**Poultry**
Labor shortages are bringing down product availability across the industry. Wings and Tenders are in high demand and supplies are limited. The breast market is strengthening as foodservice business returns. Boneless dark meat is higher on strong demand and reduced production due to labor. Whole birds and cut up are slightly higher on increasing demand. Look for portion breast to continue to move higher as demand increases.

**Pork**
Hog supplies remain tight as the live hog futures continue to rise. Packers are struggling with labor to bone out butts. Boneless butts will become a premium very quickly. Conversely, there will be more supply on bone-in butts which should weaken this market. Ribs will remain a struggle and these markets will continue to gain strength. Demand for loins continues to grow.

**Grains / Oil**
Once again, the soybean oil market shot higher. The market characteristics remain the same. Higher food service demand, and much higher biofuel demand, and shrinking supplies are the main drivers. Canola continues to move higher as does palm.

**Dairy**
The cheese markets increased week over week. The butter market decreased by $0.08/lb week over week. The shell eggs market remained flat however large and extra large dropped $0.05/dz week over week. Milk & cream are increasing in the month of May.

**Seafood**
Cold water and warm water lobster are in limited supply. Replacement opportunities are limited. Domestic white shrimp production is now in the off-season. The next season is undetermined as cool spring weather inhibited shrimp growth. Certain sizes and product forms may not be available at this time.

**Beef**
The market continues to be fueled by demand and well sold positions by packers. Middle meats and thin meats continue to be highly sought after and are in very tight supply. End cuts continue to be supported by export demand, but prices are starting to flatten out. With Memorial Day around the corner, and the start of a run up on grinds.

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**Hot News**

**Vegetable Oil**
Returning foodservice demand and very large demand from biofuels is causing shortages of most varieties of vegetable oils, especially soybean and Canola oils.

**Pork**
Plants are seeing increased labor struggle, so expect boneless product supply to tighten up.

**Seafood**
Canadian Crab season is just beginning, and prices are staying high due to demand in retail and foodservice.

**Resins**
The February Texas winter storm caused resin shortages, impacting polystyrene (PS) products (foam containers, PS plastic cups, PS cutlery, etc.). Pactiv is on resin allocation unable to supply normal volumes through June.
Asparagus
Market is stronger as we continue to transition regions in Mexico and a slower start out of Washington. Peru volume expected to remain steady. Quality is fair to good.

Avocados-Alert
Demand remains strong leading into Cinco de Mayo. The size curve continues to peak on 48’s, which are plentiful with promotable volumes, not so for 60’s and 70’s, these supplies are limited with stronger markets

Broccolini
Broccoli quality and condition is good currently with good supplies. Broccolini on the other hand has become challenged due to the colder weather. Yields have dropped and we are now in a demand exceeds supply market. There are other alternative packs available to fill in as needed.

Green Beans-Alert
The market on bushel and value added trim green beans is very active and limited in supply for this week and into next. Supply out of Florida was impacted by lower-than-normal temperatures and rain. Georgia start has been delayed as well due to weather. Mexico supplies have started to decline, and California is just starting to ramp up their production. Quality issues in all areas have been of concern as well.

Cauliflower-Alert
Markets active this week as yields have dropped off in the fields due to the consistent colder weather patterns on the central coast of CA. Limited supplies are available on all commodity and value-added packs. Better supplies are 2-3 weeks out.

Green Grapes-Alert
Supplies are very good on reds on both coasts with a wide range in quality. Prices are steady. Greens are very limited with poor quality in the West. Greens supplies in the East are slightly better but are expecting to finish this week. Green prices are very active in the market.

Lemons
Demand is good. Supplies are good overall, but sizing is starting to run heavier to smaller sizes.

Oranges-Demand is good. Supplies are good on larger sizes but very limited on 113 with stronger markets being seen.

Limes-Alert
Consistent rain has consumed the Martinez region of Mexico this week and is expected to continue over the next few days. Rain prevents harvesting and packing, which will create a substantial void in availability. With Cinco de Mayo coming up, demand is increasing – the market is becoming very active. 110/150 very short supply, with crop peaking on 230’s.

Mushrooms
Some supply challenges are being seen this week on large size portabellas. Concerns continue labor as well as issues with transportation. These issues are expected to last for the next several months.

Mixed Berries-Alert
All mixed berries are challenged from light supplies and strong demand. Weather challenges in multiple growing regions have delayed the start of harvest in new areas and limited supplies continues. Relief for raspberries and blackberries should be seen in the next 7 days with blueberries still being challenged for the next 3-6 weeks.

Strawberries-Alert
Limited supplies continue to plague the strawberry market. Demand continues to be strong with not enough fruit able to be harvested to keep up. California continues with colder than normal temperatures including now a rain even this past weekend, thus not allowing the fruit to come to maturation and for the plants to be down in needed yields. Improvements are not expected to be seen until mid to late May.

Leaf and Lettuce
Demand is good and supplies continue to be steady. The continued cooler weather is of concern as we could start to see the growth start to slow down and create some market conditions as a result.

Tomato
Market is stable both east and west due to good availability and quality on all varieties.

Top Produce Items
Below are additional items on Alerts

Garlic
Supplies on the remaining CA storage crop are a concern as demand is picking up and supplies are dwindling down. Expect to see a decrease in domestic supply and suppliers look to alternative growing regions to meet all demand for the next few months. Appearance and aromatics may vary as global supply ramps up to fill CA’s void.

Carrots
Jumbo carrots remain short and limited in supply. Better sizing and availability not expected to be seen until June. Snack pack carrots are starting to become more limited as well as capacity issues are once again being met for some suppliers due to increase of schools coming back to in person learning.

Labor and Freight
Big challenges remains with lack of labor and freight in all segments of the fresh produce business, making for challenges in the executions of the supply chain flow from harvest to shipping to receiving.

Red and Yellow Bell Peppers
Markets are active on both coasts due to limited supplies on both red and yellow peppers.