



## EGGS

### Production

April table egg production totaled 629 million dozen, up 5 percent from April 2016. On May 1, the number of birds in the table egg flock was 313 million, up 2 percent compared to a year earlier. Egg-type hatching egg production was 78 million eggs, down 16 percent from a year ago. There were 1.02 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced in April, down 1 percent from last year.

The broiler-type laying flock on May 1 was 55.8 million hens, 1 percent above May 2016. Shell eggs broken totaled 184 million dozen during April 2017, down 2 percent from April a year ago and 7 percent below the 198 million broken in March.

### Price

Table egg prices, following their post-Easter decline in mid-April, began May steady. The price of one dozen large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market was 69 cents/dozen for the first half of the month. In late May, prices began to rise and in a little more than a week rose 8 cents to 77 cents/dozen, where they remained through month's end. Breaking stock prices were steady in May, at 36 cents/dozen for the first half of the month and at 38 cents/dozen for the second half.

### International Trade

U.S. exports of table eggs in April totaled 9.3 million dozen with a value of \$9.3 million. This was an increase of 4 percent in volume and 6 percent in value compared with March but a decrease of 13 percent in both volume and value compared with April 2016. Through April, 2017 table egg exports were 17 percent in volume and 15 percent in value compared with the first four months of 2016.

April exports of egg products were valued at \$11.6 million, 20 percent below March but 48 percent above April 2017. Total 2017 exports of egg products through April were 47 percent above the same period in 2016. Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, and Brazil were the five largest importers of U.S. eggs and egg products in April..

## TURKEY

### Production

April turkey production totaled 433 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily turkey production was down 5 percent compared with March and down 6 percent compared with April 2016, driven entirely by a smaller number of birds slaughtered. Dressed weights were unchanged. Production appears to be leveling off. While eggs in incubators on May 1 were up 3 percent, poult placements for the month of April were unchanged compared with last April, indicating that production going into the holiday season will be on a par with last year. Total holdings of turkey in cold storage on April 30 were up 20 percent compared with April 2016. Frozen whole toms were 27 percent above last year and whole hens were up 17 percent. White meat stocks at the end of April were 52 percent above last year's levels, the same percentage as at the end of March. Dark meat stocks were down 13 percent year-over-year, compared with being 10 percent above last year at the end of March.

### Price

Turkey prices, with the exception of tom drumsticks, were on hold for May. Both whole hens and whole toms were flat for the month, beginning and ending at just under 100 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat traded within a half-cent of 153 cents/lb. all month and B/S thigh meat traded within a half-cent of 119 cents/lb. The only price movement in turkey was in drums; their price rose 21 percent through the month to end at 60 cents/lb., their highest level since December 2015.

### International Trade

The U.S. exported 19.7 thousand metric tons of turkey products valued at \$44.5 million in April. This is a drop of 5 percent in volume and 1 percent in value compared with March and a drop of 6 percent in volume and 3 percent in value compared with April 2016. Through April, 2017 exports were 10 percent in volume and 3 percent in value compared with the first four months of 2016. The top five destinations for exports of turkey in April were Mexico, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, and Peru.

## Production

Young chicken production in April totaled 3.21 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. April's daily production was 3 percent above March and 2 percent above April 2016. All of the increases were due to a larger number of birds slaughtered as the average dressed weight was unchanged both month-over-month and year-over-year. In the short term, production increases should continue near the same pace. Eggs set in incubators for the four weeks ending May 27 were 2 percent above the same period last year and chicks placed were up 1 percent.

Total stocks of chicken in cold storage on April 30 were 4 percent above the end of March, but were 1 percent below April 2016. Whole broiler inventories were up 26 percent for the month but down 9 percent year-over-year. Breast meat supplies were up 5 percent from March and up less than 1 percent from 2016. Overall dark meat supplies were up 2 percent for both the month and the year. Leg quarter inventories were up 4 percent month-over-month and 6 percent year-over-year. Thighs and thigh meat stocks were down 14 percent from March and 26 percent from last April. Wing supplies were down 4 percent for the month and down 20 percent for the year.

