

MARKET NEWS

Avian flu was discovered on a Rembrandt Foods egg farm and four other farms in Iowa. The latest spread could bring the outbreak to over 20 million infected birds and result in the biggest death toll due to the disease in U.S. history. USDA is working to confirm the latest cases, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Chicken shipments to foreign buyers will drop to 8.5% to 6.7 billion-lbs., an eight-year low. Besides the outbreak of avian flu in the Midwest that resulted in countries blocking imports, a strong dollar boosted the cost of U.S. exports and plunging oil prices in Angola, the second-largest buyer of U.S. broiler meat last year, reduced revenue to purchase poultry, reported *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. [Full Story](#)

Freezing temperatures in North Carolina's Central Piedmont region affected the wheat crop. Experts note that it is too early to tell what total yield loss will be, but some are estimating the crop will yield 25% less due to the freeze, reported *Southeast Farm Press*. [Full Story](#)

Ample rain and sunshine in Georgia was favorable to crops including sweet corn, squash, eggplant and cucumber. Many expect supply to remain strong for the next 60 days. However, labor shortages in the state may prevent growers from picking and packing the crops in a timely manner, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

Monsanto approached Syngenta AG about a takeover, according to sources. Syngenta officials have concerns the deal would face antitrust hurdles but Monsanto planned to sell portions of the combined business to overcome the problem, reported *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. [Full Story](#)

Boulevard Acquisition Corp. will acquire AgroFresh, The Dow Chemical Company's post-harvest specialty chemical business. Upon completion of the transaction, AgroFresh will become a stand-alone publicly listed company and Dow will retain a non-consolidated minority ownership position in the company. [Full Story](#)

A Louisiana House bill would increase the oyster lease rate by 50% to bring in about \$400,000 more annually. The bill would place the money, along with the about \$800,000 already generated from the \$2 per acre annual leases, in the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Fund. It would be used to aid with redeveloping the grounds that have suffered since the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, reported *Times-Picayune*. [Full Story](#)

Mango handlers voted to continue USDA's Mango Promotion, Research and Information order. The promotion is funded by an assessment of three-quarters of a cent per pound on all fresh mangos handled domestically and imported to the U.S. [Full Story](#)

Maine groundfishermen hurt by quota cuts will receive \$640,000 in disaster relief. About 40 crews will be paid the money over the next 18 months to help make up for financial losses from limits imposed in 2013, reported *Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)