

MARKET NEWS

Global orange production for 2017-2018 is forecast at 49.3 million metric tons, down 4.0 million metric tons, due to unfavorable weather leading to smaller crops in Brazil, the EU and the U.S., according to USDA. Fruit for processing is expected to fall 3.7 million metric tons, with orange juice production forecast down 16% to 1.7 million metric tons on the production slide in Brazil and the U.S. [Full Report](#)

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled about 4.4 billion-lbs. in December 2017, a slight increase from the same time period in 2016, according to USDA. Production included about 2.2 billion-lbs. of beef and 2.2 billion-lbs. of pork. [Full Report](#)

U.S. poultry certified wholesome during December 2017 totaled about 3.8 billion-lbs., down slightly from the figures reported in December 2016, according to USDA. The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during December 2017 was about 5.1 billion-lbs. [Full Report](#)

Commercial shrimp fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico landed 6.6 million-lbs. in December 2017, up from 5.8 million-lbs. in December 2016, according to Southern Shrimp Alliance. Shrimpers landed 100.4 million-lbs. of shrimp in 2017 for the Gulf as a whole, up from 93.9 million-lbs. a year earlier, but 21.3% below the prior 17-year historic average. [Full Story](#)

Five crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands met requirements for certification under the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute's Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management program. The certification process assures buyers that the crab is sourced from responsibly managed, sustainable fisheries, reported *Cordova Times*. [Full Story](#)

International feed production in 2017 was about 1.1 billion metric tons, the second consecutive year above 1.0 billion metric tons, according the Alltech Global Feed Survey. China and the U.S. remain the top two countries, producing one-third of all animal feed, and the predominant growth came from the pig, broiler and dairy feed sectors, as well as the European and Asia-Pacific regions. [Full Story](#)

Falling protein content in soybeans may be causing U.S. farmers to lose market share in China to Brazilian competitors, according to analysts. The U.S. supplies China 31% of its soybeans, compared to 38% a decade ago, while Brazil's share grew to 57% from 34%. The 2017 U.S. soybean crop had 34.1% protein content, compared to 37% for Brazil, which makes the product less attractive as animal feed, reported *Reuters*. [Full Story](#)

Two Michigan companies will receive state grants to develop innovative agriculture projects. Hartford Farm Supply was awarded a \$75,000 grant to help build a controlled atmosphere storage facility for more capacity and storage for apples. Always Local LLC was granted \$50,000 to construct a greenhouse and a warehouse to develop a commercial aquaponics farm to

greenhouses and a warehouse to develop a commercial aquaponics farm to produce fresh salad mix, reported *Seattle Times*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. milk production in the 23 major states totaled 17.0 billion-lbs. in December 2017, a 1.2% increase from December 2016, according to USDA. Milk production in the U.S. between October and December 2017 totaled 53.1 billion-lbs., a 1.1% increase compared to the same period in 2016. [Full Report](#)

Avocado producers in California, Mexico and Chile are expected to ship about 55.7 million-lbs. of the product week of Jan. 28, according to the Hass Avocado Board. Producers in the three countries and the Dominican Republic shipped about 56.7 million-lbs. the week of Jan. 21. [Full Story](#)

The Maine Department of Marine Resources closed scallop fishing in Johnson Bay and Eastport Breakwater in the Cobscook Bay area, the most important fishing area for Maine scallopers. Survey results from earlier in January show the target harvest level for the two areas have been exceeded, reported *WBAI*. [Full Story](#)

Gross refrigerated storage capacity in the U.S. totaled about 3.6 billion-cubic ft. as of Oct. 1, 2017, according to USDA. Useable refrigerated storage capacity was about 2.9 billion-cubic ft., representing 81% of gross space. [Full Report](#)

Freight Farms acquired Cabbige, an online business management application for small-scale farmers. Cabbige's inventory, crop and financial management software will be integrated with Freight Farms' farmhand automation and remote control suite, which supports farms in more than 35 states and 10 countries. [Full Story](#)

USDA scientists are studying an amino acid produced naturally in humans and swine and believe it may be an alternative to antibiotics and growth promoters for piglets. The researchers found L-glutamine fed to piglets produced positive growth and health effects without a negative impact on antibiotic efficacy. [Full Story](#)

