



FEB. 23-MAR. 1, 1998

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25.

SHROVE TUESDAY

The 1804 [Old] Farmer's Almanac reminded us, "This month is short, then work brisk to get done your stint. Waste nothing in house or barn. 'A diligent hand maketh rich.' Remember that moments make days and days make years..." Mardi Gras, French for "fat Tuesday," is celebrated this week to mark the increasing light of February and March, so we know those days that make years are getting longer, anyway. February 24 is also Shrove Tuesday, a day to confess and obtain absolution for the coming year. Also called Fastnacht, it's the "eve of fast" in Germany, the last day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.



To-morrow and to-morrow cheat our youth...

- Anne Finch

TIP OF THE WEEK

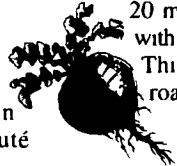
Use a tall wastebasket to store long tubes of wrapping paper.

QUICK BEET RISOTTO

- 3 cups chicken broth
- 3 medium beets, cooked, then peeled and diced
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1-1/2 cups arborio rice
- 1/2 cup red wine or water
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- salt and pepper, to taste

the onion until soft. Add rice and cook another 5 minutes. Add wine or water, and vinegar, and stir until absorbed. Slowly add broth and beets to rice mixture, stirring until liquid is absorbed and rice is tender, about another 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. This is great with roasted meats.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.



Bring broth to a boil, add beets, and set aside. Melt butter in a large skillet and sauté

THE OLD FARMER'S WEATHER PROVERBS



If there is enough blue sky to make a baby's coat, the weather will clear.

Three fogs in a row, then a rain.

On the first of March, the crows begin to search.

Got a Question? Every day, the editors of The Old Farmer's Almanac answer a question on the Internet. All questions are archived there as well. Go to www.almanac.com.

Central carlot Pork Report

DES MOINES, IOWA

Wednesday, February 18, 1998

USDA NATIONAL CARLOT PORK REPORT Equated to FOB Omaha Basis as 3:00 P.M.

Compared to Tuesday's Close: Fresh bone-in 13-19# loins mostly 1.00 lower; butts steady to 2.00 higher; sknd. hams steady to 2.00 lower; scls. bellies steady to firm; lean trimmings 1.00 lower. Trading moderate to active, with light to moderate demand and offerings.

RESENT FOR CORRECTION ON 13-19#, 1/4" TRIM LOINS. - Loads PORK CUTS : 126.38 Loads TRIM/PROCESS PORK : 38.0 -- USDA ESTIMATED COMPOSITE PORK CARCASS CUTOUT Based on FOB Omaha carlot pork prices and industry yields.

Calculations for a 185 lb Pork Carcass 51-52% lean, 0.80"-0.99" backfat at last rib - Total Today's Primal Composite Values Date Loads Cutout Loin Butt Pic Rib Ham Belly - 02/18 164.4 54.06 74.41 53.80 36.16 128.00 47.31 44.61 Change : -0.35 -1.27 0.38 0.98 1.45 -1.21 0.41 - 02/17 178.0 54.41 75.69 53.42 35.18 126.55 48.52 44.19 02/16 62.5 54.87 75.98 53.40 35.60 131.05 48.86 44.71 02/13 77.5 54.88 76.56 53.30 36.20 131.05 48.06 44.66 02/12 124.0 53.83 75.79 52.90 36.14 129.93 47.81 40.48 Current Five Day Simple Average - 54.41 75.69 53.37 35.86 129.32 48.11 43.73 - NOTE: Value may change without adequate test.

FRESH PORK CUTS LDS PRICE RANGE WGHTD AVG. LOINS, BONE-IN, FRESH 1/4" Trim 13-19# 30.0 94.00 - 102.00 99.20 1/8" Trm/less 13-19# 9.0 107.00 107.00 1/4" Bladeless 1/4" Trim 19-23# 97.00 97.00 A combos 23/Up# 1.0 57.00 57.00 LOINS,CNTRCUT,10-11 RIB,1/4"TRM Tender-in FLO 8-13# 140.00 140.00 B Tender-out FLO 8-13# BNLS Strap-on 5-9# 148.00 - 152.00 149.80 A BNLS Strap-off 5-9# 10.0 165.00 - 176.00 169.30 WHLE BNLS LOINS 7-11# 159.00 159.00 A BNLS SIRLOIN .75-1# 1.5 114.00 114.00 BONE-IN SIR 2.5-3.5# 75.00 75.00 E BLADE ENDS 2-4# TENDERLOIN 1.25/DN# 0.38 195.00 - 211.00 200.33 LOIN BACKRIB (BOXED) FRSH/FRZN 1.5/DN# " 1.75/DN# " 1.75-2.00# 0.5 250.00 - 260.00 255.00 " 2.0Q/UP# LOIN BACKRIB (COMBOS) 1.75/DN# 1.0 303.00 303.00 PICNIC, FRESH Smkr