## Price

May saw increases in chicken prices across the board, but the strongest rises were in whole birds and the front half. In May, the National composite price for whole broilers rose 19 percent to close the month at 116 cents/lb., its highest level since June 2014. The price of boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat in the Northeast rose 23 percent to 165 cents/lb., its highest level since October 2014. Wings were up 7 percent to 206 cents/lb. their highest value since January 2013, when they set their all-time high. Leg quarter prices rose during the month, posting a 5 percent gain and ending at 34 cents/lb. in the Southern States. B/S thigh meat rose 4 percent to 131 cents/lb. (highest since August 2014) and drumsticks rose 2 percent to 45 cents/lb.

## International Trade

U.S. broiler exports for April totaled 234 thousand metric tons with a value of \$241 million. This represents a drop of 15 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared with March and a decrease of 3 percent in volume but an increase of 2 percent in value compared with April 2016. For the first four months of 2017, however, exports are up 5 percent in volume and 6 percent in value compared with the beginning of 2016. In April, our five largest export destinations for chicken were Mexico, Canada, Angola, Hong Kong, and Cuba.

## Production

With one less slaughter day, April 2017 beef production was slightly below 2016 and 13 percent below the March level at 1.96 billion pounds. Cattle slaughter was up 2 percent, at 2.46 million head, and down 11 percent on a monthly basis. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from last year, to 1,325 pounds. January to April 2017 commercial beef production was up 5 percent from last year. Veal production totaled 5.8 million pounds, 3 percent below last April, and down 10 percent from March. At 39,000 head, calf slaughter was up 12 percent from the year before and down 13 percent monthly. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 257 pounds. Year to date veal production was down 4 percent. Total stocks of beef in freezers at the end of April were 1 percent below March, and down 2 percent from the April 2016. Boneless beef in cold storage was 2 percent lower than the month before, and 4 percent lower than last year. Beef cut supplies were up 3 percent monthly and up 22 percent from year earlier levels. Veal stocks in cold storage were down 5 percent on a month-to-month basis but up 148 percent year-over-year.

## Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) reached a year-to-date high of \$145 per cwt in early May before retreating to \$130 per cwt, 4 percent above last year's price. The Choice beef cutout value spiked \$28 to \$248 per cwt by mid-month before closing at \$246 per cwt, 9 percent above the 2016 value. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price broke the pattern of tracking the 2016 price, rising to \$13 to \$231 per cwt, up 6 percent from last year. The 50 percent lean trim price nearly doubled by mid-month to \$201 per cwt, a 2017 peak, before falling back to \$167 per cwt, 113 percent above the 2016 level. Non packer-owned veal carcasses fell \$1 to \$306 per cwt, while packer-owned veal carcasses rose \$2 to \$301 per cwt, both 11 percent below 2016. The veal cutout average remained at \$435 per cwt, as it has since February, 18 percent below last year's value.

## International Trade

Compared to April 2016, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) increased 13 percent to 100 thousand MT and the export value rose 14 percent to \$550 million. The export volume and value were down 5 and 6 percent, respectively from March. The first four months' beef export volume rose 14 percent from last year, and 18 percent in value. Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong were our largest export markets in April. Year-over-year beef import volumes were down 7 percent to 88 thousand MT, and down 13 percent in value to \$441 million. Compared to March, beef imports were 7 percent lower and value was down 5 percent. Year-to-date imports of beef and veal are 10 percent lower in volume and 15 percent lower in value than in 2016. Australia, Canada and Mexico were the largest importers of beef to the U.S.

## Production

April pork production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2016 (with 1 less slaughter day), and down 12 percent from March. Hog slaughter totaled 9.34 million head, slightly below 2016 and down 13 percent monthly. The average live weight was unchanged at 285 pounds. Accumulated pork production was up 2 percent from last year.

