

MARKET NEWS

U.S. turkey eggs in incubators totaled about 27.7 million on Dec. 1, a 4% decrease from the year-ago period. Eggs in incubators dropped 3% from Nov. 1, when there were a total of 28.5 million eggs. [Full Report](#)

The Thomas Wildfire burned 242,500 acres as of Dec. 14, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire. Avocado groves are located against hillsides where the fires are burning, but lemon groves have been relatively unaffected, according to University of California scientists, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Missouri's Clean Water Commission approved two concentrated animal feeding operations. Previous clean water commissioners voted against the chicken and hog farms of RNR Farms in McDonald County and Trenton Farms in Grundy County, reported *The State*. [Full Story](#)

An environmental group claimed antibiotic use in livestock remained too high despite efforts to lower their use. The National Resources Defense Council noted sales of antibiotics important to human medicine were still above 2009 levels despite a recent drop, reported *HealthDay*. [Full Story](#)

The Thomas Wildfire in California was 30% contained as of the morning of Dec. 13, but agricultural regions remained in danger. The inland agricultural town of Fillmore was among the evacuated areas, reported *Miami Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Timely rain, additional acres planted and improved seed hybrids helped South Dakota harvest despite the worst drought conditions in five years. USDA forecast the state's corn crop at 788 million bushels, the fourth-largest in state history, while the soybean harvest was projected at 252 million bushels, down 1% from 2016's record, reported *Fresno Bee*. [Full Story](#)

California delayed the start of the Dungeness crab season until Dec 31. Despite harvest delays across the West Coast, the quality of Dungeness crab is particularly good in 2017 year. Prices are reportedly \$7.99 to \$10.99 per lb., up from the \$5.99 to \$6.99 per lb. range encountered earlier this year, reported *San Francisco Chronicle*. [Full Story](#)

The federal government recommended reducing the butterfish quota by 41% in 2018 due to a lower than usual survival rate. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration could raise the quota again in 2019 and 2020 if butterfish survival returns to normal, reported *Washington Times*. [Full Story](#)

The lobster catch has been strong for the first two weeks since Canada opened its important fishing areas. The opening shore price was set at \$4.47 per lb. in harvest areas off the coast of Nova Scotia, reported *NovaNewsNow.com*. [Full Story](#)

NOAA reduced the commercial skate wing possession limit from 4,100-lbs. per trip to 500-lbs. per trip. The rule is effective through April 30, 2018.

reported *Chicago Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

USDA issued two exclusive licenses for blackberry varieties to Oregon State University. The agency provided the status for the [Galaxy](#) and [Eclipse](#) varieties. The agency will accept public comment on both notices for 30 days.

USDA projected Florida's orange production for 2017-2018 at 46 million boxes, down 8% from November's prediction and 33% over the 2016-2017 season. The forecast consists of 19.0 million boxes of non-Valencia oranges and 27.0 million boxes of Valencia oranges. Florida grapefruit is expected to produce about 4.7 million boxes, a decrease of 40% from 2016. [Full Story](#)

Ample supplies of okra and Asian vegetables are being imported from Honduras, according to Agritrade Farms LLC. The company noted that avocados, papaya, Asian vegetables, greenhouse colored bell peppers, shishito, jalapenos and habanero peppers were available from the Dominican Republic, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Avocado growers in Mexico, Chile and the Dominican Republic shipped about 41.2 million-lbs. the week of Dec. 10, up from the 32.7 million-lbs. the week prior, according to the Hass Avocado Board. About 44.7 million-lbs. of avocados are projected to ship from Mexico and Chile for the week of Dec. 17. [Full Story](#)

A shortage of stone crabs in Florida is driving up prices for the shellfish, mainly due to the effects of Hurricane Irma and a lack of cold fronts. Medium claws are selling for \$29.99 a pound, up from \$19 in 2016, while large claws are going for \$45 a pound, reported *Bradenton Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Iowa farmland values climbed 2% to \$7,326 an acre in 2017, the first increase after three years of decline, according to an Iowa State University survey. Researchers stated that limited land supply is driving 2017's increase in farmland values, as commodity prices and farm income remain stagnant, reported *Des Moines Register*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. fresh apple holdings totaled about 131.1 million cartons Dec. 1, an 8% increase from the year-ago period, according to the U.S. Apple Association. Processing apple holdings jumped 20% on the date when compared year-over-year, totaling about 51.5 million cartons, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

Several days of strong winds in late October caused corn crops to shrink as ears fell to the ground in Nebraska and Iowa. In the hardest hit parts of central Nebraska, some farmers reported seeing yields drop from an estimated 250 bushels an acre before the wind to roughly 190 bushels afterward, reported *AgNews.net*. [Full Story](#)

Florida growers have packed 3 million boxes of tomatoes year-to-date, compared to 6.5 million during the same period in 2016, according to the Florida Tomato Committee. Cool weather in December could be helpful to a

Florida Tomato Committee. Cool weather in December could be helpful to a variety of local crops in the state, including strawberries and blueberries, improving taste and reducing insect populations in fields, reported *Naples News*. [Full Story](#)

California strawberry growers shipped approximately 176.6 million flats through Dec. 10, a 5.1% increase from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production between Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 came Dec. 4, with a total of about 235,000 flats.

[Full Story](#)

Chilean blueberry producers exported about 3,600 tons the week of Nov. 27, with 168 tons of the total designated as organic, according to the Chilean Blueberry Commission. The commission noted 6,500 tons were expected to be exported the week of Dec. 4. [Full Story](#)

Farmers in Idaho and Washington are looking for solutions for acidic soil after years of applying nitrogen-based fertilizer. A gradual increase in the acidity of soil in the region since the 1980s was the result of a nitrogen-based fertilizer that enriched the soil for some crops like wheat, but negatively impacted crops like legumes, reported *Modesto Bee*. [Full Story](#)

NOAA is proposing keeping the quotas for surf clams, ocean quahogs and Maine ocean quahogs. The government is collecting public comments about the proposal until Dec. 26. Quotas for the shellfish have remained unchanged since 2004, reported *Wichita Eagle*. [Full Story](#)

The fresh tomato market had prices well into the mid-\$20s and beyond in early December, with brokers expecting the demand-exceeds-supply situation to last through the end of 2017. Florida typically provides 80% of the nation's tomatoes in December, but Hurricane Irma wiped out planted fields and delayed farming activity for several weeks, according to Bernardi & Associates, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

Damage caused by Hurricane Irma to most of Florida's citrus trees will affect crop production through at least the 2018-2019 season. Growers spent about \$1,800 per grove acre in the 2016-2017 season, but don't think they can sustain that level of effort in the face of lower income this season because of their crop losses, reported *The Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

Wind from the California desert may harm avocados spared by the wildfires. Gusts up to 80 miles per hour knocked fruit to the ground, making it unharvestable due to food safety regulations. Additionally, both lemon and avocados trees that escaped being scorched could later collapse from internal heat damage, and ash could increase the prevalence of pests, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Mango producers in Peru and Ecuador shipped approximately 1.6 million boxes the week ending Dec. 2, up from 1.3 million from the year-ago period, according to the National Mango Board. The Ecuadorian season began the last week of September and will run until mid-January with a projection of

last week of September and will run until mid-January with a projection of approximately 14.4 million boxes. [Full Story](#)

The New England Fishery Management Council voted to increase cod and pollock quotas for 2018. The biggest percentage increases all were in the Gulf of Maine, where the haddock quota nearly tripled to 8,738 tons, while pollock doubled to 37,400 tons. Cod was increased 156% at Georges Bank and 39% in the Gulf of Maine, reported *Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

The total allowable catches (TAC) of Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska will likely fall steeply in 2018 after a 80% reduction was called for by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The gulf TAC was set at 64,442 metric tons in 2017, and the NPFMC believes it should be set at 13,096 metric tons for 2018, reported *UndercurrentNews.com*. [Full Story](#)

California cancelled the 2018 abalone fishing season. Diving scientists surveyed seafloors and found 37% of the abalone were dead. A Fish and Wildlife senior scientist described the shellfish's outlook as bleak, reported *Chicago Tribune*. [Full Story](#)

The Dungeness crab season was delayed until December 31 after tests found that the crabmeat yield is too low. The delay applies to Oregon and parts of Washington and California, reported *San Francisco Gate*. [Full Story](#)

Agricultural cooperatives are building soybean crushing plants at a record pace. Processors are expected to open plants capable of processing 120 million bushels of soybeans in 2019, on top of the existing 1.9 billion bushel crushing capacity. Soy crushing capacity is growing at the fastest rate since 1997-1998, according to USDA and industry data, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)