



EGGS

Production

August table egg production totaled 641 million dozen, up 1 percent from August 2016. On September 1, the number of birds in the table egg flock was 312 million, up 1 percent compared to a year earlier. Egg-type hatching egg production was 77 million eggs, down 17 percent from a year ago. There were 1.09 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced in August, up 3 percent from last year. The broiler-type laying flock on September 1 was 56.7 million hens, 5 percent above September 2016. Shell eggs broken totaled 198 million dozen during August 2017, down 3 percent from August a year ago but 4 percent above the 191 million broken in July. Pullets for all egg-types added to flocks in August were down 3 percent year-over-year.

Price

Egg prices continued the rally that began in August through the month of September. The price of one dozen large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market rose 38 cents, or 38 percent, during September and ended the month at 139 cents/dozen. Since prices started rising in late August, the total increase was 54 percent. Prices at the beginning of October began to show seasonal weakness and are likely to fall slightly before the holiday baking season. Breaking stock prices also rose. Their increases were smaller in absolute terms, but larger in percentage terms. Prices rose 29 cents during September for a 53 percent increase and closed the month at 83 cents/dozen. From their low point in August, breaking stock prices more than doubled, rising 106 percent by the end of September.

International Trade

August exports of shell eggs totaled 11.9 million dozen valued at \$10.6 million. This is an increase of 12 percent in volume and 16 percent in value compared with July and an increase of 20 percent in volume and 4 percent in value compared with August 2016. Through August, exports of shell eggs were up 1 percent in volume but down 6 percent in value compared with 2016. Egg products exports in August were valued at \$12.8 million, a 12 percent increase compared with July and 32 percent compared with last August. For the first eight months of the year, egg products exports were up 48 percent compared with 2016. In August, our five largest export destinations for shell eggs and egg products were Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, and Jamaica.

TURKEY

Production

Turkey production in August totaled 540 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Average daily production for August was up 1 percent from July and also up 1 percent from August 2016. Average dressed weights for the month were down 1 percent month-over-month and up 1 percent year-over-year. After several months of poult placements falling below prior-year levels, placements in August were up 2 percent compared with 2016. The number of eggs in incubators on September 1 was unchanged compared with last year.

Total turkey holdings on August 31 were 14 percent higher than their levels at the end of August 2016. Frozen whole toms were 22 percent above prior-year levels, while whole hens were 31 percent higher. While meat stocks were also up significantly, 23 percent above 2016 levels. Dark meat holdings were the only category to show a decrease, with all dark meat in cold storage down 37 percent compared with last August.

Price

Turkey prices continue in the doldrums at a time of the year that should be seeing increases. Frozen whole hens fell 5 percent during September to 96 cents/lb., while frozen whole toms fell 3 percent to 93 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat was unchanged at 153 cents/lb. Since the beginning of March, breast meat has traded in a narrow price band between 150 and 155 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat prices continued their months-long fall, declining 4 percent to 93 cents/lb. by month's end. Tom drumsticks, however, were up 7 percent to close the month at 64 cents/lb.

International Trade

The United States exported 24.7 thousand metric tons of turkey products with a value of \$53.1 million. This was an increase of 5 percent in volume and 11 percent in value compared with July, but a decrease of 4 percent in volume and 6 percent in value compared with last August. Year-to-date, exports were up 7 percent in volume and 2 percent in value compared with the same period in 2016. Mexico, Canada, Japan, Peru, and Hong Kong were the five largest importers of U.S. turkey products in August.

Production

August chicken production totaled 3.76 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Average daily production for the month was 3 percent below July but 3 percent above August 2016. Average dressed weights in August were unchanged from the previous month, but up 1 percent from last year. Year-over-year production increases in the coming weeks should be modest. For the four weeks ending September 30, chicks placed were up 2 percent compared to the same period last year. While eggs set in incubators for the same period were up 4 percent, recent trends show that placements are lower than set data indicate. The reasons for this are not clear, but may indicate that egg hatchability has been a problem.

