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EGGS

Production

Table egg production in July was 659 million dozen, 2 percent above last July. Broiler-type hatching egg production in July was up 2 percent compared to 2017. There were 1.1 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 84 million eggs, 11 percent above last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 204 million dozen during July, up 6 percent from July a year ago, but 1 percent below the 207 million dozen broken in June.

The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on August 1 was up 3 percent compared to 2017. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were up 4 percent compared with last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was 2 percent above last year. The number of pullets added during July for all types of egg production was up 9 percent year-over-year.

Price

Table egg prices rallied modestly in early August before falling back late in the month. The price of one dozen Grade A Large eggs in the New York wholesale market began August at 109 cents/dozen, rose as high as 126 cents/dozen, and then began to fall again, ending the month at 114 cents/dozen. The breaking stock market, in contrast was flat, remaining at 57 cents/dozen the entire month of August.

International Trade

Exports of shell eggs in July totaled 15.1 million dozen valued at $34.3 million. This was an increase of 3 percent in volume and 4 percent in value compared with June and an increase of 3 percent in volume and 17 percent in value compared with July 2017. Through July, 2018 exports were up 5 percent in volume and up 15 percent in volume compared with 2017.

The U.S. exported $10.1 million of egg products in July, 6 percent above June but 11 percent below last July. For the first seven months of 2018, the value of egg products exports were unchanged compared to the same period in 2017. Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, and Brazil were the five largest importers of U.S. eggs and egg products in July.

TURKEY

Production

July turkey production totaled 483 million pounds on a on a ready-to-cook basis. July's daily production was unchanged from June and down 1 percent from last July. Dressed weights were down 1 percent month-over-month and year-over-year. The data on production in the coming few months is mixed. The number of poults placed during July was up 4 percent compared with last year, but the number of eggs in incubators on August 1 was down 4 percent.

Total cold storage holdings of turkeys and turkey products on July 31 were 1 percent below levels last July. Stocks of whole birds were down 5 percent year-over-year, with stocks of whole hens down 15 percent and holdings of whole toms up 6 percent. Inventories of white meat were down 4 percent from last July, while inventories of dark meat were up 33 percent.

Price

Whole turkey prices moved up slightly in September, but parts prices were largely unchanged. Frozen whole hens rose6 percent to 83 cents/lb., while frozen whole toms rose 2 percent to 82 cents/lb. Prices for boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat 3 percent to 198 cents/lb., while B/S thigh meat fell1 percent to 129 cents/lb. and tom drumsticks were unchanged at 67 cents/lb.

International Trade

U.S. turkey exports in July totaled 21.3 thousand metric tons valued at $47.8 million. Exports in July were down 2 percent in volume and 5 percent in value compared with June and down 10 percent in volume and unchanged in value compared with last July. For the first seven months of the year, exports were up 4 percent in volume and up 9 percent in value compared with 2017. The top five destinations for exports of turkey in July were Mexico, Japan, Canada, the Dominican Republic, and Hong Kong.

CHICKEN

Production

Chicken production in July totaled 3.61 billion pounds on a on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production in July was up 3 percent compared to June and up 2 percent compared to July 2017. Dressed weights were unchanged month-over-month and up 1 percent year-over-year. Production increases in the coming weeks should be modest, at best. For the four weeks ending September 1, eggs set in incubators and chicks placed were up less than 1 percent over the same period last year.

Total inventories of chicken in cold storage on July 31 were 1 percent below the end of June, and 10 percent above the level of last July. Total holdings of broilers and broiler products were down 2 percent on the month and 1 percent on the year. Whole broiler supplies were up 7 percent from June, but 28 percent below last July. Breasts and breast meat in cold storage fell 6 percent compared with June and were 1 percent below July 2017. Overall holdings of dark meat were also down, 2 percent below June and 14 percent below last July. Leg quarter stocks were down 5 percent month-over-month and 35 percent year-over-year. Drumsticks were up less than 1 percent from June but up 45 percent from last July, while thighs and thigh meat holdings were up 2 percent on the month and 38 percent on the year.

