



# Pork Merchandiser's Profit Maximizer

## Be inspired<sup>SM</sup>

### - Foodservice Edition -

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Prepared by Steiner and Company, Manchester, NH 800-526-4612.

July 24, 2017

**1. Pork demand has been excellent this summer, with pork production up 2% in June and pork cutout rising 10% from the previous year.**

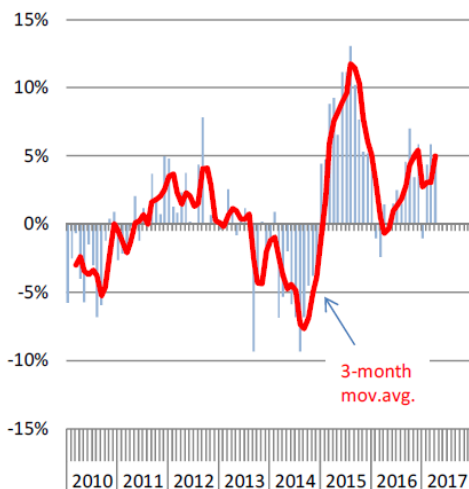
Hog production has been rising consistently in the last few months although the pork supply increase has been slower than slaughter growth due to lower carcass weights. June hog slaughter was 9.870 million head, 3.2% higher than a year ago. Q2 slaughter total stands at 29.2 million head, 3.7% compared to a year ago. Total pork production for June was 2.053 billion

pounds, about 40 million pounds (+2%) compared to a year ago. The reduction in weights has shaved about 1.2 percentage points from pork production and limited overall pork availability this summer. We do not have export data for June yet but our preliminary estimate are that the pace of pork exports moderated in June and it will likely be lower than a year ago in July. Based on weekly exports our June projection is for pork shipments to be up about 3% or around 13 million pounds compared to last year. Producers have been culling more sows in the last few months but that is to be expected considering the larger breeding herd. Sow slaughter in June was 256,100 head, 6.8% from a year ago. Q2 sow slaughter was 743,700 head, 42,100 head (+6%) higher than a year ago. Sow prices have ben increasing in the last two weeks despite the sharp increase in sow slaughter due to higher trim prices and robust sausage demand.

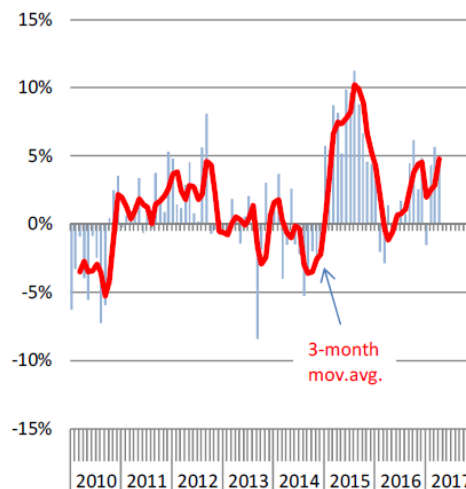
### Hog Slaughter & Pork Production Per Slaughter Day: Y/Y % Change

Data Source USDA/NASS. Calculations by Steiner Consulting

#### Slaughter



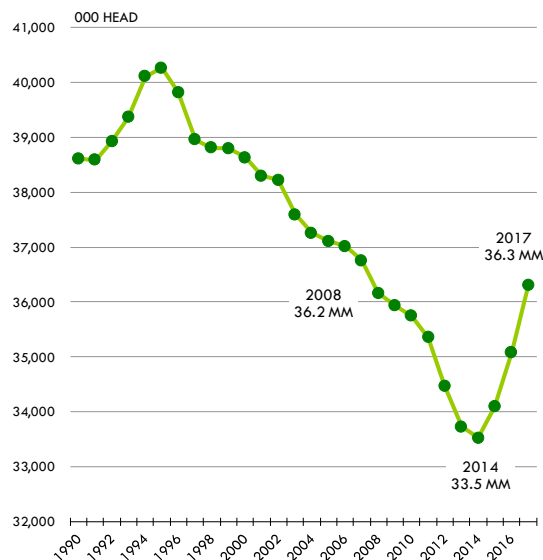
#### Production



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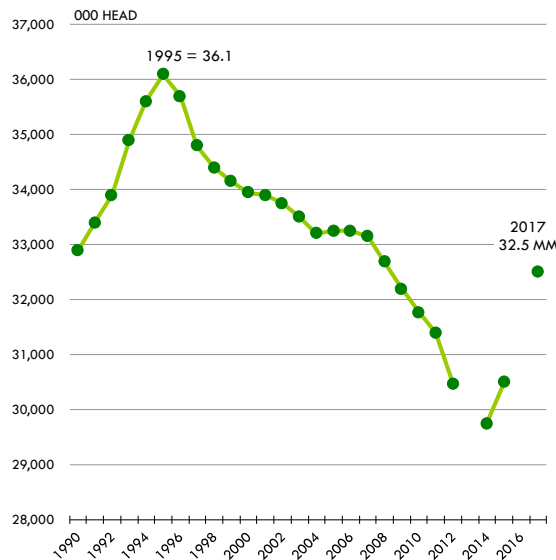
### USA ANNUAL CALF CROP

July 2017 Estimate is the First Estimate of the Annual Crop for the Year. Source: USDA



### USA JULY 1 BEEF COW INVENTORY

USDA did not conduct a July survey in 2013 and in 2016



Total US commercial cattle slaughter in June was 2.858 million head, 5.6% higher than a year ago. There was the same number of marketing days as a year ago so the rate of growth was the same when calculated on an average daily basis. The last time monthly slaughter surpassed 2.8 million head was in October 2013, but with one extra marketing day back then. More female cattle in the slaughter mix have bolstered slaughter numbers in recent months. Fed cattle prices declined sharply in the fall of 2016, causing producers to send more heifers into feedlots rather than hold them back for herd rebuilding. There were 151,800 more cattle slaughtered in June 2017 compared to a year ago. Out of this total net increase, there were 82,000 more heifers (+13.4%) and 45,700 cows (10.3%). Steer slaughter for the month was up only 15,600 head (+1%) compared to a year ago. The change in the slaughter mix likely impacted the average weight of cattle and overall production levels for the month.

Total commercial beef production in June was 2.279 billion pounds, 3.9% higher than a year ago. Slaughter numbers have increased by an average of almost 6% in the last three months (adjusted for marketing days) but beef production during this period has increased by 3.5%. When we account for the significantly larger exports and lower imports, the net beef availability in the US market during the last three months has been only modestly higher than a year ago.

