open i

# Grain and Oilseed Markets

**For the week ending Friday, 24-Apr-'15**

| Grain and Related Prices | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Commodity | Month | This week | Last week | Year ago |
| SRW Wheat | May | 178.58 | 181.70 | 257.30 |
| HRW Wheat | May | 184.55 | 187.21 | 285.04 |
| HRS Wheat | May | 196.58 | 195.75 | 274.62 |
| CWRS Wheat | Spot | 199.50 | 202.59 | 200.03 |
| CPS Wheat | Spot | 170.80 | 173.35 | 178.35 |
| Corn | May | 143.50 | 149.50 | 199.60 |
| Ethanol | May | 42.16 | 42.53 | 59.65 |
| Oats | May | 162.75 | 170.21 | 260.99 |

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

For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm

| Oilseeds & Other Prices | | | | 24-Apr-15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Commodity | Month | This week | Last week | Year ago |
| Soybeans | May | 356.32 | 355.96 | 550.43 |
| Soya Meal | May | 285.53 | 285.75 | 445.19 |
| Soya Oil | May | 698.23 | 694.92 | 946.26 |
| Canola | May | 449.40 | 447.50 | 471.70 |
| Crude Oil(WTI) | June | 57.18 | 57.27 | 100.550 |
| Dollar Index | Jun | 97.10 | 97.71 | 79.80 |
| DJIA | Jun | 18,013 | 17,742 | 16,275 |
| *New crop Canola* | *Nov* | *446.30* | *443.30* | *485.20* |
| *New crop SRW wheat* | *Dec* | *189.23* | *188.59* | *268.32* |
| *New crop corn* | *Dec* | *152.85* | *158.75* | *199.30* |

**COMMENT:** Wheat prices were mixed but generally lower over the week with expectations for improved conditions for the US winter wheat crop and good progress with seeding of the spring crop pressuring prices. But support was evident from better than expected export sales last week.

Good progress with seeding weighed on US corn prices as did news of further US bird flu outbreaks. But better than expected US export sales last week supported values.

Soybean prices were supported by news of another possible Brazilian truckers strike mid week, also by a weak dollar and last week's favourable export data. The bird flu situation weighed on prices.

**NEWS:** StatsCan reported farmers' seeding intentions at the time of their March 31 survey not very different from those of last year. All major crops were within 5 percent of last year's intentions except durum up 14%, oats up 14% and lentils up 17%, all probably reflecting market conditions, see below. Wheat area was slightly above trade expectations, canola slightly below. Because seeding conditions limited plans last year in eastern SK and western MB, actual increases in some crops particularly barley and oats were larger than the change in intentions. Another substantial cut in summer fallow is planned, particular in comparison to the area actually unseeded in 2014 as a result of those excessively wet field conditions last spring.

**OPINION:** Bye, bye, summer fallow. The most significant trend in Statistics Canada' Seeding Intentions survey was the continued decline in summer fallow area - the area that farmers plan not to seed, with no sign of the trend slowing. This has, of course, been a continuing trend over the last 35 years with the decline in actual summer fallow only interrupted in years when it was too wet to do all that was planned. There is, of course, no secret as to the cause of this silent revolution – reduced tillage and glyphosate tolerant canola seed. The result has been improved moisture conservation, cleaner crops and a more healthy environment. Paradoxically StatsCan has recognized this continued decline by omitting all reference to summer fallow in its seeding intentions survey report summary this year.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA

| | 2015 Seeding Intentions | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | ,000 | % of 2014 | |
| | acres | Intended | Actual |
| Spring Wheat | 18,004 | 100 | 103 |
| Durum | 5,500 | 114 | 116 |
| Barley | 6,478 | 103 | 110 |
| Corn for Grain | 3,268 | 97 | 106 |
| Oats | 3,645 | 114 | 130 |
| Canola | 19,416 | 98 | 96 |
| Soybeans | 5,375 | 102 | 97 |
| Flaxseed | 1,630 | 95 | 105 |
| Dry Field peas | 3,830 | 96 | 101 |
| Lentils | 3,350 | 117 | 108 |
| Summer fallow | 2,720 | 81 | 59 |