

MARKET NEWS

Asparagus growers in Ontario, Canada, report strong production despite a delayed start date of May 10 . Sandy Shore Farms noted it was "amazed" at the volumes it is seeing despite the cold April and May, while Asparagus Farmers of Ontario reported the 2019 season will be a normal year, following challenges in 2018, reported *The Packer* . [Full Story](#)

Copper River commercial salmon harvest reached 429,630 fish as of June 5 , according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The total included 408,140 sockeye, 11,420 Chinooks and 10,067 chums, reported *The Cordova Times* . [Full Story](#)

Arizona is reviewing industrial hemp applications to allow production in the state. The hemp targeted for Arizona is optimized to produce more flowers and seeds for use in oils and powders. According to an industry insider, farmers currently earning about \$100 per acre for standard crops could net \$600 per acre by switching to hemp, reported *Washington Post* . [Full Story](#)

USDA added Mongolia to the list of regions affected by African swine fever (ASF). Although the importation of most swine commodities from Mongolia into the U.S. was already restricted based on that country's classical swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease and swine vesicular disease status, USDA determined it was necessary to impose ASF-related restrictions on pork and pork products from the country. [Full Notice](#)

USDA reported a shortage of trucks for produce shipments in Florida for the week ending June 4. Additionally, trucking shortages were reported in Nogales, AZ; California; North Carolina and south Texas. Specifically, truck rates in Nogales

jumped 24% to \$6,800 per truckload in the reporting period. [Full Report](#)

California onion grower-shippers are expecting a strong season in 2019 . Gills Onions LLC reported its harvest was wrapping up in Brawley, CA, with production transitioning to the Bakersfield area. Production will further transition to the King City region in September, reported *The Packer* . [Full Story](#)

More than 1,000-sq. miles in Southern California are in a Huanglongbing quarantine area , a deadly citrus tree disease. At this time in 2018, 683 square miles were in quarantine. [Full Story](#)

USDA took actions to post and de-post stockyards under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act). USDA proposed posting 10 stockyards now operating subject to the P&S Act, while posting six stockyards that were identified previously as operating subject to the P&S Act. Additionally, the agency proposed de-posting two stockyards that no longer meet the definition of a stockyard. The agency will accept public comment for 15 days. [Full Notice](#)

Intense heat in July 2018 pushed down California avocado volumes in 2019 , but sizing is trending up, according to Del Rey Avocado Co. The company noted the 40 size, which is typically 10% of its annual crop, constitutes about 15% to 20% of the 2019 harvest, reported *AgAlert* . [Full Story](#)

Meanwhile, avocado producers are expected to ship about 60.5 million-lbs. the week of June 16, according to the Hass Avocado Board. The board projected shipments totaling 56.7 million-lbs. for the week of June 9. [Full Story](#)

J.R. Simplot Co.'s CEO stated rising tariffs jeopardize long-standing relationships and could drive customers away. The biggest concern is damage being done to American farmers as China looks for new suppliers from other countries which could turn into long-term relationships, he said, reported *Idaho Statesman* . [Full Story](#)

The summer citrus season is underway, with the California industry harvesting valencia oranges , according to California Citrus Mutual. The crop size is considered comparable to 2018, with quality and sizing reported as good. Additionally, Chilean exports of citrus reached about 6,707 tons in mid-May, up 2% from 2018, reported *The Packer* . [Full Story](#)

Promotable California grape volumes are expected in mid-July following hailstorms in May that delayed the start of the season, according to regional growers. Additionally, reports indicated Mexico's 2019 crop will be "massive," according to Fruit Royale, reported *The Produce News* . [Full Story](#)

U.S. cheese output totaled about 1.1 billion-lbs. in April , a 0.2% increase from April 2018 but down 3.6% from March, according to USDA. Production included 474 million-lbs. of Italian-type cheese and 432 million-lbs. of American-type cheese. [Full Report](#)

Maine lobstermen are looking for concessions if they are going to fish fewer traps to protect whales from entanglements. The lobstermen want restrictions on letting new lobstermen into the fishery in exchange for the trap cut, reported *Portland Press Herald* . [Full Story](#)

Bayer signed an alliance with Arvinas Inc . to gain access to the firm's crop protection technology and experimental protein

drugs in a deal worth up to \$750 million. The companies will form a joint venture to use Arvinas technology to pilot programs to fight weeds and plant pests on farms, reported *Reuters* . [Full Story](#)

