



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

WEDNESDAY
MAY 17, 2000
VOL. 47 NO. 59

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady to firm. Retail demand ranged slow to moderate, with increased activity in the Northeast due to shipping problems. Supplies were generally adequate. In the parts structure, breast items and dark meat was steady to firm, however drumsticks and wings were in a weaker position. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed weights, but mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 cent to 57.75 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 60.00 cents last year on the 19th May, 1999.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

BREASTS - B/S	143.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	74.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	97.50
LEG QUARTERS	19.50
WINGS	52.00

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE		
WEEK ENDING 05/13/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	183,963	184,285	0
CHICKS PLACED	149,638	147,285	+02

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Down Slightly

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 184 million eggs during the week ending May 13, 2000. This was down slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 2 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 150 million chicks for meat production during the week ending May 13, 2000. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through May 13, 2000, were 2.78 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 24-Jun-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 155.1 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 154.9 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 154.6 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 158.4 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 60.61 CENTS PER POUND.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was usually good. Offerings were mixed in size and varied from location to location. Generally, however, supplies were sufficient in handling current needs. Movement into retail and distributive channels was fair to good. The market tone was steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts continued to be difficult to locate. Boneless, skinless breasts were short to adequate and the balance was about adequate.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was at least steady. Demand was moderate to good. Supplies were generally adequate, however truck availability caused problems in some areas. In the parts structure, breast items were in the strongest position and held with confidence. Dark meat was usually sufficient with drumsticks more available and at times discounted. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed weights, but mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment generally steady. Additional offerings of wogs fully adequate on heavier weights, in balance on lighter weight product. Whole bird offerings light but satisfied the limited trade needs. Retail demand slow to moderate. Food service movement fair to fairly good, best into catering, fast food and special events. Floor stocks adequate, sizes desirable to instances heavy. Parts trading active on whole breasts and tenderloins, mixed on the balance with increased trading reported on boneless/skinless breasts. Retail features on split breasts noted at 89 cents in St. Louis and Chicago and boneless/skinless breasts featured at \$1.79 in Chicago. Supplies generally sufficient to short of trade needs on breast items, all other parts at least adequate. Trade sentiment firm on breast items, steady to firm on leg quarters and steady to weak on wings.

WESTERN Market tone was firm. Offerings in fair balance. Buyer interest improved. Retail demand was moderate overall best for parts. Floor stocks adequate. Market tone fully steady to firm on white meat items with breasts in the strongest position, about steady on dark meat with leg quarters in the best position. Ads noted: S. CA - whole body 69, leg quarters 39, whole legs 79, drumsticks 59-79, thighs 59-79, bone-in breast 97-100, boneless leg meat 98, boneless thigh meat 119 and boneless breasts 188-499.

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was moderate to good at most points. Activity had increased at several plants due to shipping problems being encountered at a large volume plant within the area. Offerings varied in both size and volume but were generally adequate, particularly the smaller sizes. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were moderate in total, partially affected by the above mentioned shipping problems. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 68 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Most parts were held with a degree of confidence.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	55-69
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	59.53
NO. OF BOXES	9,575
*6 of 8 plants reporting.	

MAY 16, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAY 17, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS			WTD
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	641	110.00-180.00	130-135	131.59
TENDERLOINS	175	147.00-205.00	-	155.69
BREAST - LINE RUN	132	62.00-66.00	62-64	65.70
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	87	27.00-34.00	27-29	27.56
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	648	15.00-18.00	15-17	15.69
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	919	18.00-20.00	19-20	19.09
WINGS (WHOLE)	133	41.00-49.00	43-45	44.55
WINGS (CUT)	372	52.00-72.00	54-56	55.57
DRUMSTICKS	87	25.00-34.00	-	25.72
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS			WTD
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	681	125.00-180.00	130-135	139.33
TENDERLOINS	195	145.00-205.00	145-150	152.44
BREAST - LINE RUN	162	62.00-66.00	62-65	65.01
FRONT HALVES	110	48.00-51.00	-	49.57
LEGS	47	26.00-34.00	27-28	27.19
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	1,048	15.00-20.00	15-17	16.61
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	639	18.00-20.00	19-20	19.25
WINGS (WHOLE)	133	41.00-49.00	43-45	44.55
WINGS (CUT)	469	52.00-73.00	54-56	55.66
DRUMSTICKS	87	25.00-34.00	-	25.72
THIGHSTOO FEW TO REPORT	B/S THIGHSTOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR MAY 16, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S	
RANGE	AVERAGE
32.00 - 34.75	32.97

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR MAY 17, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S		5-DAY
RANGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE
31.50 - 35.50	33.09	32.75