Pork in cold storage was up 9 percent from March, but down 6 percent from last April. Bone-in picnics were 4 percent lower than ending inventory levels for the month prior, and were down 26 percent from last year. Total frozen hams were 26 percent higher monthly and 12 percent lower yearly. Pork trimmings were up 1 percent from the end of March and down 1 percent from last year. Loins were up 18 percent on a monthly basis and down 1 percent year-over-year. Inventories of ribs were at a record high for the month of April, 2 percent lower than last month and slightly higher than April 2016. Pork butts in freezers were up 2 percent from March, and up 30 percent from the year before. Pork belly stocks were 66 percent over the month before, but down 53 percent from last year.

## Price

After declining since mid-February, the negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts gained \$19 in May to end at \$74 per cwt, the same price as in 2016. The pork cutout value added \$17 per cwt, to close at \$91 per cwt, up 24 percent from last year. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds rose \$5 to \$68 per cwt, 5 percent above 2016. Following historical patterns, picnic meat combos, cushion out prices added \$7 the last weeks of May to end at \$87 per cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Pork trim, 72 percent lean rose \$12 to \$83 per cwt, 20 percent higher than in 2016. Pork belly primals gained \$38 per cwt to \$146 per cwt, 32 percent above 2016.

## International Trade

Pork exports in April (including variety meats) were up 8 percent from 2016 to 199 thousand MT, and the value was up 10 percent to \$496 million. Pork export volume was down 11 percent from March, and the value was 12 percent lower. January to April exports are up 15 percent in volume and 19 percent in value. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2016, April pork imports were up 10 percent in volume to 42 thousand MT, and up 9 percent in value to \$146 million. This represents a 6 percent decrease in volume and a 7 percent drop in value from March. Cumulative pork imports are lower in volume by 6 percent, and in value by 1 percent. The countries of Canada, Poland and Denmark imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division

Any opinions expressed represent those of the authors for the limited purpose of this newsletter and do not represent the official position of the Department.

## Production

Lamb and mutton production was 11.5 million pounds in April, down 10 percent from 2016 in part because of one less slaughter day than last year, and down 16 percent from March. Sheep slaughter totaled 179,500 head, 5 percent less than last year and down 9 percent from the previous month. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 7 pounds from a year ago. For 2017 so far, commercial lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent from last year. Lamb and mutton in cold storage was up 11 percent from the end of March, but 28 percent lower than last April.

## Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices added another \$6 per cwt in May to \$166 per cwt, 19 percent above last year. The lamb cutout value gained a total of \$50 to \$417 cwt, 20 percent over the 2016 value. Lower slaughter, lower weights, and significantly lower inventories are likely factors. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices rose \$45, to finish April at \$410 per cwt, up 20 percent from last year. Finally, lamb shoulders ended the month a whopping \$110 per cwt greater than in April, at \$667, up 20 from 2016.

