

CHICKEN

Production

Domestic chicken production in November totaled 3.4 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was down 3 percent compared to October but up 3 percent compared to November 2016. Average dressed weights in November were unchanged from October and up less than 1 percent from last November. Production increases in the next couple of months should be modest; both eggs set and chicks placed for the four weeks ending December 30 were up 2 percent. Total frozen chicken inventories on November 30 were up 3 percent compared to October and 14 percent compared with last November. Whole broiler stocks were 19 percent lower month-over-month but 4 percent higher year-over-year. Breast meat supplies were up 5 percent for the month and up 7 percent for the year. Overall holdings of dark meat 1 percent lower than October and 5 percent lower than November 2016. Leg quarters showed the largest declines, falling 5 percent month-over-month and 18 percent year-over-year.

Price

Chicken price trends in December were mixed. The national composite average for whole broilers rose 5 percent during the month to 90 cents/lb. The price of boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat also rose 5 percent, reaching 106 cents/lb., although B/S breast prices remained below B/S thigh prices. Leg quarter prices ended their decline in December, rising 1 percent to 31 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat fell 1 percent to 107 cents/lb. and drumsticks fell 2 percent to 42 cents/lb. Wing prices ended the month unchanged at 166 cents/lb.

International Trade

Exports of chicken in November totaled 261 thousand metric tons valued at \$272 million. Compared with October, were down 10 percent in volume and 13 percent in value. Compared with November 2016, exports were up 2 percent in volume and 14 percent in value. For the first 11 months of 2017, total exports were up 3 percent in volume and 10 percent in value compared with 2016. The top five destinations for chicken exports in November were Mexico, Canada, Cuba, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

TURKEY

Production

The U.S. produced 515 million pounds of turkey on a ready-to-cook basis in November. Daily production was down 2 percent compared to October and up 1 percent compared with last November. Average dressed weights dropped 2 percent month-over-month but were unchanged year-over-year. In the coming months turkey production is unlikely to see any increases. November poult placements were unchanged from last November and eggs in incubators on December 1 were down 4 percent.

Total turkey in cold storage on November 30 continued to be well above year-earlier levels, with total holdings 22 percent above November 2016 levels. Whole birds were 58 percent higher, with toms, which were up 102 percent, accounting for the bulk of the increase. Stocks of white meat were up 16 percent and dark meat stocks were up 25 percent.

Price

Turkey prices for the most part moved lower in December. Frozen whole hen prices fell 7 percent to 79 cents/lb., while frozen whole toms fell 3 percent to 77 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices were essentially unchanged for the month, rising a penny to close at 155 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat prices were the bright spot for turkey processors; they rose 11 percent to close at 113 cents/lb., while tom drumsticks were unchanged at 65 cents/lb.

International Trade

The United States exported 25.6 thousand metric tons of turkey products with a value of \$56.9 million. Exports were down 12 percent in volume and down 11 percent in value month-over-month and up 12 percent in volume and down 3 percent in value year-over-year. Through November, annual exports of turkey were up 10 percent in volume and up 3 percent in value compared to 2016. Mexico, Japan, the Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, and Guatemala were the five largest importers of U.S. turkey products in November.

Production

Table egg production in November was 634 million dozen, unchanged from last year. Broiler-type hatching egg production was up 1 percent compared to 2016 and 1.04 billion broiler-type hatching eggs were produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 75 million eggs, 9 percent below last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 189 million dozen during November, down 3 percent from November a year ago, and 4 percent below the 198 million dozen broken in October.

The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on December 1 was unchanged compared to 2016. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were down 5 percent compared with last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was 5 percent above last year. The number of pullets added during November for all types of egg production was up 1 percent year-over-year.

Price

Eggs began December at their seasonal highs. The price of a dozen Grade A Large eggs in the New York wholesale market began the month at 186 cents/dozen. This price held through the first week, then began a steady fall throughout the month, falling 26 percent by month's end, when prices reached 137 cents/dozen. Prices continued to fall rapidly in the first week of January and at the end of the week reached 112 cents/dozen. Breaking stock prices held their seasonal highs longer than table eggs. Prices held at 97 cents/dozen from the beginning of December until just before Christmas, then slid 13 percent by year end, reaching 84 cents/dozen. Prices continued to fall the first week of January, reaching 70 cents/dozen by the end of the week.