2. US cattle/beef supplies on track to rise in the next two years

The two charts above illustrate the rapid recovery in the US cattle/beef business. The calf crop is the number of calves that are born in a given year and it is a direct function of the size of the breeding herd, and to a lesser extent, weather events during the year, feed costs and genetics. The fundamental driver for expansion of the US cattle industry is the size of the breeding herd, and particularly the number of beef cows. The beef cow herd last January was estimated at 31.21 million head, 3.5% larger than the previous year and 6.5% higher than two years ago. USDA did not conduct a survey last July so we do not have a basis for comparison but for July 1, 2017 the beef cow herd is estimated at 32.5 million head, 6.6% higher than in 2015. The July cow herd tends to be larger than the January count because bred heifers are not considered part of the cow herd until they drop a calf in the spring. The survey also indicated that the dairy herd continues to expand, something that we have noted in the monthly dairy inventory numbers as well. The dairy herd on July 1 was up 1.1% from two years ago. By far, however, the primary determinant for the increase in cow/beef supplies is the expansion of the beef cow herd.

The larger herd implies a continued increase in the size of the calf crop. USDA estimates the calf crop for 2017 at 36.3 million head, the largest calf crop of

the last ten years. If correct, this would represent a 3.5% over the calf crop produced last year and 6.5% higher than two years ago. The chart above shows the relationship between the annual calf crop and slaughter two years forward. It is not a perfect relationship for a couple of reasons. First, the flow of calves from the ranch to the feedlot and then the packing plant may take anywhere between 7 to 15 months. Second, industry profitability will impact how many female calves (heifers) will be retained in a given year, which will in turn skew slaughter numbers. One reason why the slaughter number is too low relative to the calf crop two years prior is due to the high rate of heifer retention and high demand for calves. The shortage of feeders in 2014-15 also induced feedlots/producers to maximize the pounds per animal, thus slowing down the flow of animals to slaughter. You will notice that for 2017, 2018 and 2019 slaughter is running above the regression line, reflecting the impetus to retain fewer heifers (expansion slowing down) and a faster turn of the inventory.

The feeder cattle supply as of July 1, 2017 was estimated at 37 million head, 4.5% higher than two years ago. We do not have a reference for the supply last year but we think the feeder supply probably is up 1.5% - 2% from last year. Feedlots have been quite aggressive in pulling feeder cattle into feedlots this past spring so despite the larger calf crop of the last two years, the available feeder supply is not significantly larger than a year ago.

**3. With no real growth in the number of birds coming to market, broiler producers look to bolster output by once again bringing heavier birds to market**

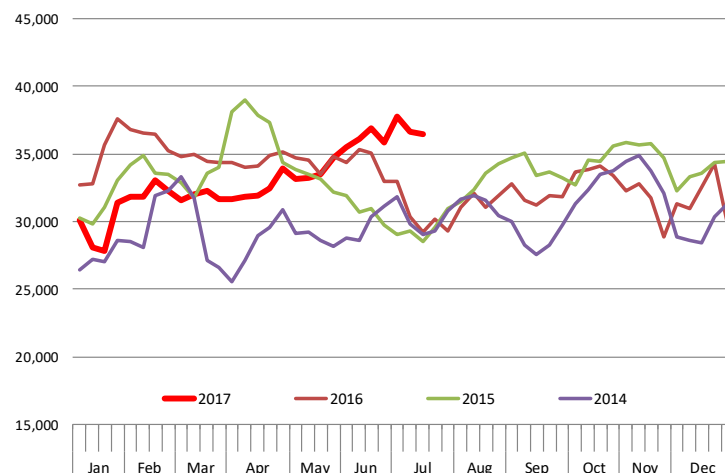
Broiler slaughter for the last four weeks has averaged 159.7 million head, just 0.3% above last year and in line with chick placements a few weeks ago. However, RTC broiler production during this period has averaged 739.9 million pounds per week, 14.8 million pounds (+2%) higher than a year ago. All of the increase is due to larger birds coming through. Production from large birds (+7.76 lb.) during the last four weeks has averaged 248.7 million lb/wk, about 44.3 million pounds or 21.7% higher than the

same four week period a year ago. All other categories are down. Higher breast meat prices and the lack of bird supply growth have encouraged producers to maximize output per bird. However, the lack of growth in broiler numbers tends to be inflationary for items such as wings. Dark meat prices also continue to move higher as well on limited supply growth and a recovery in broiler export demand.

Broiler producers appear to be responding to the limited supply growth by starting to bolster the size of the hatching flock. Broiler type layers on July 1 was 56.219 million head, 2.8% larger than a year ago. The increase in the number of layers looks to offset the reduction in productivity, which many think is due to the increase in number of birds raised without antibiotics. Despite the increase in the number of layers, eggs produced by boiler type layers in May were about 0.4% less than the previous year and the number of eggs per 100 layers was almost 2% less than last year. Current forecast is for broiler production in 2017 to increase just 1.1% and be up 1.5% in 2018. While we expect broiler breast prices to seasonally decline in the fall, we continue to see prices notably above year ago levels.

**Broiler Slaughter - 7.76 lbs & up**

4-wk Moving Avg. Head. Weekly. USDA



**Upcoming holidays:**

**2017** Labor Day [US and Canada] (Monday September 4); Rosh Hashanah (Monday September 20); Yom Kippur (Friday September 29, at sundown); Columbus Day (Monday October 9); Canadian Thanksgiving Day (Monday October 9); Daylight Savings Time Ends [US and Canada] (Sunday October 29); Veterans Day (Saturday November 11); Remembrance Day [Canada] (Saturday November 11); Thanksgiving (Thursday November 23); Hanukkah (Tuesday December 12, starts at sundown); Christmas Day (Monday December 25); Boxing Day [Canada] (Tuesday December 26).

**PORK**

**Live hogs. For the week ending July 22 slaughter was 2.213 million head, up 3.4% from a year ago. In the last two weeks hog slaughter is up 3.3% vs. year ago levels.**

**Iowa/Minnesota, Base Lean Market Hog 185 lbs. Carcass Values.** Lean hog carcass values at about 83.60 /cwt. on Friday were down \$3.9/cwt since Wed. July 12. Prices are up 12.1 dollars compared to year ago values.

**Loin, 1/4 Trimmed Loin VAC, FOB Plant, USDA** (page 8). Prices finished last week at \$1.1691, down about 12.1 cents since the Wed. July 12 quote but up about 11 cents from year ago levels.

