

Food & Agribusiness Market Monitor





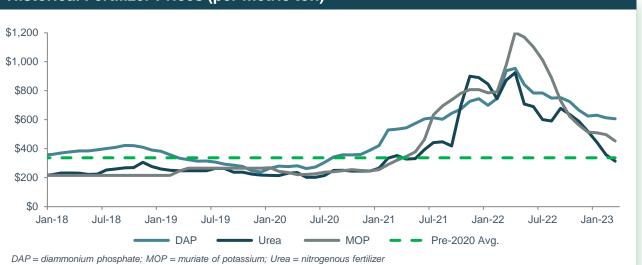
Food & Agribusiness Market Insight

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 recordhigh 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

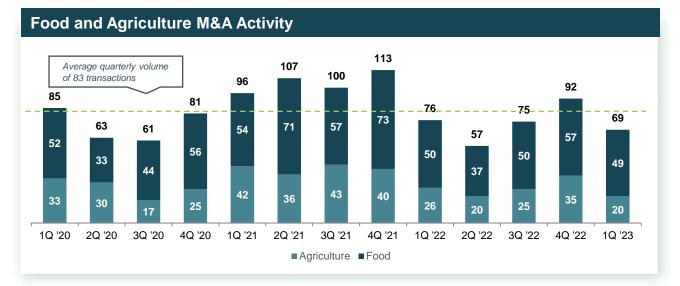
- Crop inputs continue to be an attractive investment segment for agribusiness investors, and volumes within the segment have maintained a healthy pace.
- The sector's supply chain fragmentation and consumable nature of products and services, combined with its critical role as a backbone to food production's 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.



Historical Fertilizer Prices (per metric ton)



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



ESTMENT BANKERS

Apr. 2023	\$1.2B Enterprise Value	16.0x+ EV / EBITDA
Darling Ingredients, a de ingredients, acquired Ge peptides.		

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

\$495M

Enterprise Value

8.1x

EV / EBITDA

AgroFresh Acquired by Paine Schwartz Partners



PARTNERS

PAINE SCHWARTZ

1 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



Mar. 2023	\$1.2B	12.0x
	Enterprise Value	EV / EBITDA

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



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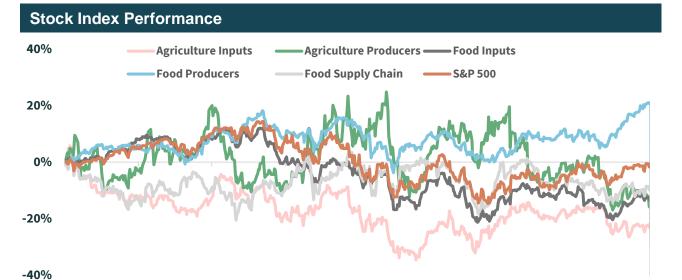
Mar. 2023

Apr. 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



May-21	Aug-21	Nov-21	Feb)-22	May-22	Aug-22	No	v-22	Feb-23	May-2
(\$US in millions) Company Name		Mar	Market EV - Cap		LTM		EV/L	ТМ	LTM Margin	52-Week
		Ca			Rev	EBITDA	Rev	EBITDA	EBITDA	Change
Agricultural Inputs										
FMC Corp. (NYS: FM	C)	\$1	5,488	\$19,229	\$5,802	\$1,305	3.3x	13.6x	22%	-6%
The Mosaic Co. (NYS	S: MOS)	\$1	4,476	\$17,688	\$19,125	\$5,714	0.9x	2.9x	30%	-30%
CF Industries Holding	s, Inc. (NYS:CF)	\$1	4,100	\$17,164	\$11,186	\$6,216	1.7x	2.6x	56%	-25%
The Toro Company (I	VY S: TTC)	\$1	0,983	\$11,977	\$4,731	\$752	2.5x	15.9x	16%	30%
AGCO Corporation (N	NYS: AGCO)	\$	9,328	\$10,127	\$12,651	\$1,390	0.8x	7.1x	11%	-3%
SiteOne Landscape S	Supply, Inc. (NYS: S	SITE) \$	6,655	\$7,366	\$4,015	\$437	1.8x	15.9x	11%	4%
The Scotts Company	LLC (NYS: SMG)	\$	3,944	\$7,325	\$3,885	(\$371)	1.9x	14.7x	-10%	-34%
Lindsay Corp. (NYS:	LNN)	\$	1,339	\$1,370	\$747	\$132	1.8x	10.4x	18%	-10%
CVR Partners LP (NY	'S: UAN)		\$969	\$1,518	\$836	\$403	1.8x	3.8x	48%	-38%
Titan Machinery, Inc.	(NAS: TITN)		\$708	\$1,081	\$2,209	\$164	0.5x	6.6x	7%	30%
Titan International, Ind	c. (NY S: TWI)		\$621	\$915	\$2,169	\$275	0.4x	3.2x	13%	-29%
Intrepid Potash, Inc. (NYS: IPI)		\$343	\$320	\$338	\$131	0.9x	2.3x	39%	-66%
Ceres Global Ag Corp	o. (TSE: CRP)		\$56	\$146	\$1,091	(\$13)	0.1x	9.2x	-1%	-55%
Median		\$	3,944	\$7,325	\$3,885	\$403	1.7x	7.1x	16%	-25%
Average		\$	6,078	\$7,402	\$5,291	\$1,272	1.4x	8.3x	20%	-18%

