MARKET NEWS

**China will accept U.S. beef imports again**, reversing a ban instituted after an outbreak of mad cow disease in 2003. Chinese officials will still limit U.S. beef imports, only allowing in cattle younger than 30 months. USDA estimates this year's Chinese imports of beef and veal will be double that of 2013, reported *Time*. [**Full Story**](http://time.com/4505507/china-us-beef-meat-food-imports/)

**U.S. commercial red meat production totaled about 4.4 billion-lbs.** in August, up 14% compared to the year-ago period, according to USDA. Beef production totaled about 2.3 billion-lbs., while pork production totaled about 2.2 billion-lbs. [**Full Report**](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/LiveSlau/LiveSlau-09-22-2016.pdf)

**U.S. poultry certified as wholesome totaled about 4.2 billion-lbs. in August**, up 8% from the year-ago period, according to USDA. The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during the month was set at a record 5.6 billion-lbs., up 8% from the year-ago period. [**Full Report**](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/PoulSlau/PoulSlau-09-22-2016.pdf)

**Rainy weather is causing issues for Red River Valley potato growers**. Growers in North Dakota and Minnesota expected large losses due to poor weather, and recent rains delayed the start of the season for many growers. As of Sept. 21, only three of the region's 12 plants were shipping, according to the North Plains Potato Growers Association, reported *The Packer*. [**Full Story**](http://www.thepacker.com/news/red-river-valley-potato-weather-woes-continue)

**Butterball LLC will add at least 30 new turkey farms in Arkansas** to help the company keep pace with growing demand. Most of the farms will be located within a 50-mile radius of Ozark and Altus and will be owned and operated by contract poultry growers, with each farm costing approximately $900,000 to build, reported *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. [**Full Story**](http://bit.ly/2cFp7Dl%20)

**Alaska's fisheries have yet to experience any observable impact from climate change**,according to NOAA researchers. Fish species are still prospering in Alaskan waters, with the exception of the decline of Chinook salmon, which could be tied to climate change or ocean acidification, reported *Alaska Public Radio*. [**Full Story**](http://www.alaskapublic.org/2016/09/21/alaska-fisheries-escape-effects-of-climate-change-for-now/)

**Minnesota opened an expanded $8.5 million poultry testing laboratory** in Willmar that will provide state-of-the art labs and equipment to test for avian flu, and increase testing capacity for other poultry diseases such as salmonella and mycoplasma. The funding came from the state Legislature in 2015 as a result of the avian flu epidemic, and more than triples the size of the existing lab, reported *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. [**Full Story**](http://www.startribune.com/bird-flu-epidemic-leads-to-expanded-poultry-lab-in-willmar/394450091/)

**Monsanto reached a global licensing agreement for the use of the CRISPR-Cas** genome-editing technology in agriculture with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. Genome-editing technologies offer a way for scientists to promote site-directed integration of specific genes as well as enhance beneficial or remove undesired plant characteristics. These techniques will enable plant breeders to deliver better hybrids and varieties more efficiently. [**Full Story**](http://news.monsanto.com/press-release/corporate/monsanto-announces-global-licensing-agreement-broad-institute-key-genome-edi)

**California strawberry volumes hit record monthly levels in September**, according to the California Strawberry Commission. Prices for 1-lb. containers of medium strawberries from the region were priced between $6 and $7, down from the $8 to $10 reported in the year-ago period, according to USDA, reported *The Packer*. [**Full Story**](http://www.thepacker.com/news/california-strawberries-hit-record-volumes)

**Shrimp landings for the Gulf of Mexico in August were 14.2 million-lbs.**,the lowest reported for August since 2010, according to the Southern Shrimp Alliance. The 6.4 million-lbs. of shrimp landed in Texas marked the lowest catch since 2008. Approximately 56.1 million-lbs. of shrimp were landed in the Gulf of Mexico for the year, about 24% below the fourteen-year historical average. [**Full Report**](http://www.shrimpalliance.com/poor-august-for-gulf-of-mexico-shrimp-landings/)

**The relatively dry weather in Louisiana delayed sugar cane planting**, which is now running into the harvest season. Farms have multiple years of crop growing at once, but most don't have the manpower or equipment to both plant and harvest at the same time. Sugar mills are also beginning to open, starting with the second largest, Cora Texas Sugar Factory, reported *Bradenton Herald*. [**Full Story**](http://www.bradenton.com/news/business/article103376962.html)

