

# Food & Agribusiness Market Monitor







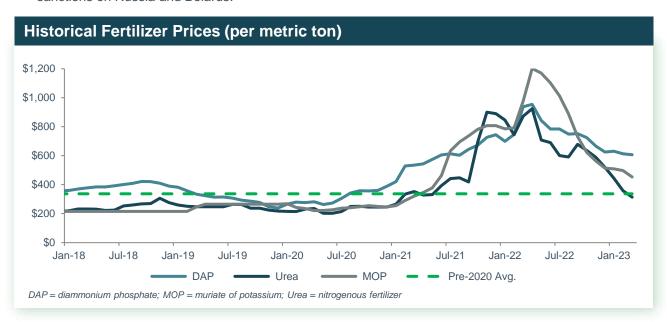
## Food & Agribusiness Market Insight

#### Fresh Blueberry Pricing and Volume Predictions to Drive Industry Consolidation

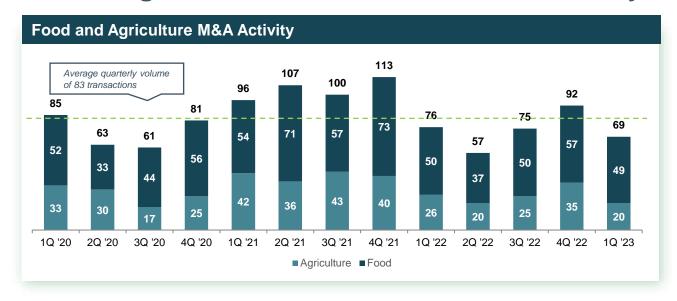
- As we head into the 2023/2024 season, the fresh blueberry market is expected to experience record-high volume, fueled by a significant surge in blueberry production and exports from countries such as Mexico, Peru, Chile, and Argentina.
- The increased supply of blueberries is expected to put downward pressure on prices for fresh, frozen / IQF, and processed blueberries producers over the near/intermediate term.
- Growers and packers that experienced windfalls in 2018-2022 have an imperative to optimize costs, enhance mechanization, and streamline supply chains in the next 12-36 months.
- The reduced blueberry pricing will concurrently cause CPG companies to incrementally demand blueberries as a substitute for comparable products, increasing revenue growth rates for suppliers to CPG businesses.

#### Crop Inputs M&A YTD in 2023 on Pace with Recent Highs

- Crop inputs continue to be an attractive investment segment for agribusiness investors, and volumes within the segment have maintained a healthy pace.
- The sector's supply chain fragmentation and consumable nature of products and services, combined with its critical role as a backbone to food production's productivity, efficiency, and sustainability, are key themes that make it an attractive investment area.
- Many companies servicing this segment benefit from any sort of underlying commodity price volatility. When commodity prices are low, producers are forced to prioritize efficiency, which crop inputs often address. When commodity prices are high, growers have more financial ability to expand production and its related need for crop inputs and services.
- Fertilizer prices are easing after hitting historical highs in 2022 which drove a surge in returns for fertilizer producers. Although prices have normalized, fertilizer producers are seeing sustained profitability due to the aforementioned efficiency benefits and some scarcity issues resulting from US sanctions on Russia and Belarus.



## Food & Agribusiness Middle Market M&A Activity



- In Q1 2023, M&A volume fell short of historical averages by ~15% as interest rate hikes, elevated inflation, persistent supply chain constraints, and ongoing international conflict have increased transactional hurdles and challenges.
- Despite softer YTD 2023 M&A volume, M&A activity this year continues to remain at healthy levels, comparable to the 2018-2020 period. High quality assets are experiencing competitive processes, while more troubled assets are facing significant uncertainty.



## Global Agribusiness Investor Conference Recap



April 2023

In April, Meridian Capital participated in the 2023 Global Agribusiness Investor Conference held in New York, which set a new attendance record this year. The conference drew investors from all over the world who are involved in various aspects of the Agribusiness supply chain and provided a platform for them to discuss the latest trends related to commodities, value-added processing, packing, and distribution of those products.

#### Notable themes included:

- There is more committed capital from institutional investors to the Agribusiness vertical than ever before, both domestically and globally.
- Deal flow has been light for agribusiness investors in the YTD 2023 period, creating more competitive processes for the high-quality assets that have tested the market.
- Optimism remains for investors in the supply chain. Despite commodity price volatility, those able to differentiate on quality, service, and value-added capabilities yield attractive cash flow investments for investors.



