

Crop and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	16-Mar-18 Year ago
SRW Wheat	May	171.87	179.68	160.30	Soybeans	May	385.63	381.86	367.44
HRW Wheat	May	183.54	191.25	166.63	Soya Meal	May	338.28	338.91	298.36
HRS Wheat	May	224.78	226.89	201.72	Soya Oil	May	705.06	696.46	712.12
CWRS Wheat	Spot	246.88	247.74	235.17	Canola	May	523.10	514.90	503.70
CPS Wheat	Spot	205.56	210.79	170.57	Crude Oil(WTI)	May	62.39	61.92	49.41
Corn	May	150.68	153.73	144.68	Dollar Index	Jun	89.78	89.64	100.07
Ethanol	May	40.05	40.21	41.16	DJIA Mini-sized	Jun	24,976	25,335	20,919
Oats	May	157.08	170.21	162.11	SRW Wheat - New Crop	Dec	192.26	199.15	178.39
For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm					Corn - New Crop	Dec	158.95	160.33	153.44
Data in red are 12-month highs, in blue are 12-month lows					Canola - New Crop	Nov	517.90	507.10	489.80

COMMENT: US Wheat prices were lower for a second week with improved weather forecasts late in the week for much needed rain in the southern US Great Plains. Soil moisture conditions were also reported to have improved in the Ukraine and Russia. Corn prices were also lower despite last week's export sales coming in well above trade expectations and declining expectations for the Argentinean harvest. Demand from the ethanol sector was seen as slackening.

Soybean prices were higher with export sales at the high end of trade expectations and the prospect of a short Argentinean crop mostly offset by improved Brazilian prospects. Canola prices were higher, particularly new crop contracts despite market comments citing the expectation of increased seeding this spring limiting advances.

NEWS: Last week's US export sales of wheat, corn and soybeans were reported at 0.162, 1.270 and 2.505 million tonnes (mmt). Cumulative US exports of wheat, corn and soybeans for the crop year have reached 17.6, 20.2 and 39.7mmt, respectively, 92, 73 and 88 percent of last year at this time.

Cumulative Canadian exports of all crops through CGC licensed facilities for the crop year to March 11 at 25.6mmt trailed last year by less than one percent. Wheat, oats, barley and corn exports are running ahead of last year's pace by 14, 21, 99 and 38 percent. Durum, canola, soybean, pea and lentils exports are trailing a year ago by 2, 3, 11, 49 and 68 percent.

OPINION: The expectation that increased canola seeding will result in post harvest supplies surplus to market needs and resulting in lower prices has been almost a perennial concern in recent years and this year does not appear to be an exception.

But the experience of recent years has been an almost unbroken succession of annual increases in both exports and domestic use, including canola products for export. The years when this has not been the case have been years when supplies have not increased.

This growth cannot be expected to last forever. For the upcoming crop year, however, demand prospects for oilseeds generally appear robust with growth in Chinese demand expected to continue. More questionable is the willingness of farmers to devote yet more resources to canola production.

This undoubtedly explains while pre-seeding new crop prices are as high as they have been in five years.

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