

FarmEcon LLC

A source of information on global farming
and food systems

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Weak Poult Placements Start Out 2019, But Watch Weights



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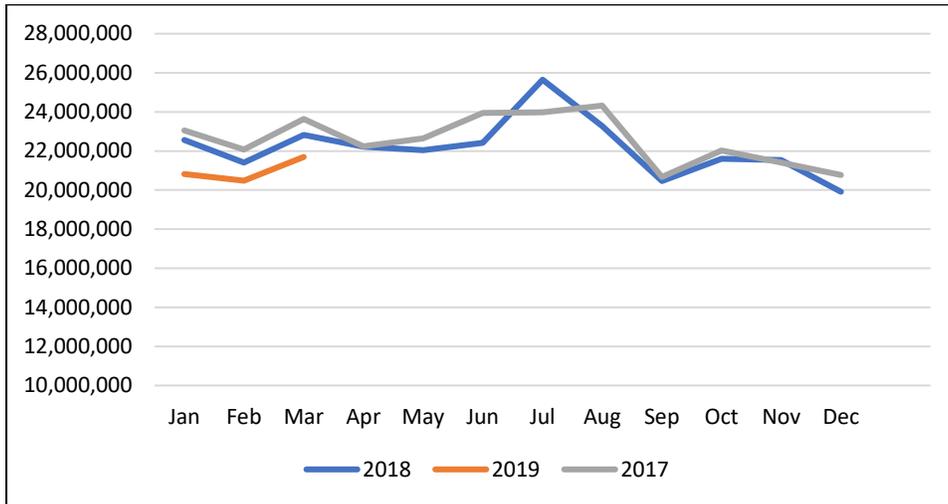
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2016-2019 articles in this series are available at <https://farmecon.com/ntf-newsletter-articles/>

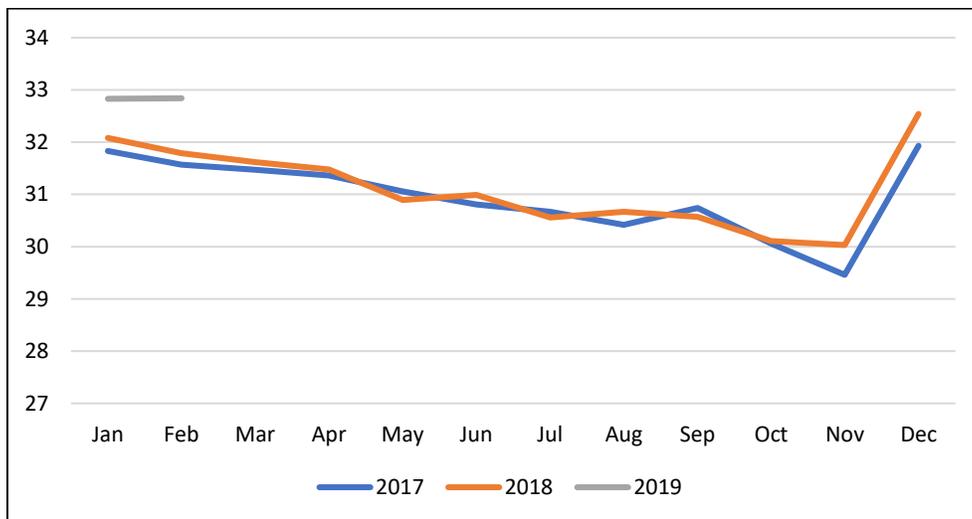
Poult Placements: Early 2019 production outlook is highlighted by very weak poult placements. Producers cut January by almost 8% versus last year, February and March were over 4% lower. These birds will be ready for market in April-June.

USDA Poult Placements, 2017-2019



Liveweights: Bird numbers may be lower later in the year, but weights are running well ahead of 2017-18. January was 2.3% up and February 3.3% over 2018. If continued, higher weights will offset much of the decline in birds coming to market.

USDA Average Turkey Liveweight, 2017-2019



Use and Stocks: Domestic use and exports actually declined slightly in January and February. February stocks were up almost 6% year-on-year.

African Swine Fever is a major export demand wild card. Facts are hard to come by, but China and several other countries may see unprecedented pork production declines over the course of 2019. We in the U.S. turkey sector could certainly use a bump in export demand, but it's hard to feel good about it coming on the heels of a major disease outbreak.

Notice: Key monthly turkey production, exports, imports, domestic use and stocks data and analysis are now on a dedicated page of the FarmEcon LLC website. These data are normally updated monthly on or about the the date that monthly USDA exports and imports are released. That is generally late in the first week of the month but earlier disruptions at USDA has delayed required data release. Data for these updates has recently caught up after the January Federal furlough. The site will be updated before the end of April.

This FarmEcon website feature is <http://www.farmecon.com/Pages/TurkeySupplyUseTracker.aspx>.

The site feature is being provided by FarmEcon LLC as a service to the turkey industry.