

Friday, April 05, 2024

Number 15 - Volume 17

WEEKLY COMMODITY AT A GLANCE

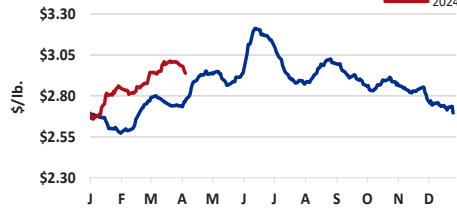
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Omaha, US No 2 Yellow Corn	UNQ	UNQ	6.70
CBOT Soybean	1,185.00	UNQ	1,492.50
NYMEX Light Crude Oil	86.91	UNQ	80.70
Loose Lard, Chicago Basis	0.43	0.43	0.87
Edible Tallow, Chicago Basis	0.50	0.50	0.690
Beef Trimmings, 90% Fresh	354.00	341.00	290.00
Beef Trimmings, 50% Fresh	103.00	101.00	152.00
Aust/NZ Blend Cow 90% EC Spot	289.00	286.00	267.00
USDA Drop Credit	0.119	0.119	0.128
112A 3 Ribeye Roll, Lip-On CH	955.00	1,015.00	1,045.00
116A 3 Chuck Roll, Neck-Off CH	400.00	423.00	375.00
168 3 Round, Top (Inside) CH	325.00	350.00	295.00
180 3 Strip Loin, Bnls, 0x1 CH	985.00	950.00	800.00
136 Coarse Ground 81%	273.00	273.00	250.00
189A 4 Loin, Tenderloin, PSMO CH	1,365.00	1,410.00	1,550.00
Cattle-Fax, 6-State Fed Steer Price	187.50	189.25	168.55
Select Hams 20/23	92.00	80.00	69.00
Sq Cut Bellies 14/16	126.00	129.00	88.00
1/4 Trmd. Loins 21/dn	120.00	120.00	89.00
1/4 Tr Boston Butts 9/dn	133.00	130.00	110.00
Spareribs, Light, Fresh	195.00	195.00	129.00
Fresh Pork Trim (42%)	70.00	62.00	55.00
Fresh Pork Trim (72%)	100.00	96.00	77.00
Carcass Lamb Y4+55/65	4.48	4.48	3.95
Lamb Cuts, 204 Rack, 8-Rib, 7/Up	11.25	11.25	12.80
Lamb Cuts, 206 Shoulder, Cross Cut	3.85	3.85	3.75
Lamb Cuts, 232 Loin Trmd 4x4	7.20	7.20	7.25
Lamb Cuts, 234 Leg, Boneless	8.10	8.10	7.00
Carcass Veal, Hide-off, 255/315, NC	4.55	4.55	4.25
Veal Cuts, 306 Hotel Rack, 7-Rib 14/20	11.00	11.00	10.50
Veal Cuts, 310 Shoulder Clod 14/20	7.95	7.95	7.75
Veal Cuts, 332 Loin, 4x4 Trim 12/18	7.50	7.50	6.75
Veal Cuts, 363A Leg, TBS 3-Pc 24/32	10.25	10.25	10.25

Quotes represent the high side of Friday's trading range

RIEMANN CONTRACT SETTLEMENTS

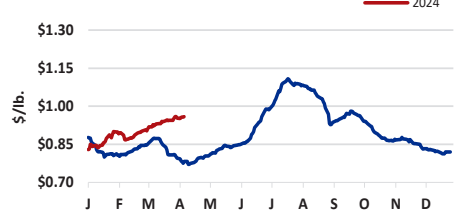
	4/5	3/29	3/22
Weekly Imported Aust/NZ Blend Cow 90% EC 7:45	2.88	2.85	2.77
Weekly Weighted Average Blended Boxed Beef Cutout Index	300.53	307.63	311.04

UB Beef Index



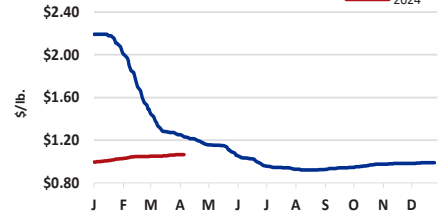
Source: Urner Barry

UB Pork Cutout



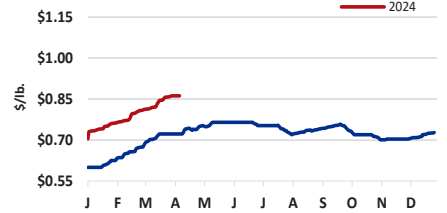
Source: Urner Barry

UB Turkey Index



Source: Urner Barry

UB Chicken Index



Source: Urner Barry

EST. DAILY CATTLE SLAUGHTER

	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Total
TW	109	120	123	122	115	20	609
LW	118	125	124	116	98	5	586
*LY	125	124	123	102	11	112	596