**Bnls. Strap on Pork Loins.** Prices finished the week at \$1.2876 for the strap on loins, down 11.0 cent since Wed. July 12 but up about 7 cent from the year ago levels. Strap off loins at \$1.5895 are up about 4.6 cent since Wed. July 12 and up about 18 cent compared to the year ago quote.

**Boneless sirloins** at \$1.1241 are down 5 cents from the Wed. July 12 quote but up about 0.7 cents from the year ago price.

**Pork tenderloin** finished last week at \$2.4212, up 8 cent from the Wed. July 12 quote but down about 15.0 cents from the year ago price.

**1/4 Trim Pork Butts** (page 10), prices finished the week at \$0.9884, down 26.4 cent since Wed. July 12. Prices are down 15 cents from a year ago.

**Spare Ribs, Trimmed - LGT, Vac** (page 8). Prices finished the week at \$1.2526, down about 15 cent since Wed. July 12 and down about 3 cents from year ago levels.

Rib inventories on May 31 were 115.3 million pounds, up 4.9% percent from a year ago.

**Bone-in Hams.**

17/20 hams (page 9) price was \$0.8173/lb., up 0.5 cents since Wed. July 12 but down about 1 cent from a year ago.

20/23 hams finished the week at 81.37 cents, down about 2 cents since Wed. July 12 and down about 2 cent from the year ago level.

23/27 hams finished the week at 78.68 , down about 4 cents from the Wed. July 12 quote but up about 3 cents from the year ago level.

Total ham cold storage stocks on May 31 at 144.1 million pounds were down 0.05% from year ago levels.

**42 CL Pork Trim** “FOB Basis”. Prices finished the week at 73.83 cent, up about 5.0 cent since Wed. July 12 and up about 28 cents from the year ago price.

**72 CL Pork Trim** “FOB Basis”. Prices finished the week at 96.26 cents, up about 7.8 cents since the Wed. July 12 quote and up about 14 cents from the year ago level.

Freezer stocks of all trimmings on May 31 were 37.8 million pounds, down 7.2% percent from the year ago levels.

**72 CL Picnic Meat** “FOB Basis”. Picnics prices should continue to command premiums over the price of 72CL pork trim in the spring.

## POULTRY

**Georgia Dock Broilers.** The Georgia dock price no longer is being quoted.

The National Whole Bird price was quoted at 101.96 on Friday, July 22, up about 16 cents from a year ago.

Broiler slaughter for the week ending July 22 was 164.52 million head, up 0.96% from a year ago. For the last two weeks slaughter was down 0.5% vs. a year ago.

**Breasts.** Prices on boneless skinless breasts finished the week at \$1.5586, down 6 cents since Wed. July 12 but still up about 36 cents from year ago levels.

**Leg Quarters.** This item continues to be driven by export demand. Last week leg quarter prices were down about 0.05 cents vs. two weeks ago but at 43.59 cents per pound prices were up 9 cents from a year ago.

**Wings.** Prices at \$2.0679 are up about 50 cents from year ago levels.

## Turkeys

**Hens** finished last week at \$1.0700, unchanged since Wed. July 12 but down about 18 cents from the year ago price.

**Toms** finished last week at \$1.0700, unchanged since Wed. July 12 but down about 18 cent from the year ago price.

Total turkey supplies in the freezer on May 31 were up 17.5% from a year ago at 533.6 million pounds. Whole birds were up 28.8% from a year ago with an inventory of 277.4 million pounds.

Turkey slaughter was 4.1130 million head for the week ending July 15, up 1.26% from a year ago. For the last two weeks slaughter has been down 9.1%.

**Boneless Turkey Breast Meat.** Boneless skinless turkey breast meat prices finished last week at \$1.5300, unchanged since Wed. July 12. Prices are down about 62 cents vs. year ago levels.

## BEEF

**NOTE: WE ARE NOW REPORTING AND FORECASTING WEIGHTED AVERAGE BLUE SHEET PRICES FOR BEEF CUTS.**

**Choice 112A Heavy Bnls. Lip On Rib Eyes** at \$6.8388 (weighted average quote) finished last week down about 26 cents since the Wed. July 12 quote but up about 18 cents vs. the year ago price.

**Select 112A Heavy Lip On Rib Eyes** at \$6.3464 (weighted average quote) finished last week down about 11 cents since the Wed. July 12 quote but down about 13 cents vs. the year ago price.

Currently Choice 112A Rib Eyes are \$0.4924 /lb. over Select. The 2015 annual average spread (wt. average price) had the Choice at a premium to the Select by \$0.1399 per pound and the previous five years (2010 thru 2014) average spread was Choice at a premium to the Select by \$0.1014 per pound.

**Choice regular #168 insides** finished last week quoted at \$2.3022 down about 12 cents since Wed. July 12 but up about 28 cents from the year ago price.

**Choice ¼ inch trimmed #168 insides** finished last week quoted at \$2.3275 down about 3 cents since Wed. July 12 and up about 26 cents from year ago levels.

**Choice #170 Gooseneck Rounds** finished last week at \$2.0041 down about one cents since Wed. July 12 but up about 10 cents from the year ago levels.

**Choice #180 (0x1) Bnls. Strip Loins** finished last week quoted at \$5.7791 (wt. avg.) up about 12 cents from the Wed. July 12 quote. Prices are down 71 cents from year ago levels.

**Choice #184 Regular Heavy top butts** finished at \$3.6710 (wt. avg.) down about 4 cents since Wed. July 12 but up about 8 cents from year ago levels.

**Choice #184 ¼ inch trimmed Top Butts** finished at \$3.7460 (wt. avg.) up about 0 cents since Wed. July 12 and up about 23 cents from the year ago levels.

**Choice #185A Flap Meat** prices finished Friday at \$4.1000 (wt. avg.) down about 72 cents since Wed. July 12 and down about 146 cents from year ago values.

## **COARSE GROUND BEEF –**

**73CL Coarse Ground** product finished last week at \$1.6559 down about 16 cents since Wed. July 12 but up about 32 cents from year ago levels.