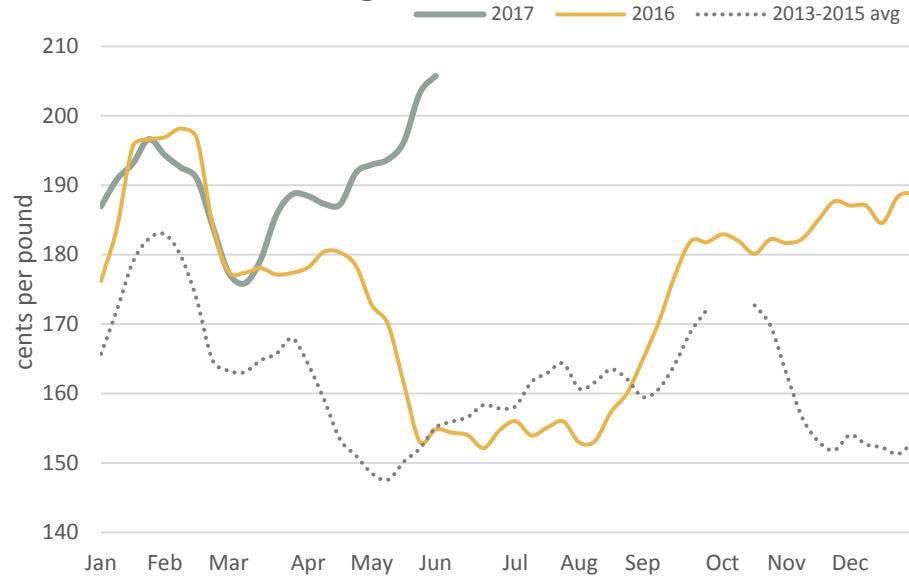
## International Trade

April lamb exports were down 13 percent from 2016 levels to 144 MT, and down 21 percent in value to \$887 thousand. Compared to March, export volume was 46 percent lower and the value was down 43 percent. Lamb meat export volume for the year to date grew 17 percent in volume and 20 percent in value. The Bahamas, Germany and Netherlands Antilles were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in March were up 13 percent from 2016 to 9 thousand MT, with the value up 15 percent to \$63 million. The import volume and value were 37 and 31 percent lower, respectively, from March. Cumulative lamb import volume is up 17 percent, and value up 14 percent, from last year. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest sources of imports.

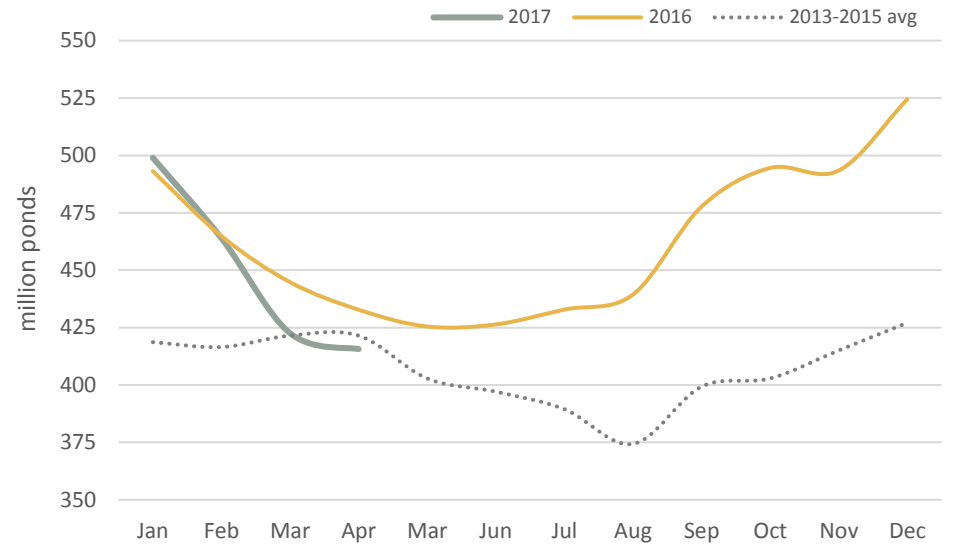
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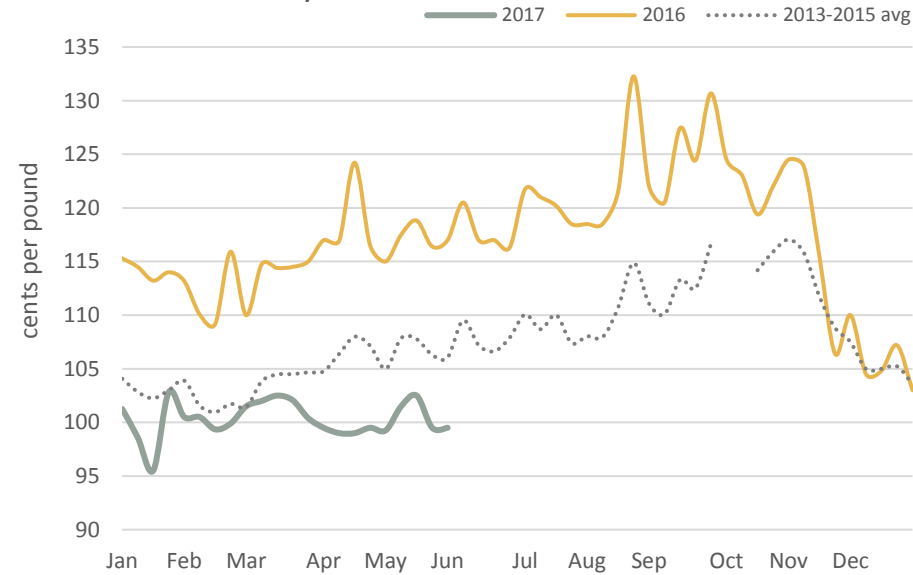
### Northeast Chicken Wings