International Trade

Exports of U.S. shell eggs in November totaled 9.32 million dozen with a value of \$11.7 million. This represents a drop of 28 percent in volume and 20 percent in value in comparison to October and a drop of 5 percent in volume and an increase of 21 percent in value in comparison with 2016. Through November, 2017 shell egg exports were up 1 percent in volume and 2 percent in value compared with 2016.

Egg products exports in November were valued at \$14.7 million, an increase of 16 percent month-over-month and of 17 percent year-over-year. For the first 11 months of the year, egg product exports were up 37 percent compared with 2016. In November, our five largest export destinations for shell eggs and egg products were Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, and Jamaica.

Production

Beef production, at 2.29 billion pounds, was 2 percent higher than in November 2016 and down slightly from October 2017. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.76 million head, up 3 percent from 2016, but down 1 percent from October. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,373 pounds. January to November 2017 commercial beef production was up 4 percent from last year. Veal production, at 6.4 million pounds was 4 percent below year earlier levels, and steady with October. Calf slaughter totaled 42,400 head, down 10 percent from 2016, and down 4 percent from the prior month. The average calf live weight was up 17 pounds from last year, at 260 pounds. Accumulated veal production was down 1 percent year-over-year. Total holdings of frozen beef at the end of November were down 4 percent compared with October and down 8 percent compared with November 2016. Boneless beef stocks were down 4 percent month-over-month and 10 percent year-over-year. Beef cuts were down 8 percent for the month but up 10 percent for the year. Veal stocks at the end of November were up sharply, rising 28 percent from October and 108 percent from 2016 levels.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) followed the December pattern of falling early in the month, but ending up, with a net increase of roughly \$3 per cwt to \$123 per cwt, 5 percent above 2016. The beef cutout lost value through the month, ending down \$5 per cwt to \$202 per cwt, though up slightly from the 2016 value. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price held mostly steady though December, closing down \$1 at \$211 per cwt, 8 percent above the 2016 price. The 50 percent lean trim prices lost \$15 per cwt by mid-month, but regained \$7 to end at \$58 per cwt, 48 percent over the 2016 level. Packer-owned veal carcasses remained mostly steady at \$327 per cwt, as did non-packer owned veal carcasses, which ended the year at \$330 per cwt, respectively 7 and 8 percent above 2016. Since the end of September the veal cutout average has remained at \$423 per cwt, where it closed out the year, 9 percent below the 2016 value.

International Trade

Compared to November 2016, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) fell 3 percent to 112 thousand MT though the export value increased 7 percent to \$666 million. The export volume and value were both up 1 percent from October. 2016 exports for the year to date are 7 percent higher than in 2016, with the value up 15 percent. Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong were our largest export markets in November. Year-over-year beef import volumes were up 3 percent to 77 thousand MT, and were up 11 percent in value to \$421 million. Compared to October, beef imports were down 14 percent and value was down 9 percent. Total yearly import volumes in 2016 so far were slightly higher in volume and 1 percent lower in value than in 2016. Canada, Australia and Mexico were the largest importers of beef to the U.S.

Production

November pork production was up slightly from 2016, but down 3 percent from October at 2.24 billion pounds. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, down 1 percent from last year and 4 percent below the month before. The average live weight was up 3 pounds year-over-year, at 286 pounds. Year-to-date pork production was up 3 percent from 2016.

Overall holdings of pork in cold storage on November 30 were down 16 percent from the end of October and down 3 percent from last November. Ham stocks fell sharply, down 50 percent month-over-month and 7 percent year-over-year. Belly holdings, in contrast, rose 12 percent from October and were 94 percent above levels in November 2016. Rib stocks were up 5 percent on the month and down 9 percent on the year.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts fluctuated somewhat in December but ended roughly the same at \$58 per cwt, 11 percent over the 2016 close. The pork cutout value lost \$6 through the month to close 5 percent below the 2016 value at \$77 per cwt. Following the seasonal pattern, trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds dropped \$8 to \$56 per cwt, 18 percent below 2016. However, picnic meat combos, cushion out, added \$9 to \$91 per cwt, 17 percent above last year. Pork trim, 72 percent lean fell \$5 to \$60 per cwt, but ended the year up 5 percent from 2016. After December's loss of \$34 per cwt, pork belly primal values fell 5 percent from last year to end at \$109 per cwt.

