

Market Report

5/16/22 - 5/21/22

WEATHER: The weather will continue to be cool the first part of the week with temperatures rising at the end of the week. Salinas possibly reaching 80 and King City hitting 98 by Saturday. Meanwhile, in the Mid-West we are doing our best to keep up with King City.

EXTENDED WEATHER: A heat wave is expected to continue this weekend into early next week with max temps up to the 90s. However, another upper low arrives Wed, May 18 increasing cloudiness, cooling temps back near normal, but no rainfall is expected. "May Gray" conditions and near to below average temps are expected to linger afterward thru next weekend.

ARUGULA -- Quality has improved with much better available supplies, market is steady

ASPARAGUS -- Movement of Mexican asparagus crossing through Arizona, California and Texas expected to increase. Trading was active at higher prices, with most orders being booked at previously committed prices and very few spot market sales. Movement of Peru asparagus through South Florida ports of entry expected to increase seasonally. Trading fairly active at higher prices. Vessel delays continue, keeping supplies relatively light. Quality so far is reported as generally good.

AVOCADO -- Mexican avocado crossings through Texas are expected to increase slightly. Trading was fairly slow at lower prices. Cinco de Mayo demand is over, and shippers are well supplied for the most part, with demand and prices decreasing day by day throughout the week. Avocado movement from Southern California expected to decrease slightly. Trading was moderate with prices on conventional lower, organic higher. Demand slowing throughout the week same as the Mexican market, but shippers report steady movement on most sizes.

BOK CHOY -- We are back in Salinas 100%. Supply side is a little tight.

BROCOLLI --Supplies are good this week. Crop showing good quality and color overall.

BRUSSEL SPROUTS -- Sprout volume will remain below budget this week for the coming week. Expect reduced fill rates on both VA and bulk categories. Production in Mexico is wrapping up and yields are dropping which is driving the market higher. Quality is generally good. Some insect injury and elongated seed core is noted.

CARROTS -- Supply is good on every size except Jumbo carrots. Shortage on jumbo is industrywide and due to the cooler weather, that put the Imperial crop behind. Expecting the jumbos to improve in May. Stick production is expecting to pick up in the next week.

CABBAGE -- The USDA mostly market prices took a significant jump on California green cabbage in the past several days. Extreme supply shortages have been driven by both adverse weather and crop gaps caused by growing transitions. With that said, the major processors have taken an increase in diced cabbage.

CAULIFLOWER -- Supply is back on budget. Quality, sizing & texture look good

CELERY -- Slightly better supplies for us. Quality is better. The market is higher in Oxnard. I looked at Sleeve Celery yesterday, and the quality was outstanding.

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CILANTRO --Supplies are really good, in spite of a very strong pull through last week.

GREEN ONIONS -- Supplies are light and quality is fair.

KALE -- Supplies are expected to be very good this week.

LETTUCE --Supplies are projected to be lighter than normal due to the cold weather. Lighter weights and lower pounds per acre are predicted. Quality has been very good with the current weather situation. Demand has been higher than normal. The market is currently active and will continue to improve.

LEAF & ROMAINE -- Production in Salinas is steady. Overall quality in the desert is good with some signs of

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bacteria and light fringe burn. Markets are slightly stronger with good demand, on Leaf. Romaine supplies are at budget. Quality is good and plants that are healthy are exhibiting dark green color. Light windburn from wind may be noticeable. Overall demand is good and steady.

NAPPA -- Started with the second grower just this week and quality is great. Supplies this week are good; however, there is some internal burn present.

SPINACH -- Good supply for current demand. Overall good quality, size, and texture.

SPRING MIX -- Good supply for current demand. Overall good quality, size, and texture.

PEPPERS/CUCUMBERS/ /SQUASH --

Green Peppers: Movement of green bell peppers from Mexico crossing through Nogales, Arizona expected to decrease seasonally. Trading on green slow at much lower prices. Current quality is reported as generally good but will be something to watch as the season nears its end due to increasing temperatures in growing areas. Prices reflect these quality concerns as well and are expected to continue to decrease.

Cucumbers: Movement of cucumbers from Mexico crossings through Texas expected about the same. Trading was slow at much lower prices. Demand moderate, with most present shipments from prior bookings and/or previous commitments. Cucumbers from Central and South Florida movement expected to remain about the same. Trading waxed moderate. Prices much lower. Demand overall moderate to good throughout the week. Quality is good.

Squash/Zucchini: Excellent supply and quality available out of Florida and Crossing through Nogales. Roasting vegetables is a simple and easy side dish or entrée for any lunch or dinner. Slice zucchini and trim broccoli and place both onto a sheet pan. Then drizzle olive oil, and sprinkle with chopped garlic, salt, pepper, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Once roasted, sprinkle with parmesan cheese

SWEET POTATOES- Availability continues to be good out of North Carolina on jumbos, #1's and #2's. Volume has picked up the past few weeks in anticipation of the Easter holiday. The market has been relatively flat all season, but we should expect to see prices gradually start to climb as we enter the summer months.