Price

Whole broiler prices fell sharply in August; the National Composite price dropped 20 percent during the month to close at 83 cents/lb. White meat prices also fell. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat dropped 12 percent to 107 cents/lb., while Grade A bone-in breasts fell 4 percent to 125 cents/lb. Dark meat prices were mixed. Leg quarter prices fell 7 percent to 29 cents/lb., while B/S thigh meat rose 3 percent to 119 cents/lb. and drumsticks also rose 3 percent to 42 cents/lb. Wing prices dropped 1 percent to 142 cents/lb.

International Trade

The United States exported 265 thousand metric tons of chicken products in July with a value of $266 million. July's exports were 3 percent above June in volume and even in value and were 5 percent in volume above July 2017 but 2 percent below in value. Through July, 2018 exports were up 2 percent in volume and up 6 percent in value compared with the same period in 2017. In July, our five largest export destinations for chicken were Mexico, Canada, Angola, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

In July 2.23 billion pounds of beef were produced, 6 percent above July 2017 but 3 percent below the June 2018 volume. Cattle slaughter totaled about 2.77 million head, up 6 percent from last July but down 4 percent monthly. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from last year, at 1,330 pounds. Total beef production for the first half of 2018 grew 4 percent from last year. July veal production was up 8 percent from last year, and up 5 percent from June at 6.1 million pounds. In June, 47,800 head of calves were slaughtered, a 22 percent increase from 2017 and 6 percent higher monthly. The average live weight was down 27 pounds from last year, at 223 pounds. Year-to-date veal production was 1 percent higher than in 2017.

Total beef in cold storage increased 8 percent from June and 12 percent from the volume one year ago. Boneless beef stocks increased 9 percent on a month-over-month basis and were 12 percent higher year-over-year. Both total beef and boneless beef reached record high levels for the month of July. Beef cut supplies in freezers lost 3 percent monthly but were 19 percent higher than in July 2017. The volume of veal in cold storage was up 21 percent from June and up 11 percent from the prior year inventory to a new record high.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) began August at the relatively low of level $113 per cwt, and continued a slow but steady decline through the month, closing at $107 per cwt, 2 percent higher than last year. The beef cutout value added $7 to $212 per cwt, up 11 percent from 2017, while the 90 percent lean boneless beef wholesale price steadily lost $7 to $210 per cwt, 9 percent below the year before. The 50 percent lean trim price rose in the first half of August hitting a peak of $92 per cwt, but turned down sharply to end with a net loss for the month of $4 at $69 per cwt, 28 percent higher than last year. Non packer-owned veal carcass and packer-owned veal carcass prices both ended the month at $305 per cwt, 3 and 4 percent below 2017, respectively. The veal cutout average lost $7 to $413 per cwt, slightly above last year's value.

International Trade

Compared to July 2017, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) increased 12 percent to 117 thousand MT, and the export value rose 16 percent to $722 million. The export volume and value were both up 1 percent from June. Cumulative beef exports were higher in volume by 10 percent relative to 2017, and value was 20 percent higher. Japan, South Korea and Canada were our largest export markets in July. Year-over-year beef import volumes were 3 percent lower at 104 thousand MT, and up 2 percent in value to $561 million. Compared to June, beef imports were up 1 percent but value was down slightly. Year-to-date beef and veal imports were up less than 1 percent and import values were up 10 percent from last year. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were the largest sources of imported beef to the U.S.

PORK

Production

July pork production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, an increase of 6 percent over last year and down 1 percent from June. Total hog slaughter was 9.60 million head, up 6 percent from last year and slightly below the month before. The average live weight was steady with last year at 277 pounds. Accumulated pork production for January-July 2018 was 4 percent higher than last year, and hit a record high for the month of July.