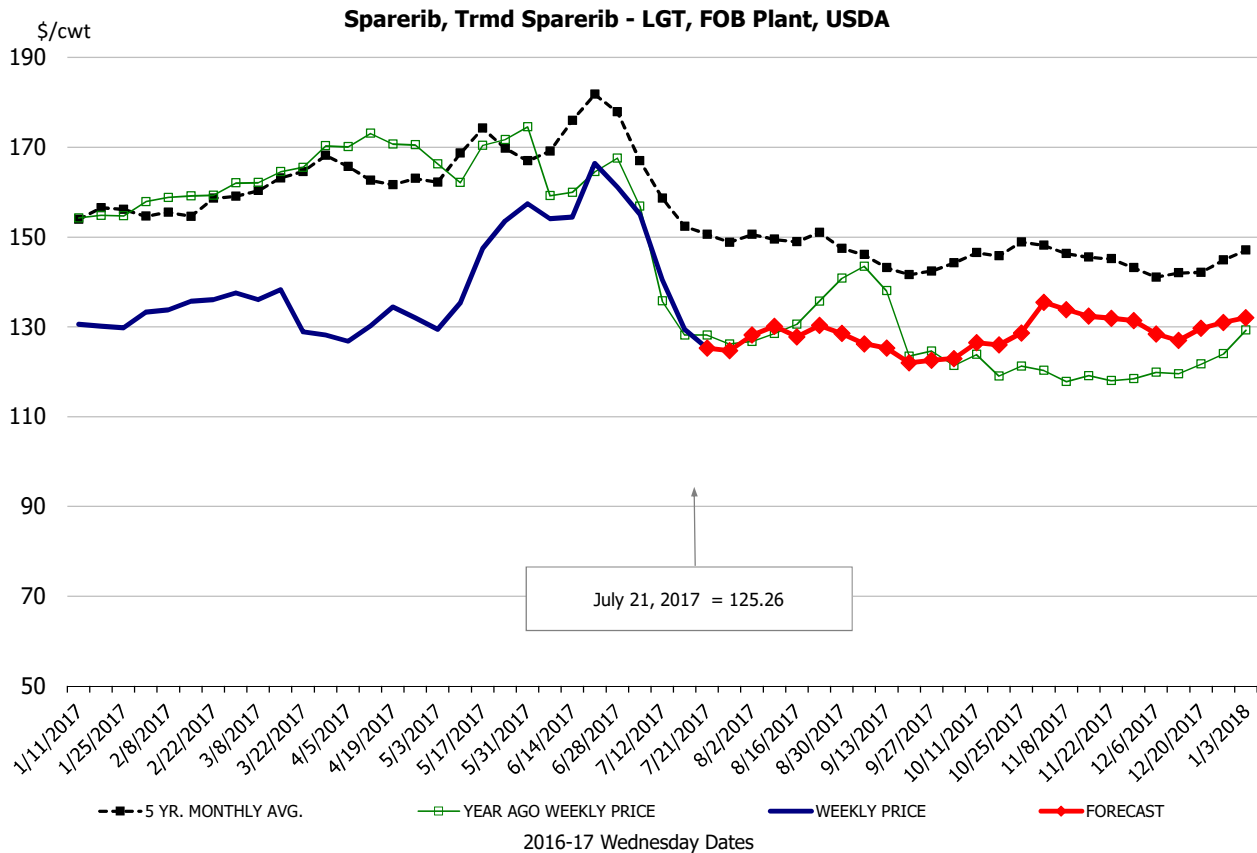
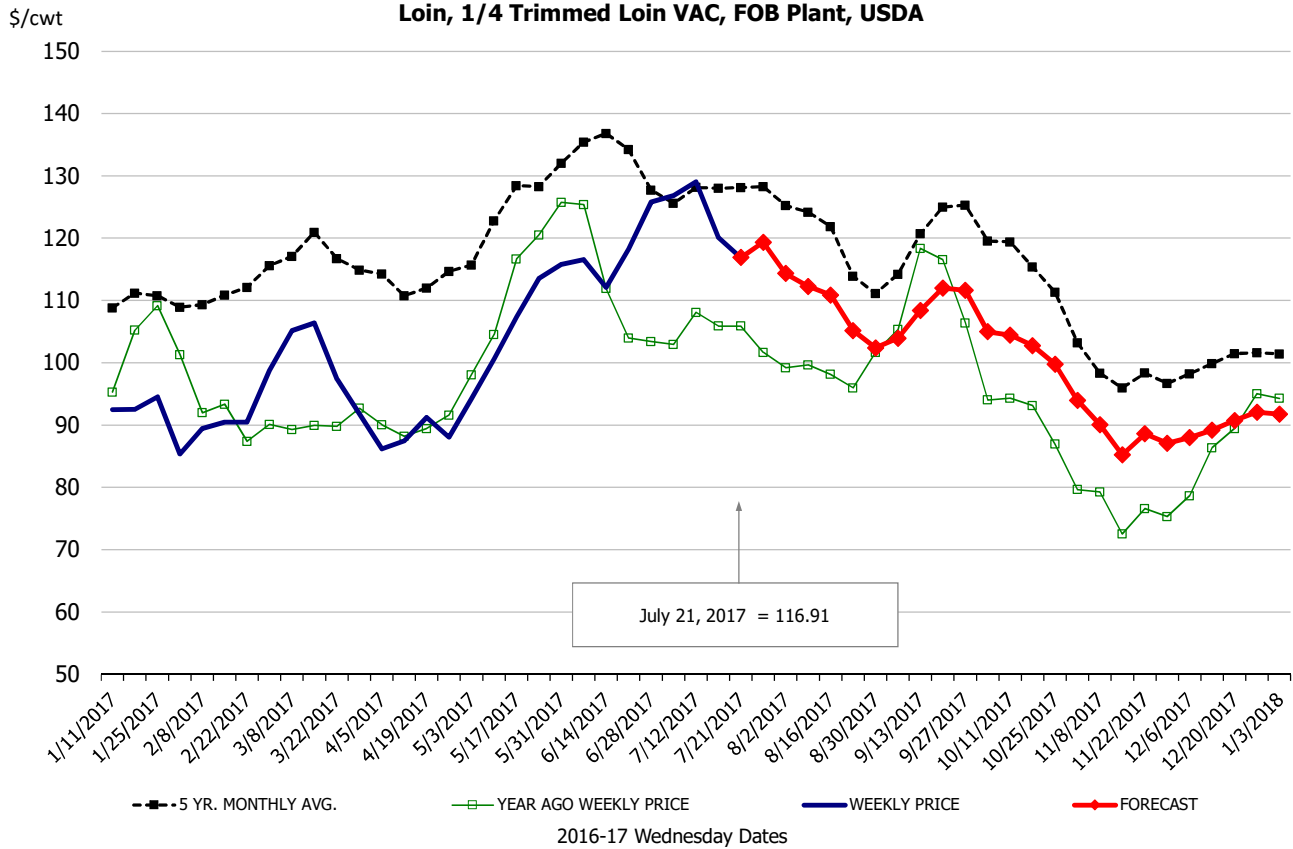
**81CL Coarse Ground** product finished last week at \$1.8879 down about 11 cent since Wed. July 12 but up about 26 cents from the year ago quote.