Trm, RS, combo 39.00 39.00 D Smkr Trm, SS, boxed 0.5 55.00 55.00 PICNIC CUSHION MEAT Combo 92% Fresh 90.00 - 91.00 90.67 A Boxed 92% Frozen BOSTON BUTT 4-9#,FRESH 1/4" Trim 5.0 68.00 - 70.00 69.00 1/8" Trim 2.0 72.00 72.00 1/4" Trim Neck-off 5.0 73.00 - 76.00 74.50 1/8" Trim Neck-off 1.5 81.00 81.00 BNLS, Cellar Trim combo's 9/UP# SPARERIB, FRESH 3 BAG/3 PCVAC 3.8/DN# 2.0 132.00 - 133.00 132.50 2 BAG/3 PCVAC 3.8-5.8# COMBOS 3.8/DN# 119.00 119.00 D COMBOS 3.8-5.8# HAM,BONE-IN,TRIMMED 17-20# TS1 (sel) 6.0 58.00 - 61.00 59.50 17-20# TS2 (com) 55.00 55.00 C 20-23# TS1 (sel) 4.0 50.50 - 54.00 52.13 20-23# TS2 (com) 50.00 50.00 B 23-27# TS1 (sel) 1.0 52.00 52.00 23-27# TS2 (com) 20-27# TS1 (sel) 12.0 49.00 - 50.00 49.54 20-27# TS2 (com) 1.0 48.00 48.00 27#up TS2 (com) HAM,BNLS MUSCLES 94-96% * 3 Muscle Group * 4 Muscle Group 9.0 113.00 - 114.00 113.78 * 5 Muscle Group 4.0 108.50 - 109.00 108.75 Inside Outside Knuckle Lite Butt Inner Shank HAM TRIMMINGS (CHEMICAL LEAN) Combo 72% Fresh 32.00 32.00 A Boxed 72% Frozen 40.00 40.00 D Combo 90% Fresh Boxed 90% Frozen Outer Shank Frozen 46.00 46.00 E BELLY, SDLS, FRESH SKIN-ON, TRIMMED Fresh 10-12# 40.00 40.00 E Fresh 12-14# 10.0 43.75 - 47.50 44.98 Fresh 14-16# 4.0 44.00 - 47.50 45.75 Fresh 16-18# 6.0 44.25 44.25 Fresh 18-20# 39.50 39.50 A Fresh 20-25# 34.00 - 35.50 34.

75 A SKINLESS, SQUARED Fresh 9-11# Fresh 11-13# Fresh 13-15# Fresh 15-17# SKINLESS, CENTER CUT Fresh 8-10# Fresh 10-12# Fresh 12-14# Fresh 14-16# PORK TRIMMINGS/BONELESS PROCESSING PORK (CHEMICAL LEAN) Combo 42% Fresh 6.0 24.00 - 28.50 25.42 Boxed 42% Frozen Combo 72% Fresh 24.0 34.50 - 36.50 34.81 Boxed 72% Frozen 41.00 41.00 B BONELESS PICNIC MEAT Combo 72% Fresh 3.0 49.00 - 49.50 49.17 Boxed 72% Frozen 54.00 54.00 B SKINNED JOWLS Combo Fresh 4.0 18.50 - 20.50 19.25 Boxed Frozen 22.00 22.00 B FAT, VISUAL TRACE OF LEAN Combo Fresh 1.0 18.00 18.00 Boxed Frozen TRIM, VISUAL TRACE OF LEAN Combo 12-16% Fresh Boxed 12-16% Frozen Specifications for all reported cuts available upon request.

STANDARD CONVERSION FACTORS FOR RETAIL CUTS (all retail items vacuum packed unless otherwise

noted.) Loins (13-22#s): Butts (4-9#s): Vacpak - report basis Vacpak - report basis Gas Pak - add \$2.00 Gas Pak - no conversion Paper - add \$5.00 Paper - add \$3.00 Combo - add \$6.00 Combo - add \$4.00 Spareribs: Bone-in Center Cut Loins: Vacpak - report basis False Lean Off - basis Polywrap - add \$7.00 False Lean On - add \$5.00 Boneless Center Cut Loins: 1/4" Trim - report basis 1/8" Trim - subtract \$6.00

ABCDE after quotes represents days since last actual market test. Quotes are dropped after 5 days of no test or before if they no longer reflect current market conditions.

USDA PORK CARCASS CUTOUT Wednesday, February 18, 1998 Estimated gross cutout values of a 175 lb hog carcass based on USDA cutting yield tests and carlot prices. Wednesday's carcass grades & prices per cwt.: US #1 US #2 US #3 US #4 Change from 53.40 51.84 50.28 48.72 Tuesday's value: -0.04 -0.02 unchgd 0.01

Today's calculations for US #2 175 lb pork carcass: % OF FOB CHANGE FROM ITEM WEIGHT CARCASS VALUE Tuesday Skinned hams 14-20 Lb 21.01% \$56.00 Loins, 1/4" Trim 14-22 Lb 20.33% \$95.00 -1.00 Bellies, Scls. 12-14 Lb 13.90% \$42.00 1.00 Spareribs 3.5Dn Lb 3.03% \$112.50 0.50 Picnics 8-12 Lb 10.31% \$32.50 Butts, 1/4" Trim 4-8 Lb 7.25% \$65.50 Jowl - 2.85% \$18.00 1.00 Neckbones - 1.52% \$16.00 Feet - 1.05% \$23.50 Tails - 0.22% \$30.00 Trim 72% - 2.19% \$34.00 Lard - 10.85% \$14.75 Total carcass % ==> 94.51% US #2 Carcass Value per cwt = \$51.84 NOTE: Value may change without adequate test.

ABCDE after quotes represents days since last actual market test. Quotes are dropped after 5 days of no test or before if they no longer reflect current market conditions.

Morrison Cove Produce Hay Auction

ROARING SPRING, PA Feb. 19, 1998

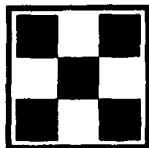
Report Supplied by Auction ALFALFA: 160.00-185.00. MIXED HAY: 145.00-175.00. TIMOTHY: 110.00-140.00. STRAW: 75.00-80.00. HAY ROUND BALES: 85.00. FIREWOOD: 27.50-85.00 PICK-UP LOAD. SALE EVERY THURS. AT 1 P.M.

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AVAILABLE SPRING '98

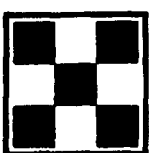


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