EST. DAILY HOG SLAUGHTER

	TW	LW	*LY
TW	358	489	491
LW	484	483	490
*LY	484	475	484

EST. DAILY SHEEP SLAUGHTER

	TW	LW	*LY
TW	10	6	7
LW	7	7	7
*LY	8	8	8

EST. DAILY CALVES SLAUGHTER

	TW	LW	*LY
TW	1	1	1
LW	1	1	1
*LY	1	1	1

EST. DAILY COW & BULL SLAUGHTER

	F	S	M	T	W	TH	Total
LW	3/22	3/23	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28	
TW	24	2	24	24	25	25	124
	3/29	3/30	4/1	4/2	4/3	4/4	Total
TW	21	1	22	24	25	25	118
*LY	26	27	27	28	25	2	135

*Last Year's numbers are rounded

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Australia, Dollar	0.660	0.652	0.667
Mexico, Peso	16.548	16.586	18.113
Canada, Dollar	1.351	1.357	1.350
Japan, Yen	151.585	151.362	132.137
China, Yuan (RMB)	7.235	7.227	6.868
Brazil, Real	5.038	4.998	5.055
South Korea, Won	1,347.46	1,349.00	1,316.28
Taiwan, Dollar	32.041	31.998	30.399
European Union, Euro	1.085	1.080	1.090

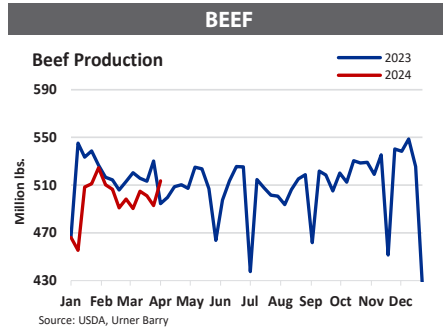
COLD STORAGE STOCKS

(Pounds in Thousands)	2/29/24	1/31/24	2/28/23
Beef in Freezer, Bnls	402,767	430,278	460,189
Beef Cuts	39,984	40,983	40,594
Total Beef	442,751	471,261	500,783
PORK & OTHER	2/29/24	1/31/24	2/28/23
Pork in Freezer, Picnics	5,009	5,687	8,564
Hams	69,702	74,875	85,278
Bellies	63,824	62,425	71,011
Loins	41,057	42,570	42,770
Spareribs	87,605	88,340	115,468
Butts	20,928	19,983	27,223
Trimmings	46,626	47,625	51,374
Other Pork in Freezer	49,563	48,397	48,679
Total	456,499	463,305	521,606
Veal in Freezer	801	1,429	1,628
Lamb & Mutton in Freezer	19,988	19,930	29,658
Total	20,789	21,359	31,286

Data Updated: March 25, 2024

URNER BARRY'S WEEKLY RED MEAT INSIDER'S REPORT is available on FoodMarket.com and through Urner Barry's flagship service Comtell Online. FoodMarket is available for \$42.00 a month.

UB BEEF CUTOOUT Apr-05 v. Mar-29				
	CHOICE	SELECT	NO-ROLL	CAB
Rib	-5.17%	1.34%	-0.30%	-6.38%
Chuck	-3.22%	0.17%	0.20%	-5.01%
Round	-2.50%	-2.37%	-2.18%	-3.06%
Loin	0.17%	0.13%	5.41%	-0.17%
Brisket	-0.28%	-0.28%	-1.41%	-0.25%
Plate	-0.79%	-0.79%	-0.79%	-0.66%
Flank	-1.20%	-1.20%	-1.20%	-0.78%
Total	-2.17%	-0.24%	0.81%	-3.01%



BEEF COMMENTARY

Weakness experienced late last week appeared to be exacerbated into the current as broad-based declines were the norm within the boxed beef market. Most notably around middle meats as buyers continued to take an immediate need only approach, backing up supplies, forcing sellers to discount product to clear inventories. Demand remained a wild card and uncertainty prompted most participants to play their hand close to the vest. This led to stout offers in the forward period and frugal purchasing patterns in the spot market. Although, none of this comes as a surprise given some of the price points we entered the year with. Quality grade continued to outperform expectations which has drastically narrowed the Choice/Select spread, with some select items priced over choice in a reversal of traditional trading relationships.

LIVE CATTLE: Live cattle trade in the North this week were \$2.00 to \$3.00/cwt lower at \$187.00/cwt live (full range \$185.00 to \$188.00/cwt). Dressed trades were \$2.00 to \$3.00/cwt lower at \$296.00 to \$297.00/cwt (full range \$295.00 to \$298.00/cwt). Prices in the South were reported at \$184.00/cwt live, down \$1.00 to \$2.00/cwt.

SLAUGHTER & BEEF PRODUCTION: The weekly federally inspected slaughter for the week was 609,000 head, compared to 586,000 in the week prior. Live cattle weights were up three pounds compared to last week at 1395 pounds. Dressed weights inched up two pounds to 845 pounds.

RIBS: Ribs became one of the top takeaways of the week as prices depreciated quite drastically for both export and boneless ribeyes. Buyers saw little reason to pay asking prices, as many cited the subpar demand picture. As pricing fell, buyers did feel more comfortable taking positions in the forward period as well. By the end of the week, choice export rib prices fell by over 8 percent.

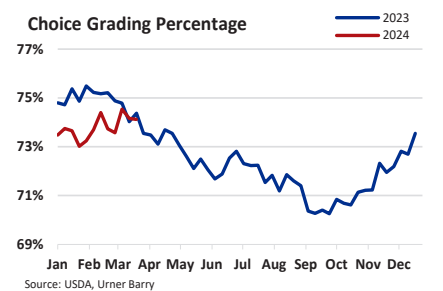
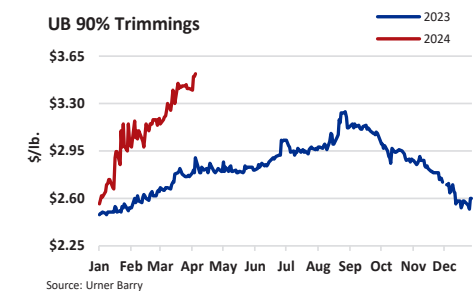
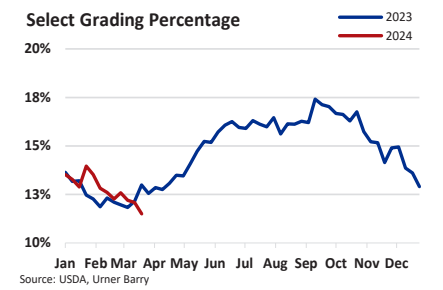
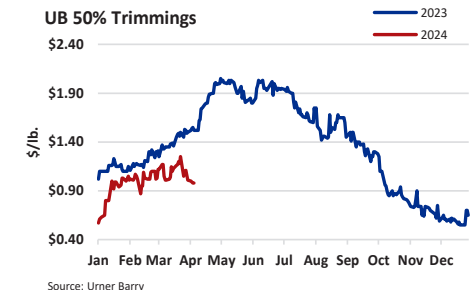
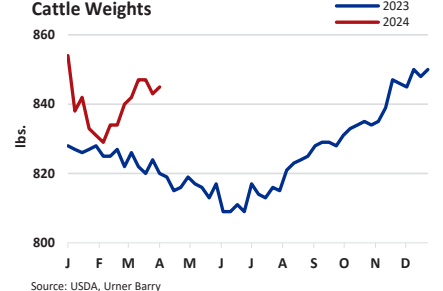
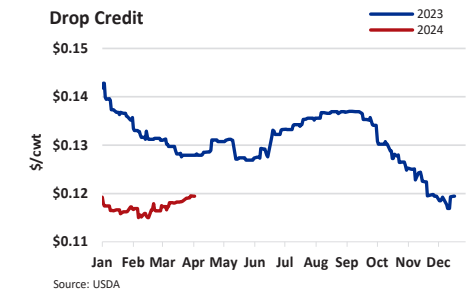
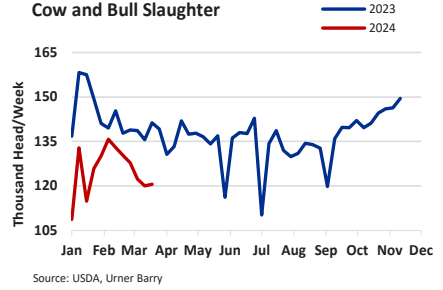
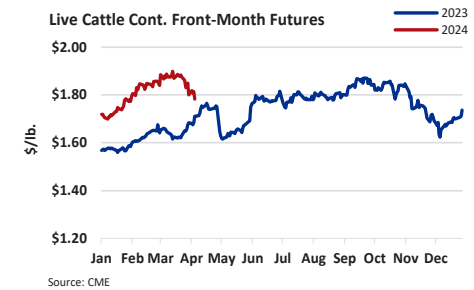
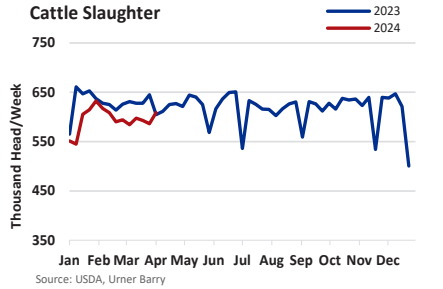
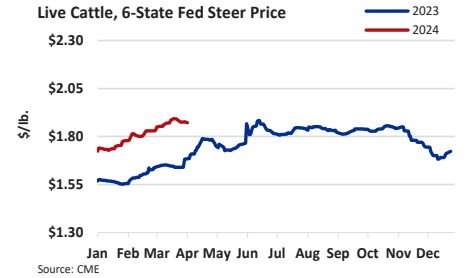
CHUCKS: In most cases, chuck pricing was able to find steady footing. Attention has begun to shift towards other areas of the carcass and in some cases, stout demand for lean material has underpinned some support for items within the category such as shoulder clods. Chuck rolls were the only notable exception with prices moving lower behind a fully adequate supply picture. As the weather improves, end cuts typically shift away from the spotlight which leads to a softer bias being the norm. Fresh 90s pricing will be viewed as determining if the seasonals are experienced.