**90CL Bnls. Beef** prices finished the week at \$2.3172 (wt. avg.) down about 0.46 cent since Wed. July 12 but up 18 cents compared to the year ago price quote.

**50 CL Beef Trim** prices finished last week at \$0.9103, down about 2 cent since Wed. July 12 but up one cent compared to the year ago level.

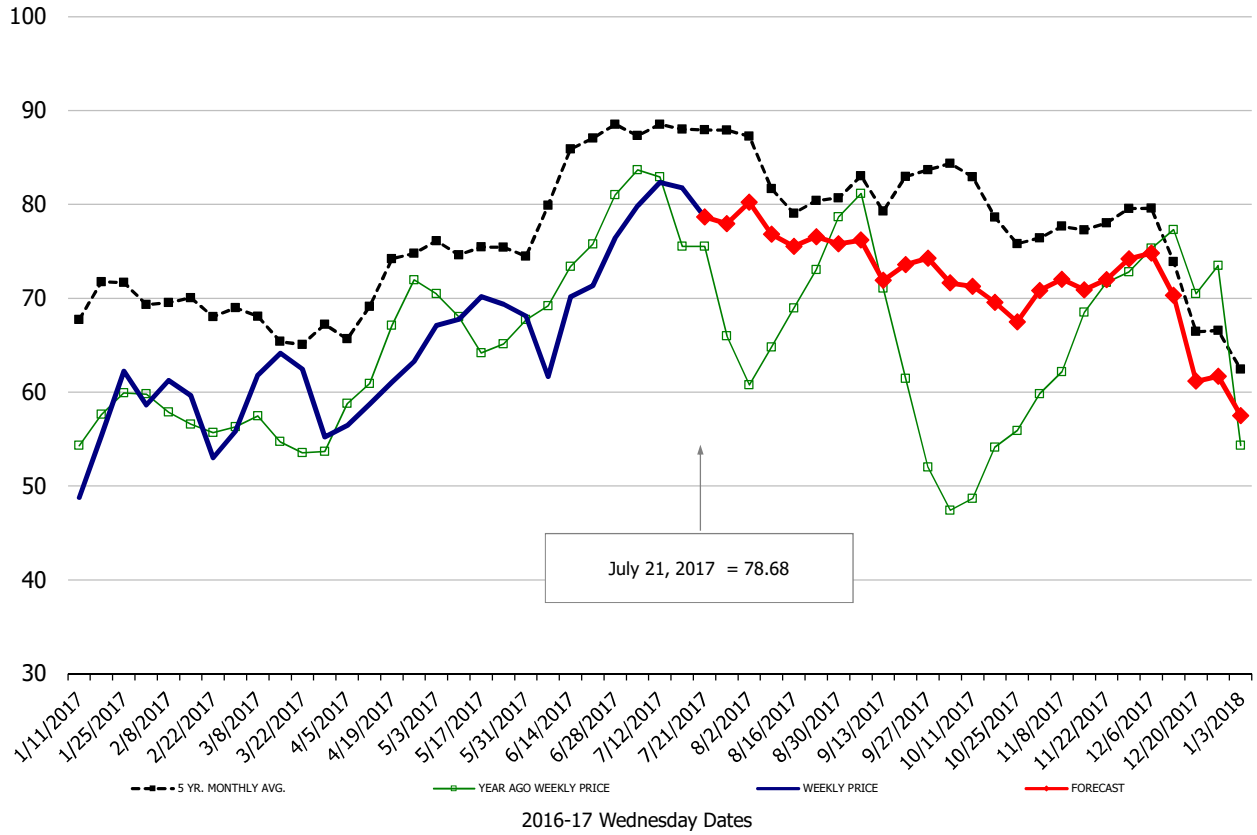
## Food Service Summary Table - WT. AVE

	HISTORY								FORECAST						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	7/12/2017	7/21/2017	8/2/2017	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>PORK</b>															
Loin, 1/4 Trimmed Loin VAC, FOB Plant, USDA	0.92	0.90	0.99	0.88	1.04	1.18	1.29	1.17	1.14	1.25	1.09	1.09	1.03	0.89	0.90
Loin, 1/8 Trimmed Loin VAC, FOB Plant, USDA	0.98	0.95	1.08	0.97	1.10	1.23	1.37	1.22	1.21	1.32	1.17	1.12	1.11	0.98	0.98
Loin, Bnls CC Strap-off, FOB Plant, USDA	1.47	1.34	1.36	1.32	1.44	1.51	1.54	1.59	1.49	1.59	1.47	1.51	1.54	1.38	1.40
Loin, Tenderloin, FOB Plant, USDA	2.13	2.18	2.08	1.98	2.07	2.24	2.34	2.42	2.35	2.39	2.24	2.12	2.04	2.07	2.01
Butt, 1/4 Trim Butt Combo, FOB Plant, USDA	0.92	0.86	0.93	0.89	1.05	1.14	1.20	0.99	1.10	1.19	1.07	1.04	0.95	0.91	0.91
Sparerib, Trmd Sparerib - LGT, FOB Plant, USDA	1.29	1.35	1.32	1.29	1.42	1.58	1.40	1.25	1.28	1.30	1.29	1.24	1.26	1.33	1.29
Sparerib, St Louis Spareribs, POLY, FZN, FOB Plant, USDA	2.22	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.26	2.25	2.27	2.09	2.23	2.20	2.17	1.99	1.96	2.01	1.96
Sparerib, Trmd Sparerib - MED, FOB Plant, USDA	1.28	1.32	1.31	1.27	1.45	1.61	1.59	1.26	1.27	1.32	1.27	1.21	1.27	1.32	1.27
Loin, Backribs 2.0#/up, FOB Plant, USDA	2.26	2.43	2.46	2.36	2.32	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.21	2.40	2.17	2.18	2.11	2.16	2.16
Ham, 17-20# Trmd Selected Ham, FOB Plant, USDA	0.58	0.60	0.63	0.60	0.68	0.70	0.82	0.82	0.79	0.77	0.76	0.74	0.77	0.77	0.71
Ham, 20-23# Trmd Selected Ham, FOB Plant, USDA	0.59	0.60	0.62	0.60	0.69	0.70	0.83	0.81	0.79	0.78	0.77	0.75	0.73	0.75	0.70
Ham, 23-27# Trmd Selected Ham, FOB Plant, USDA	0.54	0.58	0.60	0.59	0.68	0.67	0.82	0.79	0.80	0.78	0.77	0.74	0.70	0.72	0.67
Belly Cutout, FOB Plant, USDA	1.36	1.74	1.36	1.18	1.29	1.71	2.10	2.15	2.13	2.05	1.95	1.62	1.51	1.32	1.28
Belly, Derind Belly 9-13#, FOB Plant, USDA	1.75	2.17	1.69	1.44	1.61	2.19	2.57	2.62	2.65	2.57	2.39	1.99	1.85	1.62	1.57
Belly, Derind Belly 13-17#, FOB Plant, USDA	1.65	2.08	1.66	1.41	1.54	2.06	2.44	2.62	2.70	2.55	2.37	1.97	1.83	1.60	1.55
Trim, 42% Trim Combo, FOB Plant, USDA	0.25	0.31	0.35	0.34	0.39	0.62	0.69	0.74	0.80	0.67	0.65	0.51	0.37	0.34	0.29
