

Crop and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	17-Feb-17 Year ago
SRW Wheat	Mar	162.04	164.98	169.48	Soybeans	Mar	379.38	389.12	322.70
HRW Wheat	Mar	167.64	169.21	167.92	Soya Meal	Mar	308.07	310.34	239.94
HRS Wheat	Mar	200.71	210.36	181.24	Soya Oil	Mar	725.13	763.05	692.06
CWRS Wheat	Spot	236.43	235.97	231.59	Canola	Mar	517.70	527.80	466.60
CPS Wheat	Spot	175.89	172.12	194.92	Crude Oil(WTI)	Apr	53.62	53.78	32.12
Corn	Mar	144.97	147.43	143.89	Dollar Index	Mar	100.89	100.84	96.65
Ethanol	Mar	40.18	42.00	37.25	DJIA Mini-sized	Mar	20,550	20,227	16,347
Oats	Mar	166.48	165.02	124.50	Wheat	Dec	184.45	184.82	182.80
Data in red are 12-month highs, in blue are 12-month lows					Corn	Dec	155.21	157.18	152.16
For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm					Canola	Nov	501.50	507.30	475.90

COMMENT: Wheat prices were lower on news of a record Australian crop and generally favourable conditions in northern hemisphere wheat growing areas including the US southern Great Plains.

Corn prices were pressured by last week's export data not meeting trade expectations and rumours of Mexico cutting US imports. Soybean prices were by concerns about the indirect impact of bird flu in China on US soya meal demand and further favourable weather for development of South American crops. Prospects for US soybean export sales seem to have been a lesser factor than during the prior week.

NEWS: The USDA released its annual baseline, to 2026, projections. These are based on information available last fall, a wide range of assumptions made at that time and the assumption of no changes in US farm programs and policy. They are probably of quite limited relevance to current - old and new crop, outlook. In any event the data on which the projections were made was released last December.

The report concludes

“Although a stronger valued U.S. dollar is expected to constrain growth in U.S. agricultural exports somewhat, the United States remains competitive in global agricultural markets and export values grow over the next 10 years. Net cash income and net farm income continue to fall from recent record highs before increasing over the latter part of the projection period.”

This take home message from the report is probably the starting point, hence baseline, for US agricultural policy debate.

OPINION: A period of mild weather in January together with adequate producer deliveries and elevators stocks enabled the railways to move more crops and crop products this year than a year earlier and very much more than in 2015 cold spell. Cumulative movement is now running about a million tonnes above a year ago and supplies were 4 million tonnes above last year. Hence, the aggregate increase in all crop ending stocks above the generally tight level of last summer is likely to be limited.

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