

## MARKET NEWS

**U.S. corn production is forecast at 14.6 billion bushels**, a 4% decrease from 2016 but a 2% increase from the October forecast, according to USDA. The soybean production forecast jumped 3% from October figures to about 4.4 billion bushels. [Full Report](#)

**Florida orange production for 2017-2018 is forecast at 50 million boxes**, a 27% decrease from last season, according to USDA. The forecast is down 7% from the October prediction. [Full Report](#)

Meanwhile, **growers and USDA officials expect orange forecast numbers to fall further** in future monthly crop updates until harvest. The new report significantly increased the projected drop rates through the rest of the season, with orange drop rising to 51%-59% from 49%-45% in October, depending upon variety, reported *The Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

**Weather events created an opportunity for Texas citrus growers.**

Hurricane Harvey did not make direct landfall in the major citrus growing regions of the state, and the effect of Hurricane Irma in Florida's citrus growing regions is providing market opportunities for Texas citrus growers, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**Avocado growers in Mexico and the Dominican Republic shipped about 40.2 million-lbs.** the week of Nov. 5, up from 46.4 million-lbs. from the week prior, according to the Hass Avocado Board. About 32.4 million-lbs. of avocados are projected to ship from the countries for the week of Nov. 12. [Full Story](#)

**Red and green bell pepper supplies from California should be plentiful** through the fall and winter, according to Peter Rabbit Farms. Yields are expected to be as good as 2016, with red peppers sizing larger in 2017, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**A fire killed 6,000 turkeys in St. Martin Township, MN.** The fire affected a 1,000-sq. ft. barn operated by St. Martin Farm Inc., reported *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

**United Farmer Veterans of Maine is working to organize a veteran-owned farming collective** in New Auburn. The group seeks is to organize veterans-turned-farmers on 1,000 acres, setting them up to share resources, grow crops and raise livestock in consultation with each other and bring value-added goods to market, reported *Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

**Avocado producers in Jalisco, Mexico are waiting for final authorization** to ship the product into the U.S. Although USDA authorized such shipments in June 2016, the deal remains to be finalized, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**The Atlantic bluefin tuna stock is rebounding strongly**, according to fishermen along the New England coast. However, scientists claimed the quota

should not be raised by more than 25%, reported *NPR*. [Full Story](#)

**The number of people working in the Alaskan salmon harvesting industry dropped 6.4%**, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The overall number of commercial fishing jobs fell 5%. South Central Alaska's commercial salmon harvesting employment increased slightly, reported *Washington Times*. [Full Story](#)

**Agrium and Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan will expand their U.S. farm supply network** after merging to form Nutrien. The company will be open to large farm retail acquisitions, and Agrium is already working on some medium-size deals, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

**The August collapse of a net pen at a Cooke Aquaculture facility in Washington was preceded** a month earlier by another serious breakdown. Cooke revealed to the state that nearly half of the anchor lines snapped in late July at the company's Cypress Island farm, reported *Seattle Times*. [Full Story](#) (*Seattle Times* Subscription Required)

**A Reuters review of regulatory records and interviews with crop scientists found Monsanto** was repeatedly warned by crop scientists, starting in 2011, of the dangers of releasing a dicamba-resistant seed without an accompanying herbicide designed to reduce drift to nearby farms. Arkansas regulators notified Monsanto of damage from illegal spraying of its dicamba-resistant cotton seeds just before it released its soybeans seeds in 2015. [Full Story](#)

**China-based JD.com has signed a deal with the Montana Stockgrowers Association** to build a \$100 million slaughterhouse and buy \$200 million worth of Montana beef over the next three years. The deal calls for Montana ranchers to supply beef to JD.com from January 2018 through 2020. Construction on the packing plant expected to start in spring 2018, reported *Modesto Bee*. [Full Story](#)

**The California Olive Oil Council expects to produce more than 4 million gallons** this year, according to the California Farm Bureau Federation. Producers in the state expect demand to continue expanding. [Full Story](#)

**U.S. grain and grain product exports were worth \$18.9 billion in 2015**, according to the U.S. Grains Council and the National Corn Growers Association. The total impact of grain and grain products exported in 2015 indirectly supported \$21 billion in gross domestic product. [Full Story](#)

**Precipitation and snowpack has filled reservoirs, rivers and aquifers in California**, according to state officials. The state currently has 25.8 million acre-feet of water in the 154 reservoirs the California Department of Water Resources tracks, up from the historical average of 21.7 million acre-feet, reported *AgAlert*. [Full Story](#)

