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EGGS

Production

Table egg production in May was 571 million dozen, 7 percent lower than last May due to loses from High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). In Iowa, the top egg producing state and the state hit hardest by HPAI, production was down 28 percent. Broiler-type hatching egg production in May was up 1 percent compared to 2014. There were 1.1 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 83 million eggs, even with last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 166 million dozen during May, down 15 percent from May a year ago, and 9 percent above the 182 million broken in April. The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on June 1 was down 11 percent compared to 2014. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were down 3 percent compared to last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was up 4 percent compared with last year. The number of pullets added during May for all types of egg production was down 8 percent compared with last year.

Price

HPAI affected egg producers, especially egg breakers, the hardest. Table egg prices were at their post-Easter level of 118 cents/dozen (NY Grade A Large) through most of April, and began to climb the first week of May. The price finally peaked at a record 249 cents/dozen at the end of May (30 cents above the previous high set last fall) and held at that level for two weeks. In mid-June, the market stabilized and prices began to fall, reaching 189 cents/dozen and holding for the rest of the month. Breaking stock prices were even harder hit, holding steady until mid-April at 64.5 cents/dozen before rising to 239 cents/dozen by the end of May. As the market returned to equilibrium, prices fell and averaged 155.5 cents/dozen by the end of June.

International Trade

Exports of shell eggs totaled 10.8 million dozen with a value of $14.7 million in May, a decrease of 34 percent in volume and 25 percent in value compared to April. Through May, shell egg exports were up 10 percent in volume and 20 percent in value compared to the same period in 2014. For the first 5 months of 2015, total egg product exports were down 3 percent compared to 2014. The top five destinations for exports of shell eggs and egg products in May were Canada, Mexico, Japan, Hong Kong, and Jamaica.

LAMB

Production

Lamb and mutton production was 14 percent lower than last year, at 11.9 million pounds, and was down nearly 13 percent from both April 2015, and the May average for 2011-2013. Sheep slaughter totaled 168,500 head, 15 percent below April, 13 percent below last May, and 10 percent below the mean for 2011-2013. Live weights averaged 141 pounds, down 2 pounds from May a year ago. For the year-to-date, lamb and mutton production were down 5 percent. Lamb and mutton supplies in freezers were 6 percent higher than last month, and 56 percent higher than in 2014.

Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices again jumped, closing June up $10 to $158 per cwt, 8 percent above the 2014 price and 4 percent over the 2011-2013 average. The lamb cutout dipped, but ended up slightly at $357 per cwt, fractionally below 2014's level but 5 percent above the historical average. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices saw a $16 drop in June, but returned back to $346 per cwt, only slightly below 2014 and 6 percent below the 2011-2013 average. Boneless lamb shoulder prices fell $8 to $543 per cwt, down 1 percent from the 2014 price, but 27 percent above the historical average.

International Trade

Lamb exports were down 6 percent from 2014 levels to 235 metric tons, and were down 31 percent in value to $979,000. Compared to April, export volume was up 161 percent and the export value was 44 percent higher. Year-to-date lamb exports are down 30 percent from 2014. Mexico, Canada and the Leeward Islands were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton in May. U.S. imports of lamb fell 3 percent from last year to 6,775 MT, and the value of imports declined 9 percent to $49 million. The volume and value of lamb imports declined by 20 and 19 percent, respectively, from April levels. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest importers.

CHICKEN

Production

Production of broilers in May totaled 3.34 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook (RTC) basis. Daily production for the month was up 7 percent over both April and May 2014, driven mainly by increases in the number of birds slaughtered per day. Production will likely continue above last year's levels, with eggs set in incubators for the four weeks ending July 4 up 2 percent compared to the same period in 2014 and chicks placed up 3 percent. Total chicken inventories on May 31 were down 4 percent compared to the end of April, but up 20 percent compared to May 2014. Whole broiler holdings were even with April levels, but were 140 percent above last May White meat items in cold storage were down 4 percent month-over-month, but up 24 percent year-over-year. Overall dark meat inventories were 8 percent below April levels, but 30 percent above May 2014 levels. Leg quarter holdings were down 8 percent compared to April, but up 40 percent compared to last May.