POTATOES – We have finished our Norkotah crop, and we will conclude our season with Burbank variety. It appears to be a bit of a mixed profile depending on the different growers around the state. Some are in a larger size profile, whereas some are heavier to smaller potatoes. Overall, the market continues to remain relatively 'flat' in terms of pricing this month. However, we are beginning to see the market tighten on large size count cartons throughout the state. We are seeing smaller size profiles on potatoes than we previously had, which is helping to lower the FOBs on those items. Non-size A potatoes, and #2s are more plentiful than they have been in recent months as well.

PARSLEY -- Supplies are expected to be off again this week.

ONIONS -- ALERT -- Harvest is in full force in California and Texas with all three colors, and demand is good. There are some areas going out, and there are some areas just getting started. So, we'll see what it does to the market. LTL Onion trucks out of California, mission impossible, while Texas Onions are showing a lot of skin.

APPLES-- The apple market has leveled out and the prices are fairly stable on most items. Prices to remain steady through April, then possibly start to push upward in May as inventory levels drop. The overall crop is down this year, making this the second crop in a row that is smaller than normal. This year crop is at least 3 million cases shorter than the crop last season. The quality of the fruit has been good but will see how the fruit holds up in storage. Pricing overall is higher due to the shorter crop and overall inflation in the growing chain, including labor, picking, packing, and transporting of apples.

TOMATOES --

Rounds: Good supply available out of Immokalee as well as the Ruskin/Palmetto areas. Quality is outstanding

Grape: Excellent volume and quality available

Cherry: Strong numbers continue out of all regions and quality is outstanding.

Roma: Older growing areas in Mexico are coming to an end. Newer ones have not come into any volume yet. The Mexican national market is firm, and they are sending less to the border. On top of that, quality is an issue from mainland, Mexico. Markets for the topquality labels are higher than the older poor-quality Roma's. Baja, Mexico has started production. Their markets are high, but what little volume they have is for Los Angeles and San Diego. Florida

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has Roma's but they are following Mexico's lead on the market with higher pricing.

BLACKBERRIES -- Clearly we are in transition as we are attempting to move from Mexico back to California and North Carolina. USA regions will be on the uptrend. Quality is good. Berries and summer are synonymous. And right on cue, the sweet, juicy little orbs are making their way across North America as temperatures warm and consumers head outdoors. Strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries are being harvested throughout the U.S.

BLUEBERRIES -- While Central Mexico is good volume, the San Joaquin valley is also under way.

CITRUS –

Lemons: Supplies of lemons are steady with good quality fruit coming from California.

Limes: Prices are rising due to tight supplies and quality issues caused by poor weather conditions in Mexico. Continual rain in the growing region of Veracruz, Mexico is reducing availability of high-quality fruit. 25-35% of the crop yield is being culled on arrival into South Texas. We have seen, Styler, oil spots, and scarring caused by wet weather and wind have reduced yields.

Oranges: The California navel season is nearing its end with growers expecting to ship through the end of May. Supplies of smaller sizes (113s and 138s) are tightening, with elevated prices expected for the remainder of the navel season.

GRAPES-- Weather in Chile is going perfectly for grapes and has been for a few weeks which is increasing the supplies being imported into the US. Red Grape pricing continues to be low with plenty of supply. Greens remain firmer as fewer supplies have been shipped

KIWI FRUIT -- California and Imported kiwi are available. California sizes mostly 36 and smaller, larger sizes are limited. Fruit is firm with some soft in box.

MELONS --

CANTALOUPE: production remains consistent with grower projections. However, they continue to face challenges with limited availability with ocean carriers which is not allowing them always to send their fruit to preferred destination ports. Recent sizing has been primarily 9cts and larger, with a considerable amount of jumbo fruit being packed. This trend has left 12/15cts in an extremely limited position. The cause for this has been hotter temperatures in the growing areas. Melons are coming in with some of the best exterior color of the season, and we are seeing average brix levels increasing slightly.

HONEYDEW: Production is even shorter than the cantaloupe. Growers are harvesting mostly 5cts and larger leaving the 6/8cts in an extremely limited position. With lower overall production, the significant shift in sizing to larger fruit truly magnifies the shortage of the smaller sizes. Fortunately, incoming fruit has been very good quality with good brix levels.

WATERMELONS -- Supplies on seedless are starting to pick up while minis are still tight. Supplies will continue to pick up and there will be good volume in May. Our Yucatan, Mexico crop is still going in the East for another 1-2 weeks. Florida is going and Arcadia, Florida is starting as well. North Florida is 3 to 4 weeks away. Out West, Northern Mexico is picking up in volume with good quality. May will be a good month to promote seedless watermelons.

RASPBERRIES - Right now, it is all going our way, good volume almost everywhere.

STRAWBERRIES - California peak strawberry harvest season got off to a strong start and is proceeding as expected, despite less-than-optimal rainfall during the growing season.

Market Reprt Summarized from our Friends at Legacy Foodservice and ProMark

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