## Featured Food & Agribusiness M&A Transactions

#### **Gelnex Acquired by Darling Ingredients**

Gelnex



- Acquired by -



Apr. 2023 \$1.2B 16.0x+ Enterprise Value EV / EBITDA

Darling Ingredients, a developer and manufacturer of natural food ingredients, acquired Gelnex, a leading producer of gelatin and collagen peptides.

The acquisition expands Darling's capacity to serve the growing needs of the gelatin market.

### **AgroFresh Acquired by Paine Schwartz Partners**

AgroFresh



- Acquired by -



Apr. 2023

\$495M Enterprise Value 8.1x EV / EBITDA

Paine Schwartz Partners, a private equity firm focused on sustainable food supply chain investments, acquired AgroFresh, developer of technologies to extend the shelf life and quality of fresh produce.

The sale will create significant opportunity for AgroFresh to pursue additional growth opportunities and expansion initiatives with a more sustainable leverage profile.

## Stoller Group Acquired by Corteva Agriscience

Stoller Group



- Acquired by -



Mar. 2023

\$1.2B
Enterprise Value

12.0x V / FRITDA

Corteva Agriscience, a leading manufacturer of crop protection products including herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides, acquired Stoller Group, a producer of agricultural biostimulant solutions for plant health and resilience.

The acquisition expands and accelerates the size and coverage of Corteva's biologicals business to one of the largest players in the industry.

## **Custom Produce Sales Acquired by GrubMarket**

Custom Produce Sales



- Acquired by -



Mar. 2023

GrubMarket, a developer of food supply chain technologies, acquired Custom Produce Sales, a wholesale distributor of fresh fruits and vegetables based in California.

The sale will further expand GrubMarket's presence on the West Coast and add to the Company's comprehensive product portfolio.



