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JUNE 2025

MARKET REPORT



Center of the Plate

Beef

The struggle continues. Packers losing hundreds of dollars per head even though prices are very strong overall. Demand is “very slow” at retail, a cold and rainy Memorial Day weekend across the country did not help that along. Accordingly, USDA Prime, thought to climb briskly, is rather flat to down, overall. It will rebound quickly though as packers are running 32 hour weeks, as many as they can, in effort to control supply and make a few dollars per head. Grinds have climbed, typical for this time of year.

The inbound tariff situation, particularly in grinds and middle meats from Australia has put pressure on a lot of Wagyu in the US and some grinding meats. A 10% effective tariff doesn’t seem like a lot but adds a few bucks per pound to an already expensive middle meat Wagyu complex.

Pork

Still the same. Bacon bounces along and remains affordable but cannot find any functional demand to push prices higher. Looking for a great item? Look at our VandeRose Pork line Pork Tenderloin, ABF, Hormone Free and Duroc Heritage breed and quite affordable, only 1/3 of the price of its whole beef tenderloin equivalent. Yikes.

Lamb

Domestic and international lamb suppliers are losing money on every head and a significant drought in AUS has made matter worse. Expect to see a strong lamb market, particularly on the summer cuts like racks and loins, for the next few months.

Seafood

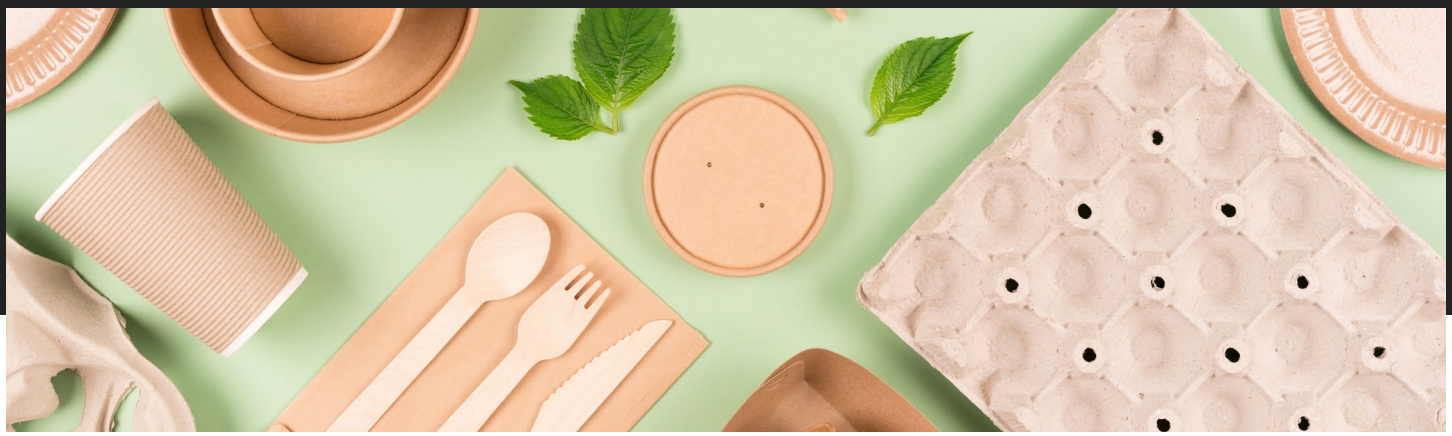
- **Calamari:** Landings have slowed down a bit from last month, which ultimately could result in minor price changes.
- **Octopus:** Due to production quotas not being met during the winter season, prices have steadily increased as of late. However, we do expect to maintain continuity of supply.
- **Lobster Meat / Tails:** The spring lobster season is underway, and prices are trending lower than last winter. However, pricing this season will ultimately be affected by future landings.
- **Shrimp:** The current production of shrimp is strong; however, the market is still being impacted by the threat of reciprocal tariffs. Regarding shipping, conditions have improved leading to more timely deliveries.
- **Crab Meat: C**rab production remains steady; however, we are heading into a slow period of production. Therefore, prices are expected to continue rising.
- **Scallops:** The new scallop season began in April. The quota for this year has been reduced significantly which is having a major impact on availability and pricing.

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Pantry & Grocery

Pantry & Grocery – Elevated Staples

Market Highlights

- Pricing on all spices will be increasing due to market conditions. The rate of increase will vary by item.

Trending in Kitchens

- Domestically Grown Saffron: New to CW, grown in Washington State. Rich color, deep aroma, and packed in 0.5 oz tins.
- Yuzu Juice & Kewpie Mayo (try the Red Label for foodservice)
- Hot sauces like Fix's Sambal Oelek and Fresh Olive Co.'s Rose Harissa
- Labor-saving stars: CW Potato Pellets, Proper Stock & Sauce, BelAria Pesto

Beverages – Sip-Worthy Shifts

Vendor Moves

- Perricone is now Natalie's. Same flavors, new label.
- Sizing adjustments: 16oz > 12oz, Pressed 12oz > 15.2oz

Trends to Pour Over

- Non-alcoholic expansion continues
- Organic ingredients
- Aluminum packaging rise
- Dairy alternatives dominate
- Functional beverages (think: prebiotic sodas)

Non-Foods – Tabletop to Back-of-House

Highlights

- Restaurantware drop ship is live on our website- access to 10k plus items with standard shipping lead time of 2-4 days. Start browsing today Search | Chef's Warehouse
- Hedley & Bennett drop ship coming soon!

