

MARKET NEWS

Chilean import volumes of grapes should increase in mid-to-late December, according to Giumarra Cos. California grapes are still on the market, causing some packers to hold off sending product to the U.S. In addition, weather-related factors in Chile in November slowed down production, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

Florida citrus farmers are using thermotherapy to thwart citrus greening. Citrus trees are covered by a plastic tent, which is then fed steam to create a steam bath that raises the tree's internal temperature. Researchers found that heating a citrus tree's internal temperature will kill greening bacteria, reported *The Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

Broccoli, cauliflower and celery are being promoted at markets but are undersupplied by 25% when compared to historical averages, according to Church Brothers LLC. Cauliflower prices as of Dec. 10 are nearly double when compared to the year-ago period, while prices for celery cartons from Oxnard, CA, went up \$8 in a week, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Massachusetts poultry farms are taking measures to protect against avian flu due to concerns that migrating birds may have brought the virus to the state. Officials implemented a surveillance program, launched public awareness efforts and are coordinating with state and federal agencies to develop plans to act swiftly and aggressively if the virus is discovered, reported the *Boston Globe*. [Full Story](#)

Horticultural operations sold a total of \$13.8 billion in specialty crops, floriculture and nursery items in 2014, an 18% increase from 2009, according to USDA. The number of U.S. horticulture operations increased 8% to 23,221 during 2014. [Full Report](#)

South Florida farmers are seeking disaster aid after more than a week of heavy rain triggered widespread flooding. Although the final tally is still being calculated, farmers in the region estimate they've lost millions of dollars in crops due to the standing water in the fields, reported *Miami Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Iowa farmland values dropped 3.9% this year to a statewide average of \$7,633 an acre, according to an Iowa State University survey. It was the second straight year of decline as farm profits were squeezed by low corn and soybean prices and high costs for seeds, fertilizer and other inputs, reported *Des Moines Register*. [Full Story](#)

Ardent Mills committed to help wheat growers double organic acreage by 2019 as the company projects demand to grow. Growers who join Organic Initiative 2019 will have access to direct support services, workshops and long-term contracts for transitional and organic wheat

bushels. [Full Story](#)

Florida juice processors' production costs will rise this season due to a smaller orange crop that will not allow them to run at peak efficiency.

Florida growers will not produce enough oranges to supply not-from-concentrate orange juice products, which represent about 60% of total orange juice sales, forcing processors to import more not-from-concentrate juice or increase the retail price, reported *The Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

Michigan's sugar beet growers harvested a record crop this year, according to the The Michigan Sugar Co. The grower-owned cooperative reported that the total 2015 production was roughly five million tons, representing a record-setting yield of 31.6 tons an acre, reported *Wichita Eagle*. [Full Story](#)

Global walnut production will grow at 7% annually through 2020, with a projected global supply of just over six billion in-shell pounds by the end of the period, according to Rabobank. Californian growers can take advantage of the region's advanced infrastructure and marketing organization to harness a growing global demand despite the rising global production. [Full Story](#)

Minnesota lifted its last remaining quarantines on poultry farms that were infected with avian flu. About 90% of the 108 infected farms were cleared to restock by Oct. 6, and the remaining 10% of farms completed the cleaning, disinfection and testing processes necessary to begin restocking since that time, reported *Yakima Herald-Republic*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. turkey eggs in incubators on Dec. 1 totaled 25.6 million, a 12% decrease from the same period last year, according to USDA. Turkey poults hatched during November totaled 21.1 million, down 4% when compared to the year-ago period. Net poults placed during the month were up 2% from the same time period last year. [Full Report](#)

Asparagus volumes should remain lighter than the historical average as El Nino conditions threaten to complicate January production levels. Peruvian asparagus exports received in Miami were 20% lower due to the weather conditions, according to Ayco Farms Inc., reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

China National Chemical Corp. Chairman Ren Jianxin met with Syngenta officials in Europe as the Chinese chemical firm moves ahead with a takeover plan, according to people familiar with the matter. ChemChina is discussing a revised proposal to acquire Syngenta, while Syngenta continues to hold informal talks about a combination with Monsanto, reported *AgNet.net*. [Full Story](#)

USDA proposed a rule for free and restricted percentages for the 2015-2016 tart cherry harvests in Michigan, New York, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. The action would establish the proportion of

washington and wisconsin. The action would establish the proportion of tart cherries from the 2015 crop which may be handled in commercial outlets at 80% free and 20% restricted, while revising carryout volume of the fruit to 55 million-lbs. for the season. [Full Notice](#)

Chilly overnight temperatures in the central San Joaquin Valley are proving ideal for citrus growers in the region, according to California Citrus Mutual. The organization noted some growers are using wind machines through the night to protect Mandarin and Navel orange crops, reported *Fresno Bee*. [Full Story](#)

