

Gordon Food Service Market Updates

Meat section for Market Update: June 21, 2019

Meat | Beef

Cattle weights are still dropping due to the lingering effects of a severe winter; beef production is up only marginally. With exports below last year domestic supply on a per-capita basis is unchanged from 2018. Cattle and beef prices are on par with last year and should drift lower into summer as slaughter and cattle weights increase.

Ground Beef:

Ground beef prices have held steady for much longer than usual. Cow and bull slaughter has dropped back to 2018 levels reducing 90% trim output. Fed cattle weights are lower which is generating less 50% trim. Smaller trim supply is supporting ground beef prices.

Ribs:

Retailers booked a good quantity of bone-in and boneless ribs for July 4th features. Spot prices are steady/higher as we approach the holiday.

Briskets:

We saw some good volumes booked for July 4th features a few weeks back, but not much since. Prices are drifting lower.

Rounds:

Round prices are steady as retail features and good export pulls keep supplies moving.

Strips:

Retailers have booked for bone-in ribeye and T-bone features while neglecting

strips. Prices for strips continue to slip lower.

Tenders:

Prices really didn't go anywhere in the past 80 days and they continue to be flat.

Thin Meats:

Ball-tip and flank prices are steady/higher as supplies stay well cleared. Skirt meat prices are now tracking last year's gradual decline.

Meat | Pork

Pork prices are back down to where they were last year, which is pretty good given production was up an average of 7% over the last three weeks. The cool spring has helped performance with hogs gaining weight faster, forcing producers to move up marketing thereby creating the current supply bulge.

Butts:

Butt prices have leveled out with support coming from July 4th builds and the removal of Mexico's pork tariff.

Hams:

Ham prices may have peaked for now as prices edge lower. Mexico has been an active buyer since the removal of their pork tariff was announced.

Bacon/Bellies:

Belly prices continue to slip versus the usual summer uptrend. Prices may not recover until after we get through current overproduction.

Ribs:

Rib prices have leveled off and could get stronger into the July 4th holiday.

Loins:

Bone-in and boneless loin prices are holding above last years levels, which is still low relative to history.