Ostrom's Mushroom Farm in Olympia, WA, will close, laying off 239 employees. The state Employment Security Department said the layoffs will be permanent, reported *The Washington Times* . [Full Story](#)

Kansas growers planted 26% of soybeans as of June 2, behind the 53% average usually seeded by now, according to USDA's weekly crop progress report. Corn planting is going slower than usual with 79% seeded, compared to the 93% average for this time, while 8% of the state's sorghum crop was planted, behind the 26% average. [Full Story](#)

Shenandoah Growers Inc. opened an expanded production facility in Jefferson, GA. The 62,400-sq. ft. expansion will serve as a pack and ship facility, with plans to expand operations to include growing capabilities in the fall. [Full Story](#)

Bushel Boy is planning a \$35 million hydroponic facility in Mason City, IA . The tomato grower's proposed facility would occupy about 80 acres, reported *The Fresno Bee* . [Full Story](#)

California strawberry growers shipped approximately 87.7 million flats through June 2, an 8.2% decrease from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production during the one week period was May 27, with a total of about 1.5 million flats. [Full Story](#)

U.S. soybeans crushed for crude oil totaled 5.15 million tons in April , compared with 5.38 million tons in March and unchanged from 2018, according to USDA. U.S. canola seeds

crushed for crude oil totaled 162,467 tons in April, compared with 142,921 tons in March 2019 and 152,358 tons in April 2018. [Full Report](#)

RiceTec is licensing technology from Benson Hill for rice research and development . RiceTec believes the precision tools and collaborative approach could help the company create products with improved quality, providing greater profitability for growers. [Full Story](#)

Intrexon is advancing GreenVenus non-browning Romaine lettuce to commercial trials . Testing has shown the product to have a shelf-life up to two weeks and a potential for higher marketable yield with no tip burn. The product is not subject to USDA regulations for plants altered or produced through genetic engineering. [Full Story](#)

Peruvian avocado growers could ship between 160 million-lbs. and 180 million-lbs. of product to the U.S. market in 2019, according to the Peruvian Avocado Commission. However, the season opened much earlier in 2019 with more than 20 million-lbs. shipped by June 1, compared to less than 3 million-lbs. by the date in 2018, reported *The Produce News* . [Full Story](#)

Meanwhile, **Mexican avocado growers expect U.S. consumers will bear the brunt of potential tariffs** . The growers argue global demand for the product continues to rise, and a weak 2019 California crop is limiting sourcing options for U.S. foodservice and retail operators, reported *Yakima Herald-Republic* . [Full Story](#)

The forecast for total world grain production in 2018-19 is 2.1 billion metric tons , slightly lower than the previous year's global output, according to the International Grains Council. A larger

corn harvest in 2018-19 nearly offset the poorer returns of other grains, including a 29 million metric ton decline in wheat production. [Full Story](#)

Central Texas peaches appear to be in abundant supply

despite the crop enduring early and late freezes, heavy rain and strong spring winds. Most of the Hill Country fruit is ripening, with some later-season varieties, such as lorings, dixilands and red globes, forecast to be plentiful, reported *The Modesto Bee* . [Full Story](#)

EPA lifted restrictions on the sale of higher ethanol blends of gasoline . The policy allows gasoline stations to sell blends containing up to 15% corn-based ethanol year-round, ending a summertime ban imposed in 2011. [Full Story](#)

Mango producers in Mexico, Guatemala and Haiti exported about 3.3 million boxes the week ended May 25, up from the 2.8 million boxes reported a year ago, according to the National Mango Board. Overall mango volumes are expected to increase 7% through the end of the harvest season. [Full Story](#)

U.S. shell eggs broken totaled 206 million dozen during April , representing a 7% increase from April 2018, according to USDA. During calendar year 2019 through April, shell eggs broken totaled 813 million dozen, up 8% from the comparable period in 2018. [Full Report](#)

Mountaire Farms purchased the Cartanza Grain Facility in Dover, DE . The facility, which has the capacity to store more than 1 million bushels of grain and is equipped with a grain dryer, enables the company to purchase more local grain for chicken feed, reported *Delaware State News* . [Full Story](#)