

Settlement Prices for Selected Commodities in US or Can.\$ / tonne for week ending Friday:										6-Apr-12
Grains					Oilseeds & Others					
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	
SRW Wheat	May	236.17	242.78	293.03	SoyBeans	May	526.90	515.51	511.65	
HRW Wheat	May	243.24	256.28	342.72	Soya Meal	May	432.01	428.48	393.76	
HRS Wheat	May	310.85	307.72	350.25	Soya Oil	May	1,248.74	1,214.79	1,317.75	
CWRS	Oct	270.00	270.00	n/a	Canola	May	621.60	622.50	588.90	
Durum	Oct	275.00	275.00	n/a	Crude Oil	May	103.11	103.13	112.79	
Corn	May	259.14	253.53	302.35	Ethanol	May	60.34	60.31	72.01	
Oats	May	218.52	221.27	255.15	Dollar Index	Jun	80.31	80.40	75.18	
Barley	Oct	186.50	185.00	n/a	DJIA	Jun	12,986	13,143	12,330	

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

COMMENT: In the holiday shortened four trading day week, old crop corn prices were supported by stronger than expected US export sales for last week and strong cash basis believed to reflect slowed farmer selling. Excellent weather for field work is expected to increase area planted to corn which weighed on new crop prices.

Concern over the impact of dry conditions on the European crop together with a positive export sales report supported wheat markets, while the improved condition of the US winter wheat crop weighed on values. But the prospect of a smaller area of spring wheat allowed HRSW's to gain on the week.

Soybean price moved closer to last September's life of contract highs, supported by excellent weekly export sales, further private reports of lower South American harvests and the need for higher US prices to attract a larger 2012 soybean area. Further export sales under the USDA's daily reporting system suggests next week's weekly sales report will also be favourable.

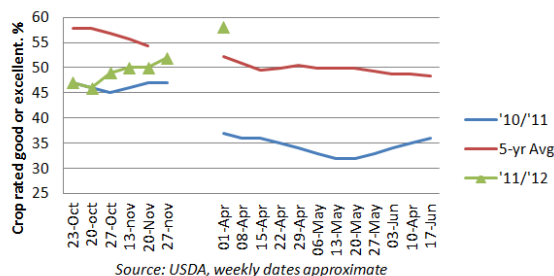
NEWS: In the USDA first crop report of the 2012 season, 58 percent of reports rated winter wheat conditions as good or excellent as of April 1. This compares with 37 percent last year, a 52 percent five-year average and 52 percent in the last report before winter. Most improved states over the winter are Texas and Kansas due to improved soil moisture over the winter months and Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, perhaps on account of an early spring. The early spring is reflected somewhat by corn planting progress at 3 as opposed to a five-year average of 2 percent, not much but possibly the tip of an iceberg in terms of the completion of other pre planting spring work.

On the Canadian Prairies a succession of weather systems have brought spring storms of snow and rain

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure this information is accurate, the author is unable to provide any guarantee over accuracy, or to be liable for the consequences of action taken on the basis of any information which proves to be inaccurate.

to most areas, at least alleviating any concerns about dry seed beds. Seeding has been delayed with the CWB reporting seeding activity limited to peas in the far south. It is almost certainly too early to anticipate any adjustment to seeding plans which Stats Canada has recently been surveying for its Seeding Intentions report to be published at the end of the month.

US Winter Wheat - Crop Condition



OPINION: The improved condition of US winter wheat crop over the winter is unusual. Whether it is sustained to harvest will, of course, depend on the weather between now and then. If the current improvement is the result of good winter moisture, as appears to be the case in the southern Great Plains, those chances are improved. If it is simply the result of an early spring as seems to be the case in the eastern Corn Belt the chances are diminished.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA