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EGGS

Production

June table egg production totaled 525 million dozen, down 11 percent from June 2014 as the effects of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) were fully felt. On July 1, the number of birds in the table egg flock was 270 million, down 11 percent compared to a year earlier. Egg-type hatching egg production was 78 million eggs, down 1 percent from a year ago. There were 1.0 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced in June, up 5 percent from last year. The broiler-type laying flock on July 1 was 54.7 million hens, up 3 percent from 2014. Shell eggs broken totaled 192 million dozen during June 2014, down 2 percent from June a year ago, and 16 percent above the 166 million broken in May.

Price

Egg prices spiked in early June as a result of shortages due to HPAI, but prices fell back as the markets sorted themselves out. Then, beginning in mid-July, prices soared again. The price of one dozen large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market reached 263 cents/dozen at the end of July, an all-time high, and continued rising at the beginning of August. Breaking stock prices followed a similar pattern, beginning July at 156 cents/dozen and climbed most of the month, reaching 237 cents/dozen, also an all-time high.

International Trade

The U.S. exported 10.0 million dozen shell eggs in June, 8 percent below May in terms of volume and 1 percent below in terms of value. Compared to last June, exports of shell eggs were down 24 percent in volume but even in value. For the first 6 months of 2015, exports of shell eggs were up 4 percent in volume and 16 percent in value compared to 2014. Egg products exports in June were valued at $6.7 million, down 42 percent from May and 52 percent from June 2014. The top five export destinations for eggs and egg products in June were Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, Japan, and Brazil.

LAMB

Production

June lamb and mutton production was up 13 percent from May but was equal to 2014 production, at 13.4 million pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 193,900 head, 15 percent higher than last month and 0.5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 1 pound from June a year ago. Accumulated year-to-date lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent from last year. Lamb and mutton supplies in cold storage were 4 percent lower than last month, and 18 percent higher than in June 2014.

Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices held steady through July $159 per cwt, 6 percent above the 2014 price and 13 percent above the 2011-2013 average. The lamb cutout fell $5 to end at $352 per cwt, 1 percent below the 2014 price and 6 percent above the historical average. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices lost $13 in July to close at $337 per cwt, 6 percent below 2014 and up slightly from the 2011-2013 average. Boneless lamb shoulder prices rose $5 to $543 per cwt, up 1 percent from the 2014 price, but 27 percent above the historical average.

International Trade

Lamb exports were down 47 percent from 2014 levels to 160 metric tons, and were down 49 percent in value to $853,000. Compared to May, export volume was down 32 percent and export value was 13 percent lower. Year-to-date lamb exports are down 34 percent in volume and 35 percent in value from 2014. Mexico, Canada and the Leeward Islands were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton in May. June U.S. lamb imports were up 37 percent over 2014 to 8,360 MT, and the value of imports rose 24 percent to $65 million. On a monthly basis, the volume and value of lamb imports increased 23 and 32 percent, respectively, from May levels. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest importers.

CHICKEN

Production

U.S. broiler production in June totaled 3.4 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was down 4 percent compared to May, but up 2 percent compared to June 2014. The year-over-year increase was entirely due to increased slaughter weights. The pace of production growth may be slowing. After several months of year-over-year increases of 2 – 3 percent in eggs set, for the four weeks ending August 1, eggs set were up 0.5 percent. Chicks placed during the same period were up 2 percent.

All chicken items in cold storage on June 30 fell 3 percent compared to the end of May, but were up 22 percent compared to June 2014. Inventories of most chicken items were unusually low during much of 2014. Whole broiler stocks were up 17 percent month-over-month and were up 151 percent year-over-year. Breast meat items were up 1 percent from May and up 30 percent from 2014. All dark meat items were down 13 percent compared to May but were up 29 percent compared to 2014. Leg quarter inventories were down 16 percent from May but up 39 percent compared to last year. Wing holdings were up 10 percent month-over-month but down 25 percent year-over-year.

