

Crop and Related Prices, Can or US\$/tonne					Oilseeds & Other PriceS,Can or US\$/tonne or index				8-Apr-22
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
SRW Wheat	May	386.18	361.74	234.70	Soybeans	May	620.06	581.57	515.52
HRW Wheat	May	406.76	372.22	215.50	Soya Meal	May	424.18	408.22	363.95
HRS Wheat	May	414.38	391.97	241.78	Soya Oil	May	1,656.83	1,569.75	1,165.18
CWRS Wheat	Spot	497.82	485.31	302.72	Canola	May	1,162.30	1,133.90	811.00
CPS Wheat	Spot	457.41	432.76	276.86	Crude Oil(WTI)	June	97.53	98.00	59.35
Corn	May	302.84	289.35	227.25	Dollar Index	Jun	99.86	98.60	92.18
Oats	May	512.74	479.83	242.35	S&P 500	cash	4,503	4,542	4,110
					Canola	Nov	1,000.60	970.20	629.20
Data in red are 12-month highs, blue 12-month lows, green revised					SRW Wheat	Dec	386.55	354.40	237.37
For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm					Corn	Dec	281.87	270.85	195.36

**COMMENT:** Wheat prices were higher over the week with new crop particularly so as the first USDA crop report confirmed poor US winter wheat crop conditions. The USDA's monthly outlook was relatively bearish for wheat but the uncertainty over the Ukrainian/Russian war continues to support values. The USDA report was relatively neutral for corn but prices were supported by a seeming lack of progress over the hostilities and also the implication the Chinese zero covid policy lockdowns on their corn production. The USDA report was also relatively neutral for the oilseed complex.

**NEWS**: The **USDA's April 4 crop report**, the first of the 2022 season, indicated winter wheat conditions as of April 3 at 29 percent good or excellent, 24 points below a year ago, and 23 points below a five-year average of 52 percent, and 15 points below the final rating last fall. This rating, indicating well below average crop development, was probably not a surprise as monthly winter crop reports had forewarned of this. A week earlier the Kansas state assessment placed the good to excellent at 32 percent the same as this week and well below a five-year average of 45 for late March assessments. Crop development - heading for winter wheat and planting for corn and spring wheat, as opposed to condition, was about normal and at the low single digit level.

Soil moisture conditions on a US nation-wide basis were well below normal, no doubt reflecting a hang over from last year's drought in the northern Great Pains states and emerging drought conditions in the southern Great Plains states. Top soil moisture was rated 37 percent very short or short, compared to last year's 35 and a five-year average of 20. Sub soil moisture was rated 42 percent very short or short, compared to last year's 36 and a five-year average of 22. Friday's USDA April supply and demand forecast revisions, the last to focus on the 2021-2022 crop year, before the first monthly revisions for 2022-2023 in May, included short term assessment for the hostilities in the Ukraine. US 2021-22 domestic wheat forecasts with less than two months left in the crop year included a cut in exports and a four percent increase in ending stocks which are now 20 percent below beginning stocks.

The largest adjustment in **global wheat** estimates was a better than 4 percent increase in India use. Lower Ukrainian exports are expected to be offset by increased Russian exports. Ending stocks were reduced to about 4 percent below beginning stocks and the lowest level in 5 years. For **US corn** forecasts a lower expectation for feed use was offset by an increase in ethanol use. The ending stock forecast was unchanged, 17 percent above beginning stocks. Global coarse grain forecasts included a small increase in output and a small cut in use resulting in one percent increase in ending stocks which are forecast 3 percent above beginning stocks. The forecast for **US sovbean** ending stocks were reduced 9 percent with small increases in seed use and exports. Ending stocks are now expected to be slightly above beginning stocks. The global oilseed output forecast was lowered with reduced Brazilian and Argentinian crop expectations. But with a larger cut in use, ending stocks forecast was raised two percent and are now 10 percent below the beginning stock estimate.

OPINION: A caution is appropriate in interpreting current US soil moisture conditions this early in the season. Last year when moisture conditions were not much different from this year, the winter planted crop yielded reasonably, while the spring crop did not. The winter wheat crop ratings last spring were, however, in contrast to this spring, reasonable too. With both crop ratings and poor soil moisture, the development of the US winter crop will a market focus for a couple of months.

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