International Trade

Pork exports in November (including variety meats) were down 2 percent from 2016 to 218 thousand MT, but the value was up 4 percent to \$588 million. Pork export volume was up 6 percent, and the value was up 9 percent from October. For 2016 to date, the total export volume was up 6 percent and 9 percent in value from last year. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and to the U.S.

Production

November lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent from 2016 and up 4 percent from October 2017 to 12.4 million pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 188,000 head, 1 percent above last year and 2 percent above the previous month. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from November 2016. January to November 2017 commercial lamb production was down 4 percent yearly. Lamb inventories fell 8 percent compared with October, but rose 32 percent compared with last November..

Price

After some variation in December, negotiated live slaughter lamb prices lost \$4 to \$128 per cwt, 10 percent under the 2016 close. The lamb cutout fell \$8, to \$379 cwt, but ended up 7 percent from 2016. Leg of lamb, trotter-off prices dropped \$13 to close at \$351 per cwt, 1 percent below the 2016 price. Boneless lamb shoulder prices gained \$12 per cwt, to \$602, up 6 percent from last year.

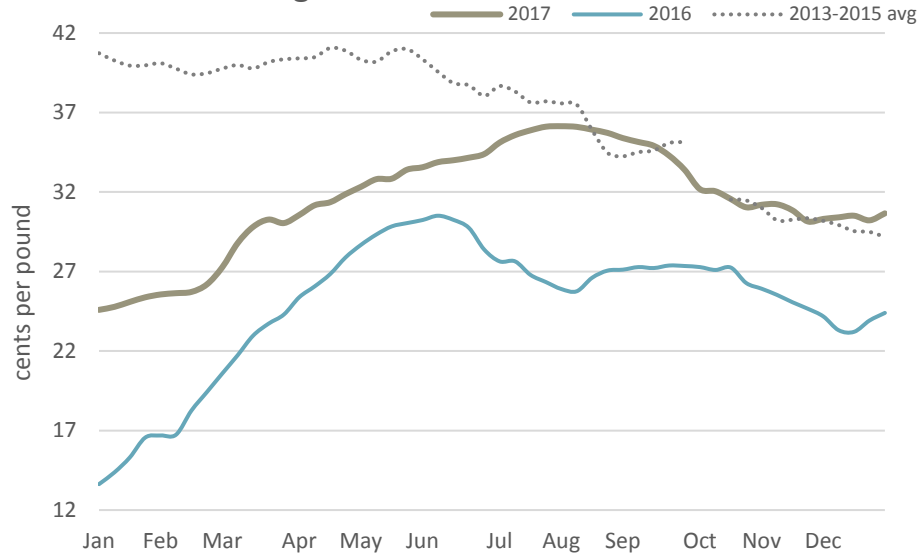
International Trade

November lamb exports were down 13 percent from 2016 levels at 283 MT, but up 2 percent in value to \$1.5 million. Compared to October, export volume was up 64 percent and the value was up 70 percent. Total exports for 2016 are higher by 9 percent in volume and 17 percent in value compared to 2016. Mexico, The Bahamas and the United Arab Emirates were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in November were lower by 6 percent from 2016 at 7.4 thousand MT, with the value of imports up 3 percent to \$65 million. The import volume was down 1 percent, while value was up 2 percent from October. For 2016 to date, import volumes are 19 percent higher and value is up 24 percent from 2016. Australia, New Zealand and Mexico were the largest sources of imports.