ROUNDS: The round category faced further downward pressure which featured some modest moves lower for eye of rounds and outside rounds. Most of the pressure, however, was focused on the inside round, which saw prices drop significantly as buyers placed lower bids and supplies moved towards fully adequate levels. Despite the moves lower, inside rounds still sat roughly 13% above the five-year average.

LOINS: While the story around other primals was relatively straightforward, the narrative within the loin complex was unsettled. Items like 0x1 strips and short loins garnered enough momentum to move prices higher behind improved demand post-Easter. Tenderloins fared quite differently as prices adjusted lower as participants eyed value over quality with demand remaining a question mark for the time being. Spring business felt out of reach for many and fears of catching the proverbial falling knife persisted.

GROUND BEEF: Grinds witnessed little price movement throughout the week. Supplies varied from plant to plant and sentiment was a bit mixed. With grilling season still a few weeks away and prices sitting at levels well above last year, buyers have become a bit cautious, which led to a chop sideways.

BONELESS BEEF: Strength in the leaner boneless beef market continued this week, largely supported by tight supplies and higher priced cows. Record high prices developed as the week progressed. Most buyers indicated that securing product was the primary goal. Fresh 50s were mixed this week as supplies varied from packer to packer. This week's cattle slaughter was estimated at 609,000 head, that is up roughly 4% compared to last week.

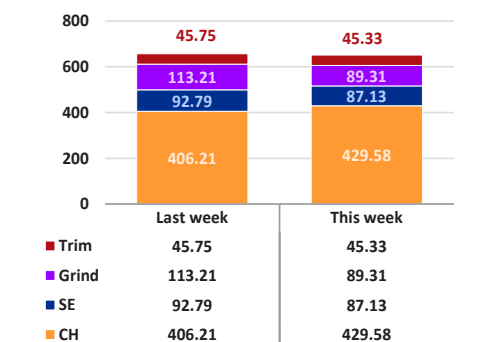


UB BEEF CUTOOUT-CH/SE SPREAD (\$/cwt)

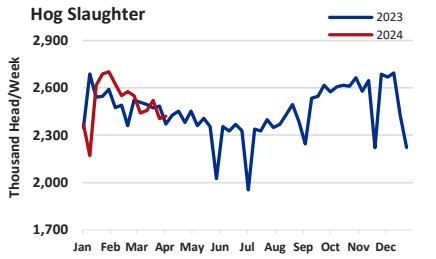
	M	T	W	TH	F
TW	13.37	11.24	9.41	9.31	9.00
*LW	12.79	14.34	15.13	14.88	14.87

*Last Week's numbers are rounded

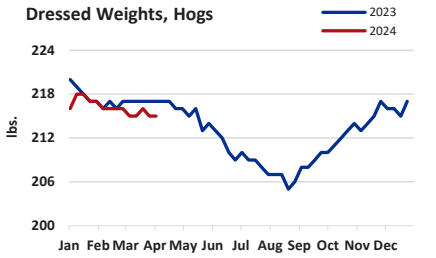
Weekly Beef Breakdown (Source: USDA, Urner Barry)
 (# of loads) 1 load = 40,000 lbs.



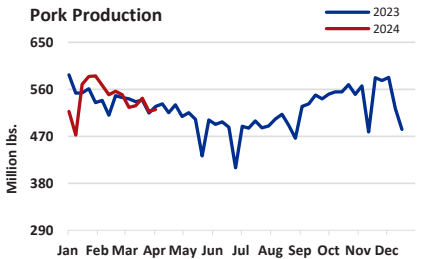
PORK PRODUCTION



Source: USDA, Urner Barry



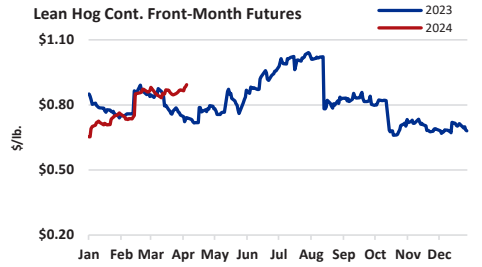
Source: USDA, Urner Barry



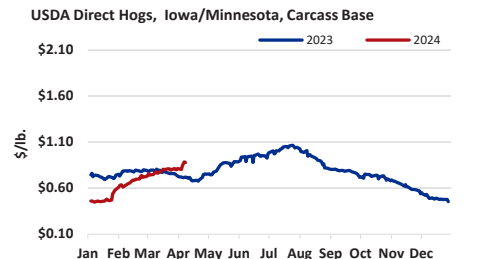
Source: USDA, Urner Barry

LIVE HOGS & CUTOUT

PORK CUTOUT	Mar-29	Apr-05	Change
Loin	93.000	96.400	3.400
Butt	108.980	112.070	3.090
Picnic	77.510	76.090	-1.420
Sparerib	180.240	176.410	-3.830
Ham	78.290	81.520	3.230
Belly	125.970	122.800	-3.170
Cutout Value	95.252	95.891	0.639



