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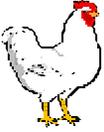
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices in the major terminal markets were generally unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Trade sentiment was cautious but generally steady on whole product. Demand was seasonal but usually light to moderate as distributors were finishing up orders on holiday items for the weekend. Supplies were limited, but all sizes were at least adequate for trade needs. Processing schedules were being reduced on Monday in observance of the holiday. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair. Wings were balanced to tight and clearing well, most other items were at least adequate, although breast items were ample and slow to clear. In grow out live supplies were moderate, weights were in a full range but mostly desirable.

Preliminary report Prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 02-JAN-2006 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A (Including branded product)				
AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	52.00-55.00	44.00-71.00	54.74	27
New York	55.00-58.00			
Los Angeles	78.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	68.00-72.00	48.00-75.00	69.57	83

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 70.50 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT		
LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
900	66.70-71.50	70.38
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice-packed parts:		
ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	137.00	1,060
BREASTS - B/S	109.00	5,269
BREASTS - WHOLE	59.00	1,174
THIGH MEAT - B/S	92.50	958
LEG QUARTERS	28.50	7,292
WINGS	84.50	2,751

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices were unchanged for next week delivery other areas to few to report. Whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady. Offerings were light but sufficient for trade needs. Retail movement was light to fair best for holiday party items. Food service trade was fairly good; best into fast food, sports bars and holiday related venues. Floor stocks were balanced for the most part; weights desirable. Parts trade was slow with most interest centering on wings. Supplies of wings were tight and premiums paid; all other parts were available and slow to clear. The market tone was firm on wings; steady to fully steady on boneless dark meat; about steady, instances weak on breast cuts; and barely steady to weak on bone-in dark meat cuts.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was steady on whole product. Retail demand was light to fair. Food service was moderate, with best movement still reported into fast food outlets. Supplies were fully adequate for current trade needs. Processing schedules were normal to light on Monday, but back to normal on Tuesday. In the parts structure, movement was irregular. Wings were short and clearing, thighs and thigh meat were in good balance to short, breast items were fully adequate to ample. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mixed, but mostly desirable.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was steady. Offerings easily adequate. Retailer demand improved to mainly moderate. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to moderate at best entering the holiday weekend as dealers look to other holiday meat items. Offerings of smaller sizes were noted as adequate; heavier sizes were at least adequate to fully adequate. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally light to fair. The market tone was mostly steady. In the parts complex, wings were well cleared. Breast items were readily available and competitively priced. Dark meat cuts were at least adequate to fully adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained seasonal and about moderate entering the holiday weekend. Hams and other meat items were attracting the bulk of buyer interest. Offerings were fully adequate for current inquiry. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were heavy when combined with operations slated for Saturday. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 70 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, offerings were adequate to ample with wings in the closest balance. Breast items were readily available.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A	
RANGE	54-76
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	(A)
NO. OF BOXES	(A)
CUMULATIVE	(A)
	12/26/05-12/30/05
	12/27/04-12/31/04
NO. OF BOXES	(A)
	12/26/05-12/30/05
	12/27/04-12/31/04
	(A)

(A)Not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS										
ITEM	POUNDS				POUNDS				(000)	WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG		
BREAST - B/S	780	80.00-144.00	85-95	93.98	700	82.00-145.00	85-90	88.70	2,795	93.32
TENDERLOINS	203	75.00-139.00	82-87	87.77	248	75.00-139.00	-	85.67	859	84.36
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				383	54.65
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				260	50.08
LEGS	201	30.00-48.00	31-32	31.27	263	29.00-48.00	30-32	31.40	831	31.36
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	573	18.00-25.00	20-22	21.27	628	19.00-25.00	20-22	21.18	2,421	21.05
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,354	20.00-31.00	24-25	24.45	1,054	22.00-31.00	25-26	24.01	4,748	24.04
WINGS (WHOLE)	307	78.00-87.00	79-80	81.09	307	78.00-88.00	83-85	83.37	1,204	79.52
WINGS (CUT)	335	98.00-110.00	100-102	101.91	285	99.00-110.00	99-100	101.61	1,025	99.83
DRUMSTICKS	66	30.00-48.00	-	31.18	TOO FEW TO REPORT				283	32.87
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				164	33.57
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				355	88.20
*****					*****					
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					
TRADING FOR DEC 29, 2005 -- F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR DEC 30, 2005 -- F.O.B. DOCK.					
<u>RANGE</u>		<u>TODAY'S AVERAGE</u>			<u>RANGE</u>		<u>TODAY'S AVERAGE</u>			<u>5-DAY AVERAGE</u>
33.50 - 39.50		36.80			33.00 - 39.50		36.43			35.60