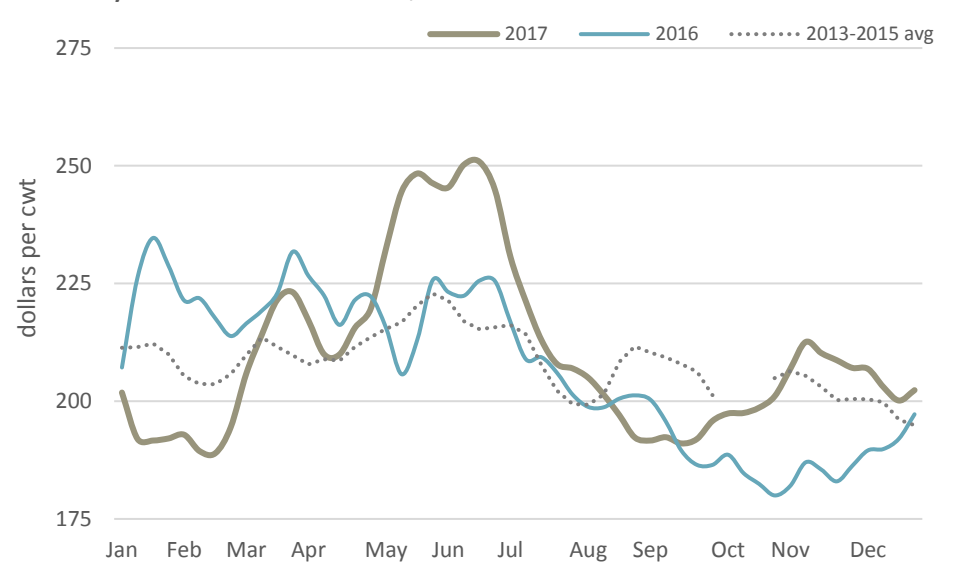
Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles? Contact Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov or Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

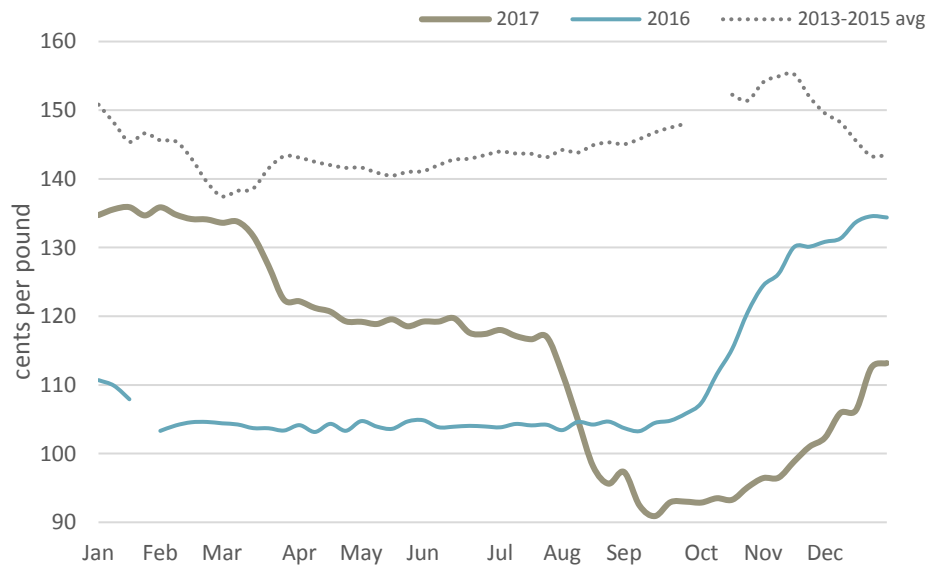
Southern States Leg Quarters



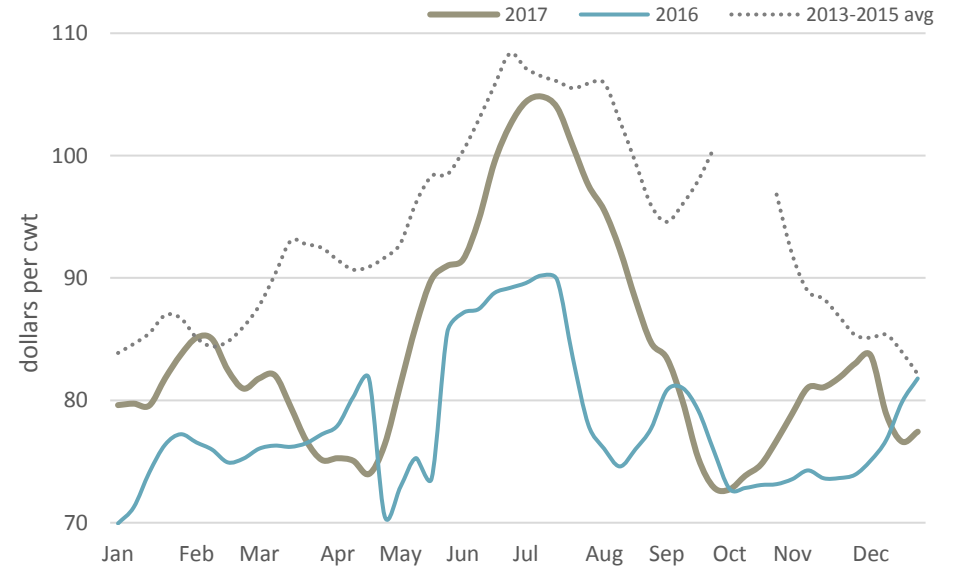
Weekly Beef Cutout Value, Choice 600-900 Lbs.



