

Gordon Food Service Market Updates

Meat | Pork

Slaughter is projected to be fractionally lower this week.

Bone in butt prices are steady to higher this week. Boneless butts prices continued to increase as demand and labor issues in the plants are driving the prices. Loins prices are up moderately.

Ribs traditionally rally in April and through the summer as increased demand for grilling reaches its peak. This year however, we are approaching this period with all-time highs already established for April on spareribs and St Louis ribs as well as 14-year highs for April on back ribs.

Belly prices continue to run but appear to be increasing in price at a slower pace. Breakfast sausage is competing with bacon and both items continue to push the other's price higher. Trimming prices reached record highs last week but are trending slightly lower this week.

Meat | Beef

Weather-related issues both with producers and consumers have the boxed beef market in an interesting position. Harvest was down 100K last week from the average weekly runs all due to weather-related issues. The excess market-ready cattle will need to be pushed to production over the next few weeks increasing supply during a time when we historically experience reduced demand before the spring grilling season. We have yet to see the market react due to short boxed beef, but it will come soon and probably be a good portion of March as prices are too high for this time of year and increased supply will push prices lower. Middle meats have performed well on retail ads, however, high prices will put pressure on ad placements at retail and foodservice will follow. Look for opportunities on middle

meats over the next few weeks. Grinds took a big dive after Super Bowl but are now up again due to short supply caused by last weeks weather events. Expect to see some softness until later into March. End cuts should come off some over the next few weeks and stay lower through most of the spring. Expect lower levels as we move into March. Thin meats and briskets should see good demand and higher prices as we move into March. There are still many large customers shopping brisket packages for the spring business.