Severe wind in California could negatively impact lemon and avocado growers in the state, according to Limoneira and Sunkist Growers. Both companies noted winds of 40 miles per hour caused scarring on lemons and knocked some avocados to the ground, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. egg production totaled about 9.1 billion in December 2017, a slight decrease from December 2016, according to USDA. Production included about 7.9 billion table eggs and 1.1 billion hatching eggs. [Full Report](#)

The trucking shortage is forcing companies to postpone deliveries or pay a premium to cut to the front of the line. There were 10 loads waiting to be moved for every available truck during the week ending Jan. 20, according to DAT Solutions LLC. Demand for temperature-controlled trucks outstripped

availability by a ratio of 15 to one, according to DAT, reported *The Wall Street Journal*. [Full Story](#) (WSJ Subscription Required)

Meanwhile, **diminishing truck capacity is the industry's primary hurdle in 2018**, according to a study by transportation company Averitt Express. About 76% of freight operators expect their volumes to continue to increase in 2018 but are struggling to meet the demand, particularly because of new electronic logging mandates and a continuing shortage of drivers, reported *The Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

Brazil's patent office ruled that Monsanto Co.'s patent for GMO soy seed technology should be declared void after reexamining the issue, according to court filings seen by *Reuters*. Grain growers association Aprosoja asked a Brazil federal court to cancel Monsanto's patent for Intacta RR2 Pro, claiming it did not bring real technological innovation. Monsanto will challenge the allegations in due course. [Full Story](#)

Citrus producers in California, Texas and Florida report good demand for citrus. California producers are focused on oranges, mandarins and lemons, while Texas growers are shipping oranges and grapefruit. Florida producers are shipping grapefruit and juice oranges, reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

North American buyers expect a strong grape harvest from Chile. Although shipments to-date are down to 39,000 tons, compared to 79,000 tons shipped by the same time in 2017, the season started a week or two later, according to the Chilean Fruit Exporters Association. Grape volume from the country could reach the 90-million carton range, according to Pandol Bros. Inc., reported *The Packer*. [Full Story](#)

California strawberry growers shipped approximately 181.3 million flats through Jan. 21, a 6.3% increase from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production between Jan. 14. and Jan. 21 was Jan. 16, with a total of about 154,000 flats. [Full Story](#)

The Gulf of Maine lobster population will shrink 40% to 62% over the next 30 years because of rising ocean temperatures, according to a study by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, University of Maine and NOAA. As the water temperature rises, the number of lobster eggs that survive their first year of life will decrease, and the number of predators eating those that remain will increase, reported *Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Harvest CROO Robotics expects to have a robotic strawberry picker commercially available by 2020. The company's goal is to carry 1,000-lbs. of picked berries until it needs to stop for unloading, working at least 15 hours per day, reported *The Ledger*. [Full Story](#)

Soybean prices increased to a one-month high as traders assessed

worsening weather in Argentina. Farmers in the South American nation are delaying the planting of the summer bean crop due to drought conditions, which pushed the price of beans over \$9.80 per bushel in the U.S., reported *Des Moines Register*. [Full Story](#)

Hawaii utilized coffee production is forecast at 24.3 million-lbs. for the 2017-2018 season, down 15% from the previous season, according to USDA. Bearing acreage totaled 7,300, up 300 acres from the previous year. Average yield, at 3,420-lbs. per acre, was down 760-lbs. from the previous year. [Full Report](#)

Mango producers in Peru and Mexico shipped approximately 1.2 million boxes the week ending Jan. 13, down from 2.0 million from the year-ago period, according to the National Mango Board. Ecuadorian producers shipped about 3.8 million boxes for the season-to-date. [Full Story](#)

Chilean blueberry producers exported about 8,244 tons of product the week of Jan. 8, in line with the 8,343 tons exported during the same week in the prior season, according to the Chilean Blueberry Committee. Of the weekly total, 5,430 tons were shipped to the U.S. and Canada. [Full Story](#)

The federal insurance program for dairy farmers created in the 2014 farm bill isn't providing protection against falling milk prices, according to some dairy farmers. Participants pay a premium to buy protection against falling milk prices through the margin protection program and have invested \$100 million in premiums, but have only received \$12 million from the service, reported *Wisconsin State Farmer*. [Full Story](#)