

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

Grains

Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
SRW Wheat	May	248.02	235.62	305.79
HRW Wheat	May	264.18	252.88	341.16
HRS Wheat	May	305.52	291.19	354.66
CWRS	Oct	260.50	257.00	n/a
Durum	Oct	265.90	265.90	n/a
Corn	May	257.86	253.53	286.60
Oats	May	198.25	201.66	252.88
Barley	Oct	185.00	182.40	n/a

Oilseeds & Others

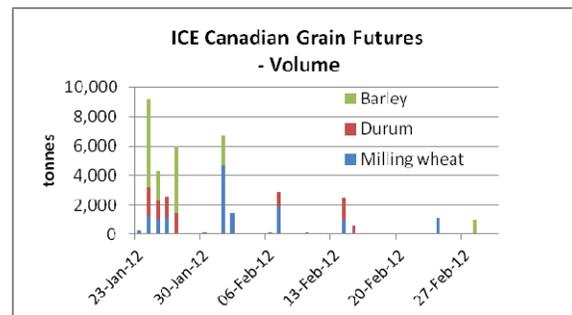
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
Soya Beans	May	489.79	472.79	519.55
Soya Meal	May	395.85	370.61	407.54
Soya Oil	May	1,192.30	1,209.28	1,311.36
Canola	May	570.50	564.20	575.00
Crude Oil	May	107.80	110.14	105.61
Ethanol	May	60.84	60.44	68.82
Dollar Index	Jun	79.80	78.39	76.70
DJIA	Jun	12,901	12,899	12,084

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

COMMENT: Soybean prices lead other grain prices higher this week as they extend a trend that continues back for almost three months. Again this week diminished expectations for the South American crop and substantial new US export sales supported values. Weighing on corn prices were disappointing export sales and concerns about low ethanol production margins. But this was offset by support from stronger soybean prices. Wheat prices also appeared to be supported by soybeans with improved winter crop conditions in the Great Plains and generally adverse global fundamentals limiting gains.

NEWS: The CWB reports "the snow cover improved significantly across the Prairies last week, reaching more than 5 cm in most areas," with temperatures continuing above normal. The European cold snap has also been reported to have dissipated abruptly.

Net US export sales of 0.509M, 0.713M and 0.976M tonnes were reported for wheat, corn and soybeans for last week. Those for wheat and corn were a little disappointing but soybean sales more than met expectations. About 40 percent of soybean sales were for new crop. A further 0.285M tonne sale, of which 0.165M tonnes was for new crop, was announced by the USDA on Friday.



OPINION: Some people may be a little disappointed that trade in the new InterContinental Exchange's (ICE) Canadian grain futures has been at best intermittent. And with wide spreads between bids and offers, trade is likely to be muted for some time to come.

The risk of an adverse legal ruling against legislation ending the CWB's single desk has undoubtedly been a caution for some. Interest in new crop, the earliest contracts available, is surely limited this early in the year. And the absence of a transparent cash market has probably also mitigated against active trade.

And with all these challenges it is understandable that nobody seems to be promoting these contracts very aggressively.

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