Source: CME



Source: USDA, Urner Barry

PORK COMMENTARY

In the pork market this week, post Easter holiday slaughter schedules, supportive grilling season demand, and improved international interest impacted pork trade. Urner Barry's pork carcass cutout increased by 0.67 percent during the week. Estimates of margins for outside purchasers of hogs for Friday were \$16.79/head, while margins for vertically integrated packers were estimated at \$20.29/head.

PORK PRODUCTION: Pork production for the week ending 4/06/2024 was estimated to be 521.2 million pounds. This would be 4.8 percent higher than last week and 12 percent lower than this same week a year ago. Live hog weights averaged 290 pounds for the week, which was even with last week, and 2 pounds less this same week a year ago.

GREEN MEATS: In the green meat complex, bone-in hams were firm as the Mexican peso gains buying power against the US dollar, while the boneless ham market was slightly softer on dull demand. In the belly category, an unsettled undertone was noted though trade to finish out the week was slightly softer on fully adequate availability. In the trim category, a full steady tone was noted for 42s, 72, and boneless picnics on tight spot market availability for fresh and frozen material.

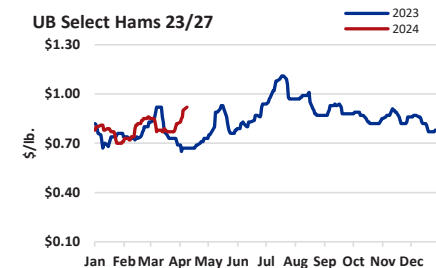
HAMS: Bone-in hams were \$10.00 to \$12.00/cwt firmer, while boneless ham items were \$2.00/cwt softer.

BELLIES: Skinless bellies were \$4.50 to \$5.50/cwt weaker.

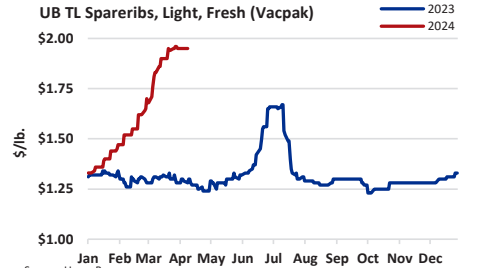
TRIMMINGS: 42s were \$8.50/cwt firmer, 72s were \$4.00/cwt firmer, while boneless picnics were \$5.50/cwt firmer.

RETAIL: 1/4" bone-in loins were \$0.50/cwt stronger, while 1/8" bone-in loins were \$2.00/cwt firmer. Boneless strap-ons were \$10.00/cwt stronger, while strap-offs were \$4.50/cwt firmer. Bone-in sirloins were \$1.00/cwt weaker, while boneless sirloins were \$1.50/cwt lower. Tenderloins were \$2.00/cwt firmer. 1/4" bone-in butts were \$3.00/cwt stronger, while boneless butts were \$4.00/cwt firmer. Light spareribs were unchanged, while medium spareribs were \$5.00/cwt weaker.