Price

Whole broiler prices fell for most of June before rising the last week of the month, and closed the month at 103 cents/lb., 2 percent below the end of May. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat slipped 10 percent in June, following a May rally, and was 143 cents/lb. at month's end. The price of leg quarters continued to decline, falling 12 percent during June to end at 21 cents/lb., their lowest level since May 2006. B/S thigh meat held steady during the month and closed June at 111 cents/lb. Wings were the (relative) bright spot for producers. They rose 3 percent during the month and, at 183 cents/lb. at the end of the month, were 27 percent higher than at the end of June, 2014.

International Trade

The U.S. exported 262 thousand metric tons of chicken products in May with a value of $260 million. This was an increase of a little less than 1 percent in both volume and value compared to April, but was a decrease of 9 percent in volume and 18 percent in value compared to May 2014. For the first 5 months of 2015, exports were down 9 percent in volume and 16 percent in value compared to the same period in 2014. The five largest destinations for chicken exports in May based on value were Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Angola.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

May commercial beef production was 1.92 billion pounds, down slightly from April, down 7 percent from 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.38 million head, down slightly from the prior month, and down 10 percent from May 2014. The average live weight was up 33 pounds from last year, at 1,332 pounds. Veal production totaled 6.6 million pounds, the same as April and 15 percent below May 2014. Calf slaughter totaled 33,200 head, 6 percent below April and 29 percent below May. Mean live weight was up 50 pounds from last year, at 335 pounds. At 469 million pounds, total beef in freezers in May was down 3 percent from April but up 24 percent from May 2014. Boneless beef supplies were 3 percent lower than the previous month, but 28 percent above year ago levels. The stock of beef cuts was down 2 percent from last month and 6 percent from last year. Veal stocks were down 34 percent on a monthly basis but up 58 percent on a yearly basis.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) fell steadily through June to $149 per cwt, still 28 percent above 2014. The beef cutout value dropped $13 early in the month, but regained some ground to close June at $252 per cwt, 2 percent higher than last year. While 90 percent lean boneless beef prices fell to $294 per cwt, 8 percent above the 2014 average, 50 percent beef trim continued its two month descent, falling $16 to $78 per cwt, 36 percent below 2014. Packer-owned veal carcasses fell $4 to $453 per cwt while non-packer owned veal carcasses were mostly steady near $453 per cwt. The veal cutout remained steady through June at $590 per cwt, 17 percent above last year and 35 percent over the 2011-2013 average.

International Trade

Compared to 2014, May 2015 beef and veal exports fell 14 percent to 88 thousand MT while the export value fell 6 percent to $557 million. This volume is down 4 percent while the value is fractionally lower than in April. Total exports for the year are down 10 percent. Canada, Japan and Hong Kong were the largest export markets. Year-over-year beef import volumes were 24 percent higher at 107 thousand MT, and were up 35 percent in value at $617 million. Compared to April, beef imports were down 12 percent in volume and 13 percent in value. Total beef imports for the year are ahead of 2014 by 36 percent. Australia, New Zealand and Canada continue to be the largest importers of beef.

PORK

Production

Pork production totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 10 percent from April, up slightly from last May, and equal to the 2011-2013 average. Hog slaughter, at 8.75 million head, was 10 percent below April, 1 percent above May 2014, and 3 percent below the 2011-2013 slaughter. Average live weight was down 3 pounds from 2014, at 284 pounds. Year-to-date pork production was up 6 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 7 percent from April and but up 14 percent from last May to 654 million pounds. Bone-in picnics in cold storage were 35 percent lower than the prior month, but up 12 percent from last year. Total hams were up 16 percent on a monthly basis and 44 percent yearly. Compared to April, total loins were down 12 percent, ribs were down 21 percent, and butts were down 20 percent. Compared to May 2014, loins and ribs were unchanged, and butts were down 7 percent. The inventory of pork trimmings was 22 percent below the previous month, but 6 percent above the prior year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 8 percent from last month and down 25 percent from last year.