# **Public Food & Agribusiness Trading Metrics**



As of 5/1/2023



# **Public Food & Agribusiness Trading Metrics**

(\$US in millions)	Market	EV -	נז	M	EV/L	.TM	_LTM Margin	52-Week
Company Name	Сар	EV -	Rev	EBITDA	Rev	EBITDA	EBITDA	Change
Food Inputs								
Arabar Daniala Midland Co (NNS: ADM)	¢40.070	ØE2 264	¢101.070	\$6,504	0.5x	8.2x	6%	-13%
Archer Daniels Midland Co (NYS: ADM)	\$42,373	\$53,361 \$35,007	\$101,978	. ,				
International Flavors & Fragrances (NYS: IFF)	\$24,670	\$35,897	\$12,440	(\$110)	2.9x	14.7x	-1%	-20%
McCormick & Company, Inc. (NYS: MKC)	\$23,712	\$28,579	\$6,394	\$1,147	4.5x	24.4x	18%	-10%
Kerry Group plc (DUB: KRZ)	\$18,607	\$21,004	\$9,223	\$1,125	2.3x	17.4x	12%	-5%
Symrise AG (ETR: SY1)	\$16,843	\$19,301 \$42,074	\$4,856	\$812	4.0x	20.9x	17%	2%
Darling Ingredients Inc. (NYS: DAR)	\$9,435	\$12,971	\$6,532	\$1,414	2.0x	8.9x	22%	-22%
IMCD N.V. (AMS: IMCD)	\$8,531	\$9,069	\$4,838	\$602	1.9x	14.5x	12%	0%
The Middleby Corporation (NAS: MIDD)	\$7,674	\$10,259	\$4,033	\$791	2.5x	13.3x		-8%
Ingredion Inc. (NYS: INGR)	\$7,015	\$9,520	\$7,946	\$982	1.2x	9.5x	12%	24%
Olam International Limited (SES:VC2)	\$4,598	\$13,368	\$39,812	\$1,582	0.3x	8.2x	4%	-2%
Balchem Corp (NAS: BCPC)	\$4,222	\$4,612	\$946	\$194	4.9x	22.7x	21%	7%
Glanbia PLC (DUB: GL9)	\$4,088	\$4,712	\$5,932	\$405	0.8x	9.5x	7%	27%
Sensient Technologies Corporation (NYS: SXT)	\$3,200	\$3,881	\$1,437	\$249	2.7x	15.7x	17%	-11%
MGP Ingredients Inc (NAS: MGPI)	\$2,145	\$2,341	\$782	\$167	3.0x	14.0x	21%	7%
Median .	\$8,102	\$11,615	\$6,163	\$802	2.4x	14.3x		-3%
Average	\$12,651	\$16,348	\$14,796	\$1,133	2.4x	14.4x	13%	-2%
Food Producers								
Nestlé S.A. (SWX: NESN)	\$341,344	\$393,585	\$99,264	\$16,617	4.0x	19.2x	17%	-1%
The Hershey Company (NYS: HSY)	\$56,486	\$61,050	\$10,741	\$2,527	5.7x	22.5x	24%	27%
General Mills Inc. (NYS: GIS)	\$52,492	\$63,710	\$19,955	\$4,276	3.2x	15.5x	21%	29%
The Kraft Heinz Company (NAS: KHC)	\$48,785	\$68,007	\$26,485	\$4,793	2.6x	11.2x	18%	-5%
Kellogg's Co. (NYS: K)	\$24,257	\$31,563	\$15,315	\$1,860	2.1x	12.4x	12%	5%
Hormel Foods Corporation (NYS: HRL)	\$22,206	\$24,895	\$12,385	\$1,552	2.0x	16.0x	13%	-22%
Associated British Foods Plc (LON: ABF)	\$19,124	\$22,382	\$22,636	\$2,482	1.0x	7.9x	11%	22%
Conagra Brands, Inc. (NYS: CAG)	\$18,227	\$27,484	\$12,214	\$1,636	2.3x	11.8x	13%	12%
The J.M.Smucker Co., LLC (NYS: SJM)	\$16,746	\$21,046	\$8,328	\$1,537	2.5x	13.3x	18%	16%
Campbell Soup Company (NYS: CPB)	\$16,360	\$20,774	\$9,177	\$1,597	2.3x	11.9x	17%	16%
Lamb Weston Holdings, Inc. (NYS: LW)	\$16,347	\$18,917	\$4,809	\$1,030	3.9x	17.0x	21%	70%
Post Holdings, Inc. (NYS: POST)	\$5,390	\$10,991	\$6,080	\$1,730	1.8x	11.4x	28%	25%
Simply Good Foods USA Inc (NAS: SMPL)	\$3,663	\$4,011	\$1,188	\$219	3.4x	15.7x	18%	-9%
TreeHouse Foods, Inc. (NYS: THS)	\$3,035	\$4,584	\$3,454	\$190	1.3x	17.0x	6%	73%
Sovos Brands Intermediate (NAS: SOVO)	\$1,757	\$2,118	\$878	\$1	2.4x	17.7x	0%	14%
The Hain Celestial Group, Inc. (NAS: HAIN)	\$1,607	\$2,534	\$1,854	\$144	1.4x	15.1x	8%	-46%
B&G Foods, Inc. (NYS: BGS)	\$1,178	\$3,591	\$2,163	\$203	1.7x	11.2x	9%	-36%
Median	\$16,746	\$21,046	\$9,177	\$1,597	2.3x	15.1x		14%
Average	\$38,177	\$45,956	\$15,113	\$2,494	2.6x	14.5x	15%	11%
Food Supply Chain								
	*****	<b>^</b>	4	** ***				
Sysco Corporation (NYS: SYY)	\$38,994	\$50,317	\$73,580	\$3,193	0.7x	13.3x	4%	-10%
Performance Food Group, Inc. (NYS: PFGC)	\$9,685	\$14,517	\$56,287	\$1,068	0.3x	11.5x		23%
Aramark Corp. (NYS: ARMK)	\$9,087	\$17,319	\$16,979	\$1,212	1.0x	13.5x		-4%
US Foods, Inc. (NYS: USFD)	\$8,858	\$14,492	\$34,057	\$988	0.4x	11.3x		0%
AmeriCold Logistics LLC (NYS: COLD)	\$7,825	\$11,369	\$2,915	\$410	3.9x	24.5x	14%	12%
United Natural Foods, Inc. (NYS: UNFI)	\$1,609	\$4,946	\$29,863	\$679	0.2x	6.2x		-37%
The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc (NAS: CHEF)	\$1,285	\$1,963	\$2,613	\$124	0.8x	12.0x		-13%
SpartanNash Company (NAS: SPTN)	\$863	\$1,622	\$9,643	\$164	0.2x	7.0x		-26%
HF Foods Group Inc (NAS: HFFG)	\$208	\$419	\$1,170	\$32	0.4x	12.7x		-32%
Amon Distributing Co (ASE: DIT)	\$115	\$261	\$2,347	\$32	0.1x	9.0x	1%	13%
Median	\$4,717	\$8,157	\$13,311	\$544	0.4x	11.8x		-7%
Average	\$7,853	\$11,722	\$22,946	\$790	0.8x	12.1x	4%	-79

As of 5/1/2023



# **Select Food & Agribusiness M&A Transactions**

Date	<u>Target</u>	Acquirer	Target Description
May-23	Mr. Greens (Shoreline Equity Partners)	Sterling Investment Partners	Value-added distributor of produce, dairy, and dry goods.
May-23	Testa Produce	FreshEdge (Wind Point Partners)	Distributor of produce and specialty foods.
May-23	Hardie's Fresh Foods	The Chefs' Warehouse (NAS: CHEF)	Provider of fresh produce for the foodservice industry.
May-23	Macspred	Syngenta	Manufacturer and distributor of herbicide solutions.
May-23	Above Food	Bite Acquisiton Corp (NYSE: BITE)	Supplier of grains, legumes, and branded plant-based foods.
Apr-23	FE Ingredients	Fulcrum Capital Partners	Distributor of baking supplies and food ingredients.
Apr-23	Greentastic (Magnum Capital)	Solum Partners	Producer of fruit and vegetables.
Apr-23	Hosh International	Brothers International Food (Benford Capital Partners)	Supplier of fruit and vegetable juice concentrates and purees.
Apr-23	Mighty Grow	Grow Generation (NAS: GRWG)	Distributor of gardening supplies.
Apr-23	Solevo (Helios Partners, Temasek)	DEG, Development Partners, FMO	Distributor of inputs for the agricultural and food sectors.
Apr-23	Community Garden & Greenhouse	Grow Generation (NAS: GRWG)	Provider of hydroponic and garden supplies.
Apr-23	Gelnex	Darling Ingredients (NYSE: DAR)	Producer of gelatin and collagen peptides.
Apr-23	Interagro	Nichino Europe Co.	Manufacturer of adjuvants and biostimulants for the agricultural sector.
Apr-23	Tarter Farm and Ranch Equipment	Platinum Equity	Manufacturer of ranch and farm equipment for the husbandry sector.
Apr-23	AgroFresh (NAS: AGFS)	Paine Schwartz Partners	Developer of post-harvest products, equipment, and technology to improve supply chain freshness.
Mar-23	Stoller Group	Corteva Agriscience (NYS: CTVA)	Producer of agricultural biostimulant solutions.
Mar-23	Custom Produce Sales	GrubMarket	Grower and packer of melons, grapes, tree fruit, and berries.
Feb-23	Cosmocel	Rovensa (Partners Group, Bridgepoint Advisers)	Manufacturer and distributor of biostimulants, fungicides, and fertigation solutions.
Jan-23	Dole (Fresh Vegetables Division)	Chiquita Fresh Express	Processor and sale of lettuce, broccoli, onions, and cabbage.
Jan-23	Limoneira Company	PGIM Agricultural Investments	Diversified citrus growing, packing, selling, and marketing company.
Jan-23	Worldwide Produce	Ridgemont Equity Partners	Distributor of fresh produce, dairy, and specialty foods.
Jan-23	Berry People	AgriFORCE (NAS: AGRI)	Grower and distributor of berries.
Jan-23	Frieda's	Legacy Farms (Silver Oak Services Partners)	Distributor and retailer of specialty produce.



