

MARKET NEWS

A group of non-governmental organizations is calling on U.S. authorities to ban imports of palm oil from Malaysia's FGV Holdings and investigate the company, citing concerns of forced labor and human trafficking on its plantations. International Labor Rights Forum, Rainforest Action Network and SumOfUs filed a complaint with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which is required to deny entry of goods made with forced labor, reported *Reuters* . [Full Story](#)

FDA found no pathogenic forms of E. coli or salmonella in samples of romaine lettuce grown in Yuma, AZ , in 2018. Tests did find one strain of E. coli, but the bacteria form was not harmful to humans. FDA is working with leafy green farmers in the region to consider a longer-term environmental study to identify and control risks that will prevent future outbreaks. [Full Story](#)

Florida growers are expected to produce about 800,000 bushels of green-skin avocados in the 2019-2020 season, according to Brooks Tropicals Inc. The company reported groves largely recovered from damage incurred during Hurricane Irma in 2018, reported *The Packer* . [Full Story](#)

U.S. mushroom producers are facing rising costs , according to the American Mushroom Institute. The institute cited climate volatility, labor issues, changing consumer preferences and transportation fees. [Full Story](#)

USDA will defer accrual of interest for spring 2019 crop year insurance premiums until November 30 for all policies with a premium billing date of Aug. 15. The agency is using its flexibility to aid farmers and ranchers affected by extreme weather in 2019. [Full Story](#)

U.S. turkey eggs in incubators totaled 29.2 million Aug. 1 , up 1% from July 1 and up slightly from Aug. 1, 2018, according to USDA. U.S. turkey poults hatched totaled 25.2 million in July, down 2% from July 2018. [Full Report](#)

USDA added two countries to the list of regions affected by African swine fever . The agency added [Cambodia](#) following confirmation of the disease by the country's veterinary authorities April 3, while [Vietnam](#) was added after the World Organization for Animal Health confirmed an outbreak Feb. 18.

California Hass avocado growers will ship between 190-200 million-lbs. in 2019 , according to estimates from the California Avocado Commission. Calavo Growers Inc. attributed the small crop to a summer heatwave in 2018 and a major fire in December. However, the 2020 crop could reach 325 million-lbs., according to the company, reported *The Packer* . [Full Story](#)

USDA increased the assessment rate for Far West spearmint oil to \$0.10 per lb. for all product handled under the marketing order for the 2019-2020 and subsequent marketing years. The higher rate is necessary to cover most of the West Spearmint Oil Administrative Committee 2019-2020 marketing year budgeted expenditures. [Full Notice](#)

Purdue University was awarded a \$10 million federal grant for a laboratory devoted to improving food safety in developing nations. The lab will collaborate with Cornell University to develop programs in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Senegal, reported *U.S. News & World Reports* . [Full Story](#)

Ivory Coast and Ghana farmers are upbeat about the next cocoa harvest after recent heavy rains helped support crop

development. Ivory Coast cocoa plantations look good, with lots of pods on the trees, while the Ghana Cocoa Board is targeting a harvest of 950,000 tons for the upcoming season, reported *Bloomberg* . [Full Story](#)

Parabel USA expects to begin commercial production of a water lentil-based protein ingredient by year-end . The neutral colored ingredient is an allergen-free substitute for any plant protein, is highly functional and can be used in meat analogues. With its complete Amino Acid profile, the ingredient is designed to be ideal for the sports protein industry. [Full Story](#)

California tomato processors harvested 876,986 tons the week ending Aug. 10 , according to the Processing Tomato Advisory Board. A total of 2.9 million tons were harvested this year, down from 4.1 million tons at the same time last year, due to a rain delayed harvest. [Full Story](#)

Index Fresh partnered with Colombian Hass avocado producers to bring the product to the U.S. market. Index Fresh anticipates Colombia will become a year-round producer of Hass varieties in the next few years, and already produces a high number of West Indian varieties, reported *The Packer* . [Full Story](#)

Meanwhile, **avocado producers are expected to ship about 42.3 million-lbs.** the week of Aug. 25, according to the Hass Avocado Board. The board reported shipments totaling 30.8 million-lbs. for the week of Aug. 11. [Full Story](#)

California strawberry growers shipped 112.5 million flats through Aug. 12 , an 11.1% decrease from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production during the one-week period was Aug. 6,

with a total of about 1.2 million flats. [Full Story](#)

