

Grain and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	6-May-16 Year ago
SRW Wheat	Jul	170.40	179.49	176.92	Soybeans	Jul	380.21	378.37	358.71
HRW Wheat	Jul	166.63	175.82	186.84	Soya Meal	Jul	310.97	303.71	284.39
HRS Wheat	Jul	196.49	200.99	198.79	Soya Oil	Jul	728.87	736.15	726.67
CWRS Wheat	Spot	238.86	238.07	193.29	Canola	Jul	494.70	498.80	458.10
CPS Wheat	Spot	203.93	209.75	166.53	Crude Oil(WTI)	Jun	44.71	45.92	59.46
Corn	Jul	148.61	154.22	142.91	Dollar Index	Jun	93.89	93.05	94.92
Ethanol	Jul	39.97	40.29	42.66	DJIA Mini-sized	Jun	17,664	17,693	18,123
Oats	Jul	125.15	133.41	155.30	<i>Canola</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>506.50</i>	<i>494.50</i>	<i>446.40</i>
For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm					<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>180.78</i>	<i>189.60</i>	<i>186.02</i>
Data in red are 12-month highs, in blue are 12-month lows					<i>Corn</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>151.47</i>	<i>155.602</i>	<i>148.91</i>

COMMENT: US wheat prices were weaker with improving US winter wheat crop prospects and a stronger US dollar. Price losses for hard red spring wheat prices were smaller. US corn export news was mixed but favourable planting progress pressured prices. US soybean markets managed to extend a two-month advance in prices which are now at 12-month highs. Last week's export sales exceeded expectations with China the dominant buyers and new crop sales again featuring.

NEWS: Early Prairie provincial crop reports indicate variable conditions perhaps too wet in the east and certainly too dry in the west.

For MB, as of May 2: With favourable weather and field conditions 10% of the crop has been seeded. Localized areas are still too wet. Winter crop conditions are rated as good to excellent.

For SK, as of May 6: No report available.

For AB, as of May 3: Seeding is off to another faster than average start with 21% seeded versus 27% last year. The 5-year average for this date is 9%. Soil moisture is a huge concern in all regions. Producers have slowed seeding of shallow seeded crops such as canola, in hope of more moisture. Fall seeded crops have emerged in good condition with 80% rated in good or excellent condition.

StatsCan March 31 crop stocks report published Friday indicated lower supplies than a year ago for most crops, the exception generally being feed grains where local demand limits export movement. Total March 31 farm supply of all grains was surveyed at 29.4M tonnes, 13 and 28 percent below 2015 and 2014 levels. Stocks in all positions of lentils, peas, other wheat, soybeans, canola and durum were down, respectively, 64, 28, 15, 10 and 3 percent. Stocks of flaxseed, corn, barley and oats were up 49, 23, 12 and 9 percent.

OPINION: The StatsCan March 31 crops stocks report indicates farmers disposed of - sold or used, about 20M tonnes of all crops over the winter months, about equal to the previous two year's run down in farm stocks of the main crops. This leaves about 8M tonnes available for disposal prior to harvest, or allowing for pre-harvest needs after the end of the crop year, about 5.5M tonnes before the end of the crop year. This compares with 7.5M tonnes shipped during this period in 2015 and 11.2M tonnes shipped in 2014. It will be a rather quiet time for the grain companies and railways.

As is usual things are likely to be quiet during the spring field work season but are unlikely to pick up thereafter. Those who handle Prairie crops will probably wonder why they fought the weather all winter only to find they ran out of business when conditions improved. It is anticipated that narrow price basis will prevail over the summer months providing a signal to farmers that there is advantage to marketing over the summer months.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA

