

Gordon Food Service Market Updates

Poultry | Chicken

The labor challenges at the plants continue to be a factor for production. This is becoming a bigger issue as the demand for product continues to strengthen with the improved weather and states opening up more for Foodservice. The latest round of stimulus checks has also allowed many to stay home versus reporting in to work. The production numbers have fallen off a little this week and some of that is attributed to the earlier weather issues that impacted bird placement. They are also continuing to keep breeder flocks for longer periods of time. The total production was at 166million head and remained with 54% coming in the larger weight ranges. This was a reduction of around 3 Million head from the week prior. The reduction in supply and increase in demand has pushed breast meat markets higher. The wing market is still in short supply and processors are unable to fill all of the demand that is coming their way. As the market continues to climb many feel we will see this market hit the \$3/lb level. Restaurants that focus on wings have been out shopping and willing to pay the higher prices for any product that they are able to uncover. This situation has once again pushed all three sizes of wings to new record highs. There does not seem to be any relief in site until we are able to see some production levels increase. Tenders have seem to find some balance and have remained relatively flat for the week. The dark meat has been in high demand as well. While we may have seen the dark meat for export reach a more even level the challenges with labor have reduced the supply of boneless dark meat and have pushed pricing upward.

Breast and Tenders:

The Jumbo Breast Meat market gained \$.05/lb to \$1.53/lb for the week. The select and medium markets were a little more in balance with the medium market remaining at \$1.68/lb and the Select picking up \$.03/lb to \$2.26/lb. Line run Breast Tenders have continued to hold at \$1.83/lb with no changes this week.

Wings:

The lack of availability on wings have pushed all sizes to new record highs. The Jumbo whole wings have seen a \$.04/lb increase to \$2.66/lb, medium whole wings added \$.04/lb to \$2.64/lb and small wings also took a \$.04/lb increase to \$2.73/lb. Even with the record high prices all product that is produced is moved with ease.