

Gordon Food Service Market Updates

Meat | Pork

Hog production this week is holding steady with last week as we approach the height of the grill season.

Cash markets are zipping higher as fresh product is now in demand for the grill season and exports increase(up 2%) in March. Bone in butts up \$.08-\$.10/LB, boneless butts up \$.05 to \$.06/lb. Bnls loins are .01 to \$.03 lb higher. All forecast to go higher in the next 14 days.

Spare ribs higher again this week, in the span of the last 2 months the price is close to \$1.00 higher and \$.20/lb higher than last year as we muddled through plant closures. St Louis ribs continue to increase in value as the spares move up.

Back ribs already at record prices continue their ascent higher.

Bellies are stable, a surprise in this atmosphere. High prices slowed demand at retail. It is likely they will head lower and bounce higher in the next 2 weeks.

Sausage trimmings had stabilized at prices higher than seasonally normal, the recent rally in most pork prices likely will generate higher prices prior to Memorial Day.

Meat | Beef

Harvest numbers continue to be under pressure due to labor constraints. Most packers have cut back on labor-intensive items to help keep production pounds up. Cattle weights are starting to come down slightly, this trend will continue for the next couple of months. With lighter cattle, we tend to see lower grading. Grade has slipped slightly by 1-2% and the expectation is another 2-4% drop. Expect the

select/choice spread to increase over the next few weeks. Exports have continued to be very strong. The US set a new monthly record of 300 million pounds in March up 70 million pounds from the previous year, the numbers for April should be close to the same.

Middle meats such as ribeyes are at all-time highs. The spot market is clean with most packers not showing quantities until June. Expect to see high prices for at least a few more weeks. Striploins are continuing to climb and should peak over the next few weeks. Tenderloins should start to show some relief after hitting all-time highs leading into Mothers Day. Briskets are moving sideways and may have hit the top for the next few weeks. If retailers decide to do a Summer holiday promo on briskets, we can expect another run. Thin meats such as skirts continue to show strength. Imported skirts are tight so expect increased demand on domestic products. Grinds should continue to move higher into Memorial Day.