

Grain and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	4-Dec-15 Year ago
SRW Wheat	Mar	178.02	179.13	218.26	Soybeans	Jan	332.90	320.78	380.67
HRW Wheat	Mar	176.55	171.41	234.89	Soya Meal	Jan	258.45	256.18	332.38
HRS Wheat	Mar	189.05	186.11	228.92	Soya Oil	Jan	707.27	633.85	707.27
CWRS Wheat	Spot	244.80	238.79	229.28	Canola	Jan	474.20	463.10	422.70
CPS Wheat	Spot	207.37	200.48	183.75	Crude Oil(WTI)	Jan	39.99	41.77	65.74
Corn	Mar	150.19	144.58	155.50	Dollar Index	Mar	98.48	100.21	89.35
Ethanol	Jan	39.84	39.02	42.88	DJIA Mini-sized	Mar	17,807	17,724	17,930
Oats	Mar	156.27	150.92	202.79					

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

For price specs. go to: [www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm](http://www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm)

**COMMENT:** Almost all US prices were buoyed towards the end of the week by an exceptional decline in the US dollar exchange rate following the adoption of stimulative monetary policy by the European Central Bank. Wheat prices had been weaker earlier in the week with continued poor overseas demand and the improved condition of US winter wheat. The US Environmental Agency's announcement of a four percent increase in mandated renewable energy use appeared to do little to support corn prices. Soya complex prices were supported by export sales news. The negative impact of a larger than expected canola production estimate was offset by positive vegetable oil prices. Friday's trade in canola futures was very heavy.

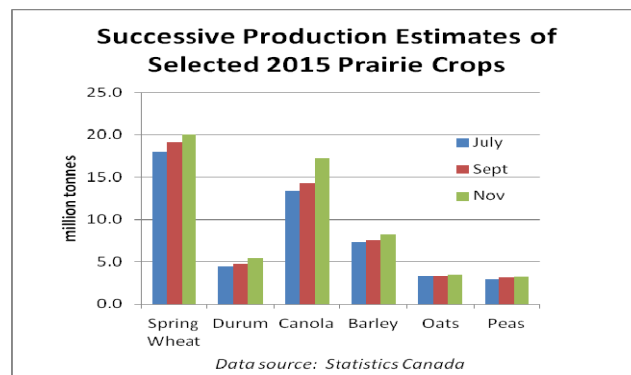
**NEWS:** Statistics Canada increased its production estimates for almost all major crops in its November survey report. The July, September and November estimates for 10 major crops were, respectively 72.6M, 75.6M and 82.8M tonnes. These compare with 77.8M tonnes last year and a 77.3M tonne five-year average. The successive upward revision of estimates reflects the impact of early drought conditions in the Western Prairies on conclusions drawn from early crop development.

**Canadian Production – Nov. estimate**

	000 tonne	2015/2014	Nov/Sep
Spring Wheat	19,962	94	105
Durum	5,389	104	114
Winter wheat	2,243	78	99
Canola	17,231	111	121
Corn for Grain	13,559	118	111
Barley	8,226	116	108
Soybeans	6,235	116	105
Dry Field peas	3,201	93	101
Oats	3,428	118	104
Lentils	2,373	129	110
Flaxseed	942	111	106

**OPINION:** As anticipated Statistics Canada made significant upward revisions to its estimate of crop production this week. This was generally anticipated but the size of the increases was generally not. This highlights the challenge that farmers, in common with others, face in estimating yields prior to harvest and when crops can be subject to physical measurement in the bin. Stats Can's estimated are, of course, prepared from estimates provided by farmers. And while research has been undertaken over many years on ways of corroborating traditional survey data, the farmers, eyes are likely to remain the most accurate source of this information for some years to come. We would care to express an opinion: The Stats Can's policy of not commenting on revisions to its previous estimates is not constructive. It tends to leave the false impression of failure. Omitting the September estimate as has been suggested in the past would be ill advised as amongst other things it provides an indication of the direction of subsequent revisions. Equally ill advised would be the suggestion that all early estimates should be eliminated. While early estimates rarely prove to be last word, they do provide those who need to plan with general indication of final outcomes.

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