Retail Supply Chain Update
June 25, 2020

**Target increases store hours after cutting them in March due to COVID-19, senior shopping time to continue**

- After three months of operating with reduced hours due to COVID-19, Target has increased store hours by 60 minutes at most stores across the nation.
- Most locations “are now back to closing at 10 p.m.,” the retailer posted on its COVID-19 response page.
- Stores continue to set aside time twice a week for senior shoppers age 65 and older, pregnant women and those defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as vulnerable or at-risk.

**Seafood Prices Reflect a Complex Supply Chain**

- As restaurants and other foodservice operations began shutting down in March, the demand for seafood plummeted.
- “The fishing industry is foodservice dependent, so once the demand decreased, the fishermen stopped going out in their boats,” says Barton Seaver, a Maine-based chef and lead educator for seafoodliteracy.com.
- “About 75% of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is sold by restaurants,” confirms Ben Martens, executive director of Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, a nonprofit that supports sustainability and community-based fishermen.
- Now that restaurants are reopening, it’s taking a while for the fresh supply to get back up to speed, leading to higher prices. Smaller fisheries and dayboat fleets that typically supply higher-end restaurants were told by wholesalers not to go out fishing during the pandemic.
- “The biggest snag was in in the shipment of fresh seafood, which is done primarily on planes in our business. Trucking frozen seafood has had some snags but not to the same extent as air cargo,” says Kendall Whitney of the Seafood Producers Cooperative in Bellingham, Wash.
- Additionally, a good percentage of the seafood consumed in the U.S. comes from Europe and Asia. When air travel came to a halt, the supply dwindled.
- “Warehouses can maintain frozen supply for a month or two, but with demand down, the product wasn’t moving fast enough,” says Egil Sundheim, U.S. director of the Norwegian Seafood Council. Restaurant chains are big customers of frozen imported seafood and they weren’t withdrawing stock in the same quantities, he adds.

**Inspectors find no violations at coronavirus-stricken Tyson plant in Iowa**

- Regulators discovered no workplace safety violations at a Tyson Foods pork processing plant in Iowa that experienced a deadly coronavirus outbreak earlier this year.
• County officials and workers had alleged that the Tyson plant in Waterloo, Iowa, had not implemented adequate health protocols in March and part of April as the disease began rapidly spreading throughout the U.S.
• At least five plant workers died after contracting the virus, according to The Associated Press.
• Health officials in Black Hawk County have also reportedly said that at least 1,000 employees tested positive for COVID-19 or antibodies in early May. The facility employs about 2,800 people.
• In a letter dated June 11, Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Administrator Russell Perry said that his department found "no violations of the Iowa occupational safety and health standards on the date of the inspection."

**H-E-B to give permanent pay increases as temporary COVID-19 bonus pay ends**

• Citing the indeterminate amount of time the coronavirus crisis may endure, San Antonio-based H-E-B announced Tuesday that it would be transitioning from its temporary $2 per hour pay raises to long-term permanent investments in its associates.
• The retailer, which operates 340 stores throughout Texas, said in a statement, “As we work to find our new normal during this unprecedented time, H-E-B will transition from our temporary Texas Proud Pay program, which ended June 21, and move, on June 22, into different long-term, permanent investments in our people, which include accelerated and enhanced pay increases for store, manufacturing and supply chain hourly non-management partners.”
• According to the company, this will be the largest investment in pay in the history of H-E-B. Additionally, H-E-B will continue its ongoing investments in pay and other perks and benefits for all partners across the company, the retailer said.
• While no financial details of the new plan were released, H-E-B said that the pay increases would be worth more than twice the amount of the temporary program for the average employee.

**Hannaford supports local farms impacted by COVID-19 across New England and New York**

• Hannaford Supermarkets on Tuesday announced a $250,000 donation to support farms throughout New England and New York adversely impacted by the coronavirus global health pandemic.
• As a result of the donation, a total of 250 farms in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Massachusetts will receive funding via the American Farmland Trust’s Farmer Relief Fund, which provides farmers with grants to help them navigate challenges related to the COVID-19 crisis.
• The donation will directly support small local farmers and producers who have experienced market disruptions as their primary buyers and points of sale, including farmers markets, restaurants and schools, have closed or drastically decreased operations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.