



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 29, 2006
VOL. 53 NO. 38

ISSN 1522-0567

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mostly barely steady to weak. Demand into all channels was usually light to moderate, best where retail ads and fast food promotions were active. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient to readily available for trade needs. In the parts structure, movement was light to fair at best as market conditions continued to be monitored. Supplies of all items were at least adequate and frequently discounted to improve interest. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading declined .25 cents to 67.75 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 74.00 cents last year on March 30, 2005.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	139.50
BREASTS - B/S	110.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	58.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	70.50
LEG QUARTERS	17.00
WINGS	90.00

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

SOUTHERN REGION Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Demand for midweek was slow to fair with trading limited to regular commitments. Supplies of all sizes were fully adequate to ample, longest for heavier weights. In the parts structure, interest was light and unaggressive to fair. Supplies of all items were at least adequate and discounted to help clear additional product. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable.

NORTHEAST REGION Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light to fair at best and generally unaggressive. Offerings of all sizes were at least adequate to readily available and discounted where product was in excess. Retail and distributive movement was mostly light to fair. The market tone was weak and unsettled. In the parts complex, breast items were adequate to at least adequate. Leg cuts and wings ranged at least adequate to fully adequate.

MIDWEST REGION The whole broiler/fryer market tone continued barely steady to weak. Fully sufficient offerings received light to at times fair trade interest. Retail and food service demand was generally light to moderate; occasionally fairly good movement noted on active retail and fast food promotions. Floor stocks were balanced to long; sizes desirable to heavy. Parts trade activity was spotty and price sensitive on moderate to heavy supplies. The market tone was about steady on breast cuts, barely steady to weak on leg items, and weak on wings.

WESTERN REGION The market tone was steady to weak. Offerings were generally ample for trade needs. Retail demand was moderate, with best interest noted where features in progress. Floor stocks adequate to instances fully adequate.

BROILER-TYPE EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES

DOWN SLIGHTLY

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 212 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 25, 2006. This was down slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED

UP SLIGHTLY

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 177 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 25, 2006. Placements were up slightly from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2006 through March 25, 2006 were 2.10 billion, up slightly from the same period a year earlier.

BROILER-TYPE EGGS SET AND BROILER CHICKS PLACED TOTAL

19 SELECTED STATES

WEEK ENDING 03/25/06	2006	2005	PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	212,142	212,819	0
CHICKS PLACED	177,118	176,843	0

Source: USDA, NASS

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 06-May-06 is estimated at 163.1 million head. This compares to 162.3 million head the previous week and to 166.1 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 166.0 million head and the composite weighted average price was 72.63 cents per pound.

MARCH 28, 2006

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 29, 2006

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS			WTD	ITEM	POUNDS			WTD
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	688	80.00-147.00	-	90.01	BREAST - B/S	644	82.00-155.00	85-89	92.75
TENDERLOINS	208	87.00-144.00	89-94	92.85	TENDERLOINS	255	89.00-147.00	92-98	101.24
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				BREAST - LINE RUN	137	54.00-60.00	55-58	55.42
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	148	16.00-38.00	17-19	19.49	LEGS	198	15.00-38.00	16-18	18.56
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	592	11.00-17.00	12-13	12.20	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	602	11.00-18.00	12-13	12.93
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	980	13.00-25.00	14-16	15.18	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,180	14.00-25.00	15-16	15.75
WINGS (WHOLE)	275	70.00-98.00	74-78	79.53	WINGS (WHOLE)	285	70.00-96.00	72-77	76.18
WINGS (CUT)	260	88.00-99.00	90-95	92.96	WINGS (CUT)	280	89.00-100.00	92-97	94.21
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
32.50-37.50	34.23	32.50-38.00	34.39	34.78

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 was light to fair at best and generally unaggressive during midweek trading as dealers attempted to gauge market developments. Offerings of breast items were adequate to at least adequate; leg items were fully adequate. Wings were fully adequate to ample and competitively priced. Tenders were at least sufficient for current needs. Movement through retail and distributive channels was fair at best. The market tone was steady to barely steady.

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

MARCH 28, 2006

MARCH 29, 2006

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**			TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	100-105	96.70	664,120	BREAST - B/S	100-105	96.87	674,280
TENDERLOINS	95-100	99.47	232,243	TENDERLOINS	95-100	97.20	181,800
BREAST - WITH RIBS	56-57	61.99	131,960	BREAST - WITH RIBS	56-57	67.14	83,920
BREAST - LINE RUN	56	59.75	72,080	BREAST - LINE RUN	56	59.40	90,000
LEGS	29-30	24.73	233,040	LEGS	29-30	24.50	520,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	14-15	13.90	432,280	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	14-15	14.80	372,160
DRUMSTICKS	20-21	23.64	88,630	DRUMSTICKS	20-21	23.54	111,080
THIGHS	23-24	30.56	78,690	THIGHS	23-24	31.67	52,440
B/S THIGHS	69-70	61.55	125,540	B/S THIGHS	69-70	59.28	144,280
WINGS (WHOLE)	72-73	68.27	391,140	WINGS (WHOLE)	70-71	76.58	239,800
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.75	28,400	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.44	25,800
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	25-30	22.86	21,040	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	25-30	25.71	13,400
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.68	18,760	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.52	18,040

