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Crop Market Summary

Week ending Apr 12, 2024

Grain Prices, Can or US$/tonne

Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
SRW Wheat	May	204.30	208.61	250.78
HRW Wheat	May	216.70	236.26	322.89
HRS Wheat	May	236.17	237.55	321.97
CWRS Wheat	Spot	314.14	318.44	392.38
CPS Wheat	Spot	285.12	288.73	383.38
Corn	May	171.45	170.86	260.81
Oats	May	227.92	215.28	217.87

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 12-Apr-24

Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago
Soybeans	May	431.37	436.59	551.34
Soya Meal	May	312.42	303.17	417.02
Soya Oil	May	1,011.74	1,078.98	1,183.04
Canola	May	634.70	642.80	763.10
Crude Oil(WTI)	May	85.60	87.33	82.52
Dollar Index	Jun	105.79	104.03	101.24
S&P 500	cash	5,115	5,198	4,164
SRW wheat	*Dec*	*224.05*	*228.46*	*263.64*
Corn	*Dec*	*185.82*	*186.01*	*260.81*
Canola	*Nov*	*657.00*	*659.70*	*693.90*

COMMENT: US wheat prices were mixed with hard red winter wheat stronger on crop reports and weather forecasts, with other classes lower. Prior to the Thursday USDA outlook report reduced estimates of Brazilian and Argentinian crops were supportive of prices. But when these cuts in estimates were generally not incorporated into USDA data, prices were pressured. Previous week US soybean expert sales were the lowest of the crop year but against this a succession of daily sales report suggest export sales with recover next week. Canola prices were pressured by lower vegetable oil values.

NEWS: Thursday's **USDA April supply and demand forecast** revisions were the last to focus on the 2023-2024 crop year, before the first monthly revisions for 2024-2025 in May. For corn and soybeans they were bearish as the USDA did not adjust South American harvest estimates downwards as expected. Revisions to 2023-24 **US domestic wheat** forecasts included lower supplies offset by reduced domestic use, leaving ending stocks 4 percent higher and 22 percent above beginning stocks. The largest adjustment in **global wheat** estimates were larger supplies and consumption mainly from an increase in Indian use with ending stocks lower fractionally, five percent below beginning stocks and the lowest since 2016.
For **US corn** adjustments in forecasts were for greater ethanol, feed and residual use resulting in 2 percent cut in the ending stocks now forecast about 56 percent above beginning stocks. **Global coarse grain** forecasts included a small cut in output, a fractional increase in use with ending stocks revised about one percent lower but still over 3 percent higher than beginning stocks. Reductions to South American harvest estimates were limited to just one million tonnes for Argentina.
Outlook revisions for **US soybeans** was limited to a cut in net export expectations resulting in an 8 percent increase in the ending stock estimate which now stands 29 percent above the beginning stock level. The **global oilseed** output forecast was lowered fractionally, use raised by less than one percent with ending stocks forecast slightly lower and 9 percent higher than beginning stocks. Adjustment to South American harvest expectations were limited to 0.2 million tonnes increase for Paraguay.

The **USDA's crop progress report** for April 7 indicated overall an unchanged condition for the US winter wheat crop at 56 percent good or excellent, 29 percentage point above last year, 11 above a five-year average, and the highest rating at this point in the season since 2020. Conditions are particularly favorable in soft red winter wheat growing areas. Six percent of the crop is heading with this progress almost solely limited to Texas. Meanwhile planting of the US spring wheat crop is assessed at 3 percent complete with progress virtually limited to the Pacific Northwest. Planting progress of corn was reported to be 3 percent complete compared to a 2 precent five-year average but probably not indicative of future progress as little has been done in the major corn producing states.

OPINION: The gap between USDA's and CONAB -Brazil's National Supply Co. under the Ministry of Agriculture, and indeed other production estimates, is not new. So, it is perhaps not surprizing that the USDA has chosen not to adjust its April production estimates. The one uses satellites, the other ground surveys. As for Canada, Stats Can uses satellite technology in August and September sandwiched between surveys in June and November. But it is likely that we do not have enough experience to pass judgement on the merits.

David Walker, Edmonton, AB, CA