Trim, 72% Trim Combo, FOB Plant, USDA	0.70	0.62	0.68	0.68	0.80	0.94	0.88	0.96	0.99	0.93	0.90	0.75	0.67	0.63	0.57
<b>HOG CARCASS</b>															
IA/MN, Base Market Hog 185 lb Carcass Basis, Plant Div.	0.61	0.71	0.66	0.57	0.69	0.83	0.88	0.84	0.82	0.85	0.81	0.70	0.68	0.62	0.63
<b>BROILERS</b>															
BROILER, NATIONAL WHOLE BIRD PRICE, USDA	0.86	0.85	0.95	0.97	1.08	1.09	1.06	1.02	0.95	1.05	0.96	0.92	0.89	0.89	0.90
N.E. BROILER BREAST BONELESS-SKINLESS, USDA	1.01	1.08	1.13	1.30	1.53	1.64	1.62	1.56	1.56	1.63	1.60	1.46	1.27	1.19	1.12
N.E. BROILER BREAST LINE RUN, USDA	0.87	0.86	0.97	1.07	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.26	1.25	1.25	1.24	1.18	1.12	1.05	1.02
N.E. BROILER LEG QUARTERS, USDA	0.32	0.33	0.38	0.39	0.41	0.41	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.40	0.38	0.38
N.E. BROILER WINGS, USDA, WT.AVG.	1.92	1.90	1.83	1.89	1.99	2.06	2.07	2.07	2.04	2.06	2.05	2.07	2.10	2.15	2.20
<b>TURKEYS</b>															
UB HEN TURKEYS, EAST, FROZEN 10-12LBS	1.06	1.06	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.09	1.07	1.10	1.14	1.18	1.18	1.09
UB BONELESS-SKINLESS TURKEY BREAST, TOM, FRESH	1.65	1.60	1.55	1.54	1.53	1.53	1.53	1.53	1.65	1.53	1.70	1.95	1.95	1.97	1.90
<b>LIVE STEERS</b>															
FIVE AREA DIRECT AVERAGE LIVE STEER, USDA	1.19	1.20	1.27	1.28	1.36	1.30	1.18	1.18	1.17	1.18	1.17	1.17	1.16	1.18	1.17
<b>BEEF</b>															
CHOICE, 112A, 3 RIBEYE, BONELESS, HEAVY, USDA	6.10	6.07	7.17	7.49	9.10	9.39	7.10	6.84	6.87	7.25	7.25	7.30	7.68	8.93	8.32
CHOICE, 168, 3 TOP INSIDE ROUND, 1/4" MAX, USDA	2.06	2.16	2.42	2.15	2.32	2.50	2.36	2.33	2.30	2.40	2.25	2.15	2.10	2.08	2.10
CHOICE, 170, 1 BOTTOM GOOSENECK ROUND, USDA	2.07	2.00	2.06	1.94	2.10	2.10	2.01	2.00	2.03	2.00	2.00	2.06	2.13	2.03	2.02
CHOICE, 180, 3 STRIP LOIN, BONELESS, 0x1, USDA	5.50	5.24	7.13	6.72	8.08	7.62	5.65	5.78	5.55	6.24	5.66	5.20	4.97	4.99	5.12
CHOICE, 184, 3 TOP BUTT, BONELESS, USDA	2.49	2.91	3.81	3.59	3.65	3.67	3.74	3.75	3.57	3.70	3.56	3.38	3.08	2.95	2.86
CHOICE, 185A, 4 BOTTOM SIRLOIN, FLAP, USDA	4.22	4.30	5.03	5.40	6.84	6.25	4.82	4.10	4.42	4.50	4.45	4.70	4.59	4.55	4.52
COARSE GROUND 73%, USDA	1.43	1.30	1.63	1.60	1.93	1.98	1.82	1.66	1.59	1.75	1.70	1.70	1.65	1.59	1.57
COARSE GROUND 81%, USDA	1.86	1.72	1.84	1.82	2.14	2.22	1.99	1.89	1.83	1.96	1.95	1.86	1.82	1.77	1.74
90% BONELESS BEEF, CENTRAL, FRESH, USDA	2.03	2.09	2.15	2.17	2.23	2.30	2.32	2.32	2.25	2.32	2.28	2.21	2.06	2.01	2.00
50CL BEEF TRIM, FRESH, NATIONAL, USDA	0.56	0.79	0.99	1.05	1.77	1.32	0.93	0.91	0.93	0.95	0.88	0.83	0.84	0.88	0.75

