



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AND COMMODITY REPORT

NOVEMBER 23rd, 2009

HOLIDAY SPOTLIGHT

We at Adams have so much to be thankful for this time of year. However, we can't help but think about all of those who are not as fortunate.

Hunger in America continues to climb, and the numbers are staggering.

- *The USDA reported last week that 49 million Americans, including nearly 17 million children, are food insecure*
 - *This is an increase of 36 percent over the numbers released one year ago by the USDA*
- *There has been a dramatic increase in requests for emergency food assistance from food banks across the country*
- *A recent Feeding America study shows that its network food banks experienced an average increase in need of nearly 30 percent this year. While the numbers vary geographically, some food banks are reporting increases of more than 50 percent in requests for emergency food assistance over a year prior.*

For more information and to find out how you can help, please visit
www.feedingamerica.org





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WEATHER REPORT

The Southwestern Desert region temperatures will cool to the mid 70s this week with overnight lows in the low 40s through the week. Long range forecasts show a cooling trend over the weekend into early next week.

In the Southeast high temperatures in the mid 70s in the Northern regions of Florida to low 80s in Central and Southern Florida with a chance of showers in through the week. Overnight lows generally in the 50s look to be the norm this week.

COMMODITY ALERT

- Tomato supplies will be diminished through November
- Small sized apple supplies remain limited with crops peaking on 64/72/80 ct
- Navel orange supplies remain very limited on small size fruit
- Strawberries are limited and will be for this month
- Lettuce, Leaf, Romaine Hearts, and Sugar Snap Peas are in extreme short supplies for the week

MARKET REPORT

ITEMS TO WATCH -- MARKETS VOLATILE, PRICES UP

Broccoli	Carrots	Cauliflower	Cucumbers	Grapes	Honeydew	Leaf Lettuce	Iceberg Lettuce
	Raspberries	Strawberries	Squash	Tomatoes	Watermelon		

ITEMS TO WATCH -- MARKETS GOING DOWN/STEADY

Apples	Asparagus	Avocado	Bell Peppers	Blackberries	Blueberries	Cantaloupe	Celery
Cucumbers	Green Onions	Kiwi	Lemons	Onions	Oranges	Pears	Potatoes
							Stonefruit

APPLES/PEARS

Small sized apples in all varieties remain extremely short especially in the 100ct and smaller sizes. This will be a season long issue for the Washington State apple crop. Overall crop shortages attributed to early and late growing season freezes (upwards of 5 million cartons over the season) will also contribute to the low levels of small fruit available. There are other areas in the Northeast (including the Carolina's, Virginia, Michigan and New York) packing red 'typed' apples, and demand for those is very good as well, especially with the limited supply of small sizes. Anjou Pears are in excellent shape with better supplies in Washington and Bartlett pears are still going strong. There are also varietal pears available including Bosc, Seckel, Concorde, Comice and Crimson Red Pears. Special apples, including the famed Honeycrisp variety, are still in good supply.

ASPARAGUS

This market currently is steady with good supplies from Peru, Chili, and Mexico. Jumbo asparagus is still in limited supplies. Prices should remain stable for the rest of the week. The holiday will limit supplies of the off shore product arriving on both East and West Coast. But the demand is not that great right now. Quality is nice from all areas.

AVOCADO

Mexico and Chile are scaling back shipments for the next 2 to 3 weeks in efforts to firm up the market. The over all supplies will still be good, they are just trying to reduce the guilt.

- **Mexican Fruit:** Mexico has reduced picking to let inventories catch up with demand.
- **California Fruit:** California fruit should begin with light harvest sometime in December. This year's crop forecast looks much larger than last year's.
- **Chilean Fruit:** Chile is also reducing volumes coming to the states in efforts to firm the market.

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BELL PEPPERS

Eastern Bells: Volume in Florida remains good, with the market remaining steady from last week. Larger sizes remain strong on price, with deals to be made on off-grades. Quality has been good.