Frozen pork supplies at the end of July were 2 percent higher on a month-to-month basis, but were 1 percent lower than in 2017. Pork belly freezer inventories were down 28 percent monthly but were up 119 percent from last year. Picnic supplies added 12 percent to the June volume and 23 percent to the storage level in 2017. Ham inventories were 12 percent higher than June, but lost 15 percent from last year. Rib holdings were down 6 percent from the previous month but gained 8 percent on a yearly basis. Loin supplies fell 13 percent from June and 18 percent from 2017. Pork trimmings in cold storage lost 12 percent monthly but rose 33 percent yearly.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts more than doubled the losses seen in July, shedding $28 to $37 per cwt, 42 percent below 2017. The pork cutout value lost $12, ending the month at $66 per cwt, 22 percent below last year. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds had some gains in early August, but fell to end the month with a net loss of $5 at $52 per cwt, 28 percent lower yearly. The picnic meat combos, cushion out price saw a slow and steady erosion in value through August to close down $6 at $57 per cwt, 27 percent below 2017. Pork trim, 72 percent lean lost $11 to $42 per cwt, 26 percent below the prior year. Pork belly primals were nearly cut in half in an unusually sharp seasonal drop of $73 to $75 per cwt, 42 percent below 2017.

International Trade

Pork exports in July (including variety meats) were up 2 percent from 2017 at 172 thousand MT, but the value was 7 percent lower at $434 million. Pork export volume was 8 percent below June while the value was down 9 percent. For 2018 so far, pork exports are up from 2017 by 2 percent in volume and 2 percent in value. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2017, July pork import volumes fell 7 percent to 39 thousand MT, and values lost 10 percent at $140 million. The volume of pork imports rose 3 percent relative to June, and the value was up 8 percent. Year-to-date pork import volume and value were down 1 and 3 percent, respectively. The countries of Canada, Poland and Denmark imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

LAMB

Production

July production of lamb and mutton was 12.1 million pounds, 10 percent higher than 2017, but down 2 percent from June. Sheep slaughter was 178,900 head, up 7 percent from last year and 2 percent below last month. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from 2017 at 135 pounds. Total 2018 commercial lamb and mutton production was 6 percent higher than 2017. Lamb and mutton stocks were 7 percent higher monthly and 55 percent greater year-over-year, also reaching record high volume for the month of July.

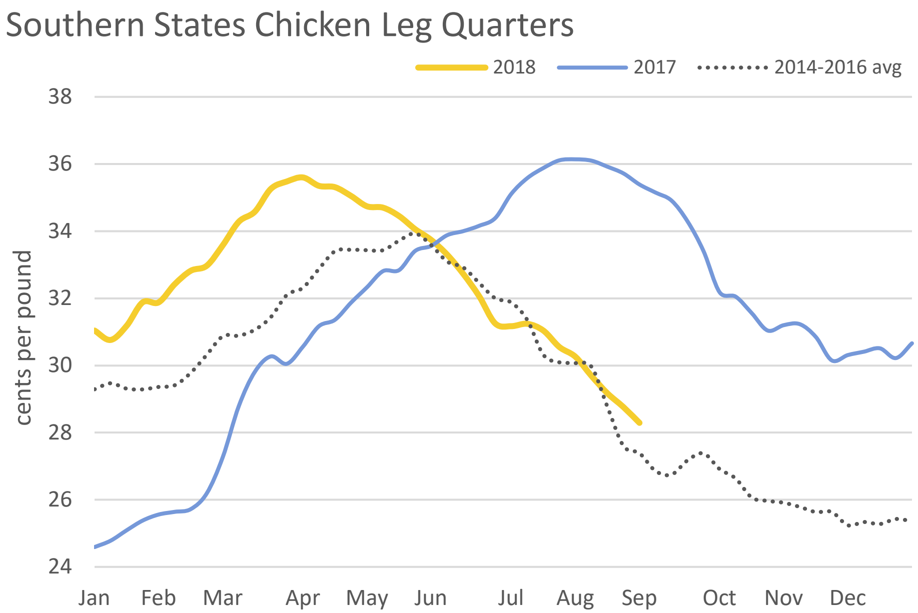
Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices continued to fall through August closing $17 to $134 per cwt, 22 percent less than in 2017. However, the lamb cutout value gained $1 to $383, 8 percent below the value a year ago. Leg of lamb, trotter-off values have remained mostly stable since March, and despite some variability through the month, the value of this cut remained at $370 per cwt at the end of August, 9 percent below 2017. The wholesale price of boneless square-cut lamb shoulders increased $13 to close the month at $547 per cwt, down 19 percent from last year.