Total supplies of chicken in cold storage on August 31 were 2 percent below stocks at the end of July and less than 1 percent above levels at the end of August 2016. Whole broiler stocks were down 2 percent on the month and down 3 percent on the year. Breast meat holdings were 2 percent below July, but were 13 percent above 2016 levels. Overall dark meat stocks were down 6 percent both for the month and the year. Leg quarter supplies showed strong decreases, falling 9 percent month-over-month and 14 percent year-over-year. Thighs and thigh meat supplies rose 5 percent compared with July, but fell 16 percent compared with last August. Drumstick and leg holdings were down modestly for the month, but up sharply (31 percent and 43 percent, respectively) compared with 2016. Wing inventories rose 4 percent during August, but were still 31 percent below last year's levels.

Price

Whole bird and breast meat prices fell seasonally in September while dark meat prices held relatively firm. The national composite price for whole broilers fell 3 percent to 86 cents/lb. at the end of the month. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat dropped sharply by 15 percent to end September at 122 cents/lb. Leg quarter prices fell 6 percent to 33 cents/lb., while B/S thigh meat was unchanged at 143 cents/lb. At month's end, B/S thigh meat was priced 21 cents/lb. more than B/S breast meat, a record large difference. Drumsticks ended the month up 1 percent at 46 cents/lb., and wings fell 2 percent to 207 cents/lb.

International Trade

U.S. chicken exports for August totaled 262 thousand metric tons valued at \$282 million. This was an increase of 3 percent in volume and 4 percent in value compared with July; compared with August 2016, export volume was unchanged while value increased by 12 percent. For the first eight months of the year, total exports were up 3 percent in volume and 8 percent in value. The top five destinations for chicken exports in August were Mexico, Canada, Angola, Cuba, and Hong Kong.

Production

August beef production was 2.40 billion pounds, 6 percent above 2016 and up 14 percent from July, which had three additional slaughter days. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 7 percent from August 2016 and 13 percent higher than the month before. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from last year, at 1,345 pounds, and year-to-date beef production remains up 5 percent from 2016. Veal production in August totaled 6.4 million pounds, up 5 percent from last August, and 13 percent above July. Calf slaughter totaled 46,200 head, up 13 percent from August 2016 and higher than July by 18 percent. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from last year, at 238 pounds. Accumulated veal production for 2017 was down 1 percent from last year. Frozen beef supplies at the end of August rose 10 percent from July closing levels, but were down slightly from July 2016. Boneless beef in cold storage also increased 10 percent compared to the prior month, and were down slightly year over year. The inventory of beef cuts grew 14 percent monthly and 3 percent yearly. Frozen veal stocks in cold storage fell 6 percent from the month before but were up 83 percent from last year.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) lost money in the first half of September, though regaining all but \$1 to close the month at \$108 per cwt, up 5 percent from the 2016 price. The Choice beef cutout value was steady until the last week of the month, adding \$4 to \$196 per cwt, 5 percent above 2016. The 90 percent lean boneless beef fell through September, ending down \$10 at \$221 per cwt, up 11 percent from last year. The 50 percent lean trim price lost \$11 by mid-month, but took back \$3 in the latter half end at \$46 per cwt, up 36 percent year-over-year. Both packer-owned veal carcasses went up \$12 to \$329 per cwt, 4 percent higher than 2016, and nonpacker-owned veal carcasses added \$13 to \$327 per cwt, 2 percent higher than last year. The veal cutout average increased by \$13 in the last week of September to end at \$423 per cwt, 18 percent below last year's value.

International Trade

Compared to August 2016, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) rose 4 percent to 112 thousand MT. The export value was up 19 percent to \$679 million. The export volume was 7 percent higher and value increased 9 percent from July. The first eight months of the year beef export volume rose 10 percent from last year, and value rose 16 percent. Japan, South Korea and Mexico were our largest export markets in August. Beef import volumes were up 9 percent from 2016 to 101 thousand MT, and were 6 percent higher in value at \$525 million. Compared to July, beef imports fell 5 percent in both volume and value. Year-to-date imports of beef and veal were down 2 percent in volume and value was down 5 percent from 2016. Australia, Canada and Mexico were the largest importers of beef to the U.S..

Production

In August, 2.21 billion pounds of pork were produced, up 3 percent from last year, and 19 percent higher monthly (with July having three more production days). 10.7 million hogs were slaughtered, up 3 percent from last August and up 18 percent from July with three additional slaughter days. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2016, at 278 pounds. January to August 2017 pork production was up 3 percent from last year.