Agriculture Producers

Darling Ingredients Inc. (NYS: DAR)	\$9,435	\$12,971	\$6,532	\$1,414	2.0x	8.9x	22%	-22%
Pilgrim's Pride Corp. (NAS: PPC)	\$5,277	\$8,657	\$17,394	\$1,213	0.5x	6.7x	7%	-24%
Cal-Maine Foods, Inc. (NAS: CALM)	\$2,292	\$1,645	\$3,051	\$1,060	0.5x	1.6x	35%	-13%
Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc. (NYS: FDP)	\$1,374	\$2,164	\$4,442	\$234	0.5x	9.5x	5%	12%
Adecoagro S.A. (NYS: AGRO)	\$913	\$2,065	\$1,348	\$465	1.5x	3.7x	35%	-26%
Mission Produce, Inc. (NAS: AVO)	\$828	\$1,052	\$1,043	\$7	1.0x	16.1x	1%	-8%
Farmland Partners Inc (NYS: FPI)	\$567	\$1,120	\$61	\$35	18.3x	32.7x	58%	-28%
Calavo Growers, Inc. (NAS: CVGW)	\$565	\$645	\$1,143	\$16	0.6x	23.1x	1%	-11%
Limoneira Company (NAS: LMNR)	\$305	\$359	\$183	\$45	2.0x	51.5x	25%	46%
Alico, Inc. (NAS: ALCO)	\$180	\$309	\$87	\$21	3.5x	25.7x	24%	-40%
AppHarvest LLC (NAS:APPH)	\$74	\$311	\$15	(\$158)	21.3x	nm	-1081%	-87%
Median	\$828	\$1,120	\$1,143	\$45	1.5x	12.8x	22%	-22%
Average	\$1,982	\$2,845	\$3,209	\$396	4.7x	17.9x	-79%	-18%

As of 5/1/2023

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Public Food & Agribusiness Trading Metrics

(\$US in millions)	Market	EV -	LT	M	EV/L	ТМ	LTM Margin	52-Week
Company Name	Сар	Ev -	Rev	EBITDA	Rev	EBITDA	EBITDA	Change
Food Inputs								
Archer Daniels Midland Co (NYS: ADM)	\$42,373	\$53,361	\$101,978	\$6,504	0.5x	8.2x	6%	-13%
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	\$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	20%	-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	15%	-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	17%	14%
Average	\$38,177	\$45,956	\$15,113	\$2,494	2.6x	14.5x	15%	11%
Food Supply Chain								
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	2%	23%
Aramark Corp. (NYS: ARMK)	\$9,087	\$17,319	\$16,979	\$1,212	1.0x	13.5x	7%	-4%
US Foods, Inc. (NYS: USFD)	\$8,858	\$14,492	\$34,057	\$988	0.4x	11.3x	3%	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	2%	-37%
The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc (NAS: CHEF)	\$1,285	\$1,963	\$2,613	\$124	0.8x	12.0x	5%	-13%
SpartanNash Company (NAS: SPTN)	\$863	\$1,622	\$9,643	\$164	0.2x	7.0x	2%	-26%
HF Foods Group Inc (NAS: HFFG)	\$208	\$419	\$1,170	\$32	0.4x	12.7x	3%	-32%
Amcon 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	3%	-7%
Average	\$7,853	\$11,722	\$22,946	\$790	0.8x	12.1x	4%	-7%