Trends

- Latex gloves are on their way out—already banned in 8 states
- PFAs-free options gaining traction
- Compostability guidelines evolving—watch for 2025 launches

Commodity Oil – Climbing Costs

- Domestic soybean planting is ahead of schedule with the Crop Progress report showing beans at 66% planted, up 13% from 5-year average. The report also indicates that adequate moisture level is observed across most states which will promote a healthy yield. Supply at market currently is tight with costs about 15% higher YOY, hopes that a good harvest this fall will promote softening.

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Dairy & Eggs

Eggs

- Everyday prices for shell eggs have come down as the avian influenza crisis has waned and supplies have recovered but are yet to see pricing prior to last years shortages.

Butter

- Butter trading took its first increase this week. An indicator that Spring Flush is ending, and warmer weather is moving in. Cow comfortability directly impacts the composition of cow's milk and pricing will continue to rise through the summer months as cream availability tightens.
- Cream is still available but not outpacing demand
- Ice cream processors have picked up manufacturing steam as warm weather and summer vacations are near.

Milk

- Seasonal temperature changes are affecting the fat content in some milk. Nationwide milk production is softening at the farm level marking the end of Spring Flush.
- Pricing will increase on fluid milk and cream from May to June.

Cheese

- Milk bottling for the school year is winding down and there is more milk available for cheese making and also more cream for ice cream production.
- Cheesemakers are taking on more milk for cheese production and building inventories.
- Block market pricing is climbing as May closes out and is anticipated to continue through June. This is the importance of cheese makers building inventories during spring flush to ensure best prices for as long as possible.

Parmigiano Reggiano & Grana Padano

Market continues to climb in Italy. CW pricing is competitive and there is plenty of product stateside, avoiding any impending tariffs on European goods.

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Pastry & Baking

Flour

- The 2025/26 U.S. wheat outlook is for increased supplies, modestly higher domestic use, reduced exports, and higher stocks
- Supplies are projected up 2 percent from 2024/25 as higher beginning stocks more than offset lower production
- All wheat production is projected at 1,921 million bushels, down 3 percent from last year on lower harvested acreage
- The all wheat yield is projected at 51.6 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from last year
- Total 2025/26 domestic use is marginally higher, mostly on food use, which is projected at a record 977 million bushels.
- Exports are projected lower at 800 million bushels as the United States is expected to face strong competition from most major exporters in 2025/26.
- Projected 2025/26 ending stocks are 10 percent above last year at 923 million bushels, the highest level in six years.

Sugar

- United States: Sugar beet planting is up 3%, which may boost output—but weather and mill efficiency remain critical factors.
- Mexico: As of April 2: 3.387M tons produced, down -0.5% YoY and -0.9% behind projections.
- U.S. Tariffs: Canada and Mexico remain exempt under USMCA. It's unclear whether raw sugar under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) will be affected.

Cocoa

- Ivory Coast cocoa mid-crop is currently being harvested through September:
  - Cocoa processors are complaining about the crop's quality and have rejected truckloads of Ivory Coast cocoa beans.
  - Processors said about 5% to 6% of the mid-crop cocoa in each truckload is poor quality, compared with 1% during the main crop.
- Cocoa prices have support due to the slowing pace of Ivory Coast & Ghana cocoa exports, signaling tighter future cocoa supplies.
  - Cocobod, Ghana's cocoa regulator, cut its Ghana 2024/25 cocoa harvest forecast in December for the second time this season to 617,500 MT, down -5% from an August estimate of 650,000 MT.
  - The average estimate for this year's Ivory Coast mid-crop is 400,000 MT, down -9% from last year's 440,000 MT.
- Cocoa futures eased to below $9,200 per tonne, supported by forecasts of favorable rainfall in the world's largest cocoa-growing regions which is expected to aid cocoa crop development.

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Specialty Goods

Trending: Seed Oil Free Alliance

Is a new certification that promotes brands that do not use Seed oils such as Canola, Soy and Corn oil. 40 brands across the US have joined the alliance to promote offering foods with seed oil free options to consumers. This is now trickling into foodservice. Chefs are looking for alternative oils in the kitchens to promote on menus and Social.

Options that are making strides are Avocado, Coconut, High Oleic Sunflower and Rice Bran oils. While Avocado and Coconut will offer the highest Omega 3's and polyphenols they come with a higher tag and investment for the operator. High Oleic Sunflower and Rice bran will be a more affordable option while still able to offer a non seed oil solution.

Olive Oil:

Extra Virgin costs are remain stable so far through the budding and bloom season however the newly imposed Tariffs have affected costs slightly over that last month. Costs are still down substantially from the highs saw in the 23/24 season with the historical supply shortages.