Cold storage of pork increased 4 percent from July but were down 5 percent from last August. Supplies of bone-in picnics were up 23 percent month over month, but were down 3 percent from 2016. Total frozen ham stocks increased 4 percent monthly but fell 10 percent yearly. Storage of pork trimmings rose 16 and 5 percent, respectively, from the previous month and year. Frozen loins were down 4 percent on a monthly basis but rose 4 percent annually. Rib stocks were 3 percent lower than the prior month and 2 lower percent than August 2016. Pork butts in freezers increased 13 percent from July, and 7 percent from the year before. Pork belly stocks were up 8 percent from last month but down 40 percent from 2016.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts continued its descent, ending down \$16 to \$48 per cwt, 4 percent lower than 2016. The pork cutout value lost \$8 per cwt through the month, to \$73 per cwt, down 4 percent from last year. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds followed the typical seasonal pattern, down \$15 to \$57 per cwt, 10 percent higher than 2016. Picnic meat combos, cushion out gained \$15, closing September at \$93 per cwt, 41 percent above last year's price. Pork trim, 72 percent lean increased \$6, closing at \$62 per cwt, 20 percent higher year-over-year. Pork belly primal prices continued their seasonal descent, down \$38 to \$91 per cwt, 3 percent lower than the price in 2016.

International Trade

Pork exports in August (including variety meats) were down 1 percent from 2016 to 179 thousand MT, with the value also down 1 percent to \$487 million. Pork export volume was up 6 percent, and value was up 4 percent from July. Year-to-date exports increased 9 percent in volume and 11 percent in value compared to 2016. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2016, August pork imports were up 11 percent in volume to 45 thousand MT, and up 23 percent in value to \$166 million. The August import volume and value both rose 7 percent from July. Cumulative pork imports were 1 percent higher in volume, and 6 percent higher in value compared to last year. The countries of Canada, Poland and Denmark imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

Production

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.8 million pounds, was up 2 percent from August 2016, and with three more operating days, up 16 percent from July. Sheep slaughter totaled 194,100 head, slightly above last year and 16 percent higher monthly. The average live weight was 132 pounds, 2 pounds more than last August. 2017 cumulative commercial lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent from 2016. Lamb and mutton cold storage was up 21 percent from the end of July, but 11 percent lower than last August.

Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices continued down in September, losing \$15 to close just slightly above 2016 at \$156 per cwt. The lamb cutout fell \$8 from the start of September to \$407 cwt, 15 percent higher than last year. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices fell \$19 to \$385 per cwt, 11 percent higher yearly. Lamb shoulders lost \$38 to close the month at \$640 per cwt, 14 percent above the 2016 price.