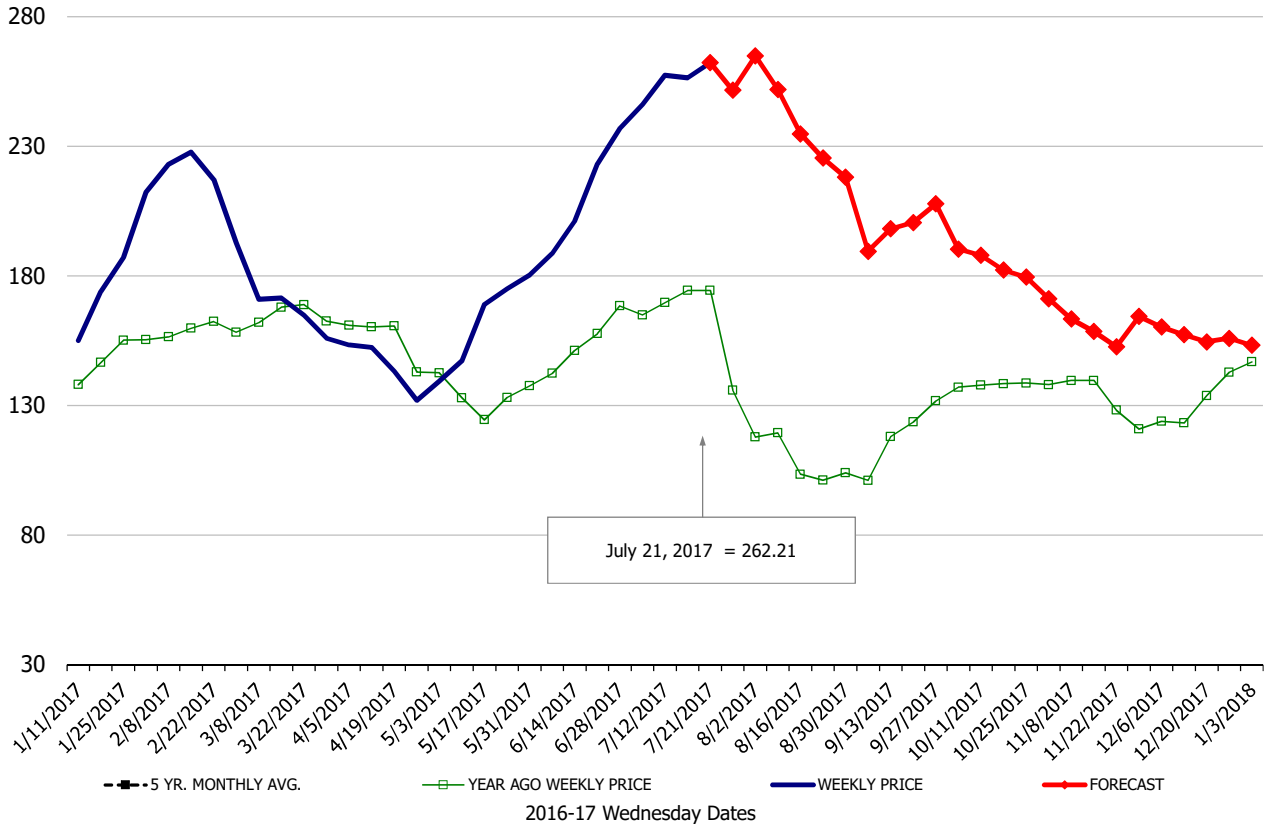




**Ham, 23-27# Trmd Selected Ham, FOB Plant, USDA**

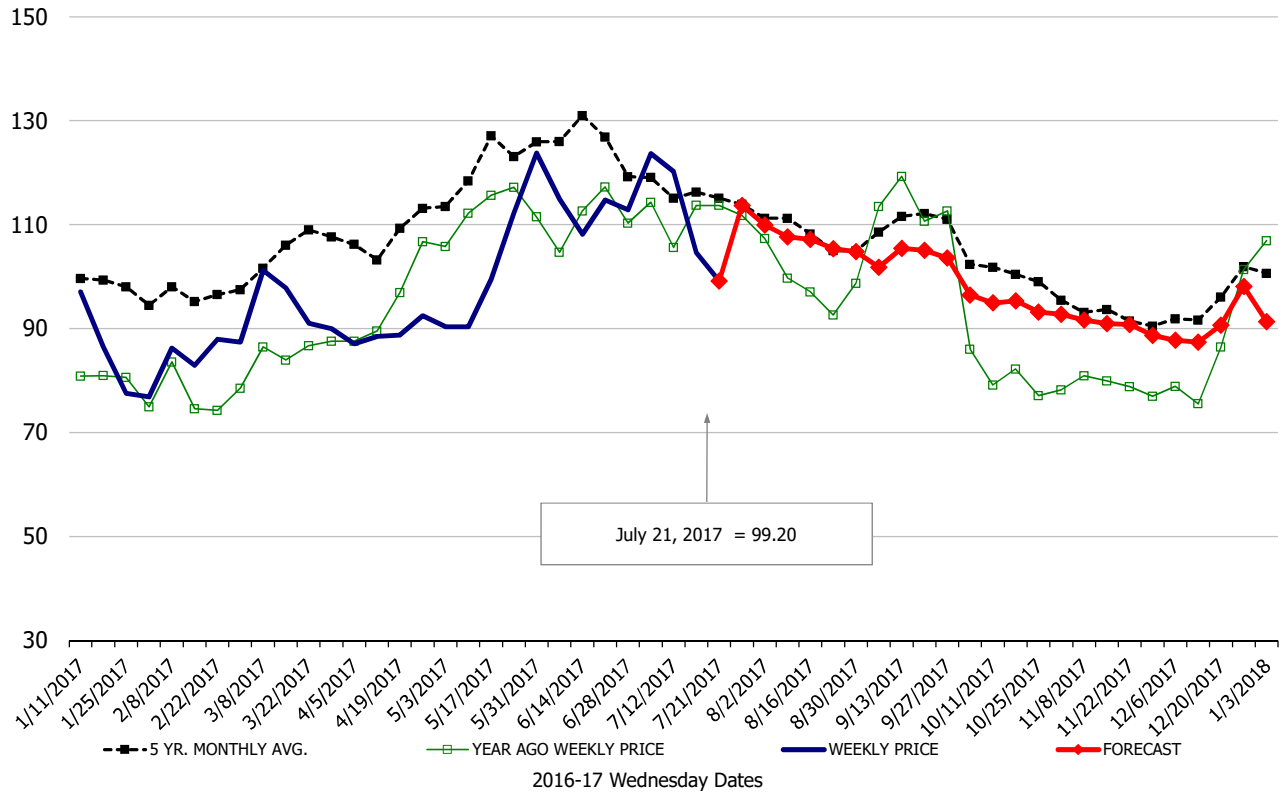


**Belly, Derind Belly 9-13#, FOB Plant, USDA**



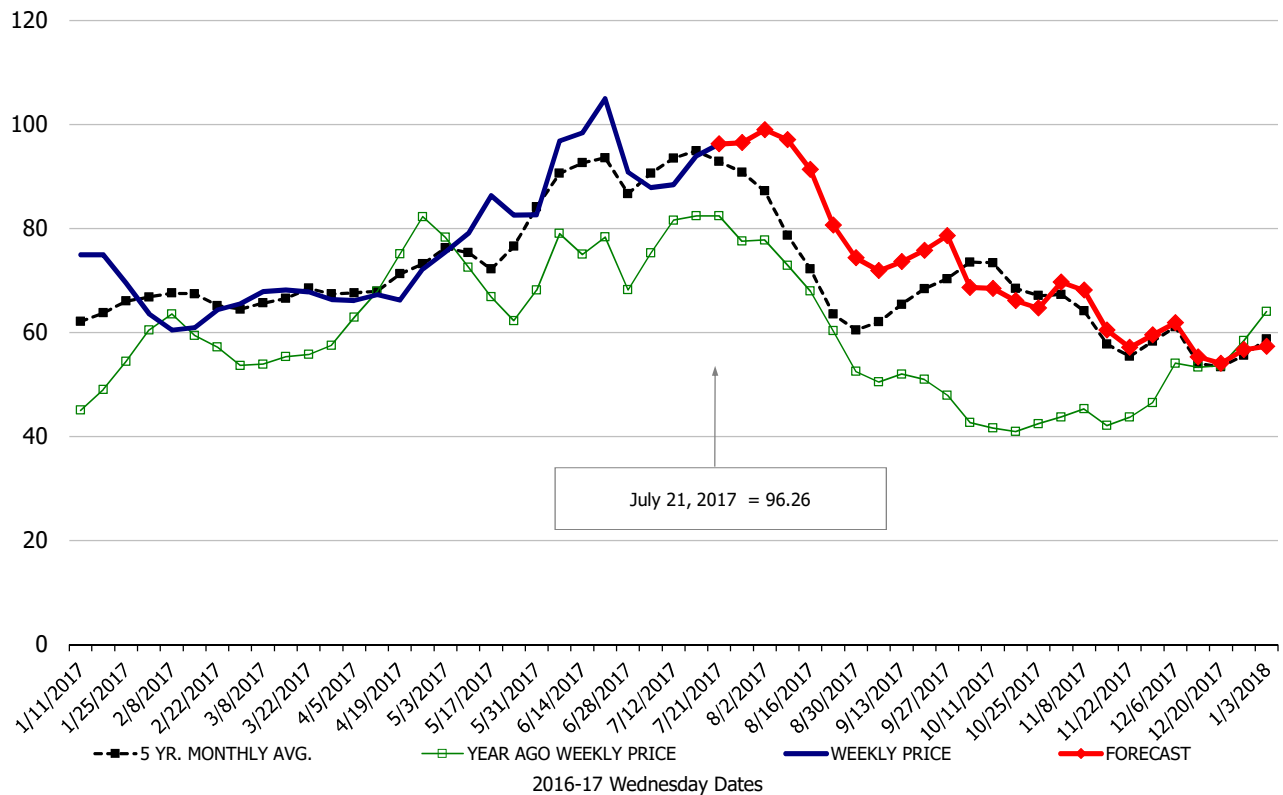
\$/cwt