Pear Bureau Northwest (PBNW) was awarded \$1.5 million in the second round of the Agricultural Trade Program funding. The funding will enable PBNW promotions in export markets including Mexico, Canada, India, and the UAE and allow for funding to relaunch a promotional campaign in China if tariffs are removed within the next three seasons. [Full Story](#)

The 2019 U.S. apple crop is forecast at 10.6 billion-lbs., or 252.4 million 42-lb. cartons, with the Washington harvest projected at 7.2 billion-lbs., up 7%, according to USDA. The agency also increased the forecast for corn production to 13.9 billion bushels, citing improving prospects in Missouri and Minnesota and parts of Iowa offsetting the rest of the Midwest. [Full Story](#)

Meanwhile, **Indigo Ag Inc. is forecasting output of U.S. corn and soybeans will fall** due to rains in the planting season followed by dry growing conditions in the Midwestern crop belt. It estimated end-of-season U.S. corn production at 12 billion bushels and soybean production at 3.7 billion bushels, reported *Omaha World-Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Supplies of Mexican avocados are expected to increase as fall approaches, ending the shortfall seen this summer. The president of Healthy Avocado projects by October, Mexico will be shipping up to 1,400 loads per week to the U.S., and industry insiders expect supply to be strong through 2020, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Florida's green-skin avocado growers are expected to produce about 800,000 bushels between June and April, returning supply to historical volumes. Last season, supplies were tight due to the effects of Hurricane Irma, reported *The Packer*.

[Full Story](#)

Maine's wild blueberry crop is projected at about 50 million-lbs., according to the University of Maine. The amount is down from the 50.4 million harvest in 2018, with a cold winter and wet and cold spring cited for the lower projections, reported *The State*.

[Full Story](#)

The overall condition of the corn crop is rated at 57% good to excellent in the top 18 corn producing states as of Aug. 11, equal to a week ago, according to USDA's weekly crop progress report. Soybeans are rated 54% good to excellent, equal to a week ago, with 82% of the soybean crop blooming. [Full Story](#)

Purdue University's agriculture economist is projecting a nearly 20% drop in revenue for Indiana's corn and soybean crops in 2019. Spring planting delays, a long summer dry spell and the ongoing U.S. trade fight with China could lead to a \$1.3 billion revenue drop for farmers from last year's \$6.8 billion, reported *The Fresno Bee*. [Full Story](#)

OneTuna opened Canada's first federally licensed plant to process bluefin tuna for the world sushi market. Before the certification, the company was limited to selling whole fish to Japan, the U.S. and Canada, reported *The Globe and Mail*. [Full Story](#)

The National Marine Fisheries Service closed the general category fishery for large, medium and giant Atlantic bluefin tuna for the June through August subquota time period. The intent of this closure is to prevent overharvest. [Full Notice](#)

Alaska processors posted a 2019 base price of \$1.35 per lb. for sockeye in Bristol Bay, up from last year's \$1.26. The

companies include Silver Bay, Icicle, Leader Creek, Alaska General Seafoods, Red Salmon, Peter Pan and Ocean Beauty, reported *The Bristol Bay Times*. [Full Story](#)

New Hampshire lifted a ban on most shellfish harvesting along the state's ocean coastline. The harvest closure went into effect on May 9 in response to elevated levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning detected in blue mussels, reported *Concord Monitor*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. live lobster sales to China fell 47% to \$93.8 million in the 12 months since a 25% tariff was imposed. Total international sales decreased 5% to \$588.2 million during the time frame, reported *Portland Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

There will be a promotable volume of California grapes, despite the delayed start, industry experts project. The market is steady with top quality number ones selling for about \$18-\$22 per carton, depending on the variety and promotional pricing, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

Mango producers in Mexico, Haiti and Brazil exported about 3.1 million boxes the week ended Aug. 3, in line with the amount reported a year ago, according to the National Mango Board. Overall mango volumes from Mexico are down 3% compared to the same time in 2018. [Full Story](#)

Arcadia Biosciences Inc. won USDA approval for drought-tolerant soybeans developed in partnership with Bioceres Crop Solutions Corp. The company anticipates initial sales in Argentina through its Verdeca joint venture, following import approval from China, reported *Sacramento Business Journal*. [Full Story](#)

Bayer is conducting field trials of short-stature corn that grow

on stalks about two-thirds the height of conventional varieties. The shorter varieties use less water and produce more corn, which the company believes could become the leading variety grown commercially, reported *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. [Full Story](#)