



## March, 2024

According to the calendar, spring is just around the corner! We have certainly been teased with several spring days already in February. As much as we all enjoy spring weather, we need to be concerned about the growing season for our Wisconsin growers and farmers. However, spring signals it is time to look forward and think about Easter brunches, Mother's Day, graduations, and spring menus.

Elegant Foods has such a wide range of items for you to choose from that are perfect for brunches and large parties. Our wide selection of cheese, olives and antipastos, mini pastry items and mini desserts are all perfect for special occasions and will make your menu planning easy. Make sure to check out bars and brownies from **Sweet Street** and **Silverland**, Petit Fours from **Traiteur de Paris** and don't forget to check out **Elegant Food's Bakery** macarons!

I hate to talk about bad news, but severe droughts in Spain and other olive growing regions of Europe are impacting olive and olive oil supply. We will see prices for olive oil and olives increase by about 15% and green olives will be difficult to find.

Global chocolate prices have hit a record high as dry weather has affected crops in equatorial zones. We will see chocolate prices increase between 10 and 20% in the next few months. These price increases continue to make it difficult for all of us when the cost of doing business is already at an all-time high.

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** is officially **Pi Day**. Elegant Food's Bakery offers many different pies, several are thaw and serve and others are easy to bake off. Check out our pie selection on our website, under **Elegant Foods Dessert** and get ready to celebrate **Pi Day**!

We have several new soups that are due to arrive later in the week from **Blount Fine Foods**. These new flavors are available on a limited basis for now, and if they prove to be popular, we will bring more in. New flavors include **Rip Roarin' Crab & Corn**, **Organic Black Bean**, **Beef & Broccoli Soup**, **Thai Style Chicken**, **Garden Vegetable** and **Street Corn Chowder**.

We are working hard to be well stocked for the new season and for spring's special occasions but please try to work ahead and order early. Lead times are important, especially when it comes to large orders for bakery goods, mini desserts, and appetizers.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Olson