

The California Canning Peach Association ratified a 2015 price agreement between growers and Del Monte Foods. The new price, at \$460 per ton, is a 21% increase from 2014. This year's peach harvest is expected to be the smallest in half a century, reported *Pacific Coast Producers*. [Full Story](#)

Grapes from Sonora, Mexico, should hit the market by the first week of May, but producers are holding back due to large amounts of Chilean product remaining available. Growers from the region expect to ship 16 million boxes this year, a small drop from last year's total, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

A stricter quota on cod taken from the Gulf of Maine will also affect the catch of similar fish, like haddock, pollock and hake, meaning New England fishermen and seafood dealers expect a year of meager supply and high prices for several popular fish. The restrictions on groundfish might motivate some fishermen to diversify and seek other species, such as mackerel and monkfish, according to the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, reported *CBS*. [Full Story](#)

The Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions consist of higher value shellfish species but are smaller when measured by volume, according to Islandsbanki's *United States Seafood Market Report*. Landings increased by 5.6% to 4.5 million metric tons in 2013, with the total value of the U.S. catch increasing steadily since the early 2000s to \$5.5 billion in 2013. [Full Report](#)

Daybreak Foods Inc. confirmed the presence of avian flu at its Lake Mills, WI, facility. The facility will become productive again after a cleanup process that will include euthanizing all 800,000 chickens, reported the *Wisconsin State Journal*. [Full Story](#)

Gummy stem blight was confirmed in northwest and northeast Florida fields by watermelon growers in the region. The destructive foliar fungal disease can cause yield losses in excess of 50%, reported *Southeast Farm Press*. [Full Story](#)

Bregal Partners acquired Peabody Corporation's scallop fleet, including eight Virginia-based vessels and shore assets. The move provides the investment firm with an entry into the North Atlantic sea scallop industry, and Bregal plans to expand its market position by actively pursuing more vessel purchases. [Full Story](#)

CitraPac Inc. plans to build a \$9 million manufacturing facility to produce Fruit Pearls. The new plant coincides with Florida Citrus

Commission revising its contract with the company so that Fruit Pearls, a treat made from flash-frozen fruit, can be sold to the school cafeteria market, reported *The Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

Oregon farmers, researchers and foresters are on watch for pests that could destroy large swathes of agricultural land after a warm winter. Bugs caused about \$20 million in damages in Oregon in 2014, mostly contained to fruit crops, reported *The Oregonian*. [Full Story](#)

NMFS proposed the annual commercial bluefin catch limit be set at 5.1 million-lbs. for 2015 for the northeast Atlantic. The public comment period ends May 12. [Full Notice](#)

Tyson Foods Inc. will eliminate the use of human antibiotics in its U.S. broiler chicken flocks by September 2017. Tyson is also forming working groups with independent farmers and others in the company's beef, pork and turkey supply chains to discuss ways to reduce the use of human antibiotics on those farms. [Full Story](#)

Sixty percent of raw samples of frozen shrimp tested positive for one or more types of bacteria and seven of the samples tested positive for MRSA, according to a study by Consumer Reports. Eleven samples of raw shrimp had antibiotic residues. The FDA last year tested less than 1% of imported shrimp, but an FDA spokeswoman stated that most bacteria found in raw shrimp is killed during the cooking process, reported *Sun Sentinel*. [Full Story](#), [Full Report](#)

Costco switched to Greece from Italy as the source of the extra-virgin olive oil for its Kirkland Signature 2-L bottle. The move comes as production in Italy is expected to drop 34% this year due to a hot spring, a rainy summer and an olive-eating fly. Prices increased for Italian extra-virgin olive oil to \$2.97 a pound in March from producers, 84% more than a year earlier, reported *Seattle Times*. [Full Story](#)

Minnesota farmers' spring planting pace is well ahead of last year despite cool, wet weather for the week ending April 26, according to USDA. Farmers planted 38% of the Minnesota corn crop, nine days ahead of the five-year average, while sugar beet planting is 85% complete, more than three weeks ahead of the five-year average. [Full Report](#)

California lettuce is in short supply after warm temperatures in January and February pushed the winter vegetables to peak harvest early. Supply chain caps are pushing prices to nearly double when compared to last year, reported *Los Angeles Times*. [Full Story](#)

