

IMPORT BRIEF

BROUGHT TO YOU
BY ROLAND FOODS

Roland

GLOBAL EXPERTS IN
SPECIALTY FOODS®



JULY
2014

NEWS FOR FOOD PEOPLE

anchovies • chocolate • coconut milk • lychee • mandarin oranges
mediterranean olive oil • peppers • water chestnuts • el niño returns



news from *The West*

Cocoa prices and notably cocoa butter, have continued to climb a great deal from last year's levels. This affects our **CHOCOLATE** and Chocolate products. Currently, there is speculation as to whether prices will continue to rise or level off. Large manufacturers have begun to pass along higher prices to consumers for their **CHOCOLATE** products.

ANCHOVY fishing has yielded smaller catches thus far. Although there have been some catches of anchovies off the coast of Morocco, quantities have consistently been small, forcing major suppliers to pay high prices for fish. South American fishing, despite an early beginning, continues to face difficulties. This is mostly attributed to El Niño, warmer waters forcing fish to remain in deeper waters, further from the shore, making catches more challenging and costly for fishermen.

Every year at this time growers and packers are negotiating contracts for **PEPPERS** for the new pack; product will begin shipping from the new crop in July. Many packers report that their costs of raw material, production, ingredients and labor have increased.

upcoming
food shows • **SIAL 2014 • Paris • 10/19**
10/23

Mediterranean Olive Oil

The **OLIVE OIL** sector is in a difficult situation because prices have increased every day over the past few weeks. Furthermore, packers are in a similar situation as in 2012, when there was a bumper crop followed by short crop in 2013.

One of the largest producing countries, Spain, produced a good crop in 2014 (about 1,750,000 m/tons) however projections for 2015 are estimated to be 40-50% smaller. Moreover, we expect very little to no carryover product due to a higher-than expected demand for Spanish oil by Greece, Tunisia and Turkey, who had very small harvests in 2014. These countries needed to import Spanish oil to cover their demand.

EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL market prices have increased in past weeks, and are expected to continue increasing in the upcoming months, due to the following:

1. Spain has most of the available stock and is trying to push prices higher.
2. There have been more situations of FDA rejections of E.V.O.O. containing pesticide residues. Packers must now double check and strictly select raw material ensuring there is no trace of pesticide.
3. Historically, there is an increase in demand of E.V.O.O. during summer months.

POMACE OLIVE OIL prices have also increased due to shorter availability, but the increase is less than extra virgin. Also, the US Dollar strengthening against the Euro has helped mitigate the cost increase.

We do not expect any reprieve from the price increases until, perhaps, after summer. We should have better information by the end of September, as to the direction of the new crop and possibilities of price decreases.

"Extra Virgin Olive Oil market prices have increased in past weeks and are expected to continue increasing in the upcoming months..."



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Roland® Grapeseed Oil
item #70608
2/5 Liter PET Jug
Product of Spain
Smoke Point: 420°F
Kosher
Trans fat-free
Cholesterol-free
Gluten-free



product spotlight • Grapeseed Oil

With a light, neutral flavor, grapeseed oil is perfect for just about any style of cuisine. It does not overpower ingredients, and will not leave a greasy aftertaste. Grapeseed oil's high smoke point of 420°F makes it more versatile than olive oil. It is also a healthier alternative to many other oils because it contains vitamin E, antioxidants and omega-6 fatty acids.

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JULY 2014

news from *The East*



There are almost no **MANDARIN ORANGES** remaining from China. Some packers are peddling 11 oz. Mandarins from 2011 and 2012 at low prices, but there are shortages of Mandarins in 15 oz., 30 oz., & #10 tins. In those pack formats, packers ask a premium for the few remaining stocks of Whole Mandarins, while Broken Mandarins are completely gone.

WATER CHESTNUTS are in extremely short supply in China, and packers do not have quantities on hand. The new crop is expected in December.

Suppliers report that the quality of **LYCHEE** for the new crop is better than last year, but the supply is slightly smaller. Weather held steady during the blossoming/flowering period, but rainstorms knocked many Lychee off trees after blossoming.

Raw material for **COCONUT MILK** in Southeast Asia remains scarce, and packers have delayed production schedules by a few weeks, as collection of raw material is slow.

new • Roland® Soy Sauce item • New 1 Gallon Size

Roland® Soy Sauce is naturally fermented for a rich, umami flavor and dark brown color. Its great viscosity that is not too thin or too thick, makes it a great addition to stir-fries, marinades, or used as a condiment.



Roland® Soy Sauce
item #87088
4/1 Gallon PET Jug
Naturally Fermented
No MSG
Kosher

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The Return of El Niño

A negative effect on international agriculture and fishing industries by this weather phenomenon is a strong possibility in the second half of 2014 and into 2015. El Niño affects water temperature and weather along the equator from Southern and Southeast Asia to the Americas. Here is a brief outline of the areas and products that are expected to be affected by the unstable temperatures of the Pacific Ocean.

SEAFOOD

Three factors could adversely affect Seafood supply in affected areas due to El Niño.

Ocean temperatures and current changes can affect the direction that fish normally travel, making it difficult for fishermen to follow their established patterns.

More typhoons and hurricanes mean vessels would be delayed in catching fish and returning to harbor.

Changes in the concentration of salt surrounding seashores affect wildlife drastically. Unexpected drought can cause the water surrounding estuaries to have higher salt concentration due to less fresh river water emptying into the sea. Conversely, if El Niño brings excessive rain, too much fresh water will flow into the ocean and dilute the salt concentration near shorelines. In both situations, shellfish – **clams** and **oysters** – that normally grow along shorelines will see shortages.

AGRICULTURE

If El Niño appears, India, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia are expected to experience higher temperatures and reduced rainfall. This could negatively impact the harvest of **tropical fruits** and **vegetables** that are heavily dependent on rainfall.

In South America, temperatures are expected to be warmer than normal, but reports are inconclusive as to whether the region will experience more arid or more damp conditions. Either extreme would negatively affect the supply of **artichokes, peppers** and **asparagus**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ME,
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This information is intended for the general knowledge of our customers and contains material compiled from other sources which has not been independently verified.

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