BERRIES

- **Strawberries:** The Northern Growing areas (Salinas/Watsonville) are done for the season most part. The cool weather we are getting up and down the coast of California is slowing down the harvest. Market is starting to firm up. Supplies will be limited for the next two weeks. Strawberries are still being harvested in Santa Maria, Oxnard and Mexico at this time. Quality is fair to good. Florida strawberry production will not start up till the first part of December. Look for the current markets to remain high with limited supplies.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberry production is starting to slowdown with the cool weather in the growing areas. Quality remains good. Market is firmer. Raspberries are being harvested in California and Mexico at this time.
- **Blackberries:** Blackberries supplies continue to increase out of Mexico. Quality is good. Market is weaker.
- **Blueberries:** Supplies steady this week and arrivals of offshore fruit are still somewhat sporadic. The main pack still available is the 4.4 oz. As production continues to increase look for more of the 6oz. pack to become available.

BROCCOLI

Supplies have tightened up in Santa Maria and Salinas. Yuma has started production but very limited supplies. Expect this commodity to be light in availability over the next few weeks as we transition into Yuma. Salinas will continue production. Issues on this commodity include yellowing, knuckling, and pale green appearance. Processors are purchasing as much product as can be had and this will cause shortages in availability for carton business.

CARROTS

California carrots coming out of Bakersfield are still sizing slower due to cooler weather. Jumbo market is firm.

CAULIFLOWER

Supplies are much tighter on this commodity in Salinas and Santa Maria. Yuma has started production but supplies are limited. Salinas will continue to harvest for the next two weeks. Expect the availability on this commodity to be sporadic over the next few weeks as the transition to Yuma begins. Some reports of brown spotting have already begun to be seen upon arrivals.

CELERY

This market continues to be stable. Some suppliers are attempting to raise the pricing due to holiday ads that are in progress. Overall, the market is stable with production in Santa Maria, Oxnard and Salinas. The quality continues to be strong with no major issues to report.

CITRUS

- **Lemons:** Supplies are good on all sizes and grades. The Desert crop is 30 to 40 percent lighter this year and quality is very good.
- **Limes:** Supplies are slowly coming back as some new crop has started. Volume of larger sizes is picking up. Quality remains good.
- **Oranges:** Navel quality continues to improve. Crop continues to peak on fancy 72's and 88's followed by 56's. Supplies remain tight on 113's and 138's of both grades. Demand continues to exceed supplies choice 138's. Small fruit looks to be tight for the season as this years crop is heavy to big fruit.

CUCUMBERS

Eastern Cucumbers: Supplies on some sizes are limited, and the market has reacted by moving higher. Quality in Florida is good. No problems from last week's storm.



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GRAPES

The Thompson Green Seedless crop is all but finished for the season with the exception of a few lots with diminished shelf life. There are also a few Autumn King Green seedless left as well but those are extremely limited in supply with high FOB pricing. There are, however 18# Brazilian Festivals (only located on the East Coast) available, and they can be delivered to most mid-western and eastern locations. Overall supplies on green seedless look to remain very low for at least the next 3 weeks and markets will remain at very high levels. Looking forward, Brazil and Chile received early season cold weather and rainfall which will have a significant affect on upcoming supplies, in the transition period. Chile also looks to be pushed back about 7-10 days due to the early and late season cold weather. The first Chilean vessels should hit about December 7/8th. Domestic California Red Seedless grapes (Crimson) are still available, but they are starting to wind down rather quickly and markets are rising. Demand is strong again this week for red seedless. Market levels for green seedless will continue at higher levels this week and could elevate again next week with lighter supplies.

GREEN ONIONS

This market continues to be stable. Supplies are moderate to good on Mexican grown product. Pencil sizes are still the largest volume available. The quality continues to be good with no significant problems to report. Processors have had minimal problems with the raw product available.

KIWI

California Kiwi supplies are still very good and there is also Italian Kiwi available on the East Coast. The market will remain steady with strong demand, and quality continues to be very good.

LEAF LETTUCE

As the Salinas and Huron season has finished, pressure now is on the Santa Maria, Oxnard, and Yuma to come up with the already limited supplies of leaf. This looks to continue all week. The same issues exist like the previous weeks. These issues include romaine having such defects as brown spotting, brown to red discoloration up the rib, brown butts, fringe burn and internal burn. Green leaf supplies are better than all other leaf items. This market will be active over the next two weeks. Romaine hearts are extremely tight and very active. The quality is marginal at best. Fringe burn is still being seen upon arrivals. The hearts are twisted in growth with some suppliers. Continue to expect defects on leaf items over the next couple of weeks with production from Yuma. Also the weights on all leaf are very light. Expect truck delays that have leaf items on the order throughout the week.

