

Friday's Settlement Prices for Selected Commodities in US or Can. \$ / tonne, etc:

Grains & Related

Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
SRW Wheat	Jul	301.20	296.33	168.19
HRW Wheat	Jul	346.49	342.81	176.92
HRS Wheat	Jul	388.83	367.34	183.72
Corn	Jul	298.61	299.00	141.33
Oats	Jul	248.18	236.02	123.85
W. Barley	Jul N	205.00	205.00	147.50
Ethanol	Jul	70.32	70.43	42.11

Oilseeds, Related & Others

Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
Soya Beans	Jul	506.69	507.15	344.56
Soya Meal	Jul	391.55	397.51	300.39
Soya Oil	Jul	1,291.95	1,266.82	829.19
Canola	Jul	599.70	577.10	375.30
Crude Oil	Jul	100.59	99.49	73.97
Dollar Index	Jun	74.96	75.80	87.15
DJIA	Jun	12,440	12,474	10,069

Data points in red are new previous 12-month highs, in blue are new previous 12-month lows

Comment: Profit taking declines early in the week was offset by price advances through the balance of the week prompted by continued rain delays to corn planting in areas of the Corn Belt already severely delayed.

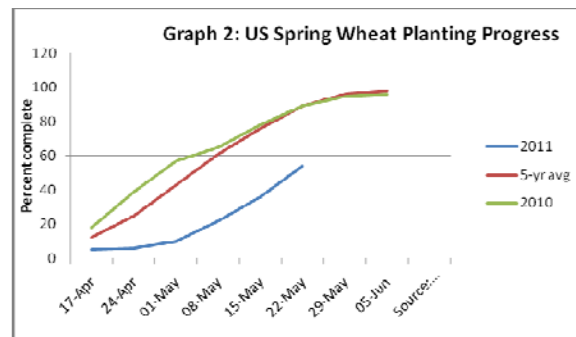
The condition of the US hard red winter wheat crop appears to be hold but prospects for hard red springs diminished with further seeding delays.

Advances in soya complex prices appear to have been limited by disappointing demand and the prospect for seeded area being switched from corn to beans in areas where planting has been severely delayed

News: US planting progress to May 22 was reported 79, 41 and 54 percent complete, for maize, soya beans and spring wheat, compared respectively to five-year averages of 87, 51 and 89 percent. Spring wheat seeding is more than three weeks behind the average. For corn exceptionally slow progress in Ohio and North Dakota is pulling down the average which is less than a week behind average

For US winter wheat 32 percent of reports for last weekend were for good or excellent crop condition, unchanged from last week, less than half of last year's rating, 17 points below a five-year average and the lowest since 2006 when crop condition dropped off very rapidly under hot and dry conditions as the crop approached maturity.

The Canadian Wheat Board reported as of May 24, Prairie seeding progress at 53 percent complete, compared to a normal of 75 percent. In areas to the north west of the region seeding progress is at, or ahead, of normal, but it has been slower in the south and east due to wetter field conditions.



Opinion: 2011 seems to be something of an upside down year in the context of North American spring wheat seeding. The west being ahead of the east is not that unusual but the north being ahead of the south is. Seeding in the Peace River country is pretty well complete, while US farmers are still struggling with spring wheat planting.

The implications of this needs thinking about. In the northern tier states late season cropping alternatives are not as numerous as they are on the Prairies.

This is almost certainly because the likelihood of forcing weather in July increases the further south you go and wheat stands this kind of weather better than most other dry land crops.

It probably means that farmers south of the 49th will continue to plant wheat late into the spring and acreage will not suffer the way it might north of the boarder or in the Corn Belt. What will need watching with a late seeded and maturing crop will be July and August weather which may have a greater than usual impact on yield.

Premiums for hard red spring wheat are as high as they have been since 2008.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA, 110527