Price

Prices for most broiler products fell in July. The National composite whole broiler price fell 23 cents, or 22 percent, during July to close at 81 cents/lb. Most parts prices followed suit. Leg quarter prices fell 3 cents (14 percent) to 17 cents/lb., their lowest weekly value since April 2006. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat fell 9 cents (6 percent) to 134 cents/lb. and B/S thigh meat fell 13 cents (12 percent) to 98 cents/lb. Drumsticks fell 9 cents (21 percent) to 32 cents/lb. The only bright spot for producers was the price of wings, rising a little over a penny to 182 cents/lb.

International Trade

U.S. producers in June exported 256 thousand metric tons of chicken items valued at $262 million. This is down 2 percent in volume and 8 percent in value compared to May and down 9 percent in volume and 23 percent in value compared to June 2014. For the first half of 2015, exports were down 9 percent in volume and 16 percent in value compared to the same period in 2014. The top five export destinations for U.S. broiler exports in June were Mexico, Canada, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Angola.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

June beef production, at 2.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent higher than May's volume, and 3 percent below June 2014, despite one additional weekday of production. 2.47 million head cattle were slaughtered, up 4 percent from last month but down 5 percent from last year. Average live weights grew 25 pounds from 2014, at 1,332 pounds. Commercial veal production in June was 7.0 million pounds, 6 percent more than in May and 7 percent below last June. Calf slaughter totaled 35,200 head, also up 6 percent from May, but down 22 percent from 2014. The average live weight was up 52 pounds from last year, at 336 pounds. January to June 2015 commercial beef production was down 4 percent from last year, while veal was down 20 percent. At 430 million pounds, total beef in freezers in June was down 2 percent from May but up 30 percent from June 2014. Boneless beef supplies were 2 percent lower than the previous month, but 34 percent above year ago levels. The stock of beef cuts was down 5 percent from last month and down 1 percent from last year. Lowered production was reflected in veal stocks, which were down 32 percent on a monthly basis and down 4 percent on a yearly basis.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) fell again through July to $146 per cwt, 35 percent above the 2014 price and 42 percent above the 2011-2013 average. The beef cutout value fell nearly $20 to $233 per cwt, 11 percent lower than last year but 30 percent above the historical average. 90 percent lean boneless beef prices fell $9 to $285 per cwt, 3 percent below 2014 but 45 percent above the 2011-2013 average. Beef trim, 50 percent began to inch up at the end of July, but closed the month down $10 to $68 per cwt, 55 percent lower than in 2014 and 13 percent below the 2011-2013 average. Packer-owned veal carcasses gained $1 to $454 per cwt while non-packer owned veal carcasses fell $3 to $450 per cwt. The veal cutout fell $5 to $585 per cwt, 13 percent above last year and 31 percent over the 2011-2013 average.

International Trade

Compared to 2014, June 2015 beef and veal exports fell 9 percent to 97 thousand MT while the export value fell 8 percent to $579 million. This volume is up 9 percent and the value is 4 percent higher than in May. Total exports for the year so far remain down 10 percent in volume but value is down only slightly from 2014. Canada, Japan and South Korea were our largest export markets in June. Year-over-year beef import volumes were 32 percent higher at 117 thousand MT, and were up 42 percent in value to $681 million. Compared to May, beef imports were up 10 percent in volume and 11 percent in value. Total beef imports for the year are up from 2014 by 35 percent in volume and 55 percent in value. Australia, New Zealand and Mexico were the largest importers of beef in June.

