

Settlement Prices for Selected Commodities in US or Can.\$ / tonne for week ending Friday:										23-Mar-12
Grains					Oilseeds & Others					
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	
SRW Wheat	May	240.39	246.91	269.42	SoyBeans	May	495.85	504.85	499.06	
HRW Wheat	May	255.18	259.22	314.15	Soya Meal	May	411.18	412.72	393.76	
HRS Wheat	May	300.28	302.30	323.71	Soya Oil	May	1,209.94	1,223.61	1,236.84	
CWRS	Oct	259.60	260.60	n/a	Canola	May	590.10	599.80	581.30	
Durum	Oct	270.00	265.50	n/a	Crude Oil	May	106.89	107.59	105.40	
Corn	May	254.52	264.95	271.45	Ethanol	May	60.71	62.34	65.81	
Oats	May	215.92	216.73	226.30	Dollar Index	Jun	79.57	80.40	76.46	
Barley	Oct	185.00	185.00	n/a	DJIA	Jun	12,932	13,191	12,160	

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

**COMMENT:** US corn prices drifted lower most of the week with perceptions regarding an overbought market, weather conditions favouring an early start to planting and consequently a larger corn area, and a stronger dollar weight on values. Later in the week strong soybean and wheat prices provided support.

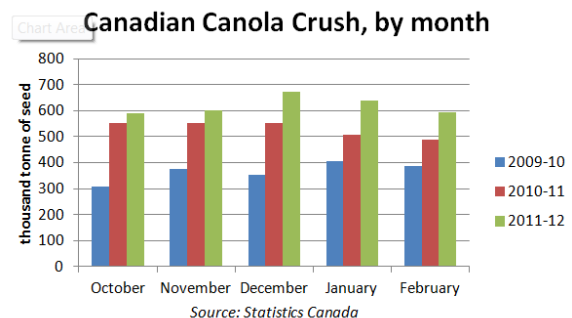
Wheat fundamental remains remain negative and improving moisture conditions for the US winter wheat crop weighed on values. But “decent” export sales reported for last week probably prompted short covering which supported values towards the end of the week.

Soybean exports were disappointing last week which raised concern about Chinese demand weakening. Against this the prospect for increased US corn area and thus reduced soybean area was supportive.

**NEWS:** Early in the week the CWB reported that “already above normal temperatures continued to climb last week and ended by smashing records for daily high's” with what little snow remained quickly melting by last weekend. But below seasonal temperatures with lots of snow had returned by the end of this week for much of the western Prairies. Nevertheless it does seem as though it will be a relatively early spring and delaying moisture is generally welcome at this time.

The USDA starts its comprehensive 2012 crop progress reports on Monday April 2. Current crop reporting in the USDA’s Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin focuses on agriculturally related weather conditions.

Last week it reported “Historic and nearly unprecedented early-season warmth covered most areas from the Plains to the East Coast...” US winter moisture conditions are reported as being very variable with the only generalization being that it was drier than normal in the northern Great Plains and Corn Belt and wetter than normal elsewhere in these agricultural regions. The aggregate implication of this will be assessed starting next month.



**OPINION:** Every month continues to see growth in the canola crush over year earlier levels. The competition between exporters and crushers and the resulting prices will surely encourage farmers to seed more canola this spring.

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