

Gordon Food Service Market Updates

Meat | Pork

Kills are ramping up closer to the 2.5 million head which we saw prior to the holidays and prices are easing as kills increase. With the reduced kills the past 2 weeks prices increase slightly for butts and loins, Spare ribs trended higher.

Bellies are higher this week as plants reduced production time the past 2 holiday weeks, both slaughter plants and bacon production plants, the demand for bellies decreased. As the demand declined so did the price. This week as plants are coming back on line and the belly price was bid higher. The new pricing is close to the 5 year average belly price for January.

Meat | Beef

Reduced kills due to holiday weeks have made some shifts in the market. The main impact has been around grinds, ends, and some thin meats. Retail sales for Christmas were strong, however, foodservice struggled more than even expected. Middle meats like ribs and tenderloins continue to struggle. It will be interesting to see what happens to the asking prices come the first week of January when production ramps back up for a full week. Historically ribs come off sharply in January. We are already at significantly lower numbers than early December, so expect to see some drop but maybe not as much as we have seen over the last few weeks. Other loin cuts have been steady. End cuts have shown a bit of strength as retail tends to start promoting these items this time of year. Thin meats are mixed as kills are down although demand is down as well. Grinds are showing further strength. This time of year ground beef receives heavy attention as consumers are on the search for cheap proteins to offset their Christmas purchases.