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Crop Market Summary

Week ending Mar 22, 2024

Grain Prices, Can or US$/tonne

Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
SRW Wheat	May	203.93	194.19	252.98
HRW Wheat	May	217.16	236.26	311.59
HRS Wheat	May	243.25	237.92	314.99
CWRS Wheat	Spot	314.78	312.67	405.93
CPS Wheat	Spot	280.76	276.59	391.39
Corn	May	173.02	171.94	253.14
Oats	May	231.32	237.16	238.78

For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm

Data in red are 12-month highs, blue 12-month lows, green revised

Oilseeds & Other Prices, Can or US$/tonne or index 22-Mar-24

Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
Soybeans	May	438.17	440.28	523.90
Soya Meal	May	307.80	303.62	403.77
Soya Oil	May	1,051.20	1,089.56	1,174.44
Canola	May	634.50	630.80	742.00
Crude Oil(WTI)	May	80.86	80.56	69.44
Dollar Index	Jun	104.15	103.10	102.81
S&P 500	cash	5,241	5,124	3,957
SRW wheat	*Dec*	*222.67*	*213.85*	*267.31*
Corn	*Dec*	*187.10*	*185.32*	*253.14*
Canola	*Nov*	*652.20*	*640.20*	*704.10*

COMMENT: South American weather and crop development again appeared to be the main driver of feed grain and oilseed prices. For oilseeds higher protein feed prices largely offset slippage in vegetable oil values. Against expectations canola prices were higher over the week possibly buoyed by rumour of Chinese purchases. Winter wheat conditions in the US Southern Great plains are very favourable. Those in Western Europe are suffering record rainfall.

NEWS: Adjustments to **Ag Canada's March Outlook** for Principal Field crops included adjustment to trade data for the current crop year and Stats Can's Jan/Dec estimate of farmers' 2024 seeding intentions for the 2024-25 crop years.

For 2023-24 a small cut in total net exports was offset by an increase in domestic use resulting in a one percent cut in aggregate crop ending stocks of crops now forecast about two percent above beginning stocks but 15 percent below a five-year average. The largest adjustment was a 100,000 tone increase in field pea exports tightening an already tight supply situation with ending stocks down by a third. For other crops, adjustments in import and export forecasts were offset by adjustments in domestic use with ending stocks unchanged.

For 2024-25 Ag. Canada adjusted its area forecast to match those of Stats. Can. Bur adjustments were relatively minor as Stats Can's estimates were all within five percent of Ag Canada's.

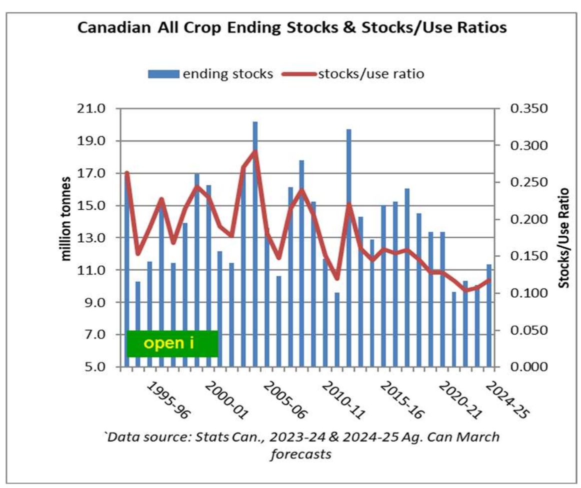
As expected Thursday's weekly **US export sales data** for the week ending March 14 after several Chinese wheat sale cancellations indicated negative net wheat sales for the current crop year. Wheat, corn and soybean exports were -0.110M, 1.186M and 0.494M tonnes. Cumulative wheat business at 93.2 percent of USDA's forecast for the total crop year is still ahead of a five-year average of 90.3 percent for this measure of progress. For corn the cumulative total at 78.2 percent is also slightly ahead of the 77.8 percent of the five-year average. But for soybeans the cumulative total is 85.8 percent and lags the 88.2 percent for five-year average.

USDA survey reports on March 1 stocks of grain and 2024 Prospective Crop area are being release next Thursday. The USDA's first nation-wide Crop Progress report will be issued the following Monday, April 1. With Prairie crop reporting still more than a month away, SK traffic cameras suggest snow cover has generally retreated into highway ditches and beyond.

OPINION: While supply adjustments in Ag Canada's outlook this week were minor, they had a noteworthy impact on ending stock forecasts for crops in tight supply. As a very general indication of improved outlook, ending stocks for flax, barley, corn, durum and wheat were raised by 43, 24, 16, 7 and 4 percent respectively.

Conversely ending stocks for peas, oats, lentils, canola and soybeans were lowered by 44, 27, 23, 15 and 11 percent, respectively, suggesting less favourable prospects. This perhaps explains why tight supply situations usually result in volatile prices even if elasticities of demand moderate this simple mathematical phenomenon.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA



`Data source: Stats Can., 2023-24 & 2024-25 Ag. Can March forecasts