

## TODAY IN FOOD

**U.S. cheese output totaled about 1.0 billion-lbs. in September**, a 2.7% increase from the year-ago period, according to USDA. Production included about 435.0 million-lbs. of Italian type cheese and 394.0 million-lbs. of American type cheese. [Full Report](#)

**Onion and potato markets are heating up in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday.** Idaho potatoes are sizing larger than normal, which could affect the consumer bag market. Additionally, a shorter crop of onions is pushing prices higher, with growers in Idaho and Oregon's Treasure Valley experiencing drops in yield of 20% to 30%, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**Hurricane Harvey heavily damaged pecan orchards in South Texas**, with prices rising to \$5.00 to \$7.00 per-lb. from \$3.50 to \$4.00. There will be virtually no crop next year due to lost limb structure and out-of-season budding, and the following year is expected to be slim, according to Texas A&M, reported *San Francisco Gate*. [Full Story](#)

**Wisconsin's cranberry growers are looking to drive up demand for the fruit in China and India** to alleviate an oversupply. Only sweetened, dried cranberries are allowed in China, but the U.S. government is working on an agreement to allow fresh cranberries shipments, reported *Wisconsin Public Radio*. [Full Story](#)

**About 78% of the total tuna catch comes from stocks at "healthy" levels**, an increase of 2% since 2014, according to International Seafood Sustainability Foundation's *Status of the Stocks* report. In 2015, the total major commercial tuna catch was 4.8 million metric tons, a 4% decrease from 2014, with 58% of the total catch is skipjack tuna, followed by yellowfin at 28%, bigeye at 8% and albacore at 4%. [Full Story](#)

**DowDuPont will cut its global workforce by 5% to 7%**, consolidate and shut down buildings and facilities and centralize purchasing. The company plans to cut \$3 billion in costs annually as part the restructuring, reported *Des Moines Register*. [Full Story](#)

**Tracking technology used to fight Zika could help fight wheat rust.** Pocket-sized tracking devices can detect a fungal outbreak as it starts, preventing the disease from spreading by making farmers aware that they need to take precautionary measures. The new methods could cut the time needed for a diagnosis to days from months, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

**Soybeans crushed for crude oil totaled about 4.4 million tons in September**, down from the approximately 4.6 million tons crushed in August, according to USDA. Canola seeds crushed for crude oil totaled 194,000 tons for the month, up from the 152,000 tons reported in August. [Full Report](#)  
**All U.S. wheat ground for flour during third quarter 2017 totaled 234**

**million bushels**, a 4% increase from the previous quarter, according to USDA. Flour production during the period totaled 108 million cwt. [Full Report](#)

**Oregon extended the closure of commercial crabbing fisheries from Coos Bay** to the California border. The closure was due to the detection of elevated levels of domoic acid, reported *The Oregonian*. [Full Story](#)

**American fisheries grew by 2.1% in value in 2016** despite fishermen bringing slightly fewer fish to shore, according to NOAA. Commercial fishermen landed 9.6 billion-lbs. of seafood, down 1.5% from the previous year, while catch was valued at \$5.3 billion. The average American ate almost 15-lbs. of fish and shellfish last year, slightly down from 2015. [Full Story](#)

**Maryland will reduce the large-scale oyster restoration project goal** in the Little Choptank River. The habitat goal for the Little Choptank River sanctuary has been cut by 118 acres, about one-fourth of the original target, which will reduce oysters by about 19.5 million at the site, reported *The State*. [Full Story](#)

**Monsanto Co. delayed the launch of a chemical designed to be applied to crop seeds** following reports of it causing rashes. The company froze plans for commercial sales of the product called NemaStrike, which can protect corn and soybeans from worms that reduce yields, reported *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

[Full Story](#)

**USDA issued a revision to and extension of an information collection** regarding the importation of fresh bananas from the Philippines into Hawaii and U.S. territories. The agency will accept public comment for 60 days. [Full](#)

[Notice](#)

Meanwhile, **USDA issued a revision to and extension of an information collection** regarding the importation of litchi and longan fruit from Vietnam into the continental U.S. The agency will accept public comment for 60 days. [Full](#)

