a similar pattern, ending down $15 from the start of August to $415 cwt, up 17 percent from 2016. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices fell $12 to $404 per cwt, 16 percent higher yearly. Lamb shoulders lost $30 to close the month at $678 per cwt, 24 percent above the 2016 price.

International Trade

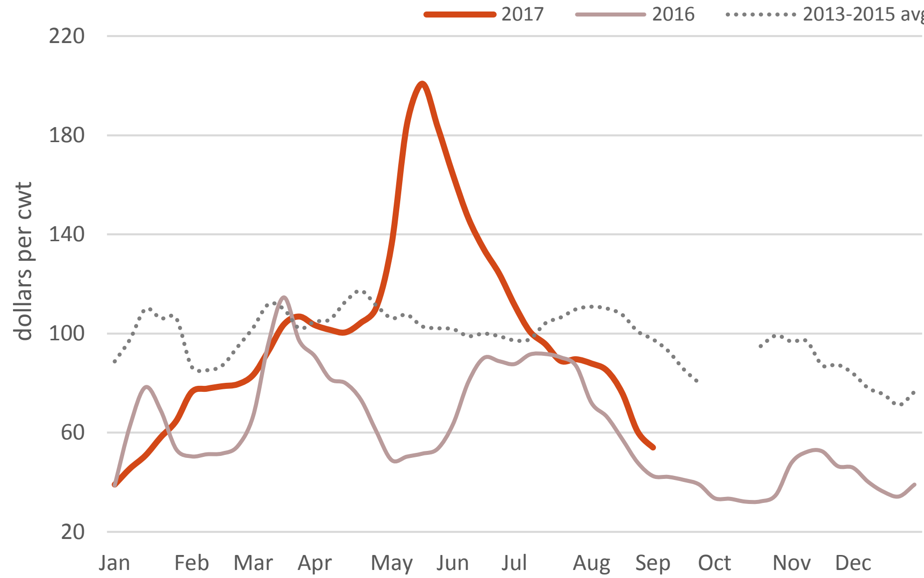
July lamb exports were down 14 percent from 2016 levels to 185 MT, but up 4 percent in value to $1.1 million. Compared to June, the volume and value were both 13 percent lower. Lamb meat export volume for the year so far is 11 percent higher and the value up 16 percent from 2016. Mexico, Hong Kong and the Philippines were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in July were up 29 percent from 2016 to 7.9 thousand MT, with the value up 40 percent to $68 million. The July import volume was up 8 percent from the month before, and the value was up 13 percent. Cumulative lamb import volume was 16 percent above last year, and value up 18 percent. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest sources of lamb imports.