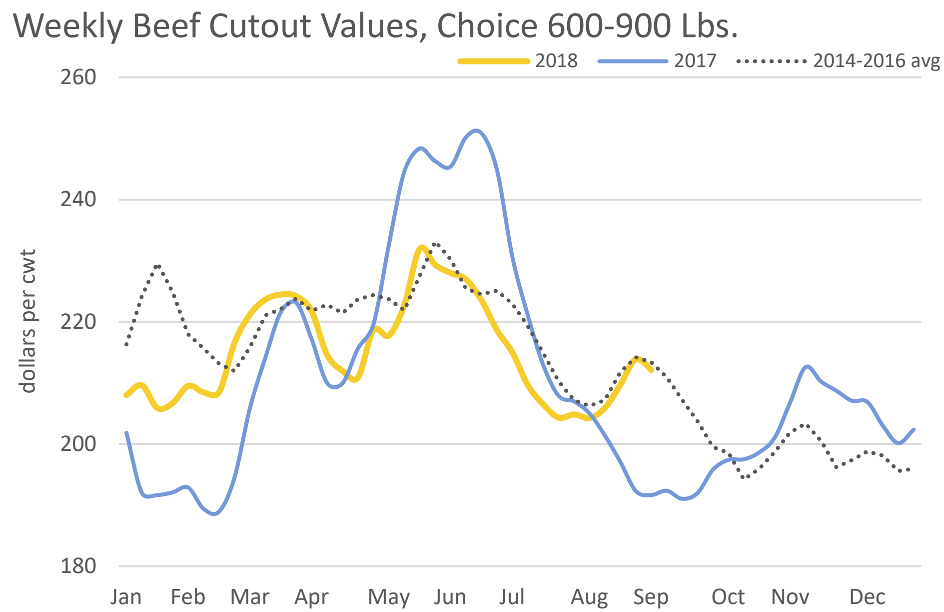
International Trade

July lamb exports were up 67 percent from 2017 at 309 MT, and up 25 percent in value to $1.3 million. Compared to June, export volume was down 4 percent and the value was down 14 percent. Year-to-date exports of lamb added 22 percent in volume and 10 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 June were up 42 percent from 2017 at 11 thousand MT, and the value rose 44 percent to $98 million. The June import volume was up 16 percent from June and the value increased 19 percent. 2018 total lamb imports were up 10 percent in volume and 18 percent in value from last year. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest sources of imports.

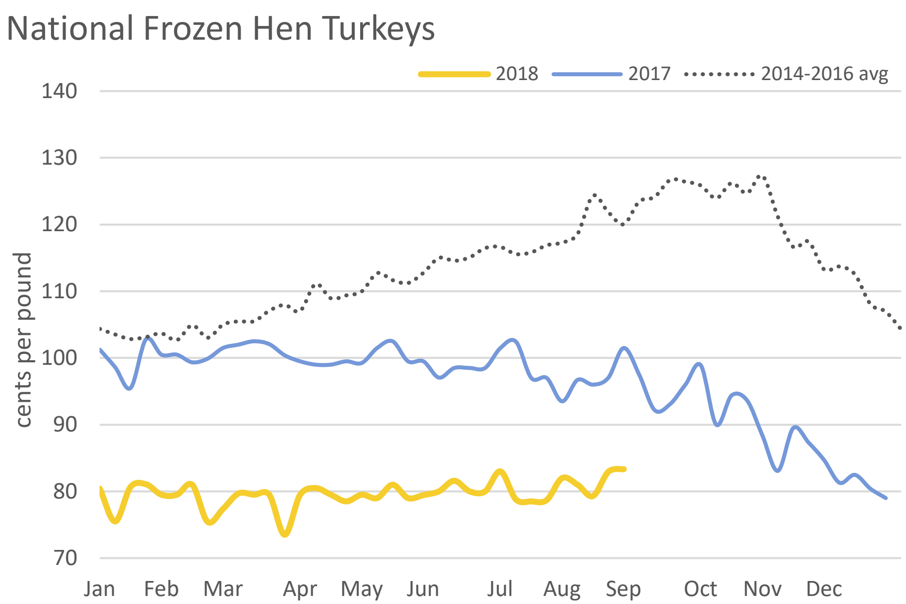
Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles? Contact Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov or Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.