Price

After rallying through May, the negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts fell through the latter part of June to $74 per cwt, 40 percent lower than 2014 and 25 percent below the 2011-2013 average. The pork cutout fell to $83 per cwt, 37 percent below 2014 and 19 percent lower than the 2011-2013 average. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds, fell in June to $60 per cwt, 55 percent below the 2014 value and 27 percent below the historical average. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, also fell, closing the month at $80 per cwt, down 49 percent from the 2014 price, and 20 percent from the 2011-2013 average. Pork trim, 72 percent lean, ended up slightly at $73 per cwt, 46 percent below the 2014 price and 17 percent below the 2011-2013 average. Pork belly primals rose on seasonal demand, up nearly $30 to $116 per cwt, though still 33 percent lower than in 2014 and 22 percent below the 2011-2013 average.

International Trade

May pork exports (including variety meats) fell 2 percent over last year to 181 thousand MT while the value fell 19 percent to $476 million. Pork export volume and value were down 8 and 4 percent, respectively, from April. Year-to-date export volumes are down 6 percent. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2014, May pork imports were 1 percent lower in volume to 38 thousand MT, but were down 23 percent in value to $123 million. Pork import volumes fell on a monthly basis by 6 percent but were up 1 percent in value. Cumulative imports for 2015 are up 19 percent from 2014. Canada, Denmark and Italy were the largest importers.

TURKEY

Production

Turkey production in May was 432 million pounds on an RTC basis. This was a decline in daily production of 4 percent compared to April and 3 percent compared to May 2014, driven by bird losses due to HPAI. HPAI is also affecting future production due to both losses of breeding stock and to the need to keep houses vacant during cleaning and disinfection following an occurrence of the disease. Net poult placements in May were down 7 percent year-over-year and eggs in incubators on June 1 were down 5 percent.

Overall turkey inventories on May 31 were up 4 percent compared to May 2014 levels. Inventories of whole turkeys, which had been posting double-digit gains year-over-year for most of the last several months, were only 3 percent above last year's levels, as the effects of HPAI begin to be felt. Whole hens were up 4 percent and whole toms were up 1 percent. White meat holdings were up 2 percent from last May, while dark meat holdings were up 90 percent.

Price

Whole turkey prices climbed more than usual in June. Frozen whole hens rose 8 percent and closed the month at 120 cents/lb. White meat prices skyrocketed, with boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat rising 115 percent on tight supplies to 462 cents/lb., by far a record. Dark meat prices, however, did not see a similar increase. B/S thigh meat rose 2 percent to end the month at140 cents/lb., and tom drumsticks rose 3 percent to 63 cents/lb.

International Trade

U.S. turkey exports in May totaled 17.7 thousand metric tons valued at $44.7 million. This was a decrease of 8 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared to April, and a decrease of 35 percent in volume and 23 percent in value compared to May 2014. Annual turkey exports through May were down 17 percent in volume and 11 percent in value compared to 2014. The top five destinations for U.S. turkey exports in May were Mexico, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and Panama

