

Grain and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices					2-Jan-15
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	
SRW Wheat	Mar	213.57	224.41	222.58	Soybeans	Mar	370.20	387.28	467.19	
HRW Wheat	Mar	226.71	236.72	236.08	Soya Meal	Mar	308.89	328.16	369.30	
HRS Wheat	Mar	225.24	232.04	231.67	Soya Oil	Mar	707.49	718.51	851.01	
CWRS Wheat	Spot	n/a	n/a	155.86	Canola	Mar	443.00	435.80	442.00	
CPS Wheat	Spot	n/a	n/a	132.7	Crude Oil(WTI)	Mar	52.96	55.16	94.250	
Corn	Mar	155.80	163.28	166.72	Dollar Index	Mar	91.38	90.33	80.91	
Ethanol	Mar	41.69	41.48	47.39	DJIA	Dec	17,725	18,050	16,385	
Oats	Mar	195.98	198.42	223.22						

Data points in red are/were 12-month highs, in blue are 12-month lows For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm

COMMENT: Christmas week was not generous for crop markets with most prices lower and some quite significantly so. For wheat the outcome of possible restrictions on Russian exports is increasingly seen likely to benefit other exporters with weaker currencies than the US. For both corn and soybeans the approaching large South American harvests are weighing on prices and falling crude oil prices appear to be reducing demand for US corn for ethanol production. But the latter has yet to be reflected in ethanol prices. Canola prices were, however, higher, possibly reflecting a weaker Canadian dollar and restrained farmer marketing.

NEWS: The USDA reported export sales of 0.35M, 0.90M and 0.61M tonnes, respectively, for wheat, corn and soybeans for the week ending December 25 which may not be too meaningful in view of the Christmas break. More relevant to prospects are probably outstanding - made but yet to be shipped, sales. For wheat they stand at 5.2M tonnes compared to 5.5M tonnes a year ago, for corn 14.8M compared to 17.2M tonnes a year ago and for soybeans 14.3M as opposed to 17.2M tonnes a year ago.

Wheat export movements stand at 13.M tonnes compared to 19.0M tonnes a year ago, corn 12.1M compared to 10.9M tonnes, and soybeans 28.0 compared to 23.4M tonnes.

Soybean shipments and sales to date for the crop year represent 89 percent of the USDA forecast for the crop year. Twelve months ago 90 percent of anticipated exports had been so committed. In contrast to last year a tight US supply situation is not anticipated and hence one might surmise no urgency to commit by importers.

OPINION: CN Rail reported unfilled rail car orders for the week of January 4 at less than 2,000, the equivalent of less than three days of supply and less than 7 percent of levels of last April. One might suppose that the decline in this statistic indicates farm supplies are close to exhaustion. A more plausible explanation is that farmers have been in no hurry to sell what they have stored on farm. In turn this may reflect generally reasonable cash flow in 2014 but less optimism for 2015 with tax implications a consideration. Also the railways take less of a break for the Christmas holidays than most other sectors of the economy. But by delaying sales in this manner farmers indicate a new found confidence in the performance of the railways and/or in the ability of the minister of agriculture to work magic to the same end.

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