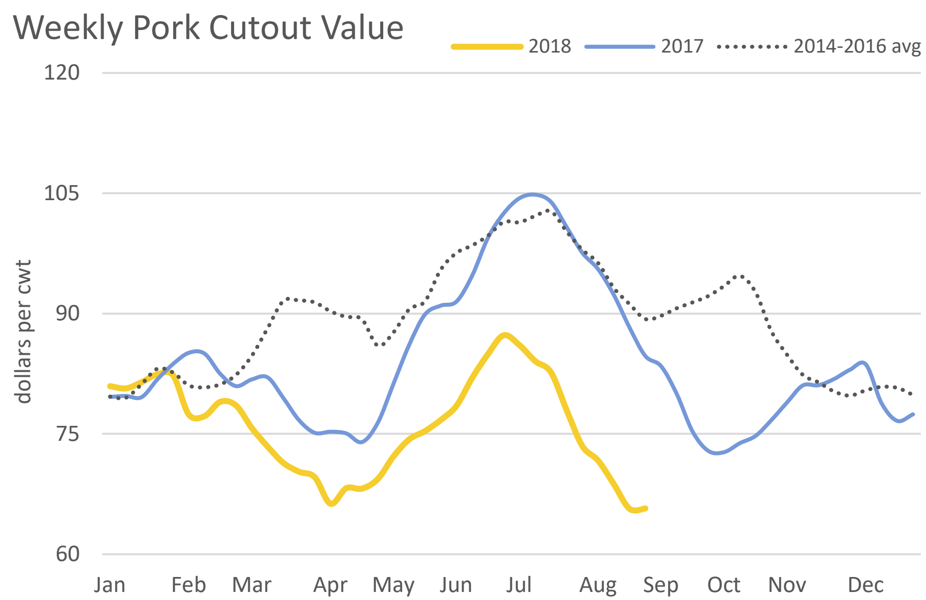
Southern States Chicken Leg Quarters
2018
2017
2014-2016 avg
cents per pound
38
36
34
32
30
28
26
24
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec



Weekly Beef Cutout Values, Choice 600-900 Lbs.
2018
2017
2014-2016 avg
dollars per cwt
260
240
220
200
180
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec



National Frozen Hen Turkeys
2018
2017
2014-2016 avg
cents per pound
140
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec



Weekly Pork Cutout Value
2018
2017
2014-2016 avg
dollars per cwt
120
105
90
75
60
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

Kiss My Grits!

September 2 is National “Grits for Breakfast” Day

In 1976, Polly Holliday uttered this famous line as Florence Jean "Flo" Castleberry in the sitcom, “Alice”

In 2017, the U.S. milled an estimated **167,000,000** pounds of grits, .5 pounds per capita. Close to ¾ were consumed in the “grits belt”, an area stretching from Texas to Virginia.

“A man full of grits is a man of peace” – SC Legislature 2000

In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh was introduced to soft mashed corn by the native peoples in present day N. Carolina. In 1607, the Jamestown settlers were served “rockahomine” by the Powhatans.

Hominy is corn with the hull and germ removed. Ground hominy is grits which can be yellow or white.

The National Grits Festival is held in Warwick GA

The World Grits Festival is held in St. George SC

In 1967, a patent was filed for perfecting “an instant food product of the corn grits type” by Roy G. Hyldon, aka. “quick grits”

Grits are known as “Southern ice cream”.

In 1976, Jimmy Carter made grits cool. He and his running mate, Walter Mondale were known as “Grits & Fritz”

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics; ERS; National Corn Growers Association

In 2003, then Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue proclaimed April 12 as “National Grits Festival Day” in Georgia.