

Market News

About 70% of Illinois is in a drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The National Weather Service issued predictions for the remainder of summer, calling for above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation in the region into September, reported *Chicago Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

A combination of lower supplies and higher demand pushed broccoli prices to levels unusual for June, with f.o.b.s doubling in the past month. The strong market can be traced largely to reduced supplies from the Salinas and Santa Maria growing regions of California, the product of rainy weather in early spring, reported *The Packer Online*. [Full Story](#)

Favorable growing conditions in the Northwest are boding well for the 2012 stone fruit crop, and according to the sales manager for E.W. Brandt & Sons, pricing is also good. Overall stonefruit volume is expected to be up "significantly over last year" due in part to younger trees that came into production, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

USDA reported 56 percent of the U.S. corn crop in good or excellent condition in the week ended June 24, down from 63 percent a week ago and 68 percent at this time last year.

Hot, dry conditions have pervaded many corn-growing states in June, stressing the early-planted crop more in some states than others. For example, while 68 percent of the Iowa corn crop was rated in good or excellent condition, just 37 percent of the Illinois crop and just 27 percent of the Indiana crop were that highly.

In the 18 states that grow much of the U.S. corn crop, 14 percent were rated in poor or very poor condition, up from 9 percent a week ago and 9 percent at this time last year.

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2012 is estimated at 96.4 million acres, up 5% from last year and represents the highest planted acreage in the U.S. since 1937. Growers expect to harvest 88.9 million acres for grain, up 6% from last year. Soybean planted area for 2012 is estimated at 76.1 million acres, up 1% from last year and is the third highest on record. All wheat planted area is estimated at 56.0 million acres, up 3% from 2011. [USDA Report](#)

Even with potential losses from heavy rain on June 26, the

Northwest cherry industry still anticipates shipping a crop of about 20 million boxes, stated the president of the Washington State Fruit Commission and Northwest Cherry Growers. Damage to the Bing variety, the largest variety by volume, is in the range of 5% to 10%, reported *Yakima Herald*. [Full Story](#)

A drought in the Corn Belt and elsewhere in the Midwest pushed the bushel price of corn up about 27% in the past month alone. There is little sign of rain in the near future, a forecast that could soon push up food costs across the country, claim meteorologists, reported *The Washington Post*.

California's ban on foie gras takes effect July 1. Any restaurant serving the item will be fined up to \$1,000, reported *Reuters*.