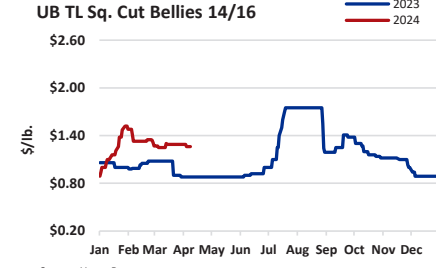
PORK PROCESSING ITEMS & RETAIL CUTS



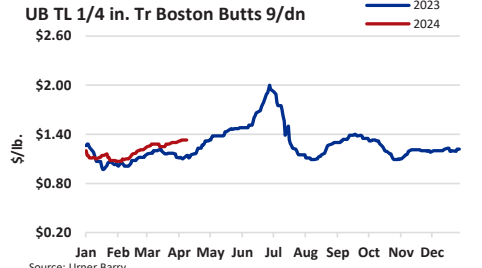
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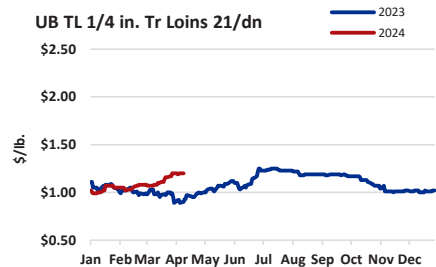
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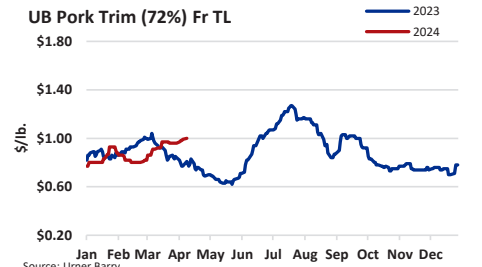
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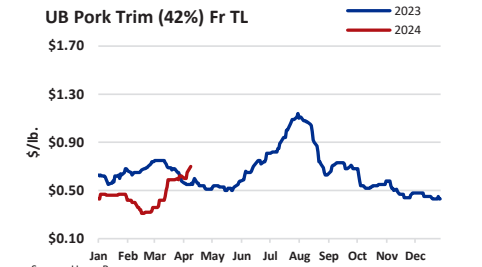
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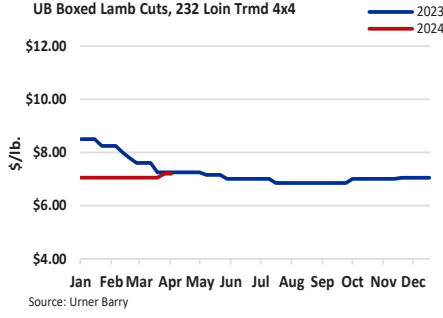
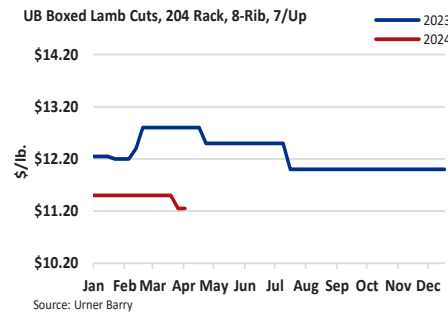
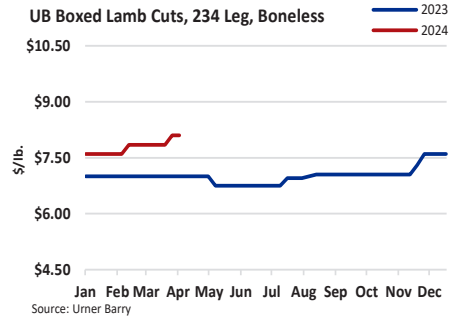
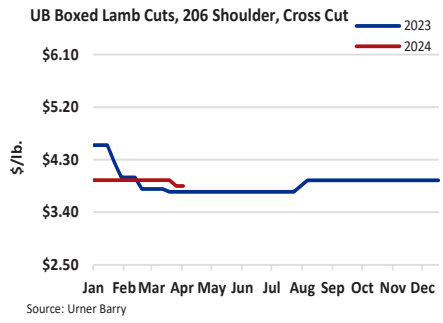
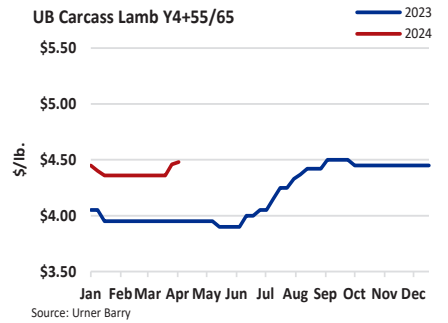


Source: Urner Barry



Source: Urner Barry

LAMB

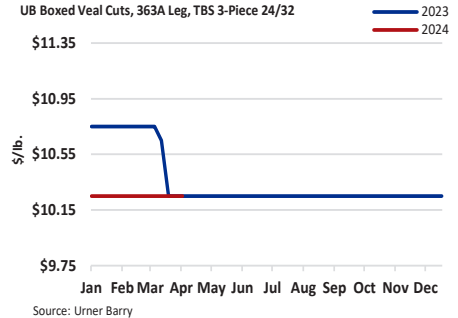
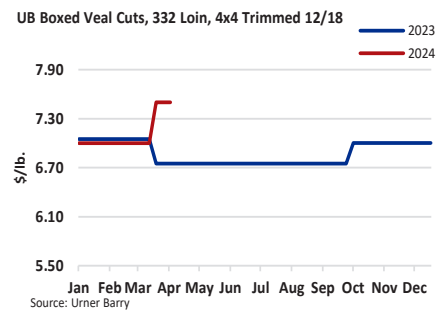
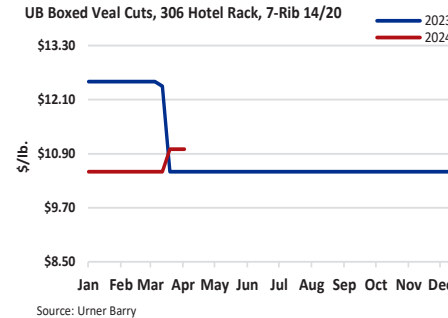
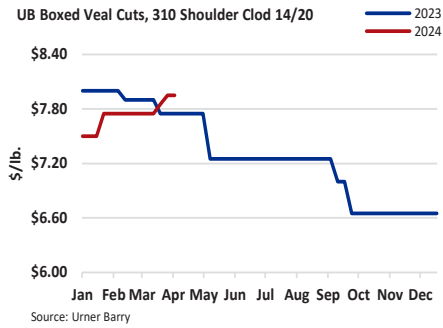
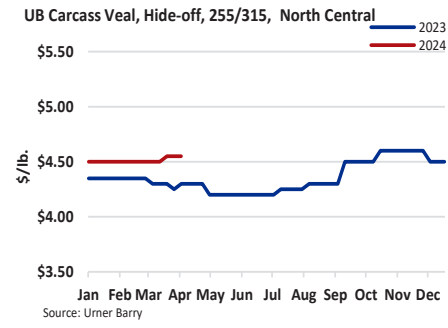