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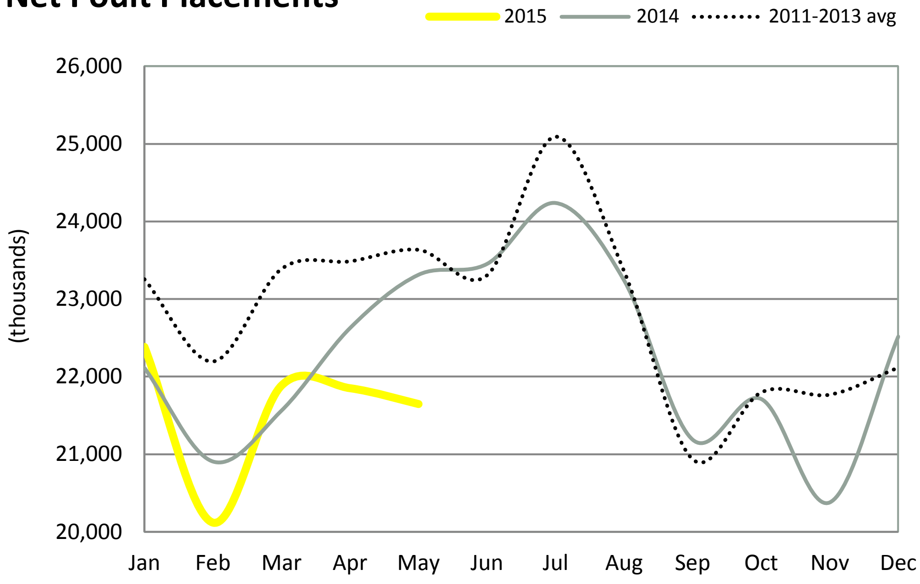
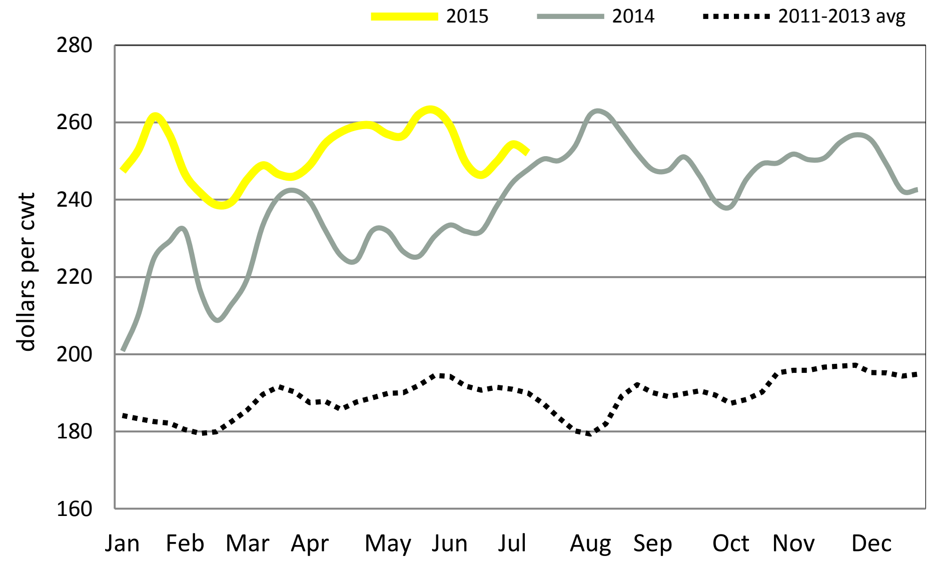
Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles? Contact Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov or Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.

