

FRESH NEWS

From Pic Rite Management



September 15, 2019

Our goal is to provide up-to-date information about the ever-changing conditions affecting produce. Our weekly produce newsletter uses many sources and markets to track price, availability & quality.

MOTHER NATURE'S DECISIONS

Strawberries are tighter with only fair quality & limited shelf life. Harvesting labor will be tight as they will also be preparing fields for the winter. We will see green grape supplies get tight sooner this year due to heat pushing supplies ahead of their normal schedule. Red grapes look good & are running on the larger size with plenty of varieties to choose from but demand is growing. As we've been saying for weeks now, with CA & Peru done with avocados, MX becomes the source & growing demand will push prices higher soon. As expected, cantaloupes are tighter due to strong Labor Day usage. Lemons from Chile are helping hold prices steady. We are seeing the Idaho potato prices slowing coming down on better supplies & lower demand. 60ct and smaller are in better supply while #2 potatoes are tight so suppliers are substituting #1's to fill orders. Red potato supplies are improving as new areas start up. Eggplant growing areas are moving south for the fall & winter. Overall, eastern squash supplies are steady but the mid-west has been cooler than normal making supplies slow while they are usually one of the largest growing areas at this time. Like eggplant, squash growing areas are starting to move south. Western squash is holding steady with good quality. Iceberg supplies & quality are good with slowish demand keeping prices steady to down. Romaine – lower & leaf lettuce - steady with good quality. The weather conditions created by Dorian have disrupted tomato supplies but it looks like GA & FL were spared. Western tomatoes were hit by another round of heat that is causing tomatoes to turn blush & also cause some bloom drop that could affect supplies in October. Cucumbers are moving growing areas down south for the fall.

A Closer Look At Minimum Wage

Minimum wage is for the most part a political debate issue. Even the most ardent political supporters of raising the minimum wage realize that it will reduce employment. If it didn't, why stop at say \$15 per hour? If you could have a cook for your personal use & the cost was a \$100 a month, you'd most likely do it. But, if the cost was a \$1,000, a month, you'd probably decide to do it yourself. In 2016, only 2.7% of all workers earned minimum wage. Politicians will support minimum wage increases but they don't want to be associated with the fewer jobs that the increases create.

Being a baby must be traumatizing at times. Imagine going to sleep in your house and waking up at Target. Boss: You failed your drug test. Me: I had a poppy seed bagel. Boss: Explain the weed. Me: It was an everything bagel.

PRODUCE EXCHANGE TRENDS

This section of the Newsletter is designed to give a quick overview of the trends of individual items. "Mother Nature's Decisions" gives more info on the market & "Pics Worth a Look" will give an approximate up or down % for the week.

Tomatoes – Globes are down some, grapes are lower & cherry are lower and plum are up some.

Potatoes – bakers & reds are fairly steady & 70ct & larger bakers remain as they have all season, on the tight side.

Lettuces – The heat has produced quality issues. Iceberg is down some, leaf is steady & Romaine is lower.

Cauliflower – prices are up but quality has improved.

Broccoli – is higher & it has heat caused defects.

Grapes – Green and red are steady.

Strawberries – prices are higher this week.

Melons – Dews are down some & loupes are higher.

Lemons – supplies are mostly largest sizes and prices are up some this week.

Squash – yellow is steady & green is lower.

Peppers – green are down some.

Onions – yellow are steady.

Celery – prices are steady.

Apples – prices are steady this week.

Cucumbers – prices are steady this week. East Coast has been hurt by heat.

Carrots – are steady to lower this week.

Asparagus – prices are steady to down some.

Avocados – prices are lower but MX will be the source & will push prices higher.

PICS WORTH A LOOK FOR THE WEEK - Each ↑↓ = 8-12% change

GOOD VALUES

Broccoli↑↑	Grapes, Red	Squash, Yell
Cantaloupe↑	Green Leaf	Tomatoes
Carrots	Honeydew	Tomatoes
Cauliflower↑	Plum Tomatoes↓	Watermelon
Cherry Tom↓	Strawberries↑	
Grapes, Gr	Squash, Gr↓	

WATCH OUT-CAREFULLY CONSIDER

Asparagus	Raspberries
Cucumbers	Avocados
Celery	Iceberg
Corn	Romaine↓
Onions	
Peppers	