

Crop and Related Prices, Can or US\$/tonne, US\$/l ethanol					Oilseeds & Other Prices, Can or US\$/tonne or index					28-Feb-20
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	
SRW Wheat	Mar	194.38	202.46	168.01	Soybeans	Mar	324.63	327.21	334.92	
HRW Wheat	Mar	163.69	172.15	163.42	Soya Meal	Mar	270.88	262.35	278.86	
HRS Wheat	Mar	187.67	192.91	205.12	Soya Oil	Mar	624.15	675.52	666.70	
CWRS Wheat	Spot	230.32	237.07	252.96	Canola	Jan	452.80	458.30	461.30	
CPS Wheat	Spot	198.59	208.97	194.50	Crude Oil(WTI)	May	45.27	53.50	56.14	
Corn	Mar	144.28	148.42	146.84	Dollar Index	Mar	98.40	99.20	95.88	
Ethanol	Mar	33.13	34.66	35.80	S&P 500	cash	2,918	3,330	2,804	
Oats	Mar	174.26	191.93	171.35	Canola, new crop	Nov	475.20	482.90	498.00	
					Wheat SRW, new crop	Dec	199.70	208.61	206.04	
					Corn, new crop	Dec	148.42	151.96	158.65	

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

COMMENT: COV-19 developments appear to have been the main driver for almost all markets. Grain prices were down generally less than five percent while several outside market were down close to 15 percent. For wheat disappointing weekly US export sales data added to the pressure. For corn the link to lower crude oil and livestock markets was more direct.

Soybean prices were pressured by lower crude and vegetable oil values and disappointing weekly export sales data but supported by higher soya meal prices. Canola markets had concerns over rail and port barricades in addition to the COVID-19 to deal with.

NEWS: Canadian Grain Commission data indicates that cumulative exports of all crops is running about ten percent below last year's record pace, which is a slight improvement on the pace directly after the Christmas break. The pace of oat and canola exports has improved somewhat relative to a year ago. Domestic disappearance is running just one percent above a year earlier. After the Christmas break it was 7 percent ahead. Wheat and canola appear to be the major part of this slowing pace. Cumulative producer deliveries are running 3 percent above a year ago, with higher commercial stocks than a year main as a result of higher primary elevator stocks. This suggests movement of crops has not met plans which should not come as a surprise in view of the various disruptions the railways have faced. Crop movement for the period since the Christmas break only lags a year ago by about 2 percent.

OPINION: On the COVID-19 front there is good news and bad news. The good news is that China appears to be getting back to normal as the WHO continues to report the decline in the incidence of the virus there. The bad

news is the explosive spread of the virus geographically this week into places where its control is unlikely to be as effective as it has been in China. South Korea, Italy, Iran and its neighbouring Arabian Gulf states seem to be of particular concern at this point in time, with new cases outside China exceeding those inside. But it now seems likely it will spread everywhere and meet the WHO's definition of a pandemic.

One might ask whether the developed world will be able to hold the virus at bay until an antidote is available or whether the developing world will develop natural immunity before then. Nothing really new about this. It happened 100 years ago with the Spanish flu and about 10 years ago with swine flu, amongst other incidences.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA