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS - Trucklot buying activity increased slightly but still noted as no better than fair entering the holiday weekend. Offerings of breast items were readily available and competitively priced. Dark meat cuts were adequate to at least adequate. Wings were in good balance. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally light to fair. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm for wings; barely steady to weak for breast items. The balance of cuts were generally steady.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	WTD	AVG**			TRADING*	WTD	AVG**				
BREAST - B/S	100-105	100.25	616,680	100-105	98.61	396,360	99.55	2,249,480				
TENDERLOINS	95-100	92.05	135,180	95-100	89.34	120,360	93.91	656,815				
BREAST - WITH RIBS	51-52	60.10	65,400	51-52	60.66	94,880	60.78	291,500				
BREAST - LINE RUN	51	48.63	72,000	51	49.00	90,000	50.36	351,720				
LEGS	39-40	40.55	191,960	39-40	41.02	194,700	40.53	823,980				
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	22-23	24.94	323,200	22-23	28.51	322,858	25.59	1,120,698				
DRUMSTICKS	29-30	35.42	89,280	29-30	37.66	82,920	36.11	389,840				
THIGHS	32-33	40.18	58,360	32-33	39.29	76,560	40.46	217,470				
B/S THIGHS	95-96	89.95	67,480	95-96	91.29	54,760	92.12	356,680				
WINGS (WHOLE)	82-83	84.27	227,500	82-83	87.41	163,000	83.53	813,460				
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.39	18,320	10-12	11.84	18,760	11.36	75,560				
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	50-55	50.48	16,720	50-55	48.31	23,400	50.58	75,512				
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	70-75	73.99	19,920	70-75	74.77	20,240	74.59	73,840				

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
12/30	12/29	12/28	12/27	12/28	12/27	12/23	12/21			
Alabama	4,580	4,068	4,037	3,991	5.44	5.54	2,508	5.33		
Arkansas	5,395	5,391	5,217	5,226	5.34	5.48	3,144	5.26		
Delmarva	2,619	2,380	2,337	2,319	5.96	5.84	2,089	5.83		
KY-LA-TN	1,942	2,406	2,263	2,228	5.23	5.21	1,827	4.72		
Mississippi	3,544	3,054	3,039	2,816	5.91	5.82	2,618	5.57		
North Carolina	3,010	2,547	2,534	2,542	6.83	6.80	2,090	6.75		
Texas	2,425	2,432	2,509	2,522	5.28	5.36	2,435	4.24		
Total	23,515	22,278	21,936	21,644	5.66	5.69	16,711	5.38		
Mon-Fri	93,710(A)						100,848 (A)			
Saturday	2,636 (included in total for date shown)						0			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 30-Dec-05 and 31-Dec-05 is estimated to be 35,181,000 head up 40.29 percent from a week ago and up 183.28 percent from a year ago. (Last week 25,077,000, last year 12,419,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 31-Dec-05 is estimated to be 141,170,000 head down 6.93 percent from a week ago, and up 2.54 percent from a year ago. (Last week 151,687,000, last year 137,675,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	97-99
ROASTERS 4# & up	99-107
HENS UNDER 5 LBS	-
HENS OVER 5 LBS	65-73
DUCKS	-
RABBITS WHOLE	-
CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 89-105
	DRY PACK 114
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 100
	DRY PACK 118
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 88-102
	DRY PACK 109
DUCKS	185-190

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 17-Dec-05 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs. & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs. 5.26 Lbs. & Up

	-----THOUSANDS-----		
Head	23,418	14,124	41,198
Avg Weight	3.76	4.77	6.48
% of total /1	30%	18%	52%

Comparisons

Last week	26,374	10,525	46,309
Avg Weight	3.70	4.78	6.49
% of total /1	32%	13%	56%

Same week, yr ago /2	25,138	23,083	45,646
Avg Weight	3.56	4.73	6.37
% of total /1	27%	25%	49%