Florida avocado growers are working to stop the spread of laurel wilt, which experts predict could devastate the avocado industry. The disease is spread by the ambrosia beetle. To combat the disease, heat-sensing drones survey avocado groves before dogs are sent in for targeted searches for afflicted trees. Researchers and farmers are attempting to halt the fungus before it can advance to California, reported *Miami Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Florida is harvesting heavy volumes of spring sweet corn later in the season than usual. Nearly one million crates of a corn a week are being packed. The crop quality is considered great and high volume indicates promotional supplies will be available through Memorial Day, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Arizona honey producers reported higher prices on decreased supply as bee colonies produce less. Many producers keep several hundred more hives than in the past, but due to a combination of wet winter weather conditions and unhealthy hives, they produce less than 15 years ago, reported *Miami Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Avian flu was detected at five additional Iowa poultry farms, affecting more than 6 million birds. Additional tests are pending, and positive results would bring the number of infected birds in Iowa to 9.5 million. The affected farms were quarantined, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Minnesota officials estimated the state will need \$7.3 million over the next year to deal with the outbreak. State officials approved a month-long extension to a state of emergency to battle the bird flu toll that more than doubled in the last week. A total of 55 turkey farms were hit, costing farmers more than 3 million birds, reported *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

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Hundreds of truckers walked off the job at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach over pay and employment status. Port authorities said the stoppage is not expected to disrupt international operations, reported *Sacramento Bee*. [Full Story](#)

Archer Daniels Midland Company will improve its seed oil processing flexibility at plants in Enderlin, ND and Windsor, Canada. The Enderlin facility will be able to crush soybeans, canola seeds and sunflower seeds and the Windsor facility will have a flex line capable of processing canola and soybeans. The company expects the changes to improve plant efficiency and profitability and make it more capable of responding to shifts in customer demand. [Full Story](#)

Growers are considering dry beans as a crop alternative for other grains because prices, including those for corn, wheat and soybean, are low this Spring, according to Furmano's. Most states are projecting an increase in dry bean acres for the 2015 crop, which may have been higher if not for a planting seed stock shortage caused by early frost last fall in seed growing regions. [Full Story](#)

Ash from the Calbuco volcanic eruption is choking fish off the coast of Chile, one the world's top salmon-producing countries. Although official damage estimates were not yet released, the National Fishing Service estimates 20 million fish died due to the ash, reported *Tampa Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

Spring vegetables from the Coachella Valley are off to an early start and demand is exceeding supply in some cases. Green beans and green bell peppers started harvesting on April 6, with eggplant following the next week. Red bell peppers are scheduled to begin harvesting on May 1, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Michigan's commercial fishing industry's value increased while its total catch decreased last year, according to state officials. Commercial operators landed about 3.4 million-lbs., 200,000-lbs. below 2013, but gross dockside value rose more than 5% due to an increase in whitefish wholesale prices, reported *The Washington Times*. [Full Story](#)

South Dakota Senators asked USDA for assistance in containing the H5N2 avian flu virus that is affecting the state's poultry farms. The senators also requested that USDA not interrupt turkey product exports as the state heavily relies on exports to keep the agricultural sector profitable, reported *Miami Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Norton Sound red king crab winter commercial season will close April 30 to minimize pot loss and ghost fishing, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This year's harvest is already 50% above the previous record harvest of 62,000-lbs. in 2013, with the harvest

expected to approach 100,000-lbs. with an ex-vessel value of approximately \$600,000 by the end of the season. [Full Story](#)

EuroChem will open a \$1.5 billion fertilizer plant and distribution center in St. John the Baptist Parish, LA. The Russian company previously deposited \$12 million with the state for a 2,150-acre site in Iberville Parish in 2013 for the plant. The company has until 2016 to work with state and local officials to find a new buyer for the site, reported *Times-Picayune*. [Full Story](#)

Maine's tribes want state officials to negotiate an agreement about the way they harvest commercial fish. The Passamaquoddies and state regulators clashed last year over a state requirement that tribal elver fishermen be subject to individual quotas and tribe members are looking to expand into fishing for lobsters and clams, reported *Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

NOAA is prohibiting directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Aleutian Islands subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area to prevent exceeding the initial total allowable catch limit. The rule is effective May 1 through Dec. 31. [Full Notice](#)