

Crop and Related Prices					Oilseeds & Other Prices				
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
SRW Wheat	May	170.22	173.62	148.81	Soybeans	May	378.00	387.37	349.44
HRW Wheat	May	177.38	182.16	148.63	Soya Meal	May	339.37	347.26	280.85
HRS Wheat	May	220.46	226.71	193.46	Soya Oil	May	690.07	694.04	704.18
CWRS Wheat	Spot	247.51	251.31	235.95	Canola	May	534.80	523.70	525.90
CPS Wheat	Spot	204.91	202.93	161.19	Crude Oil(WTI)	May	68.26	67.49	49.65
Corn	May	148.22	152.06	140.54	Dollar Index	Jun	90.04	89.48	99.87
Ethanol	May	39.60	39.31	42.90	DJIA Mini-sized	Jun	24,433	24,379	20,526
Oats	May	150.76	151.89	141.03	SRW Wheat - New Crop	Dec	191.07	195.20	168.75
For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm					Corn - New Crop	Dec	158.46	161.70	150.39
Data in red are 12-month highs, in blue are 12-month lows					Canola - New Crop	Nov	519.90	514.20	492.10

COMMENT: US wheat prices were lower over the week with the expectation that forecasts for better weather will improve the prospects for hard red winter and spring wheat crops suffering, respectively, from too dry and too wet conditions. A stronger US dollar and disappointing US export sales data weighed on prices late in the week. A late spring with the prospect of lower than earlier anticipated corn area, and export sales at the high end of expectations, were supportive of corn prices. But last week's ethanol usage was disappointing and with a stronger US dollar prices declined. For soybeans last week's export sales data was also supportive but the shift of area from corn and concern over the future increase in Chinese demand weighed on prices. Canola prices benefitted from currency adjustments late in the week and, counter intuitively, canola prices in country positions, were seen to be supported by the threat of a CP Rail strike.

NEWS: The USDA's crop report, as of April 15, indicates that there has been no material improvement in the condition of the US winter wheat crop and planting of the corn and spring wheat trails average progress. The US winter wheat crop was rated only 31 percent in good or excellent condition, up one point from last week, down 13 points from last year and down 14 points from a five-year average. Thirty seven percent of the crop was rated as poor/very poor, up two points from last week. Crop conditions are particularly poor in the southern Great Plains states of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Progress with planting the US corn and spring wheat crops are both placed at 3 percent done compared to 3 and 4 percent last year and 4 and 11 percent five-year averages. For corn planting has only really started in southern states. If progress in spring wheat planting in the northern Great Plains is a result of excessively wet conditions, it might be regarded as positive for yield prospects after last year's drought.

CGC Grain Stats Weekly indicates Canadian crop exports to week 37 ending April 15 running less than two percent below year ago levels. Against this domestic disappearance which

includes crop product exports and unprocessed grain exported outside the licensed system, is up almost 22 percent. Most of the increase is wheat and durum suggesting that much more Canadian wheat than usual is moving into US markets to supplement the drought reduced 2017 US spring wheat crops. CGC data should be bushel accurate, but sometimes it needs a little interpretation. The sum of exports and domestic disappearance is ahead of last year by over 5 percent.

OPINION: A purpose of growing winter as opposed to spring wheat is undoubtedly to get an early start to growth in the spring particularly in regions where the summer brings conditions too dry and hot for optimal growth. A risk is adverse winter weather conditions which has been the case this year for the US winter crop. While the relationship between early season crop ratings and yield may not be close, experience suggests that poor crop ratings in early spring persist.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA