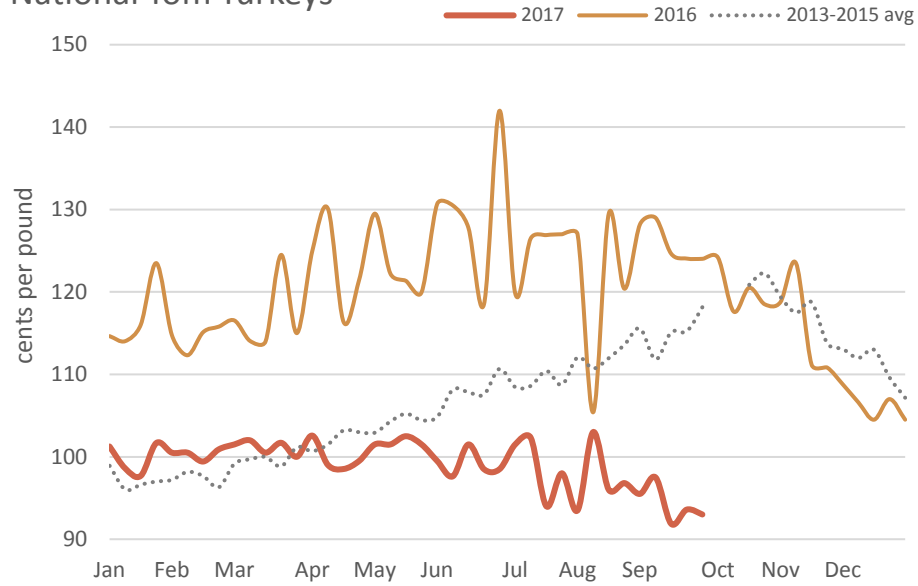
International Trade

August lamb exports were up 19 percent from 2016 levels to 208 MT, and up 42 percent in value to \$1.3 million. Compared to July, 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. Canada, Mexico, and the Leeward-Windward Islands were the largest export markets for lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in August were up 41 percent from 2016 to 8.7 thousand MT, with the value up 53 percent to \$76 million. The August import volume was up 9 percent from the month before, and the value was up 12 percent. Cumulative lamb import volume was 18 percent above last year, and value was up 22 percent. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest sources of lamb imports.

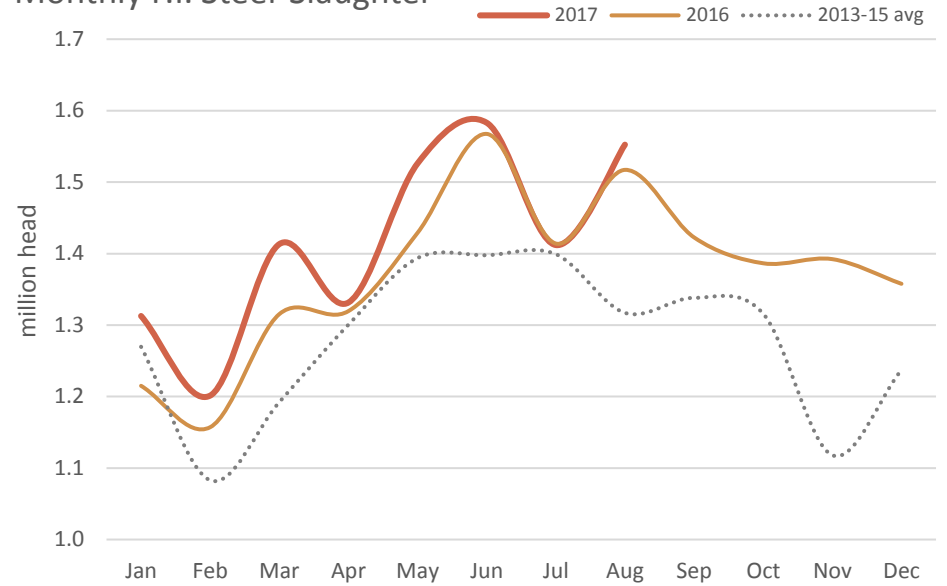
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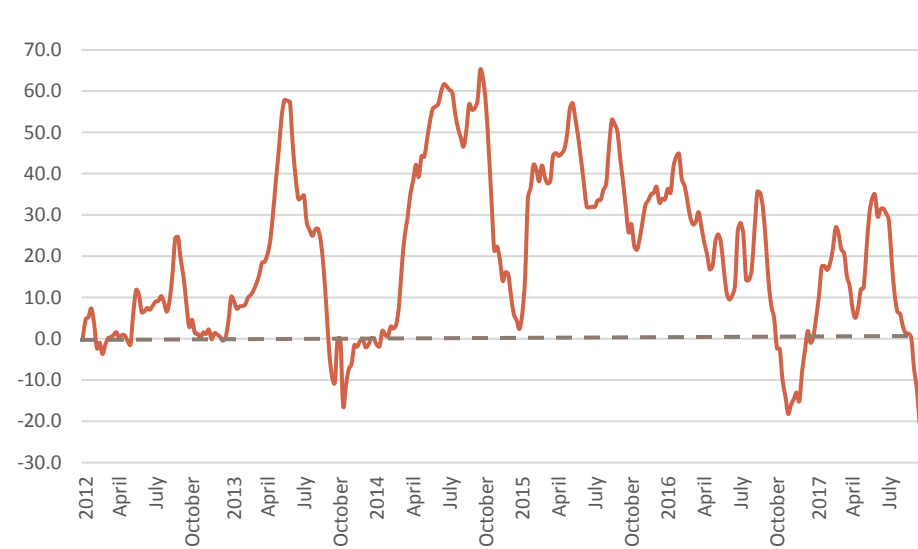
National Tom Turkeys