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED 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 WTS		ACTUAL		AVG
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	WTS
Alabama	4,076	4,058	4,027	4,074	5.41	5.24	3,590	5.47	
Arkansas	5,361	5,282	5,063	5,122	5.11	4.97	5,375	5.28	
Delmarva	2,258	2,237	2,244	2,559	5.83	5.76	2,244	5.81	
KY-LA-TN	2,265	2,291	2,273	2,387	5.29	5.15	2,200	5.33	
Mississippi	2,601	2,885	2,914	3,934	5.90	5.44	2,896	5.88	
North Car	2,344	2,363	2,303	2,543	6.86	6.65	2,512	6.85	
Texas	2,512	2,498	2,526	2,505	5.42	5.21	2,505	5.46	
Total	21,417	21,614	21,350	22,850	5.59	5.41	21,322	5.66	
Mon-Wed	64,450 (A)						64,394 (A)		

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 29-Mar-06 is estimated to be 32,042,000 head up 0.14 percent from a week ago and up 2.96 percent from a year ago. (Last week 31,996,000, last year 31,120,000)

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

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	94-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	97-105
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	65-73
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	ICE PACK	DRY PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS			89-103
ROASTERS 4# & UP			108-114
HENS OVER 5#			100
DUCKS			111-118
	ICE PACK		88-102
	DRY PACK		102-109
			185-190

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 01-Apr-06

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK		PREVIOUS WEEK	
	04/01/06 (1)		03/25/06	
	THOUSAND HEAD			
Broiler/fryer	165,667	(2)	162,318	
Light hens	1,184		1,080	
Heavy hens	1,424		1,556	
Total	168,275		164,954	

(1)ESTIMATED (2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 01-Apr-06 is 164.9 million head compared to 156.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 166.0 million head or 1.1 million more than estimated available. For the week of 08-Apr-06 the estimated available is 163.5 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 03/27/06	79,377		63,293	
AM 03/01/06	69,688		69,000	
CHG	9,689		-5,707	
PCT CHG	14		-8	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/27/06	03/20/06	03/28/05	03/27/06	03/20/06	03/28/05
PACIFIC COAST	1,492	1,990	3,317	7,130	7,123	6,388
LOS ANGELES	70	71	52	3,491	3,438	3,535

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MARCH 27, 2006

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		76-78
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	77-86

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	FOR 3/28/06			FOR 3/28/06		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	1.10	-	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.25	.30
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-	.80	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	.30	.40	.34	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	1.00	1.35	1.17	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	1.15	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.70	1.90	1.24	RABBITS ea.	-	1.50
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	9.00
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	1.00	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-			
TOTAL COOPS	53					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 24, 2006

	Whole		Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts				
RAYON						
Low	71.08	163.06	75.26	12.54	4.18	66.90
High	75.26	167.24	79.44	16.72	8.36	66.90
Mostly	71.08	167.24	75.26	16.72	4.18	66.90

SAN JUAN

Low	71.08	163.06	79.44	12.54	4.18	67.73
High	77.35	167.24	83.62	16.72	8.36	67.73
Mostly	71.08	167.24	79.44	12.54	4.18	67.73

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	66.90	158.88	75.26	16.72	4.18	64.80
High	76.93	163.06	79.44	20.90	8.36	64.80
Mostly	71.91	163.06	75.26	20.90	4.18	64.80

BECERRA

Low	68.99	167.24	79.44	12.54	8.36	73.17
High	78.18	171.42	83.62	16.72	8.36	73.17
Mostly	71.08	171.42	83.62	16.72	8.36	73.17

DELMARVA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained light to fair and generally unaggressive. Offerings were fully adequate on the 2.50 and 3.00 pound sizes; ample and slow to clear on the heavier weights. Live supplies were at least moderate; weights were often heavier than desired. Processor schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged to 1 cent lower at 50 to 65 cents. Trade sentiment was weak and unsettled. In the parts complex, buyer interest was generally noted as light and selective, but somewhat better in instances where retail ad activity was a factor. Offerings were at least adequate.

*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	37-67	
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	(A)	
NO. OF BOXES	(A)	

(A)Not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations.

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)359-1175	(Southern States Area Supervisor)
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Long Beach, CA	Voice	(562)388-7337	Jim Derby
	Fax	(562)432-8295	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(213)534-1335	