To date/2005	1,339,894	1,047,474	2,519,076
To date/2004	1,297,857	1,053,675	2,301,671

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION (Preliminary)

W/E 24-Dec-2005	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	151,687	1,472	1,297	2,769	468
Avg Wt	5.43	3.46	7.76	5.47	6.64
Last week	164,304	1,404	1,488	2,892	521
Same wk yr ago	125,118	1,102	1,175	2,277	405
Avg Wt	5.27	3.45	7.75	5.67	6.68
To-date/2005	8,201,280	72,508	72,143	144,651	25,442
To-date/2004	7,954,897	69,513	69,222	138,735	24,064

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 155.4 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 153.5 million head, or 1.9 million less than estimated available.

ESTIMATED U.S. FRYER SLAUGHTER/ FRYER AVAILABILITY COMPARISON

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
Week ending	Slaughtered	Available	Pct	Wt
November	19 165.6	158.0	105%	5.46
	26 128.0	157.2	81%	5.48
December	3 166.5	157.5	106%	5.47
	10 163.9	158.5	103%	5.46
	17 166.3	157.9	105%	5.37
	24 153.5	155.4	99%	5.43
Year to date	8300.7	8342.9	99%	
December	31	154.6		
January	7	156.5		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

Under Federal Inspection

W/E	12/31/05	12/24/05	%CHG	01/01/05	%CHG
Broilers	141,170	151,687*	-6.93	137,675*	+2.54
Cattle	527	605	-13	538*	-02
Hogs	1,805	2,052	-12	1,782*	+01

*ACTUAL

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 26-DEC-2005

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	149-153	154-158
MOSTLY		

MIDWEST	132-140	133-141
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED, CENTS PER POUND

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	57.00-63.50	60.00-62.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	62.00-87.00	74.00-79.00

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	63.36-72.90
14 OZ.	69.84-81.00
16 OZ.	74.88-89.10

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady to at times fully steady. Demand was moderate to good. Supplies were balanced. Weights were in the desirable range. Schedules cut back this week for the Christmas holiday. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$3.50-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.45-1.95, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.50-0.65, livers at \$0.95-1.70, and feet at \$1.00-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 26-DEC-2005

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	126-146	128-148

GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION - DATE OF AUCTION: 12-27-05

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

Prices paid per pound, except as noted.	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.40ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.95ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.09 - .15
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.25 - .35
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.40 - .45
Crossbred Roosters 4-6 LBS	.50 - .60
Crossbred Roosters 7-11 LBS	.50
Guinea Fowl	1.80 - 1.90
Banty Roosters	1.00ea.
Banty Hens	.75ea.
Leghorn Hens	.25ea.
Silkies	2.50 - 4.00ea.
Pigeons	2.75 - 3.10ea.
White Pigeons	4.50 - 4.75ea.
Rabbits 4-6 LBS	2.00 - 2.15
Rabbits 6-9 LBS	1.50 - 1.70
Bunnies	2.00 - 4.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	.25 - 2.00ea.
Goats	35.00 - 40.00ea.
Kid Goats	31.00 - 35.00ea.
Doves	2.75ea.
Pullets 4-6 LBS	.70

Total Coops Sold 272

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Trading was too few to report for heavy canners; unchanged on lights when compared to the previous week. Demand was generally fair for light canners; fair to moderate for heavy canners with most available supplies being used internally. Offerings were about adequate to adequate current trade needs. Processing schedules were less than normal due to the holiday. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
20-29 MAJORITY 24.5-25.5	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
21-32 MAJORITY 26-27	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HENS Prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings of spent hens. Processing schedules were less than normal due to the holiday. Trade sentiment was steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	3-11	7-9

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings of spent fowl. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were slow. Prices were expected to remain steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Removal costs were unchanged. Offerings were adequate to instances tight with demand fair to fairly good and better into rendering operations. Schedules shortened for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	.5-5.5	

WEST COAST LIGHT Plant schedules moderate. Offerings generally adequate.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 02-JAN-05

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading levels were TFEWR. Demand was fair for at least adequate supplies of spent heavy hens. Finished sales were moderate. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was about steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was fair to moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules for next week were reduced due to the holiday. Sales of finished product were fair to instances fairly good. The undertone was at least steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

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