LAMB & VEAL COMMENTARY

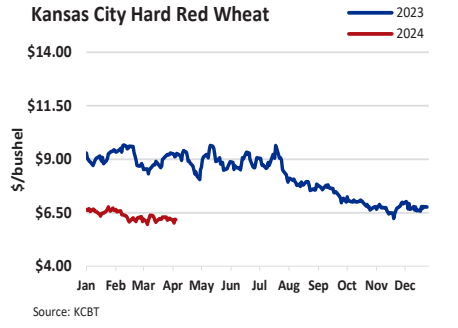
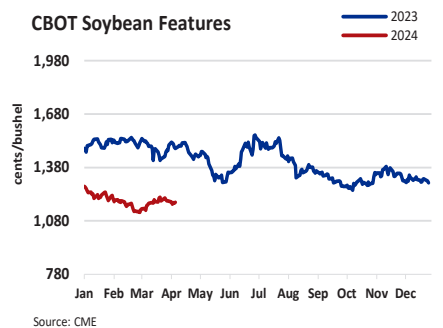
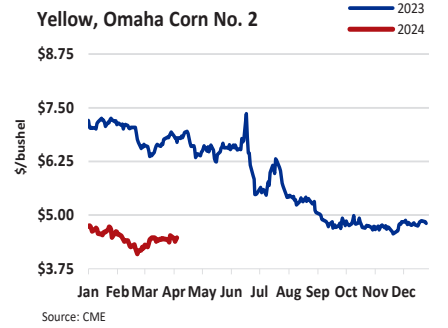
In the veal market this week, carcasses experienced tighter ranges toward the top side of the previous quote as some market participants anticipate an increase in the price of male holstein calves. Boxed cuts generally traded within steady price ranges. The most recent USDA Carlot Veal Carcass report indicates that the total fed veal slaughter for the week ending March 30, 2024, reached 2,172 head, representing a decrease of roughly 10% compared to the previous week. Furthermore, there was a slight adjustment in average weights, with an increase of 5.3 pounds from the week prior, averaging 291.9 pounds.

This week, the domestic lamb market saw a slight increase in prices for all carcass sizes, while prices for boxed lamb cuts were generally unchanged. According to the latest USDA report, fresh lamb cuts (negotiated sales) amounted to 511,180 pounds, marking a 29.2% decrease from the previous week. Conversely, the trade volume for frozen products reached 119,635 pounds, representing a 109.2% increase from the previous week. The most recent weekly Estimated Meat Production Under Federal Inspection Report indicated that slaughter figures were at 32,000 head, which is 8,000 head fewer than the week prior and 9,000 head less than this same week a year ago. The average weights were reported at 128 pounds, 1 pound lower than the previous week, yet 1 pound heavier than this time last year.

