

Northeast's farm market prices mostly higher

NEW YORK, NY — Northeast farm market prices were mostly higher for the week ending May 19, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Egg prices were down, poultry prices ranged from generally unchanged to lower, while produce, livestock and meat products were generally higher. Milk production varied from steady to slightly heavier.

FLUID

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Eastern milk production ranged from steady in the north to slightly heavier in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Fluid supplies were fully adequate in New England but burdensome in Maryland and Virginia. Surplus diversions to manufacturing plants were excessive in Maryland and Pennsylvania, with clearances to Ohio and Southern outlets.

The demand for Class I milk was seldom better than fair.

Cottage cheese and yogurt sales were good.

Fluid cream supplies were mostly excessive of a fair, spot buying interest, and churning activity ranged from moderate to heavy.

Ice cream production and sales were unseasonably slow due to poor weather conditions.

Sour cream and cream cheese movement was good.

Eastern market administrators announced the April uniform (blend) prices as follows: Order 1 - \$10.09; Order 2 - \$9.60; Order 4 - \$10.54; Order 36 - \$9.38 per hundredweight. April milk production ranged from a four per cent decline in Maryland to a six per cent increase in Vermont. Elsewhere, production was up five per cent in New York and Pennsylvania, and one per cent higher in Virginia, compared to April 1977.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Northeast area fruit and vegetable trading showed a wide ranged from slow to active and prices were generally higher at shipping point.

Light supplies of Maine potatoes continued to move slowly and prices held about steady.

First of the season offerings of Romaine lettuce appeared at the New Jersey auctions.

Prices were higher for asparagus, lettuce, green onions and radishes, but were slightly lower on leeks and spinach. Field work was slowed considerably this week due to heavy precipitation.

The F.O.B. shipping point price of U.S. One round white potatoes from Maine was \$1.75 to \$2, per 50-pound sack.

At the Swedesboro auction, asparagus, in pyramid crates of 12 bunches, averaged \$18.21 to \$20.68, while at Vineland auction, they brought \$17.50 to \$22.

Other items at Vineland auction were big Boston lettuce in crates of 24 heads, selling for \$3.75 to \$7, while Romaine lettuce, in 1-1/9 bushel crates, went for \$4 to \$7. Leeks, 12 bunches, were priced \$3.45 to \$4.55. Green onions, 36 bunches, sold for \$4.55 to \$5.90 and radishes brought \$3.20 to \$5.50. Spinach in bushel baskets was lower in price, ranging from \$6.50 to \$12.50.

The fruit season in upper New York State was about complete with only light shipments remaining.

EGGS

New York egg prices declined on all sizes. Carton egg demand was generally fair at best. Increased buying interest was developing where retail features were planned. Supplies were fully adequate for most trade needs.

Thursday's prices to retailers and sales to volume buyers of Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons, delivered store door in New York City, brought 53 to 55 cents for large and 44 to 46 cents for mediums, both down two cents from last Thursday.

POULTRY

New York broiler-fryer buying interest was fairly active with early trading for next week at 44 to 45 cents on

Plant Grade and 46 cents on U.S. Grade A. Offerings were adequate although processors were holding product for higher prices.

Thursday's broiler-fryer negotiated prices for immediate delivery, including multiple-drop shipments to New York City were: U.S. Grade A, 45 to 48 cents; Plant Grade 45 to 47 cents.

Delmarva ready-to-cook broiler-fryer movement was fair to good. Slaughter schedules were very heavy. Advance interest was good. Live supplies were fully adequate with weights well distributed in desired sizes.

Thursday's less-than-trucklot asking prices were 47 cents on Plant Grade and 48 cents on U.S. Grade A, unchanged, compared to previous week.

New York chicken parts buying interest was good on breasts with both processor offerings and floor stocks well cleared. Legs were ample for a light demand with inquiry improving.

Thursday's prices paid per pound, ice packed, delivered in pool trucklot and trucklot quantities were: breasts, 84 to 90 cents, mostly 85 to 86 cents; legs, 47 to 58 cents, mostly 49 cent.

The turkey market demand was fair with increased interest on bagged toms weighing over 20 pounds. Offering were lighter and barely adequate on hens and 20 to 22-pound toms. Some additional retail features were anticipated for next week.

Trading activity on carlot and trucklot young turkeys, U.S. Grade A, frozen, F.O.B.

New York, were as follows: hens, 8 to 16 pounds, 61 cents; toms, 14 to 22 pounds, 60½ to 63½ cents.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Northeastern livestock and meat prices were generally higher. At Lancaster, Vintage and New Holland, Pennsylvania auctions and sixteen Upstate New York auctions, slaughter steers sold \$1 to \$2 higher. Utility cows were firm to \$1.50 higher. Choice vealers ranged from steady to \$7 higher in New York, while in Pennsylvania, they ranged from steady to \$6 lower. Good and Choice boning type vealers were up 50 cents to \$1, except late sales in Pennsylvania, which were down \$10 to \$15. Slaughter barrows and gilts increased \$1.75 to \$2 in Pennsylvania. At Omaha, slaughter steers closed \$1.75 to \$2.25 higher, and in some instances, \$2.50 higher. Barrows and gilts were fully up \$1.25.

Choice Two to Four slaughter steers, weighing 975 to 1350 pounds, varied from \$56.25 to \$59.35 in New York and Pennsylvania, while at Omaha they brought \$57.25 to \$58.50. Utility Two to Three cows went from \$38.50 to \$44, with a few going up to \$45.50. Choice vealers, 150 to 300 pounds, sold from \$75 to \$90, with High-Choice and Prime grades, bringing

\$86 to \$95. Good and Choice boning vealers, weighing 90 to 110 pounds, went from \$65 to \$74.50 in New York State, and from \$40.50 to \$55 in Pennsylvania. U.S. One to Three barrows and gilts 200 to 240 pounds, were priced \$51.25 to \$53 at Pennsylvania auction, and \$51 to \$51.25 at Omaha.

On the East Coast, carcass beef closed mostly \$1.50 higher, while boneless cow beef ranged from steady to \$1.50 higher. Prime carcass veal closed mostly \$5 higher

with Good and Choice boning veal steady to weak. Fresh pork loins finished generally steady.

Choice Three steer beef, 600 to 800 pounds, brought \$92. Boneless cow beef, 90 per cent lean, sold at \$108 to \$110. Prime special fed veal, hide on, weighing 180 to 225 pounds, went from \$155 to \$160, while Good and Choice boning type veal, 34 pounds and down, was priced \$94 and in limited late trade, \$90 to \$92. Fresh pork loins, 14 to 17 pounds, went for \$99.

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