PORK

Production

Pork production totaled 2.00 billion pounds, up 14 percent from May; 15 percent from June 2014. Hog slaughter totaled 9.43 million head, up 16 percent from June 2014. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 282 pounds. Accumulated year-to-date pork production was up 7 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 3 percent from May and but, with improvements in the PEDv situation, were up 18 percent from last June to 632 million pounds. Bone-in picnics in cold storage were 19 percent lower than the prior month, but up 15 percent from last year. Total hams were up 14 percent on a monthly basis and 43 percent yearly. Total loins were down 5 percent, ribs were down 19 percent, and butts were up 9 percent. On a year-over-year basis, loins and ribs were up 36 and 22 percent, respectively, and butts were 10 percent higher. Pork trimmings in freezers were 7 percent below the previous month, but 8 percent above the prior year. Stocks of pork bellies reflected strength in the market at 31 percent lower than last month, and 47 percent below June 2014.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts ended the month of July with not net gain, at $74 per cwt, 41 percent lower than 2014 and 21 percent below the 2011-2013 average. The pork cutout gained some strength in July, rising to $86 per cwt, 34 percent below 2014. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds, continued to fall through much of July, but regained some losses to close at $62 per cwt, 57 percent below the 2014 value and 29 percent below the historical average. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, turned sharply down to $67 per cwt, 54 percent below the 2014 price, and 34 percent under the 2011-2013 average. Pork trim, 72 percent lean, also saw a steep drop to $57 per cwt, 55 percent below the 2014 price and 23 percent below the 2011-2013 average. Pork belly primals climbed nearly $40 to $154 per cwt, only 3 percent lower than both the 2014 and the 2011-2013 average.

International Trade

June pork exports (including variety meats) fell 3 percent over last year to 171 thousand MT while the value fell 23 percent to $439 million. Pork export volume and value were down 6 and 8 percent, respectively, from May 2015. Year-to-date export volume is 5 percent lower, while value is down 17 percent. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2014, June pork imports were 24 percent lower in volume to 44 thousand MT, but were down 1 percent in value to $148 million. Pork import volumes increased from the prior month by 17 percent and were up 20 percent in value. Cumulative imports for 2015 rose 20 percent from 2014, though the value was down 5 percent. Canada, Italy and Denmark were the largest importers.

TURKEY

Production

Turkey production in June was 455 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was down 10 percent compared to June 2014 as a consequence of bird losses due to High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Producers appear to be recovering as the worst of the HPAI outbreak has receded; June poult placements were down only 2 percent compared to last year and eggs in incubators on July 1 were down 4 percent. Total inventories of turkey on June 30 were down only 1 percent compared to June 2014. Whole hens in cold storage were actually up 2 percent year-over-year, but whole toms were down 8 percent. Stocks of white meat were even with year-prior levels, but dark meat stocks were up 73 percent, possibly because of export restrictions due to HPAI.

Price

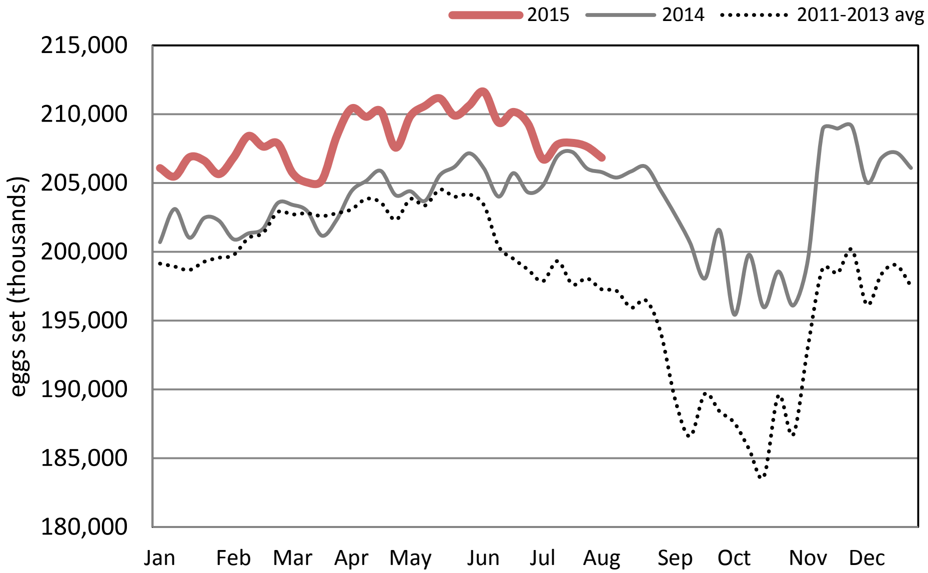
Whole turkey prices surged in June following the losses of nearly 8 million birds to HPAI. During July, whole hen prices have stabilized at 120 – 122 cents/lb., but whole tom prices have been more volatile. After trading most of the month at about the same levels as hens, the price of toms surged to 128 cents/lb. the last week of July, an all-time high value. The price of boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat also surged in June, and throughout July has set one record weekly high after another; it closed the month at 553 cents/lb. On the other hand, dark meat prices were flat through July. B/S thigh meat prices were within a penny of their month-end value of 139 cents/lb., and tom drums traded at 61 cents/lb. all month.

