Poultry
Overall production is down due to lower availability of market ready birds and labor challenges. Wings and tenders are in high demand while supplies are limited. The breast market is strengthening rapidly as foodservice business returns. Boneless dark meat is higher on strong export demand to Mexico and slower production due to labor. Whole birds and cut up are higher on increasing demand and lower supplies. Look for portion breast to move higher as demand increases.

Grains / Oil
Most vegetable oil markets moved higher last week and continue to move higher this week. We quite literally could run out of soybean oil in the coming months. Imports, however, are increasing. Canola too is extremely tight. As we move toward July and August, we could have severe shortages.

Dairy
Both cheese markets increased week over week. The butter market increased by $0.02/lb week over week. Large and extra-large eggs are down $0.07/dozen this week, mediums and small remained unchanged.

Seafood
New season Alaskan Pollock due to arrive in May. Low labor participation in catfish production continues to hamper supply. The Atlantic sea scallop fishing year began April 1st. Domestic shrimp production is now in the off-season until the new season kicks off in May.

Beef
Retail, export, and foodservice demand continues to increase. Packers are struggling with increased demand and not able to increase supply levels due to facility staffing concerns. Middle meat inventory is cleaning up as quickly as you find it and at higher prices. Some experts will tell you this can last through Memorial Day.

Pork
Live hog markets continue to rise with expectations of continuance through the summer. Butts are holding steady, but this complex could change quickly as suppliers struggle with labor in converting to boneless butts. Loins are steady but also could rise in the coming days. There’s no change to the story on ribs, supply will remain tight, and markets will continue to be strong.

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

Seafood
Cold water and warm water lobster are in limited supply. Replacement opportunities are limited. Canadian crab season is just beginning, and prices are staying high due to demand in retail and foodservice.

Beef
Box Beef availability is limited. Foodservice, retail, & export have stepped in hard to fill the pipeline. Demand is very high; “Grilling Season” is pushing middle meats to historic highs.
Asparagus
Market is expected to adjust as Mexico continues transition and Peru volume not at full production. Quality is good to very good.

Avocados-Alert
There will be an increase in supply from both California and Mexico for the next 3 weeks as the pull starts for Cinco De Mayo. Mexico has higher maturity fruit with more color on the skin. Smaller sizes and #2 quality fruit remain the lightest sizes. Expect a market adjustment as demand increases ahead.

Broccoli
Quality is fair to good with occasional hollow core beginning to make its presence. Markets remain flush with ample product to meet all demand needs on all packs and sizes.

Cauliflower
Quality and condition are both good currently with improved sizing and a clean jacket. Similar to the broccoli market, supplies are good with ample product to meet all demand needs on all packs and sizes.

Cucumbers-Alert
The Florida cucumber supply extremely short, quality good and market is very active. Mexico is currently in big production gap with very limited supplies; no relief until mid-to late next week.

Green Grapes-Alert
Supplies and quality of green grapes are declining mainly on the west coast but will also impact the east coast in the next week or two. This is due to rains several weeks ago in Chile.

Lemons- Demand is good. Supplies are good overall, but sizing varies between growing regions. Quality is generally good but getting heavier to choice grade.

Oranges-Demand is better this week. Supplies are good on larger sizes but very limited on 113 and 138 counts. Quality is good with good color and sugar. The market is steady on large sizes but higher on 113 and 138 counts.

Limes-Alert
Limes continue to struggle with lighter supplies being reported. Sizing is leaning heavy to smaller sized fruit (200 to 230s) and expect this to continue through most of April. Anticipate a premium on larger sized fruit (175s and larger) to continue, while the market on smaller sized fruit fluctuates throughout the month of April; then turn around once again in May. The reports from Mexico growers regarding size issue is a result of growers cutting ahead of schedule and trees suffering from damage due to the cold weather at the start of the year. With 110-175ct limes expected to be extremely short. To ensure fill rates, flexibility on sizing will be needed to maintain supply during this escalated and volatile lime market.

Mushrooms
Supplies are starting to improve, and better production is coming into the farms. Labor issues coupled with transportation concerns will continue over the next few months and will be monitored closely.

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 on all mix berries is not expected until the beginning of May.

Strawberries-Alert
Limited supplies continue to plague the strawberry market. Demand continues to be strong with not enough fruit available to be harvested. Florida has finished their season and Mexico’s harvest remains on the decline. California continues with colder than normal temperatures, thus not allowing the fruit to come to maturation and for the plants to be yielding what they should. Improvements are not expected to be seen until the start of May.

Leaf and Lettuce
Markets remain steady with ample supplies to meet all demand needs on all iceberg and leafy greens. Multiple growing regions remain in play as transition continues. Iceberg: Observing increased condition and quality issues in Huron such as insect pressure, mildew, and rib blight. Misshapen and oversizing also being reported in Salinas and Huron. Leaf: Huron-area is struggling with insect and seeder, while Salinas continues to improve, occasional inconsistent sizing. Romaine: Huron is holding on, mostly fair with insect, cupping, and mildew. Salinas is fair to good with under sizing, wind damage, and burn. Hearts continue to struggle with under sizing and open shape.

Tomato
Market is steady with good supply on all varieties (Round, Roma, Grape, & Cherry). Quality remains good.

Top Produce Items

Below are additional items on Alerts

Garlic
Supplies on the remaining CA storage crop are becoming 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. Good supply on CA Garlic not expected to return until mid to late June. Appearance and aromatics may vary as global supply ramps up to fill CA’s void.

Watermelon
Demand is very strong. Supplies are very light from Mexico. Imports through Florida are lighter as some growers have finished for the season and others will continue for a couple more weeks. Quality is fair to good. Prices are steady at current higher levels.

Hot House
Medley tomatoes remain very short in supply.

Carrots-
Jumbo carrots are very limited in supply as suppliers are not getting the size needed as they move to a new growing region. Expect active markets and limited supplies on Jumbos for the next few months.