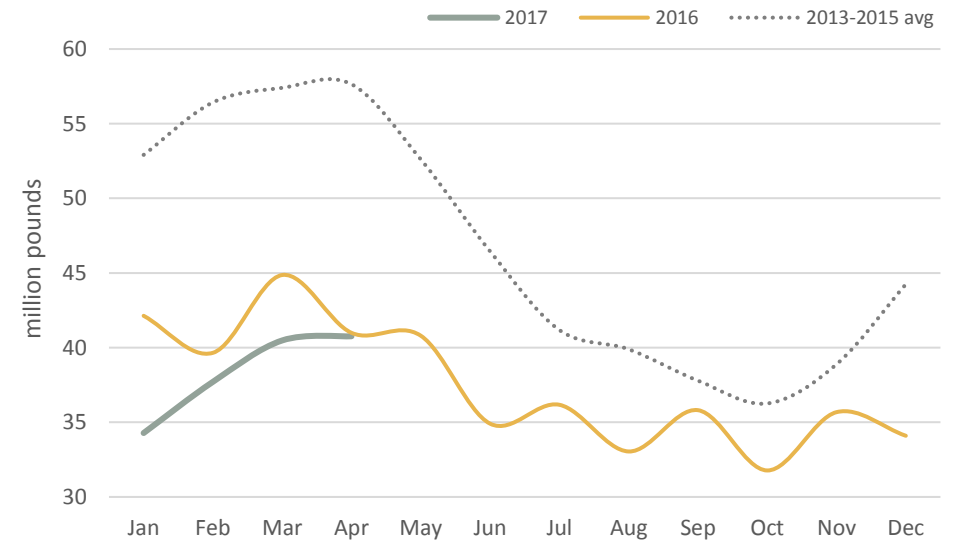
### Boneless Beef in Cold Storage



### National Hen Turkeys



### Total Pork Trimmings in Cold Storage





June is National Dairy Month

# Cowabunga!

MILK  
24,700,000,000 gallons  
\$2.46/gallon

CREAM CHEESE  
910,000,000 pounds  
\$1.75/8 ounce

CHEESE  
11,300,000,000 pounds  
\$2.24/8 ounce block

ICE CREAM, regular  
920,000,000 gallons  
\$3.05/gallon

SOUR CREAM  
1,400,000,000 pounds  
\$1.67/16 ounce cup

COTTAGE CHEESE  
1,100,000,000 pounds  
\$1.89/16 ounce

BUTTER  
1,800,000,000 pounds  
\$3.01/pound

YOGURT  
4,500,000,000 pounds  
\$0.51/4-6 ounce



In 2012, the U.S. milk goat herd, including kids, numbered 414,000 head.



**9.3 million head**

**22,775 lbs. of milk/cow**

In 2016, the U.S. dairy herd numbered just over 9 million head. A third of these cows are in California and Wisconsin, ranked #1 and #2. Nearly 8 million of these were of the Holstein breed, about 770 thousand Jerseys, and the remainder were either crossbred or one of 4 other primary dairy breeds.

*All data reflects 2016; prices reflect average advertised at retail outlets.*

Source: USDA Agricultural Analytics; Dairy Market News; NASS