International Trade

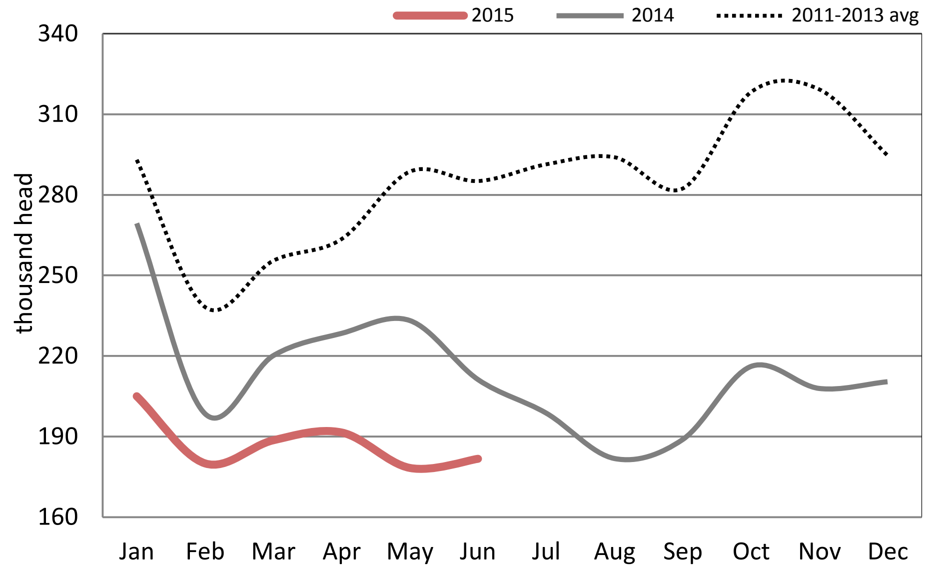
The U.S. exported in June 18.9 thousand metric tons of turkey with a value of $47 million. This was an increase of 7 percent in volume and 5 percent in value compared to May, but was a decline of 40 percent in volume and 29 percent in volume compared to June 2014, as exports continued to feel the effects of decreased supplies and closed borders as a result of HPAI. Turkey exports for the first half of the year were down 21 percent in volume and 15 percent in value compared to the first half of 2014. The five largest export destinations in terms of value in June were Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, and Benin.

