

MARKET NEWS

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Kunoa Cattle Co. plans to double its herd to 4,000 cattle, and added 1,700 acres of land to its ranch in Kauai, Hawaii. In addition, as co-founder Jack Beuttell transitions out of his role as CEO to focus on investor relationships and partnerships, co-founder Bobby Farias assumed the role of president, Aaron Cates will serve as CFO, Emi Kowalczyk as director of operations, and Bryan Mayer as director of product, reported *Pacific Business News*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. and Canadian cattle and calves totaled 106.2 million head on Jan. 1, representing a slight increase from the 105.9 million head reported Jan. 1, 2018, according to USDA and Statistics Canada. The inventory included 94.8 million head in the U.S. and 11.5 million head in Canada. [Full Report](#)

U.S. and Canadian hog inventory totaled 88.6 million head in December 2018, representing a 1% increase from December 2017 and a 4% increase from December 2016, according to USDA and Statistics Canada. U.S. inventory totaled 74.6 million head, while Canadian inventory totaled 14 million head. [Full Report](#)

Avocado producers in California and Mexico are expected to ship about 55.6 million-lbs. the week of March 17, according to

the Hass Avocado Board. The board reported about 55.7 million-lbs. shipped the week of March 10. [Full Story](#)

Nebraska agricultural land values declined by 3% in 2018 , according to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Farm Real Estate Market Survey. The statewide average of land values is \$2,650 per acre, as respondents indicated trade and property tax policies were two of the largest factors contributing to the decline. [Full Story](#)

Meanwhile, **Iowa farmland values fell 2.7% over the past year** , in part because of trade disputes, according to a report by The Iowa Chapter of the Realtors Land Institute. The report claims the decline occurred despite federal government's trade bailout program, limited land and higher yields in some parts of Iowa. The statewide average was nearly \$6,800 an acre, reported *The Washington Times*. [Full Story](#)

The Hershey Co. launched the the Cocoa & Forest Initiative to restore forest cover in the cocoa growing regions in West Africa. The company's plans include distributing 900,000 multi-purpose trees to farms in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire by 2022, distributing more than 2.5 million improved cocoa seedlings to farmers by 2022, and satellite mapping of 50,000 farms in the Hershey supply chain by the end of 2019. [Full Story](#)

Resort owner Blackstone hired Hawaii-based Pono Pacific to manage farmland across from its Turtle Bay Resort. Pono Pacific's plans for nearly 500 of the 1,300 acres include establishing food safety certification on site for the dozen existing farmers and growing a trial crop that could potentially be used for biofuel, reported *Pacific Business News* . [Full Story](#)
(Subscription Required)

U.S. milk production in the 23 major states totaled 17.5 billion-lbs. in January , representing a 1.3% increase from January 2018, according to USDA. The 2018 annual milk

production was 1% above 2017, totaling about 218 billion-lbs.
Full Report

Mexican greenhouse production occurred on 57,454 acres in 2018, up from the 9,083 acres reported in 2017, according to Cuesta Roble Consulting. Regional growers note there is a shift from outdoor production to protected culture as the quality of products are more dependable and predictable, reported *The Packer*. Full Story

Aerial spraying companies in California are reporting increased demand for their services following a wet winter, with Thiel Air Care saying demand has surged 50% for aerial fungicide applications. As farmers can't reach almond and stone fruit trees which are entering bloom due to flooding, the operators are seeking help from companies that supply airplanes and helicopters for herbicide and fungicide applications, reported *AgAlert*. Full Story

Representatives from across the honey industry formed The Honey Integrity Task Force, a working group focused on ensuring the purity of honey in the U.S. The group is embarking on initiatives to strengthen checkpoints in production and the supply chain, and the group committed to conducting independent tests of honey products sold in stores. Full Story

USDA changed the membership structure of the Processed Pear Committee. The action removes the second alternate member position from the committee structure, leaving 10 member positions and one alternate position for each respective member. The change takes effect July 1. Full Notice