**The quarantine zone was expanded in the Northern San Joaquin Valley** after three Asian citrus psyllids were found. Manteca was added to the quarantine zone, which already covered other parts of southern San Joaquin County, reported *Modesto Bee*. [**Full Story**](http://www.modbee.com/news/business/agriculture/article103333527.html#storylink=cpy)

**The U.S. and Canada reached an agreement on sharing the cod fishing business** in the Atlantic for next year. The countries agreed to set the total allowable catch at 730 metric tons, with the U.S. allotted 146 metric tons, an 8 metric ton increase from the previous year, reported *Wichita Eagle*. [**Full Story**](http://www.kansas.com/news/business/article103198967.html#storylink=cpy)

**The House approved a tax break to give Florida citrus growers an incentive to plant new trees**. The tax break would mean growers could plant 20 million more trees over the next decade, restoring the number of trees in the state to what it was before citrus greening affected the industry, according to Florida Citrus Mutual CEO Mike Sparks, reported *The Ledger*. [**Full Story**](http://www.theledger.com/news/20160921/house-oks-bill-designed-to-offer-citrus-growers-relief)

**Smithfield Foods will open grain buy facilities in Harpster and Morral, OH**. Grain purchased at the Harpster facility will be used to feed hogs throughout Smithfield's Eastern Hog Production Division, while grain purchased at the Morral facility will be transported to customers. [**Full Story**](http://www.smithfieldfoods.com/newsroom/press-releases-and-news/smithfield-foods-expands-grain-operations-in-ohio)

**USDA extended the preliminary determination of nonregulated status for the Simplot Co.'s** Innate Potato to two new varieties. The determination affects Simplot's Ranger Russet variety (X17) and Atlantic variety (Y9) potatoes, which were genetically engineered for late blight resistance, low acrylamide potential, lowered reducing sugars and reduced black spot using the same genetic constructs used to transform the antecedent potato event, Russet Burbank event W8. [**Full Notice**](https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2016-22928.pdf)

**U.S. milk production in the 23 major states totaled 16.7 billion-lbs. in August**, up 1.9% from the year-ago period, according to USDA. Total milk production in the U.S. totaled 17.7 billion-lbs. during the month, also up 1.9% from the year-ago period. [**Full Report**](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/MilkProd/MilkProd-09-20-2016.pdf)

**The Chinese peach crop was very strong this harvest season**, but domestic consumption is reducing the quantity available for export, according to Schreiber Foods International. The Chinese pear season is about to begin, and most indicators point to a strong crop. [**Full Story**](http://www.ambrosia-foods.com/imported-fruit-status-of-peaches-pears/)

**Maine's wild blueberry crop was better than expected this year despite a drought**. The Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine reported the state most likely hit its five-year average of about 93 million-lbs. Irrigation and a strong year for pollination buoyed Maine's crop, reported *Seattle Times*. [**Full Story**](http://www.seattletimes.com/business/maine-wild-blueberry-crop-bigger-than-expected-amid-drought/?utm_source=RSS&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=RSS_business)

**Growing conditions for olives were very good** in Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Tunisia and Morocco thus far, but rain will be needed for the olives to fully mature, according to Schreiber Foods International. Olive oil prices remained firm, and there seems to be sufficient inventories of most varieties used for table green olives. [**Full Story**](http://www.ambrosia-foods.com/olives-and-olive-oil-end-of-summer-update/)

**Florida orange production could sink by another two-thirds in the next 10 years** if solutions for citrus greening don't arise, according to researchers from the Florida Department of Citrus and University of Florida. Florida growers would harvest 27.3 million boxes of oranges in the 2026-2027 season if no solutions are found, compared to 81.6 million orange boxes harvested in 2015-2016 season, reported *The Ledger*. [**Full Story**](http://www.theledger.com/article/20160920/news/160929983)

**California strawberry growers shipped about 139 million flats as of Sept. 18**, a 2.7% increase from the same date in 2015, according to the California Strawberry Commission. Production reached 770,000 flats or higher per day during the Aug. 29 through Sept. 5 timeframe except for Sept. 11 and Sept. 18, when only 30,314 and 26,457 flats were shipped, respectively. [**Full Report**](http://bireports.calstrawberry.org/pages/national.aspx)