The first shipment of Chilean winter fruit arrived in the port of Wilmington, DE, marking the opening of the export season for Chile. More than 618,450 boxes of fresh cherries, blueberries, apricots, peaches, nectarines and table grapes were delivered, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

High temperatures are delaying the Florida strawberry harvest, and many packers in the region expect the delay to result in supply gaps. Record heat pushed the start of the harvest back to early January, with promotable volumes forecast to begin in mid-January, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. coffee warehouse stocks were at the highest levels for a November in at least 13 years as Brazil aggressively shipped coffee amid currency deflation. U.S. stocks were at approximately 5.8 million 60-kg bags in November, a 156,000 bag drop from October. The 14-year average drop from October to November is approximately 195,000 bags, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Agricultural commodities traders are taking an interest in natural foods as what was once considered a fad becomes a serious trend. However, major processors are dealing with the challenge of generating returns from specialty crops with equipment that is set up for massive volumes of interchangeable commodities, reported *Financial Times*. [Full Story](#)

Seafood caught along the Mississippi coast is safe to eat despite the red tide algae bloom that extends from Florida to Louisiana, according to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Consumers are advised to eat only the flesh of the fish, not the organs, reported *Sun Herald*. [Full Story](#)

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council raised the catch limit for spiny dogfish in 2016. The new commercial quota is 40 million-lbs., 60% higher than the original quota, reported *San Francisco Gate*. [Full Story](#)

Middle Eastern countries represent an untapped market for Hawaii's exports. according to the state Department of Agriculture's Market

Development Branch. The agency is looking to increase agricultural exports to the 40 million people living in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, reported *The Washington Times*. [Full Story](#)

The Modesto Irrigation District moved towards a major rate increase in 2016 to help pay for system upgrades. The district needs to raise about \$4.5 million to install more accurate water meters that track water sent to farmers from the Tuolumne River, reported *Modesto Bee*. [Full Story](#)

National Pecan purchased a 4,000 acre pecan orchard operation in Arizona. The purchase of the orchard is the latest in a string of acquisitions for the company, and National Pecan executives expect to continue the acquisition trend in 2016, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

EPA established tolerances for residues of pendimethalin in or on multiple commodities, including specific meats and byproducts. The agency also removed existing tolerances for the pesticide on Juneberry nuts and pistachios because they are superseded by the new rule. [Full Notice](#)

Zatarain's voluntarily recalled 8-oz. boxes of Red Beans and Rice Original due to undeclared dairy. The affected products were distributed in the Midwest and East. [Full Story](#)

The 13 major potato states held 264.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of Dec. 1, a slight drop from the same period last year, according to USDA. Potato disappearance, at 138 million cwt, was up 5% from the year-ago period. However, season-to-date shrink and loss was 9% lower than last year at 12.9 million cwt. [Full Report](#)

Organic acreage is on the rise in Oregon even though the number of organic farmers is shrinking. The total number of organic farms in the state dropped 18% between 2008 and 2014, but acreage nearly doubled from 105,600 to 204,000 during the same period, reported *Tampa Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

Warm weather brought crawfish out early, which are currently at \$4.99 a pound. Supply is currently limited because only small to medium crawfish are available. Larger crawfish will come out later in the season, reported *The State*. [Full Story](#)

Thai shrimp farmers and traders forecast domestic production to total more than 300,000 metric tons in 2016. Shrimp production will increase 10% increase from 2015's output due to the reduction of early mortality syndrome in shrimp hatcheries, reported *The Nation*. [Full Story](#)

SeaLand will begin operating a refrigerated containership route between Mexico's east coast and Philadelphia starting Jan. 26, 2016. The route will connect produce growers and packers in Altamira and Veracruz,

Mexico to distributors and retail locations in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

DuPont Pioneer and Monsanto Co. are seeking to pull out of agreements with Iowa that would require them to create about 350 jobs. Citing the downturn in the farm economy, Monsanto will not pursue a \$90 million corn plant because it is uncertain it can meet the 305 job creation requirement tied to three projects that received about \$13 million in state tax credits, reported *Des Moines Register*. [Full Story](#)

Cargill acquired Format International, a feed formulation software business. Format specializes in formulating feed for livestock, fish and pets. Cargill expects that the deal will help it improve its feed business technological capabilities, reported *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

Farm tech startups Blue River Technology and Farmobile LLC received tens of millions of dollars in investments from venture firms. Much of the money came from major agricultural firms including Monsanto Co. and Syngenta AG as the companies look for opportunities their in-house tech businesses haven't yet discovered. Blue River is developing tractor-towed robots that can examine plants and apply fertilizer as needed, while Farmobile sells transmitters that create digital records of equipment use, crop planting and pesticide application, reported *The Wall Street Journal*. [Full Story](#) (WSJ Subscription Required)