# **Select Food & Agribusiness M&A Transactions**

Date	Target	Acquirer	Target Description
Jan-23	FBSciences	Valent BioSciences	Producer of agricultural biostimulant products.
Jan-23	Great Lakes Foods	SpartanNash (NAS: SPTN)	Supplier of groceries, meat, dairy, and bakery products.
Jan-23	DeTemporada Farms	Pure Flavor	25-acre greenhouse bell pepper farm in Ontario.
Jan-23	Stadelman Fruit Company (Apple Division)	Sixth Street Partners	Grower, packer, and shipper of high-quality tree fruit.
Jan-23	W.A. Imports	Forever Cheese	Importer and manufacturer of premium Japanese food products and ingredients.
Jan-23	Bandwagon Brokerage	Wholesale Produce Supply (Cross Rapids Capital)	Producer and supplier of specialty produce.
Jan-23	Devansoy	Akoya Capital	Manufacturer of soy, oat, and pea protein ingredients.
Jan-23	New Fruit Group	Organto Foods (TSX: OGO)	Vertically-integrated grower of bananas, avocados, and mangos.
Dec-22	Perricone Juices	Trivest Partners	Producer of premium craft juices.
Dec-22	Milk Specialties Global	Butterfly Equity	Ingredient manufacturer focused on processing raw dairy inputs.
Dec-22	Titan Frozen Fruit	Vestar Capital Partners	Processor of frozen berries and food ingredients.
Dec-22	Vertullo Imports	Sandy Hills Investors	Leading specialty food imports business.
Dec-22	Fresh Innovations	Peterson Farms (Mubadala Capital)	Supplier of organic and conventional fresh-cut apple slices to schools.
Dec-22	Southwest Spice	Gulf Pacific (Eos Partners)	Value-added packager and processor of dry edible beans and spice blends.
Dec-22	Gulf Pacific	Eos Partners	Value-add processor of high-quality specialty foods and ingredients.
Dec-22	Seviroli Foods	Mill Point Capital	Manufacturer of frozen pasta and other food products.
Dec-22	Peterson Farms	Mubadala Capital	Processor of fresh-cut apples, frozen fruit produce, and non-concentrate juice.
Dec-22	Liberty Fruit	Russ Davis Wholesale	Wholesale produce distributor and processing facility.
Nov-22	St. Louis Hydroponic Company	Grow Generation (NAS: GRWG)	Distributor of hydroponic gardening equipment and supplies.
Oct-22	Safra Rica	Nutrien (TSE: NTR)	Manufacturer and distributor of fertilizer products.
Oct-22	Rainfield Ranches	GrubMarket	Grower of green onions, broccoli, cilantro, and other produce.
Oct-22	FreshEdge	Wind Point Partners	Distributor of fresh produce and specialty foods.
Oct-22	Columbia Fruit Packers, Frosty Packing	Goldman Sachs Asset Management	Grower and packer of apples and cherries.



## **Meridian Capital Sector Coverage**

#### **AGRIBUSINESS**

- Agricultural Producers: Growers, Packing Sheds, Vertically Integrated Operators
- Agricultural Inputs: Crop Inputs, Irrigation & Orchard Supply, Agricultural Support Services

#### **FOOD**

- Food Producers: Contract Manufacturers, Food Processing & Production, Private Label
- Food Inputs: Ingredient Producers & Processors, Production Supplies & Equipment Manufacturers
- Food Supply Chain: Storage, Distributors and Warehousing, Transportation & Logistics

## **Meridian Capital Transaction Experience**





- Has Received an Investment from -



Athena Ag



- Has Acquired-



Boyer Fertilizer Inc. & Pacific Coast Ag

Boyer Fertilizer & Pacific Coast Ag

- Acquired by -



Landmark Irrigation



- Acquired by -



Royal Ridge Fruits



- Acquired by -



Gar Tootelian



- Acquired by -



#### PowderPure



- Acquired by -



Woodburn Fertilizer



- Acquired by -



Meter Group



METER

 Acquisition of Select Assts by -



Pearl Crop



- Private Placement -



Earl E. Brown & Sons



- Acquired by -

Foreman Fruit & Land Company Dade Moeller & Associates



- Capital Raise by -



#### Northwest Landscape Services



- Acquired by -



Standlee Premium Western Forage



StrategicAdvisory -



Sage Fruit Marketing Co. & Legacy Fruit Packers





- Acquired by -



Bellingham Cold Storage



- Acquired by -



Harbor Wholesale Foods



- Has Acquired Select Assets of -





Hood River Juice



- Acquired by -



Harbor Wholesale Foods



- Has Acquired -



Central Washington Refrigeration



- Strategic Advisory -



Allpak Container



- Acquired by -



Larson Fruit Company & Valley Fruit



- Acquired by -



Honeybear Growers



Strategic
 Advisory -



Diablo Valley Packaging



- Acquired by -







Helping middle market business owners with their M&A and corporate finance goals since 1995.

## Meridian Capital's Food & Agriculture Team



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## **Transaction Expertise**

Mergers & Acquisitions Growth Capital Strategic Advisory



## **Tailored Processes**

High-Touch Approach
Multidisciplinary Deal Team
End-to-End Services

A Seattle-based M&A advisory firm, which has served as a trusted advisor to business owners on complex corporate finance, M&A, and strategic challenges for over 20 years. The firm differentiates itself through its deep industry insights, highly customized service approach, and end-to-end commitment to execution.

## **Contact Us**