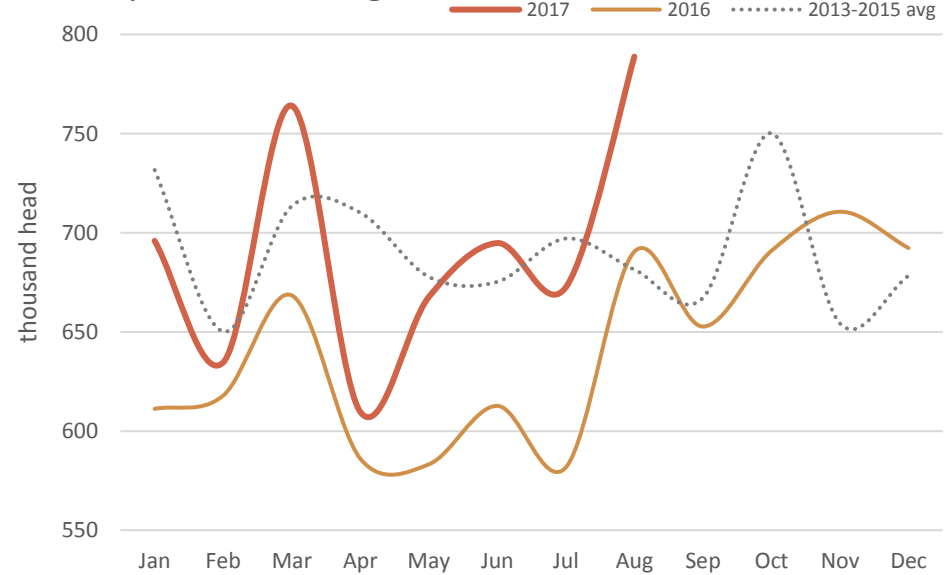
Monthly F.I. Steer Slaughter



Price Difference: B/S Chicken Breast v. B/S Thigh



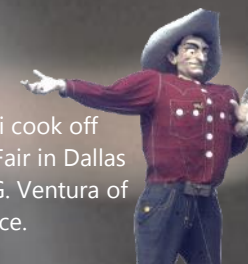
Monthly F.I. Heifer Slaughter



Chili Cook-Off

October is Chili Month

The first, modern-day chili cook off occurred at the Texas State Fair in Dallas on October 4, 1952. Mrs. F.G. Ventura of Dallas won first place.



Chili Con Carne “chilies with meat”

A spicy stew containing chile peppers, beef, beans, and tomatoes. In 2016, the U.S. produced **159 million** pounds of kidney beans, **70%** dark/**30%** light. **Minnesota** led the nation with **77%** of production. In 2016, **80-85%** lean ground beef was the consumer favorite during October with an estimated **700 million** pounds marketed, just right for a flavorful chili!



In 1881, William Gerard Tobin, Texas Ranger, became the first to can chili. He sold it to U.S. Gov't for the army and navy.



Texas Chili (“bowl o’ red”)

Made from diced beef chuck and dried chilies – no beans or tomatoes! First documented in San Antonio in 1828. In 2016, the US produced **470 million** pounds of chile peppers, utilized about equally between fresh and processed. That year, the US imported **one billion** pounds of chilies, **99%** from Mexico.



In 1893, the world was introduced to chili at the San Antonio Chili Stand during the Columbian Exposition in Chicago



Chili Verde (“green chili”)

A stew of pork shoulder, green pepper, and tomatillos. Pork butts are a popular favorite. An estimated **214 million** pounds of pork butts were marketed during October 2016. Most tomatillos (husk tomato) are imported from Mexico although there is limited production in the southwestern US.



Cumin is the spice that gives chili its distinctive aroma. In 2016, nearly **33 million** pounds were imported, **80%** from India.



Chili Blanco (“white chili”)

Made with turkey or chicken, white beans, and mild green chilies. During Chili Month 2016, an estimated **48 million** pounds of ground turkey was marketed to consumers, **30%** in chubs. **Minnesota** is the country's top producer of Great Northern beans with **88%** of the **85 million** pound 2016 crop.



“Wish I had time for just one more bowl of chili.”
– Last words of Christopher “Kit” Carson