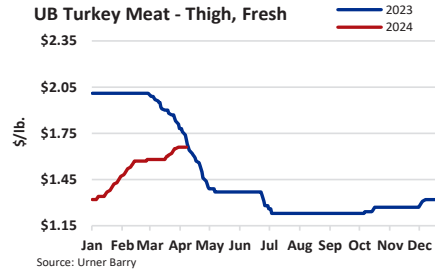
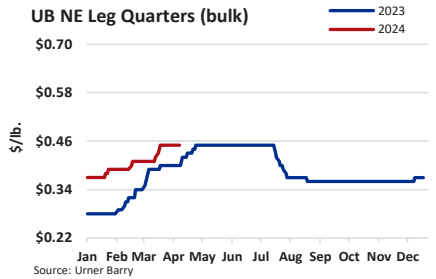
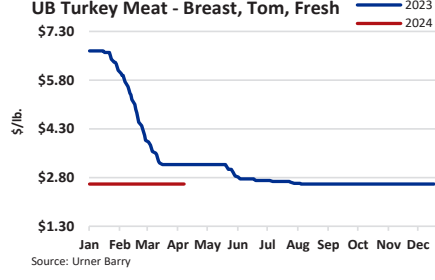
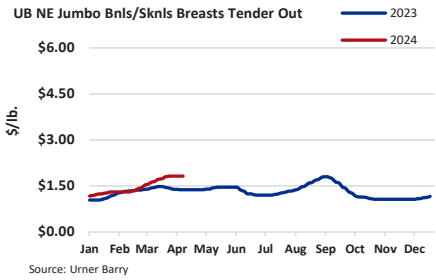
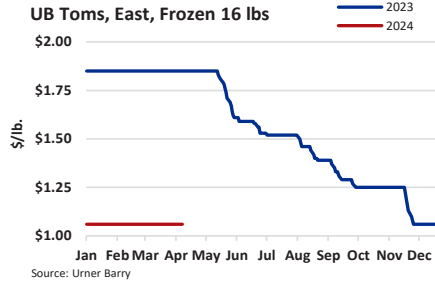
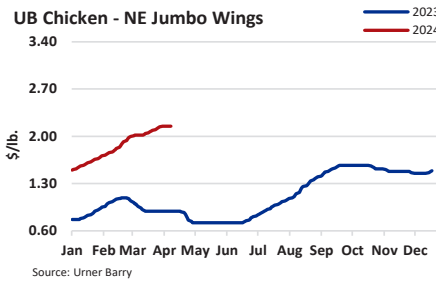
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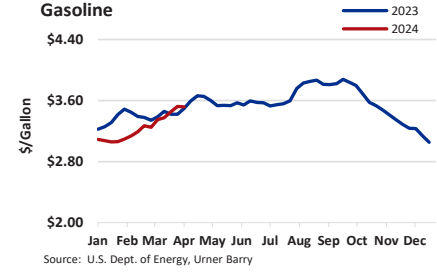
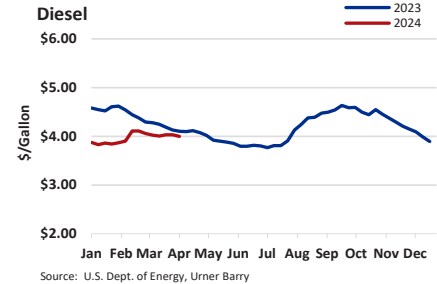
FEEDS: CORN, SOY BEAN, RED WHEAT



POULTRY



ENERGY



ANNOUNCEMENT

Urner Barry Price Reporting Receives Independent Assurance of IOSCO Compliance Achieving the Gold Standard for Price Reporting

For over 160 years, Urner Barry has been the trusted source for benchmark pricing in the food and agriculture industry. Now, the company has successfully completed an independent review of its price reporting methodology and control procedures, confirming Urner Barry's processes are aligned with the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) Principles for Price Reporting Agencies (PRAs).

The Type 1 assurance report, issued by auditor BDO, examined eight benchmark price indices.

"Our clients require the highest quality information to effectively conduct their business and navigate the supply chain," said Urner Barry CEO, Joe Muldowney. "This independent assurance review reflects the pledge we undertake to provide them with robust, independent, and accurate market coverage."

Read more about the latest quality assurance [HERE](#)

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POULTRY COMMENTARY

Throughout the week WOG offerings were readily available, with retail demand presenting a mixed picture. This variability left some marketers with surplus inventories in the 20 and 22-head weight classes. In the boneless sector, demand continued to be tepid overall. However, it's worth noting that there wasn't an overwhelming abundance of offerings. Buyers found opportunities to secure products at prices ranging from steady to discounted, especially in jumbo and medium categories. Tenders presented a slightly different scenario, with spot offerings being scarce but not impossible to find. Prices for these remained at a premium for any available spot loads. Wings saw consistent placement at full market prices as the week progressed. In the back half, most lines remained static overall, with thighs and thigh meat showing the tightest availability and being held at the firmest prices by sellers. MSC, particularly frozen, experienced a seasonal uptick in demand, leading to tighter offerings and a slight increase in asking prices.

This week saw a steady undertone for whole-body toms and hens, aligning with the recent trend where market sentiment and spot sales significantly depend on the production date. Pricing for consumer-sized

breasts remained stable, with some sellers open to negotiation when deemed necessary. Institutional sizes experienced an even distribution across various sales points. Tom drums, both fresh and frozen, were traded at values matching or slightly surpassing our current quotes. The market for hen products was described as steady to slightly improving, supported by sufficient supplies. Whole wings maintained their value, with sellers insisting on receiving full market prices. Two-joint wings saw a lower demand than anticipated. Neck supplies were in balance. Frozen tom breast meat faced challenges in securing consistent buyer interest, whereas fresh breast meat enjoyed robust support. Sellers of fresh tenderloins were assessing buyers' readiness to pay a slight premium. Thigh meat continued to see strong demand, with sellers tightly controlling the limited volumes available at firm prices.

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