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

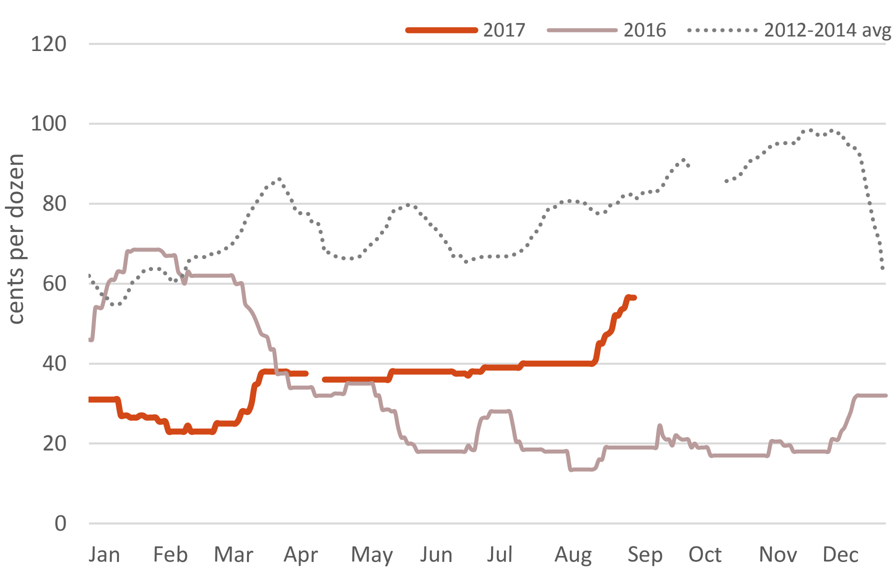
Southern States Chicken Leg Quarters



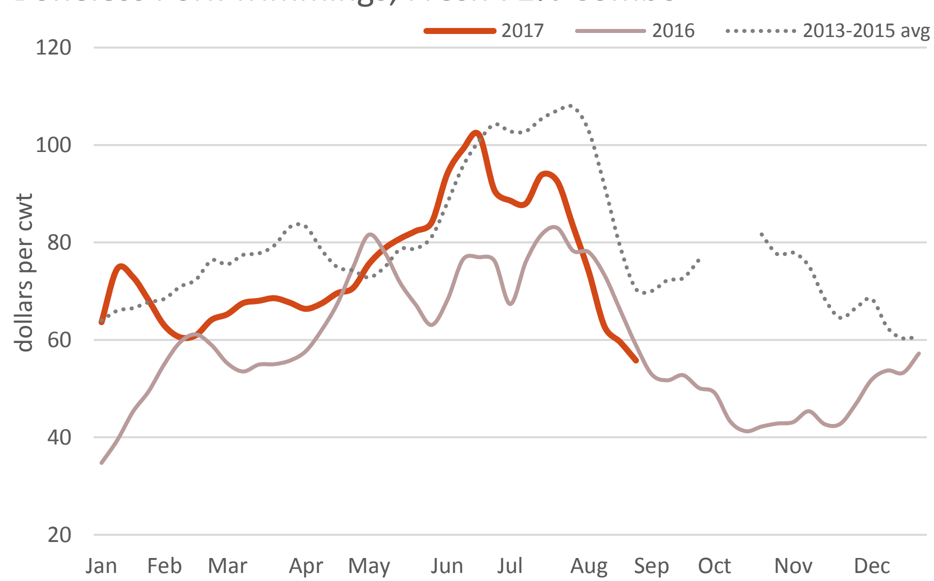
50% Lean Beef Trimmings



Central States Breaking Stock Eggs



Boneless Pork Trimmings, Fresh 72% Combo



TAILGATE TIME

A main marketing period for these "grillable" meats, perfect for tailgating.

Autumn signals the arrival of football and the great American pastime – tailgating!
While the custom of bringing food to public gatherings dates far back into history, the modern form is closely associated with the American game of football, dating to the game's early beginnings in the 1800's

The prime tailgate season falls between Labor Day and Thanksgiving

Greenbay Packers fans are credited with introducing tailgating to the NFL in 1921.

B

A close second to ground **BEEF** for burgers and chili, **25%** of backrib marketings occurred during tailgate time in 2016 – **2**% above the annual average rate. Fans cooked up an estimated **86 million** beef rib bones in 2016, a third of a rib for every American.

T

A popular choice in patty and sausage form. In 2016, **24%** of annual ground **TURKEY** marketings at retail occurred during the tailgate season – **1%** above the average annual marketing rate. During the 2016 season, fans consumed an estimated **83 million** pounds of ground turkey.

P

The perfect finger food, **PORK** ribs (baby, St. Louis, and regular) are fan favorites. In 2016, nearly **22%** of retail marketing of pork ribs occurred during the 12-week tailgate season. That year, tailgaters consumed an estimated **638 million** pork rib bones – 2 per capita! And don't even get started on Brats!

C

The perennial favorite, what would a tailgate be without **CHICKEN** wings? In 2016, **25%** of annual marketings occurred between Sep-Nov – **2**% above the annual average rate. Football fans consumed an estimated **7.9 billion** wing sections, equating to **8** whole wings for every American that season.

On November 6, 1869, the New Jersey Tigers (Princeton) lost to the Rutgers Queensmen 6-4, in the first college football game. Tailgaters were there!

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics, AMS Market News, and NASS