

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

Grains					Oilseeds & Others				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
SRW Wheat	Mar	231.48	245.26	318.56	Soya Beans	Mar	451.57	452.86	520.28
HRW Wheat	Mar	247.28	261.89	357.51	Soya Meal	Mar	352.75	362.23	416.80
HRS Wheat	Mar	299.18	308.09	373.95	Soya Oil	Mar	1,158.13	1,138.73	1,289.53
CWRS	Oct	259.80	264.50	n/a	Canola	Mar	535.30	525.50	611.70
Durum	Oct	269.00	270.00	n/a	Crude Oil	Mar	98.88	97.55	85.58
Corn	Mar	248.71	253.73	278.14	Ethanol	Mar	58.43	57.40	65.12
Oats	Mar	206.20	203.77	271.04	Dollar Index	Mar	79.26	79.07	78.57
Barley	Oct	180.00	180.50	n/a	DJIA	Mar	12,725	12,806	12,241

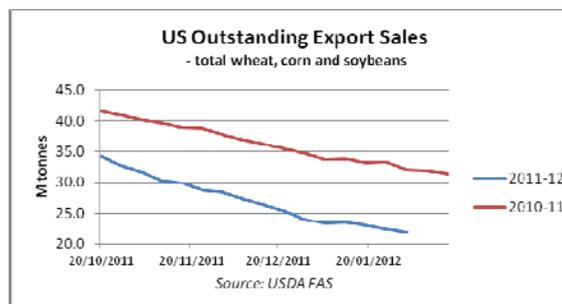
Data points in red are new previous 12-month highs, in blue are new previous 12-month lows

**COMMENT:** Markets were challenged this week to balance the positive impact of continued favourable US exports sales against the failure of the Eurozone to resolve its debt crisis and drought relieving rains in South America.

The USDA's February S&D revisions were also somewhat ambiguous. The increase in US export projections was less than generally anticipated with some question as to how much the very recent improvement in South American moisture conditions was factored into the forecasts.

**NEWS:** The USDA limited its revisions to its Feb. US wheat supply and disposition projections this month to a 0.7Mt increase in exports which was prompted by improved export sales in recent weeks. Ending stocks were lowered by a like amount. A 1.7Mt increase in the corn export projection was justified also due to improved export sales in recent weeks but also reduced Argentinean output and hence competition. The US soybean S&D's were unchanged. Global wheat S&D's revisions were limited to a small - 2.1Mt, retrospective increase in supplies – beginning stocks and northern hemisphere crops. Global coarse grain output was reduced by 3.1Mt mainly due to poorer Argentinean prospects. Global oilseed output prospects were also cut

reflecting the hot and dry conditions in South America.



**OPINION:** Normally US export sales taper off during the winter months as South American harvests approach and immediate post US harvest purchase have been made and shipped. This year outstanding sales appear to be declining at a slow rate. This may possibly indicate greater confidence on the part of buyers even if outstanding sales are running well below year ago levels.

David Walker, Henderson, NV, US