

Market News

Chile's fruit industry is predicting a harvest volume similar to that of last year in spite of favorable weather conditions during this last winter months. As severe drought continues to adversely affect a large area of table grape production, output is expected to be similar in volume than the previous year. [USDA Report](#)

Western Farm Press profiles a California grower growing blackberries without soil. As government regulators continue to clamp down on the use of crop protection materials in agriculture, he is well aware of the potential impact over the impending loss of the fumigant methyl bromide in California agriculture. Preplant fumigants kill soil-borne diseases including verticillium wilt and fusarium wilt key diseases in berry production - plus soil-borne pests and weeds. [Full Story](#)

Corn will drive the commodity markets, soybeans will help to make things interesting, and there's always the chance of a margin squeeze next year, predicts a senior economist with the American Farm Bureau. It appears likely that continued strong worldwide demand for corn and soybeans will lead to higher projected prices as the October balance sheet from the World Agricultural Outlook Board shows a U.S. harvested corn acreage for 2012 of 87.4 million acres with an average yield of 122.8 bushels per acre, down 24.4 bushels from last year, reported *Southeast Farm Press*. [Full Story](#)

Bayer CropScience and AgraQuest kicked off a cross-country mobile laboratory tour Oct. 29 in Oxnard, stated the marketing and communications specialist for Bayer CropScience. The mobile lab will travel around the U.S. and make stops in major agricultural centers to educate growers about AgraQuest's biopesticide products and Bayer CropScience's products and the science and technology behind them, according to the head of strategy and business management for biologics for AgraQuest, reported *The Packer Online*. [Full Story](#)

Following a recent growth trend, sales of U.S. fresh berries will continue to expand by 7 % per year over the next three years, according to a report released by Rabobank's Food and Agribusiness Research and Advisory group. Despite an upward sales momentum,

the report finds that berry growers and grower-shippers will be challenged to maintain profitability due to a number of factors. The report cites escalating production costs, resource constraints, import competition and the sheer market power of retailers as reasons why producer margins will continue to face pressure, reported *Western Farm Press*. [Full Story](#)

United Fresh and AMS are offering three courses of the Produce Inspection Training Program in 2013. These sessions are designed to help produce industry members better understand the breadth of the total produce inspection process. The program is offered in two specialized courses. "Fundamentals of Produce Inspection" focuses on topics such as inspection essentials, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, sampling procedures and general market principles, reported *Fruit Growers News*. [Full Story](#)

With the 2012 harvest nearing completion, pistachio growers in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada are expecting a record crop of around 550 million-lbs., but that number is down from a pre-harvest estimate of around 600,000-lbs., according to the executive director of American Pistachio Growers association. There are currently about 250,000 acres of pistachios planted in the four states (98% of that in California), and currently only 145,000 acres are producing crops. Based on industry data, the current plantings are expected to boost the crop size to 800 million-lbs. by 2016, double what it was in 2009, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

Baloian Farms is partnering with Mexico-based Cueto Produce on a hothouse program that will expand bell pepper production for the Fresno, CA-based grower-shipper. Red, yellow and orange bell peppers will be offered in a variety of pack styles. Bulk product will be available in the Biomassur label. The Mexican program starts this month and is expected to run through May, reported *The Packer Online*. [Full Story](#)

It is with regret that we share the news that John F. Woodhouse, of Houston, died on October 29, 2012. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Marilyn (Lyn) Woodhouse.

Born November 30, 1930 in Wilmington, DE, he graduated from Wesleyan University and Harvard Business School. He started his career with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Toronto. Subsequent positions were with the Ford Motor Company and as treasurer of Cooper Industries. He joined Sysco Corporation at its formation in 1969 as CFO and a founding director, eventually becoming chairman and CEO. A service in celebration of John's life will be held at St. Thomas Presbyterian Church in Houston at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 10. To view an on-line obituary, [click here](#).

As of Nov. 5, U.S. average diesel fuel prices were \$4.010 per gallon, down 0.020 cents per gallon from a week ago, and up \$0.123 from one year ago. [Full Story](#)

The Thanksgiving holiday will see relatively cheap turkeys this year as many retailers locked in costs before a drought drove up U.S. feed prices this year and doubled the cost of producing a pound of turkey meat. Retail prices for frozen turkeys have been consistent in recent weeks, with whole frozen turkeys selling for \$1.62/lb. in September, up from \$1.57/lb. two years ago, according to ERS. Managing partner Jim Hertel of Willard Bishop cautioned that even if turkey wholesale prices continue to rise, savvy retailers will eat as much of the difference as possible, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Promotions of U.S. agricultural exports may soon run out without renewal of the farm bill. In a letter to leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives in early November, the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports urged action on a new five-year farm bill during the lame duck session. With the expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill on Sept. 30, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service currently has no authority to run market promotion and development programs including the \$200 million per year Market Access Program and \$30 million per year Foreign Market Development program for fiscal year 2013, according to the letter to Speaker of the House, reported *The Packer Online*. [Full Story](#)

Buyers should expect fewer navels but bigger volumes of grapefruit and tangerines as Florida's early season shipments move to larger volumes. The season is also bringing

smaller-sized fruit, grower-shippers claim. Grower-shippers began harvesting in late September and early October, about a week earlier than normal. Grower-shippers claim tangerine quality is high and report the state expects to ship fewer navel oranges. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Oct. 11 initial season forecast, Florida is expected to produce 2.2 million equivalent cartons of navels, 17% fewer than last year, reported *The Packer Online*. [Full Story](#)

Brussels sprouts' prices will be down slightly from last year's record high, according to farmers. Farmers along the Central Coast report they have harvested about half of the Brussels sprout crop, and that quality is improved from last year. Farmers stated relatively mild weather should help this year's crop stay about on par with harvest volumes from 2011, reported *California Farm Bureau Federation*. [Full Story](#)

European wheat futures extended gains on Nov. 6 to set new contract highs as poor U.S. crop ratings reinforced expectations of tightening global supply while a weak euro maintained bullish export prospects for European wheat, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

A surge in the cost of feed grain after the recent drought stripped many livestock farmers of profit and set off a chain of events that threatens to drive up world meat prices in 2013. The global economic downturn has made it difficult for farmers to pass on rising costs to cash-strapped consumers, and they have sought to scale back production plans in the face of mounting losses. In the pork industry, this has meant slaughtering breeding sows, which in the short-term can actually increase meat supplies, with the eventual decline in production not felt until 2013, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Dozens of citrus growers who use treated wastewater to irrigate crops and fend off freezes already get it for a bargain rate or pay nothing, but now some Orange County commissioners want to make sure they always get it free. Orange leaders have agreed to explore talks with Orlando, their partners in the treatment program, to drop the current 19-cents-per-1,000-gallons price to zero for citrus growers. It would take about a 7%

price increase for other residential and commercial users of reclaimed water to make up about \$206,000 in lost annual revenue by 2014, according to officials. More than two decades ago, growers agreed to take treated water off the desperate governments' hands when no one else wanted it. Now, though, the recycled water is a sought-after commodity for irrigation of all kinds. Growers state that if they can't get it free, they likely will sell off the last of their land to developers, reported *Orlando Sentinel*.

[Full Story](#)

Giumarra International Berry expects to import more blueberries from the Southern Hemisphere this season.

Chilean air shipments could begin arriving in mid-November, with the first vessel shipments following the week of Dec. 3, and fruit should ship into April, when U.S. blueberry seasons begin, according to the general manager of Giumarra International Berry. The company also expects to import more organic blueberries from Chile this season, reported *The Packer Online*.

[Full Story](#)

Using state-of-the art genomics may predict whether a piece of beef will be tender enough, according to researchers at the Herbivore Research Unit of the National Agronomic Research Institute (INRA) in Theix, France. Until now, the meat industry has been using low-tech methods to assess beef quality, based on carcass weight, hanging method and pattern of muscle fat stripes, also known as marbling. However, traditional approaches may lack competitiveness at an industrial scale, reported *Science Daily*.

[Full Story](#)

Researchers found that climate change will reduce the number of suitable growing locations for the Arabica coffee plant, according to a study published in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

Using computer modeling, researchers at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London predicted the number of suitable growing locations for the coffee plant, which provides about 70% of the world's coffee supply, will drop somewhere between 65% to 99% by 2080. The researchers also partly blamed climate change for rising coffee prices, which have reached 30-year highs, reported *The Washington Post*. [Full Story](#) (Free Registration Required)

The Washington state Department of Fish & Wildlife will consider bans on octopus harvesting near popular Seattle beaches and possibly other areas in Puget Sound. Currently, giant Pacific octopus can be hunted year round with a state shellfish license, and is limited to one catch per day. The department will consider designating Seacrest Park a marine protected area to prohibiting hunting giant Pacific octopus anywhere in the state, reported *The Seattle Times*. [Full Story](#)

Scientists have come up with a new land development concept that could change to incorporate both climate protection and intensive farming at Technische Universitt Mnchen (TUM). The new model is tailored to medium-sized farms in South America and sees farmers transitioning from large-scale monoculture to more diverse crop mixtures spread over smaller plots interspersed with wooded areas - a switch that can bring significant financial benefits, reported *Science Daily*. [Full Story](#).

California lettuce grower-shippers report good quality, normal volumes and steady markets as the deal transitions from Salinas and Huron to the Arizona and California desert. Coastline Produce was shipping solely from the Huron, CA, region the week of Nov. 5, stated a salesman. The week of Nov. 12, the company's mix was expected to be 75% Huron, 25% Yuma, Ariz. By the following week, Coastline expects all of its lettuce to be sourced from Yuma, the salesman continued, reported *The Packer Online*. [Full Story](#).