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

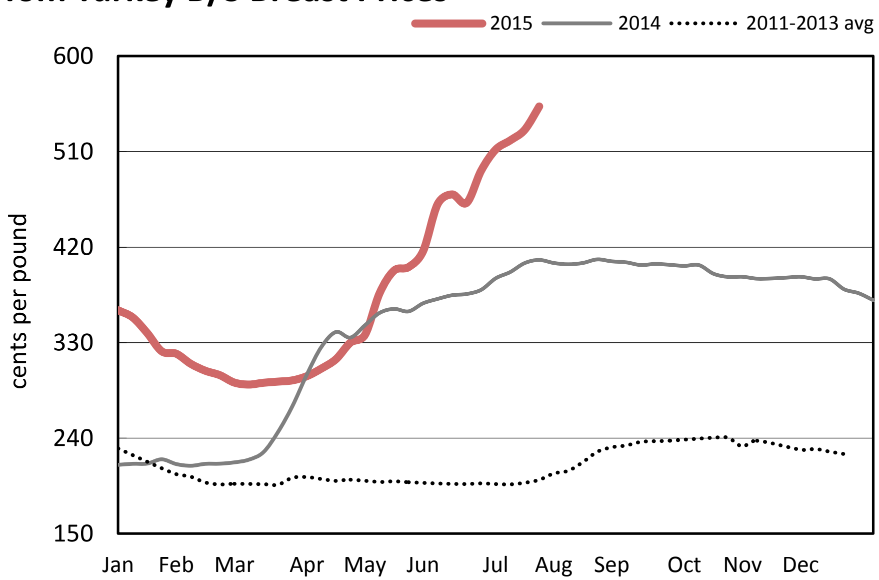
Weekly Broiler Egg Sets



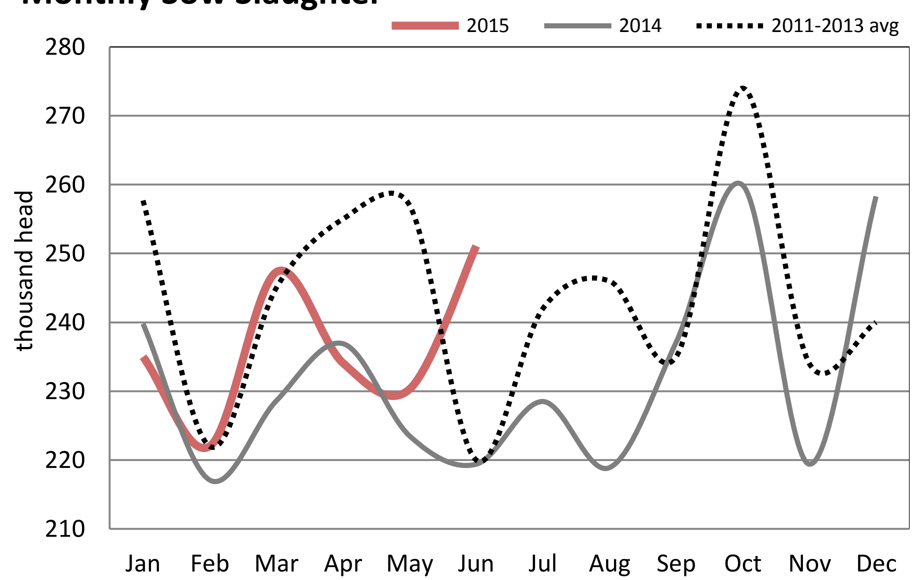
Monthly Beef Cow Slaughter



Tom Turkey B/S Breast Prices



Monthly Sow Slaughter



Food for Thought

School is Starting, You'll need these Foods to Boost Your Brainpower!

Eggs

Excellent source of **Choline**, a B-complex vitamin that supports memory and learning.

86,971,000,000

2014 U.S. table egg production

Blueberries

Contain **Anthocyanin**, plant pigments that give blueberries their bright color and help increase brain signals and memory function.

890,000,000 pints

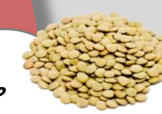
2014 U.S. production, cultivated and wild

Walnuts

Contain the omega-3 fatty acid, **Alpha-linolenic acid (ALA)** that promotes blood flow and more oxygen to the brain.

1,140,000,000 lbs.

2014 U.S. utilized production



Lentils

Contain **Folate (Vitamin B9)** that supports brain health and the maintenance of cognitive functioning, including memory.

468,000

2015 U.S. acres harvested

Beef

Excellent source of **Vitamin B12** that improves mental clarity, reduces depression, and helps prevent Alzheimer's disease.

24,300,000,000 lbs.

2014 U.S. beef production

Coffee

Contains **Caffeine**, a stimulate that can improve mental performance, especially alertness, attention and concentration.

141,000,000,000 cups

number of standard 6 oz. cups of coffee that can be produced from the total 2014 imports.

Avocadoes

The fruit with the highest level of **Vitamin E** that reverses memory loss and retards the progress of Alzheimer's disease.

395,000,000 lbs.

2014 U.S. utilized production

"Brains are the only thing worth having in this world, no matter whether one is a crow or a man." – the Scarecrow of Oz

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division, NASS, FAS