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**U.S. shell eggs broken totaled 184 million dozen during September**, a 6% drop from the year-ago period and a 7% drop from the prior month, according to USDA. To-date, U.S. shell eggs broken totaled about 1.7 billion dozen in 2017, 2% up from the prior year. [Full Report](#)

**Export demand for U.S sweet potatoes continues to rise**, as producers are obtaining compliance certifications to enter new markets. European retailers are seeking farmers with Global G.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice certification, while others are looking for various organic certifications, according to Farm Fresh Produce, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**Avocado growers in Mexico, Chile and the Dominican Republic shipped about 46.4 million-lbs.** the week of Oct. 29, up from 32.7 million-lbs. from the week prior, according to the Hass Avocado Board. About 38.4 million-lbs. of avocados are projected to ship from the countries for the week of Nov. 5. [Full](#)

[Story](#)

**Farmed seaweed companies in Maine are forming the Maine Seaweed Exchange.** The exchange, which includes Springtide Seaweed LLC, is being created to connect buyers and sellers of organic aquacultured seaweeds, reported *Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

**Mosaic will halt production of fertilizer at its Plant City, FL, manufacturing plant.** Mosaic cited a "difficult market" for the closure, noting the Plant City facility is the company's costliest facility, reported *Bradenton Herald*. [Full Story](#)

**The corn harvest is 54% complete as of Oct. 29,** well behind the five-year average of 72%, according to USDA. An estimated 83% of the soybean crop has been harvested, as only North Carolina hasn't reached the halfway mark. [Full Report](#)

**California strawberry growers shipped approximately 165.5 million flats through Oct. 29,** a 2.8% increase from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production between Oct. 22 and Oct. 29 came Oct. 23, with a total of about 562,000 flats. [Full Story](#)

**Of the 274 tons of Chilean blueberries exported to-date in 2017, 128 tons were organic,** according to the Chilean Blueberry Committee. Overall exports are down 15% compared to a typical season. [Full Story](#)

**The top 16 pumpkin-producing states harvested about 1.1 billion-lbs. of the product** in 2016, according to USDA. Illinois remains the top producer by state. [Full Report](#)

**NatureFresh Farms plans to grow and market pearl-sized Tomberry tomatoes** in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The tomatoes will be available to NatureFresh through an agreement with Netherlands-based Eminent Seeds, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**USDA scientists developed a test to help breed pathogen-resistant chickens.** The test identifies roosters with blood containing naturally high levels of key chemicals in the immune system, allowing commercial poultry breeders to single out roosters with strong immune responses to selectively breed a flock. [Full Story](#)

**Archer Daniels Midland Co.'s performance was hurt by the glut in the global grain market** during its latest quarter. The company experienced a "challenging" environment for its oilseeds business, which saw sales decline 18%. Overall sales fell 6.3%, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

**California rough rice stocks dropped 10% Oct. 1 when compared to the prior year,** totaling about 3.9 million cwt., according to USDA. Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 811,000 cwt., a 24% drop from Aug. 1 and a 45% drop from the year-ago period. [Full Report](#)

**Mango producers in Ecuador and Brazil shipped approximately 1.0**

**million boxes** the week ending Oct. 21, a 23.5% decrease from the year-ago period, according to the National Mango Board. The Mexican season closed with nearly 79.9 million boxes shipped. [Full Story](#)

**Total Texas agriculture losses caused by Hurricane Harvey are estimated at over \$200 million**, according to Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service. About \$93 million of the losses were from cattle that drowned and associated ranching infrastructure, while rice and soybean farmers suffered \$8 million in losses, reported *Seattle Times*. [Full Story](#)

**Part of the New England herring fishery will be shut down for two weeks** to allow the fish to spawn. A stretch of coast and ocean from Cape Cod to southern Maine are closed from Oct. 29 to Nov. 11, reported *Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

**No wild Atlantic salmon returned to spawn in Canada's Magaguadavic River**, according to Atlantic Salmon Federation. The apparent extinction of the river's salmon is concerning for the salmon fishery's health in the northeastern U.S., reported *San Francisco Gate*. [Full Story](#)