California's Salinas growing region is bogged down by rainy weather, according to regional growers. Pacific International Marketing noted plantings had begun, but January and February rains will delay the beginning of some spring vegetable harvests. Ocean Mist Farms reported rainfall was about 130% higher than

normal, reported *The Packer* . Full Story

The East Coast harvest of mackerel will be scaled back for the rest of 2019 . NOAA claims 95% of the catch cap has been exhausted, therefore, mackerel fishing vessels will be prohibited from fishing for more than 20,000-lbs. of mackerel per trip until the end of the year, reported *The Boston Herald* . Full Story

Ichthus Unlimited plans to establish the first tuna hatchery in North America in the San Diego Bay Area. The project is being supported by a grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, which will augment ongoing support from the Illinois Soybean Association checkoff program. Full Story

Combined U.S. beef cattle production accounted for 3.3% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions , according to a study from USDA researchers. Additionally, the study found cattle only consumed 2.6-lbs. of grain per lb. of beef cut weight, and that improvement could be made in water use and reactive nitrogen losses. Full Story

California strawberry growers shipped approximately 15.5 million flats through March 10, a 25% decrease from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production between March 3 and March 10 was March 4, with a total of about 189,000 flats. Full Story

U.S. blueberry producers are preparing to send their first shipments to Vietnam , according to Oregon Berry Packing. The producers argue blueberries are already well-established in Asia, and that increased exports will also benefit domestic sales, reported *Fruit Growers News* . Full Story

USDA issued a draft plant pest risk assessment for a new plant variety . The agency is accepting public comment on the HB4 soybean designated as event IND00410-5, which was

genetically engineered for increased yield and resistance to the herbicide glufosinate, for 30 days. Full Notice

The most recent estimates of Florida's orange crop for the 2018-2019 season remained unchanged from the previous month at 77 million boxes, according to USDA. The forecast of Valencia production increased 1 million boxes to 46 million boxes, while the grapefruit crop estimate dipped 600,000 boxes to an estimated 5.4 million boxes for the season. Full Story

U.S. cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market totaled about 11.7 million head on Feb. 1, representing a slight increase from Feb. 1, 2018, according to USDA. Placements in feedlots during January totaled about 2 million head, down 5% from the prior year. Full Report

U.S. fresh-market apple holdings dropped 10% year-over-year, totaling about 65.5 million cartons on March 1, according to the U.S. Apple Association. The total was 5% below the five-year average of 69.2 million cartons, reported *The Packer*. Full Story

Maine's scallop harvest declined by about a third in 2018 to 564,000-lbs. The value of the fishery declined to about \$6 million at the docks to about \$10.54 per lb., reported *Portland Press Herald*. Full Story

The National Marine Fishery Service issued a temporary rule prohibiting fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the western regulatory area of the Gulf of Alaska. The closure will prevent exceeding the 2019 Pacific cod total allowable catch apportioned to trawl catcher vessels, reported *The Cordova Times*. Full Story

Chilean blueberry growers exported about 1,800 tons the week ending March 3, according to the Chilean Blueberry Committee. Total exports are up 2% when compared to the same time period in the 2017-18 season. Full Story

Mango producers in Peru, Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua exported about 1.1 million boxes the week ending March 2, down significantly from the total of 2 million boxes reported a year ago, according to the National Mango Board. Overall mango volumes are expected to increase 5% through the week ending May 18. Full Story

Scientists from North Carolina and Mississippi are working on an experiment to see if soft-shell crabs can be farmed in ponds. NOAA is funding the three-year project with a grant of almost \$340,000 that will monitor costs, how long it takes to raise the crabs and mortality rate, reported *The Charlotte Observer* . Full Story

JJB Farms LP bought a tract of farmland in Yolo County, CA . The company paid \$4.5 million for 322 acres known as the Herger Ranch, and will likely convert the farm to nuts from row crops, reported *Sacramento Business Journal* . Full Story
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