

Crop and Related Prices, Can or US\$/tonne, US\$/l ethanol					Oilseeds & Other Prices, Can or US\$/tonne or index					9-Apr-21
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	
SRW Wheat	May	234.70	224.51	204.48	Soybeans	May	515.52	515.15	317.28	
HRW Wheat	May	215.50	207.60	180.78	Soya Meal	May	363.95	372.11	265.34	
HRS Wheat	May	241.78	220.28	195.66	Soya Oil	May	1,165.18	1,149.31	604.31	
CWRS Wheat	Spot	302.72	283.50	239.84	Canola	May	811.00	740.80	463.60	
CPS Wheat	Spot	276.86	271.55	218.09	Crude Oil(WTI)	May	59.35	61.45	23.47	
Corn	May	227.25	220.26	130.60	Dollar Index	Jun	92.18	92.95	99.59	
Ethanol	May n	50.32	48.87	24.52	S&P 500	cash	4,110	4,020	2,790	
Oats	May	242.35	241.21	177.83	SRW Wheat	Dec	237.37	227.35	208.61	
For price specs. go to: <a href="http://www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm">www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm</a>					Corn	Dec	195.36	190.74	138.08	
Data in red are 12-month highs, blue are 12-month lows, green revised					Canola	Nov	629.20	617.90	475.70	

**COMMENT:** Both increasing concerns over dry soil conditions on the Prairies and northern US Great Plains and Friday's revisions to USDA monthly supply and use data had determining influences on prices this week. Spring wheat and canola prices benefited from the former and corn from the latter. Both US and global ending stock forecasts for corn came in below average pre-report expectations. Those for soybeans were slightly above. Likewise this week export sale data was more positive for corn than soybeans. Wheat prices benefited from very positive US export sales data.

**NEWS:** The **USDA's April 5 crop report**, the first of the 2021 season, indicated winter wheat conditions as of April 4 at 53 percent good or excellent, 9 points below a year ago, but close to a five-year average of 52 percent, and five points above the final rating last fall. The very early indications of progress corn planting indicated 2 percent of the crop in the ground compared to 2 percent last year and a five-year average of 2 percent. This may not mean too much as planting was almost entirely limited to Texas. As nationally 8 percent of reports indicated surplus top soil moisture compared to a five-year average of 24 percent suggesting, it is likely to be an early planting season which may favour extra corn acres at the expense of soybeans.

Thursday's **USDA April supply and demand forecast** revisions were the last to focus on the 2020-2021 crop year, before the first monthly revisions for 2021-2022 in May. Adjustments to forecasts for domestic data were largely the result of US March 1 grain stocks data and export sales data. Estimates for **US wheat use** for US feed were lowered resulting in a two percent increase in ending stocks which are now 17 percent below beginning stocks. The forecast for **global consumption of wheat** was raised by almost 2 percent mainly due to increased feed use in China. With Chinese corn prices remaining above their wheat prices the government has been selling off its wheat stocks. For the first time in eight years government wheat stocks are forecast to decline but only marginally so at this time. World ending stocks were lowered to below year ago levels.

For **US corn** forecasts for feed, ethanol and export use were all raised resulting in the ending stock projection being lowered by 10 percent, now 30 percent below beginning stocks. **Global coarse grain** forecasts included a 5 million tonne increase in use partially offset by a small increase in output resulting in a small cut in projected ending stocks which now stand 5 percent below beginning stocks.

The forecast for **US soybean** ending stocks was unchanged with a small increase in exports matched by reductions in several components of domestic use. The global oilseed output forecast was raised slightly. An increase in Brazilian soybean production was partly offset by lower soybean output elsewhere and other oilseed crop expectations. Ending stock projections were increased by almost 4 percent but are still 10 percent below beginning stocks.

**OPINION:** We are now a full year into the covid endemic and while uncertainties still exist over the course it will take and its further impact on crop prospects, some things are becoming clear. "Field to fork" activity for crops is a lot less labour intensive than for other food sectors. Hence covid and related restrictions have had limited impact on the sector. Nobody breathes in the face of locomotive engineer. Also as crops can generally be stored, suggestions have also been made that some hoarding at a national as opposed to a household context has occurred. This may yet have an implication once covid is over.

David Walker,  
Edmonton, AB, CA