**A total of about 10.6 million-lbs. of tomatoes were harvested through Sept. 17**, according to the Processing Tomato Advisory Board. As of Sept. 10, 374,146 loads were delivered, down from 421,796 during the same time period last year. Fresno County accounted for 36.8% of statewide deliveries.[**Full Report**](http://www.westconfoods.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Weekly-Crop-News-9-19-2016.pdf?utm_source=WCF+Announcements+and+Handouts&utm_campaign=1a72b762c7-9_19_2016_Weekly_Deliveries_WCF&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_957d7a8a51-1a72b762c7-101661469)

**The U.S. corn and soybean harvests are running below the average pace**, according to USDA. The agency pegged the corn harvest at 9% complete, compared to the 12% five-year average, with 93% in the dented stage. The soybean harvest is 4% complete, compared with a 5% five-year average, and 73% of the crop is rated good to excellent, equal to a week ago. [**Full Report**](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays_Reports/reports/prog3916.pdf)

**Farmers' confidence hit a record low** in the DTN/The Progressive Farmer Ag Confidence Index. Midwestern crop farmers were at 31.6 with the overall the index at 72, down from 98 a year ago. A reading of 100 is halfway between pessimism and optimism in the index. Dairy and livestock producer confidence was 63.6, down from 107.1 a year ago, reported *Wichita Eagle*. [**Full Story**](http://www.kansas.com/news/business/agriculture/article102707362.html#storylink=cpy)

**USDA proposed to increase the assessment rate for cherries grown in Washington**. The assessment rate would be increased to $0.25 per ton from the current $0.15 per ton. The agency will accept public comment through the next 15 days. [**Full Notice**](https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2016-22740.pdf)

**USDA implemented a decreased assessment rate for dates grown in California**. The assessment rate was decreased to $0.05 per cwt from $0.10 per cwt. [**Full Notice**](https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2016-22745.pdf)

**Avocado prices are expected to remain high** as shippers wait for Mexico's main crop to ramp up. With the close of the California deal and Mexican summer harvest volumes down due to untimely rains, promotional volumes are unlikely to be available before November, reported *The Packer*. [**Full Story**](http://www.thepacker.com/news/avocado-prices-continue-high)

**U.S. turkey eggs in incubators totaled 28.8 million on Sept. 1**, up 21% from the same date in 2015, according to USDA. Poults hatched during August jumped 11% year-over year to 24.5 million. [**Full Report**](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/TurkHatc/TurkHatc-09-15-2016.pdf)

**Peanut prices averaged 18.5 cents per pound as of Sept. 10, down 1.5 cents from a week earlier,** with marketings of all farmer stock peanuts down 24.2 million-lbs. to 65.3 million-lbs., according to USDA. Runner-type peanut prices averaged 18.5 cents per pound, down 1.4 cents from the previous week, and marketings totaled 24.2 million-lbs., down 61.5 million-lbs. [**Full Report**](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays_Reports/reports/pnpr3816.pdf)

**Cocoa factories slowed production due to higher prices, limited supplies and poor quality beans**. The supply crunch is expected to continue until the end of the year, when a surplus of over 200 metric tons will begin hitting the market, reported *Bloomberg*. [**Full Story**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-16/cargill-sees-cocoa-crunch-lasting-until-surplus-crop-in-2017)

**A fusarium outbreak in North America may increase durum prices**. Canada grew 6.8 million metric tons, the highest on record, while the U.S. grew 2.5 million metric tons, the largest harvest in six years. However, as much as 33% of the Canadian crop may be infected, making it unsuitable for milling or human food channels, according to GAP SA Grains, reported *Reuters*. [**Full Story**](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-durum-farming-idUSKCN11P10L)

**The Maine lobster industry will push against a Swedish proposal to ban imports** of the American crustacean. Sweden found 32 American lobsters in its waters this year and is promoting a ban to protect the native population, reported *Washington Times*. [**Full Story**](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/sep/16/maine-pols-lobster-industry-digging-in-on-sweden-b/)

**Iowa's organic farms surrounded by row crops treated with pesticides are at risk** of being hit with drifting sprays that can hurt farms. The drift comes from misuse of pesticides on neighboring farms, mostly the result of not following the label instructions on a pesticide, reported *Des Moines Register*. [**Full Story**](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2016/09/17/drifting-pesticides-put-neighboring-farms-risk/90504884/)