

Gordon Food Service Market Updates

Meat section for Market Update: December 21, 2018

Meat | Beef

Packers are buying fewer cattle for the two holiday-shortened weeks ahead. Cattle prices are mostly steady. Beef production will drop around 20% during the holiday period.

Ground Beef:

Holiday shortened production schedules will tighten supplies of ground beef. Prices should continue to firm.

Ribs:

Ribeye prices have topped out and are trading lower now that holiday pulls are over. Packers are forward selling at a 10% discount to current prices.

Briskets:

Forward prices are even with spot prices showing that packers believe prices will trend sideways.

Rounds:

Round prices are increasing as retailers load up for January features.

Strips:

Strip prices are increasing as we approach holiday production slowdowns.

Tenders:

Tender prices have peaked with just a few more days of fill-in buying before prices adjust lower. Forward sales have been made at 10% discounts.

Thin Meats:

Prices for most thin meats are rising as production shrinks late this month.

Meat | Pork

Last week and this week will likely be the largest pork production levels we will see in the next few months. As output trends lower into next summer pork prices should begin to get a little traction.

Butts:

Butt prices are low enough to move extra production into freezer programs or exports,

Hams:

The brief rally enjoyed by ham prices has ended and prices are headed lower.

Bacon/Bellies:

Belly prices are lower as holiday shopping and retail features wind down.

Ribs:

Rib prices are below where they were last year. Demand for freezer programs is good.

Loins:

Loin prices bounced off of 5-year low as buyers stepped in to take advantage of fire sale cost levels. Prices could continue higher as the holidays temporarily shrink supply.