### Butt, 1/4 Trim Butt Combo, FOB Plant, USDA



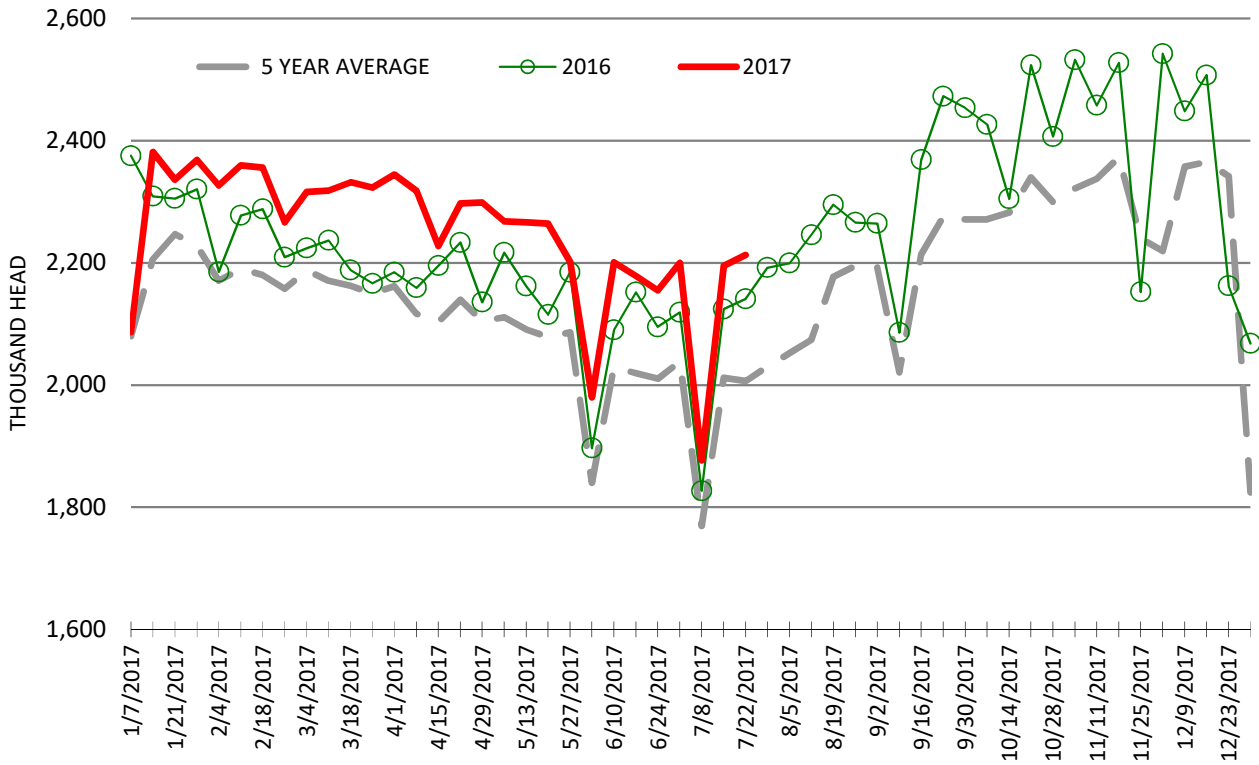
\$/cwt

### Trim, 72% Trim Combo, FOB Plant, USDA



# ESTIMATED WEEKLY FI HOG SLAUGHTER

Source: USDA, '000 head



# ESTIMATED WEEKLY FI HOG SLAUGHTER

Source: USDA, '000 head

