

MARKET NEWS

Cattles and calves on feed for the U.S. slaughter market totaled 10.8 million head on Dec. 1, slightly below the number on Dec. 1, 2014, according to USDA. Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.6 million head, an 11% decrease compared to the same period last year. [Full Report](#)

U.S. milk production in the 23 major states increased 0.6% in November compared to the same period last year, totaling 15.6 billion-lbs., according to USDA. Production per cow in the 23 major states averaged 1,808-lbs. in November, the highest production per cow for the month since the report began in 2003. [Full Report](#)

California navel orange growers are on track to reach an 8% volume increase compared to last season. Despite some challenges at the beginning of the season growers in the region reported excellent quality and promotable volumes for the holidays, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. lobster sales to Europe are expected to be off more than 25% this year. Lobster's status as a luxury item, coupled with a rising price because of competition from Chinese importers and a weak Euro, is motivating some consumers to not purchase the shellfish this holiday season, reported *Modesto Bee*. [Full Story](#)

New York state is outpacing the U.S. when it comes to agricultural sales. The state's sales from items such as dairy, fruit, vegetables and poultry and eggs rose 36% since 2010, 4% above the national average, thanks to large increases in peaches, honey, and poultry, reported *The State*. [Full Story](#)

Montana dairy producers are worried that proposed increases on dairy inspection fees will hurt small dairies. The proposal would nearly double the charge for milk producers and add a minimum \$725 monthly fee for processors including cheesemakers and large producers, who are not charged under current rules, reported *Wichita Eagle*. [Full Story](#)

Florida peach growers are voting on forming a peach marketing order for the state. If successfully formed, the order would fund peach marketing, research programs and negotiations of intellectual properties, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

China National Chemical Corp. raised its offer for Syngenta AG to \$44 billion and proposed a two-stage merger, according to people familiar with the matter. China National would acquire 70% initially and the remaining 30% at a future date. Syngenta is still open to discussing deals with other companies in the industry, including Monsanto, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Fruits and vegetables shipping from Central America are of high

quality, with sales of leeks, radishes, green onions and radicchio from Guatemala expected to pick up for the holidays. Honeydew melons, cantaloupe, seedless watermelons, butternut squash and spaghetti squash are now being harvested in Guatemala and Honduras, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Ten million pounds of shrimp were landed in the Gulf of Mexico in November, 20% below the thirteen-year historical average for November, according to the Southern Shrimp Alliance. Landings in Texas of two million-lbs. and Mississippi of 244,800-lbs. were the lowest recorded for the month of November since 2002. [Full Story](#)

Oregon opened the commercial razor clam and mussel harvesting seasons. State scientists note the level of domoic acid fell below a dangerous level for a second testing period in a row, spurring the opening of the season. The harvest of razor clams is still banned from the Tillamook Head south to the California border, reported *The Oregonian*. [Full Story](#) Meanwhile, **the Washington state commercial Dungeness crab fishing season will open Jan. 4** after being delayed a month due to a coastal algae bloom. Crabbers can set pots on Jan. 1, reported *San Francisco Gate*. [Full Story](#)

The pecan harvest in New Mexico is underway and yielding a decent crop, according to a Dona Ana County agriculture extension agent. Experts predict that 2015 will be a heavy crop year despite delays due to unusual weather patterns from El Nino, reported *Washington Times*. [Full Story](#)

The increasing demand for locally grown foods is leading some to consider indoor farming. Greenhouse production programs are gradually shifting to hydroponics and aquaponics food production techniques, which are quicker and take up less space to grow food, reported *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. [Full Story](#)

The growing almond industry in California is leading to a shortage of bees necessary for pollination, according to a study in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The imbalance between wild bee populations and demand for pollination is steepest in areas being used for single-crop cultivation, reported *Los Angeles Times*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. egg production totaled 7.7 billion during November, a 9% decrease from the same period last year, according to USDA. The number of egg-laying hens was down to 339 million during the month, a 7% decrease compared to the same period last year. [Full Report](#)

Romaine 24-count cartons shipped for between \$10 and \$13 on Dec. 18 from California's Coachella Valley, down from \$14 to \$17 a week earlier, according to USDA. Iceberg film wrapped 24s from Yuma, AZ, increased by about \$1 during the period, while cauliflower film wrapped

increased by about \$1 during the period, while cauliflower film wrapped 12s shipped from Yuma were over double the price encountered last year.

[Full Report](#)

Georgia's Commissioner of Natural Resources will not extend the food shrimp harvest season past the Dec. 31 close date. The closure for all shrimp harvesting activities includes commercial trawling and commercial and recreational food shrimp cast netting. The agency's trawl survey found shrimp abundance in the coastal waters of Georgia to be significantly below the long-term average. [Full Story](#)

Hawaiian coffee farmers made an agreement to continue growing coffee beans on 6,000 acres in Kau. Under the new 15-year licenses, the farmers can sublet or assign orchards if they wish to retire. The farmers were previously working with expired land licenses, reported *Washington Times*. [Full Story](#)

The Andersons Inc. will expand and double capacity at its facility in Albion, MI, due to the increased size and quality of Michigan's corn crop. The expansion is scheduled for completion in April 2017, reported *Area Development*. [Full Story](#)

The profit outlook for North Dakota crops is lean in 2016, according to an expert at the North Dakota State University Extension Service. A handful of specialty crops like lentils and mustard may be money-makers, but the projections for soybeans, which are usually profitable, don't look promising, reported *The Dickinson Press*. [Full Story](#)

The Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation published the sugar Overall Allotment Quantity, beet and cane sugar allotments and processor allocations for fiscal year 2016. The agencies also released a summary of the overall allotment quantities, sugar marketing allotments and allocations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. [Full Notice](#)

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