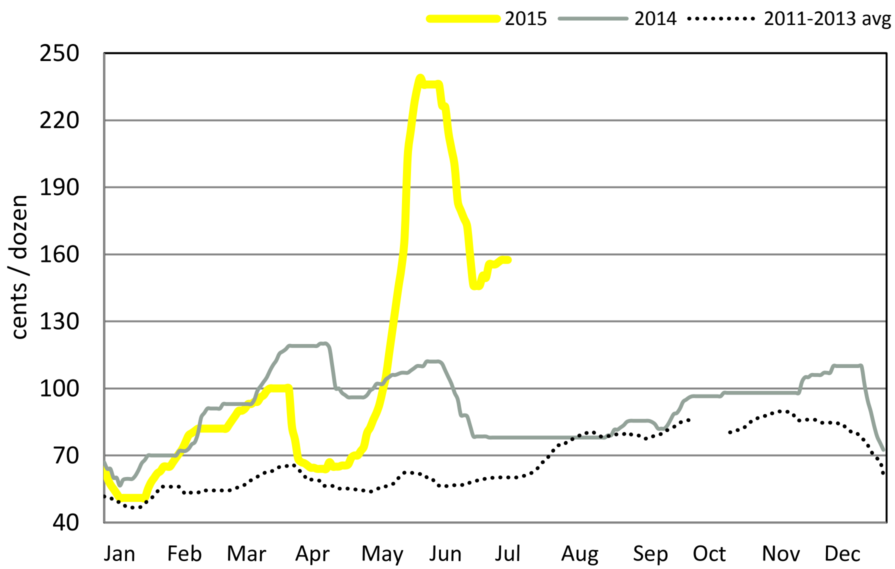
Net Poult Placements



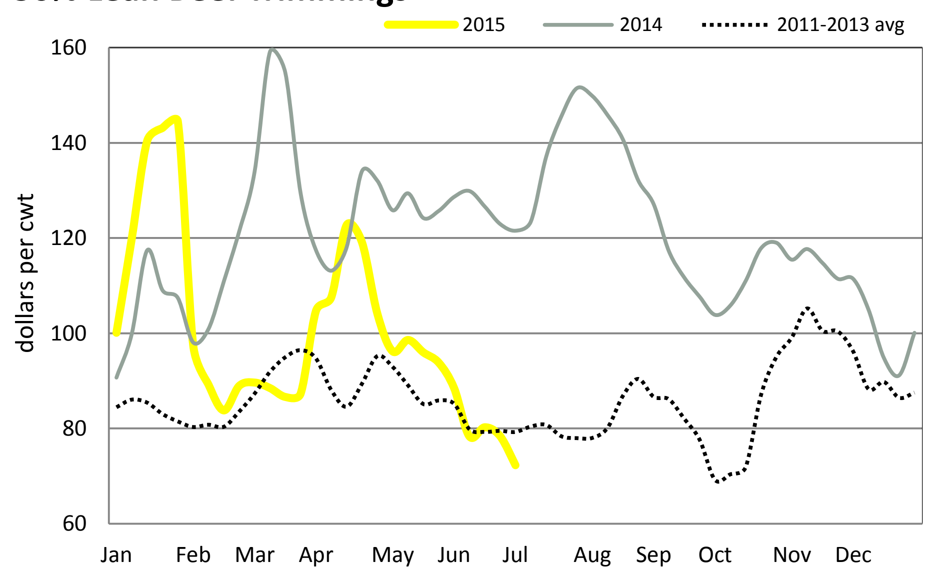
Weekly Beef Cutout Values, Choice 600-900 Lbs.



Central States Breaking Stock



50% Lean Beef Trimmings



Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division

July is Ice Cream Month

Scream for Ice Cream!

One gallon of Vanilla Ice Cream, requires...

5.3 cups whole milk

3.5 cups sugar

32 egg yolks

10.5 Tsps. Vanilla

10.5 cups heavy cream

17,120,000,000
Pounds of sugar produced in 2014 from sugar beets (56%) and sugarcane (44%)

3,634,283
Pounds of whole vanilla imported in 2014, 84% from Madagascar.

23,958,837,209
Gallons of milk produced in 2014 in the U.S. California was the top producer.

405,644,000
Pounds of egg yolk produced in 2014, or about

10,817,173,333
Large egg yolks

7,698,500,000
Pounds of milkfat produced in 2014. Heavy cream is at least 36% milkfat.

"ice cream…enjoys a reputation as the perfect dessert and snack food."

Ronald Reagan, declaring July, "National Ice Cream Month" July 9, 1984

The 3 most popular flavors

Vanilla

Chocolate

Butter Pecan

(*based on a 2015 survey by the International Dairy Foods Association*)

Gallons of Regular, Hard Ice Cream produced in 2014.

791,362,000

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division, NASS, ERS, FAS, International Dairy Foods Association