**AgroFresh Solutions Inc. will acquire a controlling interest in Tecnidex**, a

provider of post-harvest fungicides, waxes and biocides for the citrus market. With the acquisition, AgroFresh will expand its post-harvest presence to additional crops, and increase its penetration of the produce market in southern Europe, Latin America and Africa. [Full Story](#)

**The U.S. corn harvest jumped ahead 16 percentage points from the previous week**, according to USDA. An estimated 70% of corn was harvested as of Nov. 5, down from 84% a year ago and 13 percentage points behind the five-year average. [Full Report](#)

**Avocado supplies could return to normal in the U.S.** as Mexico and California's crops rebound. Additionally, imports from Chile and Peru could boost supplies to record volumes within the next 12 months, according to McDaniel Avocado Co. and Mission Produce Inc., reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

**Optimal growing weather in Chile could lead to healthy supplies** of cherries, berries, grapes and stone fruit, according to regional marketers. Producers in the country will begin shipping cherries, blueberries and grapes to the U.S. in December, while stone fruit will be exported in February and March, according to the Chilean Fresh Fruit Association, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

**Canadian apple production is expected to drop 8% to about 355,000 metric tons** in the 2017-2018 harvest season, according to USDA. The U.S. is expected to continue accounting for 80% of Canada's fresh apple imports. [Full Report](#)

**California strawberry growers shipped approximately 168.2 million flats** through Nov. 5, a 3.7% increase from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production between Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 came Oct. 30, with a total of about 575,000 flats. [Full Story](#)

**The Mega Kiwi will enter commercial production for the first time in the U.S. in California** this year. The Mega Kiwi is nearly 50% larger than a conventionally grown kiwi and originated in Greece, reported *Fresno Bee*. [Full Story](#)

**The Perigord black truffle was grown in the UK for the first time.** The truffle's natural habitat is in the Mediterranean, but yields are dropping due to drought conditions, while global demand for the product is rising. As a result, the truffles are priced at about \$2,220 per kilogram, reported *BBC*. [Full Story](#)

**Iowa farmers are shifting to organic corn, soybeans and other crops.** The number of Iowa farms and acres certified as organic increased about 5% to 732 organic farms with 103,136 acres in 2016. Sales climbed 9% to \$131.2 million, reported *Des Moines Register*. [Full Story](#)

**The first shipment of Colombian Hass avocados intended for the U.S.** left the port of Cartagena Nov. 2, according to Westsole Fruit Colombia. The shipment is expected to arrive Nov. 12 in the port of Long Beach, CA, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

**Chilean apple exports are expected to jump 4% to 780,000 metric tons** in the 2017-2018 harvest, while pear exports will increase 3.3% to about 155,000 metric tons, according to USDA. Table grape exports are projected to reach 733,000 metric tons. [Full Story](#)

**Cold weather is delaying the Chilean blueberry harvest**, with delays reported between four days and two weeks in different parts of the country, according to the Chilean Blueberry Committee. Producers shipped 228 tons of fresh blueberries during the week of Oct. 23. [Full Story](#)

**Illinois declared a statewide harvest emergency to help agricultural workers** hit by rain-related delays. The declaration allows drivers of trucks carrying agricultural commodities to receive a free permit to exceed gross vehicle limits, reported *Wichita Eagle*. [Full Story](#)

**The pecan weevil is posing a threat in New Mexico.** Quarantines were enacted to prevent its spread earlier this year but state pecan producers worry the quarantine, which restricts pecan shipments to areas without an infestation, could prevent them from trading to the west where the industry is most lucrative, reported *Modesto Bee*. [Full Story](#)

**Mango producers in Ecuador and Brazil shipped approximately 1.0 million boxes** the week ending Oct. 28, a 36.3% decrease from the year-ago period, according to the National Mango Board. To-date, Brazilian exporters shipped about 7.6 million boxes for the season. [Full Story](#)

**The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant will receive \$1 million** to study how to raise small crustaceans called cocepod as fish feed in saltwater hatcheries. Saltwater fish such as red snapper and tuna eat cocepod larvae, and the difficulty of raising them has hampered saltwater aquaculture, reported *San Francisco Gate*. [Full Story](#)

**Vertical farming company Plenty will expand to the greater Seattle area**, according to CEO Matt Barnard. The startup's Kent, WA, warehouse will grow 4.5 million-lbs. of greens per year after it begins production in spring 2018, reported *San Francisco Gate*. [Full Story](#)