

Crop and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	18-Aug-17 Year ago
SRW Wheat	Sep	152.86	161.40	156.90	Soybeans	Sep	344.38	344.93	377.36
HRW Wheat	Sep	152.30	162.13	153.87	Soya Meal	Sep	269.61	271.69	299.36
HRS Wheat	Sep	245.73	247.65	195.02	Soya Oil	Sep	741.00	740.12	752.68
CWRS Wheat	Spot	254.59	267.73	219.1	Canola	Nov	506.70	506.80	469.20
CPS Wheat	Spot	159.06	174.63	163.46	Crude Oil(WTI)	Oct	48.78	48.97	49.08
Corn	Sep	138.58	142.02	131.59	Dollar Index	Sep	93.30	92.91	94.50
Ethanol	Sep	39.81	41.61	39.15	DJIA Mini-sized	Sep	21,716	21,870	18,523
Oats	Sep	165.19	171.18	110.07	Wheat	Dec	162.59	171.59	163.14
					Corn	Dec	143.99	147.53	135.33

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

COMMENT: US grain futures were lower again this week with oilseeds also marginally lower. In the case of wheat with most of the crop harvested news of large Russian supplies pressured prices even though US wheat export sales last week were higher than expected. The USDA report of improved corn crop conditions early in the week with subsequent favourable crop weather suggests a large crop on top already large supplies. Soybean crop prospects are also improving but continuing favourable demand news largely mitigates the impact of this on price. StatsCan first crop estimate is almost two weeks away but the first trade estimate places Canadian canola yield at 1.98 tonnes per hectare compared to last year's 2.37 and a 5-year average of 2.08.

NEWS: Prairie province crop reports suggest at best an average crop with short crops in southern SK and AB being offset by better prospects elsewhere.

For MB, as of Aug. 14: Harvest has started with warm weather advancing crops but causing some injury in canola.

For SK, as of Aug. 14: Seven percent of all crops have been combined compared to a 4 percent 5-year average. Top soil moisture continues to improve with recent rain - too late for some, but welcomed by others.

For AB, as of Aug. 15: Crop conditions were unchanged from a week ago at 56 percent good to excellent, compared with the 5-year average of 67 percent. Six percent of crops are in the bin compared with a 5-year average of 3 percent. Aggregate surface and sub-surface soil moisture ratings remain unchanged at 45 and 51 percent good to excellent, compared to 5-year averages of 66 and 63 percent.

USDA crop progress reports for August 13 indicated corn and soybean crop conditions continue to be about average. The percentage of good and excellent reports for the corn crop was up two percentage points at 62 percent, compared to 75 percent last year and a five-year average of 60 percent. The soybean crop was rated 59 percent good or excellent on above the 5-year average of 56 percent but well below last year's 72 percent. Seventy-nine percent of the US soybean crop has

reached pod setting, compared to a five-year average of 75 percent.

The US winter wheat harvest is virtually wrapped up at 97 percent complete. The spring wheat harvest is close to mid point at 45 percent complete compared to a five-year average of 35 percent.

OPINION: Ag Canada makes monthly forecasts of ending stocks, amongst other things, of Canadian crops. These provide a measure of prospects at the time they were made and of changes in such, starting in the January before the crop year and ending the December after.

Prospects for the just started, 2017-18, crop appears so far to be something of a mirror image of last year's. Back in January 2016, a 2016 average crop, modest beginning stocks and reasonable export expectations suggested a tight supply at the end of the 2016-17 crop year. This tightened into the spring. But reality of a large 2016 crop changed that with ending stock forecast rising and only tightening moderately towards the end of the crop year.

This January with larger beginning stocks, an average crop and reasonable export expectation, the prospects were for larger crop year ending stocks than had been the case a year earlier. The prospect of a smaller than average 2017 crops will naturally result in a tighter ending stock situation.

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