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity ranged fair to good with best interest on breast items. Offerings of bone-in breasts were scarce, however, when found, many buyers failed to make purchases due to steep asking prices. Boneless, skinless breasts were mostly short to about adequate and some out front interest was noted. All other items were mixed but generally adequate. Retail and distributive movement continued moderate to good. The market tone was fully steady to firm and bone-in breasts were in the strongest position.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	135	135.84	500,240	
TENDERLOINS	135	149.22	78,140	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	63-64	69.64	236,120	
BREAST - LINE RUN	63	70.05	108,760	
LEGS	31-32	35.41	208,560	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.43	391,038	
DRUMSTICKS	35-36	36.32	117,080	
THIGHS	28-29	35.04	111,800	
B/S THIGHS	86-87	92.27	42,860	
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	59.27	289,880	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.04	72,240	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.32	70,340	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	44.34	104,420	

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	135-140	138.66	445,680	
TENDERLOINS	140	148.27	115,120	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	66-67	71.89	264,400	
BREAST - LINE RUN	66	73.52	153,200	
LEGS	31-32	36.18	218,360	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	21-22	22.06	397,060	
DRUMSTICKS	35-36	36.29	115,080	
THIGHS	28-29	35.76	98,440	
B/S THIGHS	86-87	93.48	57,640	
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	60.05	325,744	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.09	81,040	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.42	74,680	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	44.93	107,680	

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG		AVG	
	05/17	05/16	05/15	05/12	05/15	05/12	05/10	05/08
ALA	3,948	3,964	3,812	4,207	5.07	4.80	3,905	5.05
ARK	5,239	5,161	4,716	5,276	4.84	4.67	4,981	4.86
DELMARVA	2,298	2,297	2,300	2,218	5.05	5.08	2,331	5.16
KY-LA-TN	2,082	2,084	2,125	2,068	4.44	4.33	2,065	4.38
MISS	2,781	2,835	2,729	2,850	5.11	4.87	2,651	5.13
NC	2,613	2,623	2,542	2,799	5.87	6.01	2,408	5.87
TEXAS	2,321	2,329	2,291	2,631	4.84	4.73	2,318	4.90
TOTAL	21,282	21,293	20,515	22,049	5.03	4.85	20,659	5.05
MON-WED 63,578 (A)					62,208 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 17-May 00 is estimated to be 31,840,000 up 2.14 percent from a week ago and up 6.0 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,173,000; last year 30,039,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-96
	DRY PACK	102-104
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	107-111
	DRY PACK	119
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	95
	DRY PACK	98
DUCKS		152-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 20-00

CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
	CURRENT WEEK 05/20/00 (1)	PREVIOUS WEEK 05/13/00
BRO-FRY	159,386 (2)	159,007
LT HENS	2,058	2,053
HVY HENS	1,671	1,594
CHECK TOTAL	163,115	162,654

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 20-May is 157.2 million head compared to 157.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 159.7 million head or 2.5 million more than estimated available. For week of 27-May the estimated available is 156.0 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS
(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	LBS			LBS		
AM 15-May-00	134,330			93,638		
AM 1-May-00	127,404			90,183		
CHG	6,926			3,455		
PCT CHG	5			4		

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	05/15/00	05/8/00	05/17/99	05/15/00	05/8/00	05/17/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	18,017	17,488	27,848	14,587	15,084	16,946
LOS ANGELES	264	244	1,383	5,304	5,515	9,831

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 05/16/00

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
	HEAVY FOWL lb.	.40	.70	.61	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.10	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	.60	-	BANTAMS ea.	.75	2.25
BROILERS lb.	.40	.50	.42	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.10	.80
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	5.50
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	5.75
ROOSTERS lb.	1.05	1.50	1.26	ROOSTERS ea.	.30	3.50
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	2.25	2.50
TURKEYS lb.	.65	.80	.72	TURKEYS ea.	-	4.25
DUCKS lb.	.80	1.25	1.00	DUCKS ea.	-	1.00
RABBITS lb.	.25	1.05	.70	RABBITS ea.	1.25	4.00
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.50	6.50
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	7.00	10.00
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	.75	2.25
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	2.25	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	2.50	-	GOSLINGS ea.	1.00	1.75
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	3.75	-	BABY TURKEY ea.	-	3.00

TOTAL COOPS 114

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MAY 15, 2000

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	56-58
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	62-64

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending May 12, 2000

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	
RAYON						
Low	125.51	247.49	150.26	53.03	10.61	101.65
High	129.05	265.17	167.94	61.87	13.26	101.65
Mostly	127.28	247.49	159.10	53.03	13.26	101.65
SAN JUAN						
Low	143.19	256.33	150.26	53.03	15.91	114.91
High	152.03	291.69	167.94	70.71	22.10	114.91
Mostly	145.84	265.17	159.10	70.71	17.68	114.91
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	121.98	247.49	132.59	44.20	10.61	101.65
High	127.28	265.17	159.10	61.87	13.26	101.65
Mostly	126.40	247.49	150.26	44.20	13.26	101.65
BECERRA						
Low	145.84	256.33	167.94	61.87	15.91	114.02
High	148.50	282.85	185.62	79.55	26.52	114.02
Mostly	145.84	265.17	176.78	75.13	19.45	114.02

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