LETTUCE

This market is extremely active. Salinas and Huron seasons have finished production. All lettuce will be loading in Yuma on from here on out. Contracts are being covered but open business is light with many of the suppliers. Suppliers are dealing with lightweights in Yuma, but mildew and excessive ribbing is not an issue like Salinas and Huron past production. Trucks should expect delays throughout this week and next and product will be arriving to the coolers at a slower than normal pace.

MELONS

- **Cantaloupes:** Some Arizona shippers have finished up supplies this week. Most domestic Arizona production will finish by next week for sure. Offshore fruit from Guatemala is already at shipping points of Pompano Beach, FL and Los Angeles, CA but in limited size availability. The prices are slightly lower for offshore fruit and they are already looking for movement on the large sizes. Domestic cantaloupe prices are steady this week but look for slightly higher prices moving into next week with lighter supplies. Cooler weather prevails and sizing remains on the small side to finish domestic production this year. The peak sizing is in 12/15ct. There are still supplies of Mexico Cantaloupes crossing through the Nogales, AZ point of entry, but movement is only fair. Quality on product of Mexico is still improving but supplies have topped out. Overall fruit quality remains decent with moderate sugar levels.
- **Honeydews:** Honeydews supplies out of Mexico have dropped off considerably and the Arizona desert is winding down quickly. The market on Arizona fruit is slightly higher especially in that of the larger sizes out of all areas. Volume has switched sizes and is now heavier to the smaller sizes 6/8/9ct. Offshore fruit is coming into Florida with light volume, which looks to pick up as the week progresses.



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ONIONS

Demand remains light with good quality out of Idaho and Washington. The market is staying steady with Washington keeping the prices low due to ample supplies and good quality. With the nice quality #2 product is limited. There are good supplies available out of Colorado and Utah.

POTATOES

Trucks in the Northwest will remain tight this week with the upcoming Holiday. Product is available but with trucks limited shippers are still limited on space in their sheds and looking to move on product this week. Idaho is steady on supplies with Norkotahs still the main varietal but Burbanks are available. Washington Norkotahs are going strong with good quality and availability. Colorado is going strong with new crop supplies as well. Mount Vernon, Washington with good availability; product quality is excellent. North Dakota and Wisconsin have good supplies of red, yellow and white potatoes.

SQUASH

Eastern Squash: Volume is good, and the market has gotten stronger during the past week, as Georgia has cleaned up on older product. Florida quality has been good.

STONE FRUIT

All domestic stone fruit is finished for the season. Chilean fruit is available from air shipments, but FOB prices are very high and supplies are limited to day to day shipments. There are still excellent supplies of fall fruit items available such as Persimmons, Pomegranates and Quince.

TOMATOES

Eastern: Supplies in Florida continue to be well below typical levels, with an expected increase in market pricing. Florida growers are experiencing major problems with reduced yields, dropping to 25% from normal averages. Both central and southern growing areas are looking at gradual improvement by early December, but will have to wait till then to see how the market will adjust. The majority of the supply concerns Rounds, Grape and Cherry tomatoes is directly related to the high temps we encountered at the end of September – early October which caused a bloom drop, thus reflecting in lower yields and reduced volume. The overall quality is good. There is a lack of bigger sized tomatoes. All round supplies are down anywhere from 40-50%. There has been an increase in the Roma supplies and availability.

WATERMELONS

Watermelons are available from Mexico coming up through both Nogales, AZ and Texas shipping points. Supplies are only moderate on Seedless, and have lightened up on Seeded and the markets are slightly higher.

VALUE ADDED

Processors continue to purchase as much broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce and romaine as possible. Traditionally, the first week of transition is hectic with processors. Production will begin in Yuma thru 23rd of November. Complaints continue to be reported on the chopped romaine not having as long a shelf life as in past months. The cauliflower and broccoli raw product will get even tighter as we wind the season down. Brown spotting on cauliflower florets and yellowing and pale color on broccoli florets will be common issues talked about with these products.