As of 5/1/2023



Select Food & Agribusiness M&A Transactions

PendingDole (Fresh Vegetables) Division)Chiquita Fresh ExpressProcessor of lettuce, broccoli, onions, cabbage, and other produce.PendingBerry PeopleAgriFORCE (NAS: AGRI)Grower and distributor of berries.PendingMghtyVinePlant-AgHydroponic grower of tomatoes.Nay-23Mr: Greens (Shoreline Equity Partners)Sterling Investment PartnersValue-added distributor of produce, dairy, and dry goods.Nay-23Testa ProduceFreshEdge (Wind Point Partners)Distributor of produce and specialtyfoods.Nay-23Hardie's Fresh FoodsThe Chefs' Warehouse (NAS: CHEF)Provider of fresh produce for the foodsenvice industry.Nay-23MacspredSyngentaManufacturer and distributor of herbicide solutions.Nay-23Above FoodBite Acquisiton Corp (NYSE: BITE)Supplier of grains, legumes, and branded plant-based for BITE)Apr-23FE IngredientsFulcrum Capital PartnersDistributor of baking supplies and food ingredients.Apr-23Greentastic (Magnum Capital)Solum PartnersProducer of fruit and vegetable juice concentrates and pur Bentord Capital Partners)Apr-23Mghty GrowGrow Generation (NAS: GRWG)Distributor of inputs for the agricultural and food sectors.Apr-23GelnexDaring Ingredients (NYSE: DAR)Provider of hydroponic and garden supplies.Apr-23GelnexDaring Ingredients (NYSE: DAR)Provider of adjuvants and biostimulants for the agricultural for the agricultural and collagen peptides.Apr-23GelnexDaring Ingredients (NYSE: DAR)Provider o	
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	drysector.
Apr-23 AgroFresh (NAS: AGFS) Paine Schwartz Partners Developer of post-harvest products, equipment, and techning improve supply chain freshness.	ology to
Mar-23 Stoller Group Corteva Agriscience (NYS: CTVA) Producer of agricultural biostimulant solutions.	
Mar-23 Custom Produce Sales GrubMarket Select lemon orchard assets.	
Feb-23CosmocelRovensa (Partners Group, Bridgepoint Advisers)Manufacturer and distributor of biostimulants, fungicides, fertigation solutions.	and
Feb-23 Milk Specialties Global Butterfly Equity Ingredient manufacturer focused on processing raw dairy	inputs.
Jan-23 Limoneira Company PGIM Agricultural Investments Select lemon orchard assets.	





Select Food & Agribusiness M&A Transactions

Date	_ Target	Acquirer	Target Description
Jan-23	Worldwide Produce	Ridgemont Equity Partners	Distributor of fresh produce, dairy, and specialty foods.
Jan-23	Frieda's	Legacy Farms (Silver Oak Services Partners)	Distributor and retailer of specialty produce.
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	Producer of green bell peppers in Ontario.
Jan-23	Stadelman Fruit Company (Apple Division)	Sixth Street Partners	Grower, packer, and shipper of high-quality tree fruit.
Jan-23	Bandwagon Brokerage	Wholesale Produce Supply (Cross Rapids Capital)	Producer and supplier of specialty produce.
Jan-23	W.A. Imports	Forever Cheese	Importer and manufacturer of premium Japanese food products and ingredients.
Jan-23	New Fruit Group	Organto Foods (TSX: OGO)	Vertically-integrated grower of bananas, avocados, and mangos.
Dec-22	Fresh Origins	Sun Capital Partners	Grower of microgreens and edible flowers.
Dec-22	Perricone Juices	Trivest Partners	Producer of premium craft juices.
Dec-22	Titan Frozen Fruit	Vestar Capital Partners	Processor of frozen berries and food ingredients.
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	Liberty Fruit	Russ Davis Wholesale	Wholesale produce distributor and processing facility.
Nov-22	Seviroli Foods	Mill Point Capital	Manufacturer of frozen pasta and other food products.
Nov-22	St. Louis Hydroponic Company	Grow Generation (NAS: GRWG)	Distributor of hydroponic gardening equipment and supplies.
Nov-22	Devansoy	Akoya Capital	Manufacturer of soy, oat, and pea protein ingredients.
Oct-22	Safra Rica	Nutrien (TSE: NTR)	Manufacturer and distributor of fertilizer products.
Oct-22	Monterey Mushrooms	Paine Schwartz Partners	Producer of mushrooms for grocery stores and restaurants.
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





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