

MARKET NEWS

Hurricane Florence caused more than \$1.1 billion in damage to crops and livestock in North Carolina, according to the state's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Row crop losses are estimated at \$986.6 million, vegetable and horticulture crop at \$26.8 million, and livestock, poultry and aquaculture at \$23.1 million. [Full Story](#)

Several different factors combined in late September to give the iceberg lettuce market an upward spike. Cultural issues led to heads of lettuce coming in underweight, which means more acreage is needed to fill the orders of the fresh-cut salad processors, according to Coastline Family Farms, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on Sept. 1 was 75.5 million head, increasing 3% from last quarter as well as a year ago, according to USDA. Breeding inventory was reported at about 6.3 million head and market hog inventory at 69.2 million head. The June-August 2018 pig crop, at 34.2 million head, was up 3% from 2017. [Full Story](#)

Farmers and plant breeders may now be able to use early detection in food crop disease resistance, according to research from the University of Johannesburg. In the future, plant varieties of food crops can be made more resistant to heat, drought, bacteria and viruses, reported *Science Daily*. [Full Story](#)

Cargill's CEO claims the ongoing trade war with China is rearranging trade patterns and could have a long-term detrimental effect on the U.S. agriculture economy. He forecasts China will turn to different soybean suppliers, but the economics may make it difficult as Brazilian soybeans are at a 25% premium and the Argentinean premium is rising. Additionally, China might search for new sources of protein for use in animal feed, such as corn or wheat imported from Russia, reported *Bloomberg*. [Full Story](#)

The new herring quota in the Atlantic may lead Maine lobstermen to sit out fishing in spring 2019. Fishermen claim the New England Fishery Management Council proposal to cut the yearly figure by 80% will result in higher prices for bait, making it economically unfeasible to fish, reported *Portland Press Herald*. [Full Story](#)

Avocado producers in California, Mexico, Chile and Peru are expected to ship about 41.4 million-lbs. the week of Sept. 30, according to the Hass Avocado Board. The board reported about 52.2 million-lbs. shipped the week of Sept. 23. [Full Story](#)

USDA's Forest Service is seeking comments on the renewal of the currently approved information collection, "Post-Hurricane Research and Assessment of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Communities in the U.S. Caribbean." The agency will accept public comment for 60 days. [Full Story](#)

The National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a rule to revise the commercial and recreational annual catch limits for golden tilefish in the South Atlantic Region. The agency will accept public comment for 15 days. [Full Story](#)

The preliminary value of Bristol Bay salmon topped \$280 million, 242% above the 20-year average. The 2018 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run of 62.3 million fish was the biggest since 1893 and nearly 70% above the 20-year average, reported *The Cordova Times*. [Full Story](#)

Global shrimp production will reach as much as 5 million metric tons by 2020 if the industry achieves a 18% growth rate as expected, according to a University of Florida seafood economist. Global supply is expected to rise 5.5% in 2018 from 2017, with global farmed shrimp production reaching about 4.5 million metric tons, reported *UndercurrentNews.com*. [Full Story](#)

A cold wave beginning Sept. 26 is expected to slow down production in Michigan, according to Weathermelon. The cold spell is expected to impact tomatoes, squash, celery and watermelon shipments, reported *The Produce News*. [Full Story](#)

Louisiana soybean farmers are reaping a good crop, as roughly 60% of it has been harvested. Yields are slightly down from last year because of weather, while farmers in some areas are dealing with grain quality issues in the state, reported *The Wichita Eagle*. [Full Story](#)

California tomato processors harvested an estimated 987,000 tons for the week ending Sept. 22, according to the Processing Tomato Advisory Board, the first time in eight weeks that the total was under 1 million tons. The total-to-date of 10.8 million tons passes last year's overall total of 10.5 million tons. It's estimated another 854,000 tons will be harvested the week ending Sept. 29. [Full Story](#)

California strawberry growers shipped approximately 160.3 million flats through Sept. 24, an 9.4% increase from the year-ago period, according to the California Strawberry Commission. The highest recorded daily production between Sept. 17 and Sept. 24 was Sept. 24, with a total of about 1.1 million flats. [Full Story](#)

U.S. poultry certified wholesome during August totaled about 4.5 billion-lbs., representing a 2% increase from August 2017, according to USDA. Revised July production totaled about 4.2 billion-lbs., up 8% from the year-ago period. [Full Report](#)

South Korea and the U.S. signed a renegotiated free-trade agreement. Terms of the new pact included modifications to tariffs and will allow U.S. agricultural crops better access to South Korean markets, reported *Bloomberg*. [Full Story](#)

The Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA) is offering \$2,250 a ton for the

2018 crop, a 25% increase over the previous year. Four of the industry's 12 packers agreed to the increased price, a hike that the RBA said was necessary to help stabilize the continued decline in raisin grape acreage and to offset the rising farming costs for growers, reported *The Fresno Bee*. [Full Story](#)

The U.S. corn harvest is 16% complete for the week ending Sept. 23, according to USDA. Soybean harvest reached 14% complete, up from 6% the week prior and ahead of the five-year average of 8%. [Full Story](#)

Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN will roll out the Truterra Insights Engine, an interactive on-farm digital platform that will help farmers advance their stewardship goals and return-on-investment in real time. The platform will be available as the core tool under the Truterra brand. [Full Story](#)

South Carolina's crop damage due to Hurricane Florence is estimated at \$125 million so far, according to the state's governor. Farmers are reporting damage due to high winds and peanuts rotting in soaking soil, but note no crop was a total loss, reported *CBS News*. [Full Story](#)

An Iowa State University report claims state farmers could lose up to \$2.2 billion from the U.S.'s trade disputes. It predicts pork producers will likely lose the most, missing out on as much as \$911 million, followed by soybean farmers facing up to \$520 million in losses, reported *Des Moines Register*. [Full Story](#)

Meanwhile, **U.S. farmers are concerned a government bailout won't be enough** to make up for the financial impact of trade disputes with China. Corn groups estimate a loss of 44 cents per bushel due to tariffs, but they are poised to receive one cent per bushel in aid. In addition, a lobbying group that represents wheat growers is challenging the way the administration determined payments for wheat farmers, who are set to receive 14 cents a bushel, reported *The Kansas City Star*. [Full Story](#)

Global raisin production for 2018/19 is forecast to increase 5% to 1.2 million metric tons as gains in Iran, U.S. and China more than offset lower output in Turkey. In response to higher supplies, world consumption is expected to rebound 3% to 1.2 million tons. [Full Story](#)

AgroFresh Solutions Inc. introduced FreshCloud Storage Insights. Powered by AdvanStore technology, FreshCloud Storage Insights is one of the first three core offerings of FreshCloud, AgroFresh's predictive technology platform for growers, packers and retailers. [Full Story](#)