

Grain and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	27-May-16 Year ago
SRW Wheat	Jul	176.92	171.87	175.27	Soybeans	Jul	399.22	394.72	343.19
HRW Wheat	Jul	168.93	164.06	183.26	Soya Meal	Jul	365.22	356.24	277.32
HRS Wheat	Jul	194.01	193.92	195.02	Soya Oil	Jul	694.04	689.41	734.83
CWRS Wheat	Spot	238.91	241.72	210.34	Canola	Jul	511.80	523.10	472.80
CPS Wheat	Spot	207.86	206.98	179.97	Crude Oil(WTI)	Jul	48.69	48.41	60.19
Corn	Jul	162.49	155.31	138.38	Dollar Index	Jun	95.72	95.34	96.94
Ethanol	Jul	43.80	42.43	40.42	DJIA Mini-sized	Jun	17,837	17,482	18,006
Oats	Jul	125.15	122.88	151.73	Canola	Nov	518.30	524.80	465.60
For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm					Wheat	Dec	186.75	182.43	182.62
Data in red are 12-month highs, in blue are 12-month lows					Corn	Dec	162.79	157.374	144.87

COMMENT: Wheat prices this week were supported by the prospect of excess moisture in the US Great Plains on the impending US winter wheat harvest. Elsewhere, however, northern hemisphere harvest prospects appear favourable. For US corn rain delays in the finish of planting were supportive as was larger than expected US export sales last week.

Strength in soya meal values, stemming from challenges with the Argentinean harvest, pushed soybean prices to the highest level since August 2014. Beneficial rain over most of the Prairies, however, weighed heavily on canola prices.

NEWS: The US winter wheat crop, as of May 22, was reported 75 percent headed compared to a 5-year average of 77 percent and 74 percent last year. Crop conditions were unchanged at 62 percent good and excellent, compared to 45 percent last year and a 5-year average of 39.

As of May 22 planting of US corn, soybean and spring wheat crops were 86, 56 and 95 percent completed, compared to 5-year averages of 85, 52 and 77 and last year's 99, 56 and 95 percent. Not as advanced as last year but slightly better than average.

Crop emergence was reported for corn, soybean and spring wheat at 60, 22 and 95 percent compared to 62, 25 and 54 for 5-year averages and 56, 23, and 40 last year. The first crop conditions assessments for spring wheat was 76 percent good or excellent compared to 69 percent last year.

Prairie country elevator stocks have declined by over 40 percent since early March. And with this decline in crops available for shipping, movement out of the country has been running about 15 percent below post harvest levels. Cumulative exports and domestic use shipments for the crop year are, however, still five and one percent, respectively, above year ago levels.

OPINION: Limits on farm sales of Prairie crops is often related to railway performance but in the spring this is usually not the case. Typically grain companies fill up the country elevator system prior to road bans and spring seeding, supplies available for rail shipment then decline until after most of the field work has been done. Country elevator stocks are subsequently rebuilt as farmers' priorities revert to hauling grain. In 2013, before the big crop, supplies were tight and there was, therefore, not much to move any way. In 2014, after the big crop, stocks were higher but there was not much of a rebuild after seeding. Last spring the grain companies seemed to have done a better job in having grain available for the railways to ship. This spring we have a relatively tight supply situation with elevator stocks declining and probably little opportunity for them to be rebuilt over the summer months.

As was the case in 2013 basis levels are likely to be narrow as grain companies compete for the business that is available. This is, of course the converse of 2014.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA

