

Crop and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	23-Dec-16 Year ago
SRW Wheat	Mar	144.59	150.37	171.78	Soybeans	Jan	363.40	380.94	326.01
HRW Wheat	Mar	149.27	152.40	171.59	Soya Meal	Jan	279.40	287.66	244.02
HRS Wheat	Mar	195.02	199.98	181.88	Soya Oil	Jan	762.83	810.01	680.59
CWRS Wheat	Spot	235.02	240.79	n/a	Canola	Jan	505.30	518.30	480.30
CPS Wheat	Spot	166.39	172.32	n/a	Crude Oil(WTI)	Jan	52.97	51.93	38.08
Corn	Mar	136.11	140.25	143.50	Dollar Index	Mar	103.01	102.86	98.02
Ethanol	Mar	40.37	40.76	37.04	DJIA Mini-sized	Mar	19,856	19,787	17,447
Oats	Mar	141.68	145.25	142.33					

For price specs. go to: [www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm](http://www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm) Data in red are 12-month highs, in blue are 12-month lows

**COMMENT:** All crop and crop product prices were down this week but none were at their low for the year. The major general indexes/prices were up and at their highs for the year.

US wheat prices were lower all week with the strength of the US dollar, US export sales data below expectations, and warmer weather in the US winter wheat regions lessening concerns over winter kill.

Corn markets were supported to some degree by stronger crude oil prices but this was more than offset by the pressure from the stronger dollars and reports of improved South American crop prospects.

While US soybean export sales data again came in above trade expectation, daily news of sales was disappointing and this together with favourable crop development reports from South America pressured prices. Canola prices followed soybeans down but still hold most of the gains made in October.

**NEWS:** Ag Canada's December revisions to its Canadian crop supply and use forecasts included Stats Can's November estimates of production which added 1.1M tonnes, or 1 percent, to output. The forecast for crop year exports was cut by about 0.3M tonnes and domestic use raised slightly more. The ending stocks forecast was raised to 15.1M tonnes, 11 percent above the previous 5-year average but the stocks use ratio of 16 percent is only four percent above the five year ratio.

The theme, at least for western crops, was supplies from record yielding crops being somewhat offset by lower harvested area as a result of the lateness of the crop and some miserable October weather. Where supplies were revised up the increase was added to year end stocks rather than being seen to be exported or used domestically.

In January Ag Canada will be publishing its first trend projections for the 2017-18 crop year.

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure this information is accurate, the author is unable to provide any guarantee over accuracy, or to be liable for the consequences of action taken on the basis of any information which proves to be inaccurate.

**OPINION:** The 2016 Prairie crop was a large one and if harvest had been completed close to that of 2013. That it does not show as such in the aggregated statistics is because the Ontario corn crop, always a big yielder, suffered an early season drought and there has been a shift from corn to lower yield soybeans since 2013. And by Ag Canada's reckoning there is between three and six million tonnes still in the field to be salvaged in the spring.

If the top end of the range is added to the 2016 harvest statistic, this year's crop equals the 2013 crop. If the bottom end of the range is added to the supply statistic there is a bigger supply this year than in 2013. That price basis has not widened as it did three years ago suggests some lessons have been learned.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

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