

**Western South Dakota ranchers lost tens of thousands of cattle in last weekend's blizzard, and many will dispose of carcasses in pits set to open Oct. 14.** Cattle ranchers dealing with weather-related losses would typically turn to the federal Livestock Indemnity Program, but that farm bill provision expired and its future is in flux due to congressional gridlock and the continuing federal shutdown, reported *Twincities.com*. [Full Story](#)

**Processing demand is rising for sweet potatoes.** Grower-shippers stated they're selling more to processing customers to satisfy growing demand for frozen and other processed sweet potato products, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**The Czech Republic's total 2013 grain harvest is expected to be up more than 22% compared with last year's harvest, thanks to improving crop yields of most grains excluding rye amid favorable weather in key summer months,** according to the Czech Statistics Office. The overall harvest is now estimated at 6.898 million metric tons this year, higher than then 6.746 million metric tons forecast a month earlier and well up from the 5.645 million tons of total grains harvested in 2012, reported *The Wall Street Journal*. [Full Story](#) (WSJ Subscription Required)

**Soybean prices rose, rebounding from the lowest price in almost two months on speculation rain in the U.S. will slow harvesting,** reported *Bloomberg.com*. [Full Story](#)

**Total U.S. retail sales of orange juice fell to 563.2 million gallons during the 2012-13 season that ended Sept. 28, the lowest level in 15 seasons, stated the Florida Department of Citrus, citing Nielsen data.** That was the lowest sales volume since the 1998-99 season, the oldest data available from the state agency, according to a *Wall Street Journal* analysis, reported *Dow Jones Newswires*. [Full Story](#)

**Rice stockpiles in Thailand are expanding to a record as a government program to buy production spurs farmers to plant the most crops ever and add to a global glut.** Reserves in Thailand will increase 24% to 15.5 million metric tons, reported *Bloomberg.com*. [Full Story](#)

**The Vidalia Onion Business Council set the mandatory Vidalia onion packing date for 2014.** Vidalias may not be packed or shipped before April 21, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**Cocoa prices rose on speculation data will show bean processing increased in North America just as chocolate makers need to buy futures.** The so-called cocoa grind in North America may have risen 6% to 10% in the third quarter, reported *Bloomberg.com*. [Full Story](#)

**The U.K.'s oat harvest may be the largest in about 40 years after farmers boosted planting.** Production may be 850,000 to 1 million metric tons, the highest since the late 1970s, reported *Bloomberg.com*. [Full Story](#)

**California navel shippers and officials reported excellent flavor and size.** About 88 million cartons of California navels are expected to ship this season, about 2% less than last season, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**High-quality South American mangoes should ship in promotable volumes through the end of the year.** Brazilian volumes were peaking the week of Oct. 7, while Ecuadorian product was just starting to increase, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**The Florida avocado industry faces a loss following the devastating effects of exotic pests and disease on avocado tree crops.** The commercial avocado industry in Florida consists of about 7,500 acres, 60% of the total tropical fruit crop acreage, about 951 growers and 35 registered avocado handlers and shippers, reported *Miami Today*. [Full Story](#)

**Avocados From Mexico launched a national marketing campaign, "Avocado All-Stars," designed to differentiate and distinguish avocados from Mexico from those of other countries, as well as from processed avocado products,** reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**Corn prices rose on speculation China has been buying American supplies of the grain at a time when investors lacked data on export sales because of the U.S. budget impasse and partial government shutdown,** reported *Bloomberg.com*. [Full Story](#)

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**Florida citrus and strawberry growers face crop losses in the early part of their 2012-13 season because the two-week-old federal government shutdown has delayed processing of agricultural guest workers**, reported *The Lakeland Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

**Per-capita juice consumption in the U.S. dropped to 35.5 liters last year, from 39.9 liters in 2007**, according to *Euromonitor International*. Last year, U.S. retail sales of PepsiCos Tropicana were \$1.5 billion, down from \$2 billion in 2007. Coca-Colas Minute Maid sales were down 11.5% in that period, to \$1.3 billion, reports *Bloomberg Businessweek*. [Full Story](#)

**San Francisco-based Jacobs, Malcolm & Burt Produce will add organic asparagus to its product line in November**, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**Alsum Farms & Produce is nearing completion of its 15,000-sq.-ft. Wisconsin specialty potato packaging facility and expects to have it up and running in early November**, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

**Wheat analysts are the most bearish since July on speculation the grains biggest premium to corn in three years will curb demand after farmers reaped a record crop; more than 25% of the crop planted for harvesting next year is off to an above-average start**, reported *Bloomberg.com*. [Full Story](#)