Fresh Boneless/Skinless Turkey Thighs



Weekly Pork Cutout Value



RIB STICKIN' OATMEAL

Oatmeal is a popular comfort food during January to ward off the cold and to satisfy New Year's diet-based resolutions. A bowl for breakfast will have you "feeling your Oats!"



Ferdinand Schumacher
"The Oatmeal King"
 Introduced oatmeal to the U.S. consumer in 1854 when oats were still regarded as "horse food".

In 2016, the U.S. produced **65,000,000** bushels of oats and imported **104,000,000** bushels, **95%** from Canada. Most domestic production is for animal feed while most imports are for milling. In 2017, domestic production declined 24%.



Oats grow well in areas with cool wet summers. Russia and Canada are the world leaders in production. In the U.S., in 2017, **57%** of oat production was in the northern states of MN, WI, ND, SD, IA, MI, and NY. In 2017, Minnesota led all states with **7.2 million** bushels, **14%** of U.S. production.



In 2016, oats averaged **\$2.00** per bushel in the U.S. with a total value of production of **\$151,000,000**

Scottish brewers used oats to create **Oatmeal Stout**, widely marketed as a "restorative tonic."



Oats in modern recipes range between **5-25%** by weight.

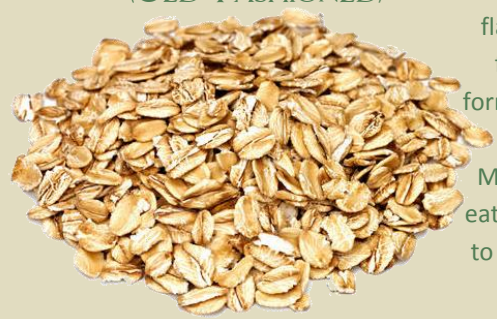
Oatmeal can reduce cholesterol and risk for heart disease. It contains antioxidants, reduces inflammation, stabilizes blood sugar (beta-glucan), helps reduce weight by making you feel fuller longer, and may reduce the risk of cancer because it is high in fiber. Oats are widely used in skin care applications and is an excellent moisturizer.



The Quaker Oats plant in **Cedar Rapids, Iowa**, is the world's largest miller of oats, processing **2 million** pounds daily. Cedar Rapids is also the home of one of the 3 General Mills plants that make over **60,000,000** boxes of "**Cheerios**" each year!



ROLLED (OLD FASHIONED)



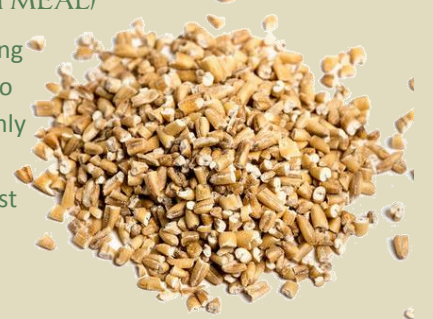
Steamed then flattened. Cook faster than cut forms and absorb more liquid. Most commonly eaten form. Used to make granola.

FINE-CUT (INSTANT)



Like rolled only flattened more thinly, cook up more quickly, and produces a creamier oatmeal.

STEEL-CUT (IRISH OATMEAL)



Made by chopping the oat groat into pieces. Commonly used to make porridge. Longest to cook with a chewy texture.

Source: USDA AMS Ag Analytics; NASS, The Quaker Oats Co.; General Mills; Whole Grains Council