Idaho Grain Market Report, April 16, 2015

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Prices paid by Idaho Elevators delivered to warehouses in specified locations for barley and wheat on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Barley prices in $/Cwt. and wheat prices in $/bu.

	Barley (Cwt.) FEED 48 lbs or better	**MALTING** Open market malting	**Wheat (bu.) Milling** #1 SWW	#1 HRW 11.5% pro	#1 DNS 14% pro	#1 HWW
Rexburg/ Ririe/ Roberts	4.85 -$4.90		$5.42 – 5.60	$4.78	$6.00	$5.15- 5.25
Idaho Falls	$4.75	$12.25- 12.50	$5.51-5.80	$4.84- 5.22	$5.77–6.40	$5.08-5.32
Blackfoot / Pocatello	NQ	$10.00	$5.51	$5.22	$6.40	$5.32
Grace / Soda Springs	$5.05	NQ	$5.65	$4.76	$5.81	$4.76
Burley / Rupert Hazelton	$4.75 - 5.00	$12.50	5.60-5.75	$4.50	$5.88	$5.05
Twin Falls / Buhl / Wendell	$5.75– 5.95		**Feed wheat** $3.30	NQ	NQ	
Nampa – Weiser	$5.64	NQ	$5.07	NQ	NQ	
Nez Perce / Craigmont	$5.80		$5.55	$5.47	$7.10	
Lewiston	$6.30		$5.80	$5.72	$7.35	
Moscow / Genesee	$5.80 – 6.35		$5.57 -5.71	$5.49-5.63	$7.12-7.26	$5.63

Prices at Selected Terminal Markets, cash prices FOB

	#2 Feed 46 lbs. -- unit trains barge	**Malting**	**#1 SWW**	**#1 HRW 11.5% Protein**	**#1 DNS 14% Protein**	**#1 HWW**
Portland			Ord protein $6.00 - 6.30¾ new crop $5.88-6.05 **max 10.5% pro** $6.50¾ -6.80¾ new crop $5.88-6.15	$6.14½ -6.29½ new crop $6.10¾ - 6.20¾	$8.03¼ –8.43¼ new crop $6.88¼-7.13¼	
Los Angeles	$8.50–8.70			$7.64 (13%)		
Tulare	$8.50– 8.70					
Ogden	$5.65		$6.00	$5.09	$6.19	$5.09
Great Falls	$4.50	$12.00		$5.15–5.23 (12%)	$5.64 – 6.27	
Minneapolis	$5.83	NQ		$5.54½	$7.13¼	

Market trends this week

BARLEY - Local feed barley prices ranged from minus 25 cents to plus 5 cents. Open market malting barley prices closed steady to 25 cents lower. USDA reported there were no barley export sales or shipments last week.

WHEAT – Wheat prices were sharply lower this week: local SWW prices ranged from 21 to 36 cents lower; HRW prices ranged from 41 to 68 cents lower; and DNS prices ranged from 41 to 87 cents lower. USDA reported wheat export sales were on the low end of trade expectations last week at 160.5 TMT (48 TMT for MY 2014/15 which was a marketing year low and 112.5 TMT for MY 2015/16), down 85% from the prior week and 80% from the previous 4-week average. Cumulative wheat export sales now tally 97.2% of the USDA's estimate for the year, compared to a 5-year average of 93.9%. Wheat export shipments were on the high end of expectations last week at 383.8 TMT, up 2% from the prior week but down 10% from the previous 4-week average.

Wheat competitor / buyer news – The EU granted wheat export licences for 741 TMT this week, bringing their cumulative wheat exports to 26.4 MMT, compared to 24.3 MMT for the same period a year ago. Strategie Grains has increased their 2015 EU soft wheat production estimate by 1 MMT this week to 141.1 MMT, but lowered their projected 2015/16 ending stocks by 4.1 MMT to 15.9 MMT. Strong indications this week that the Russian government has decided to allow existing wheat export taxes to expire at the end of June. Russia reportedly exported 1.1 MMT of wheat since the tax went into effect on February 1, compared to 2.7 MMT fo the same period the year before. A private analyst has pegged the Russian 2015 wheat crop at 58.1 MMT, compared to most trade estimates of 50 to 55 MMT. The Rosario Grain Exchange is pegging Argentina's winter wheat area at 4.1 million ha, down 7% from last year. The Argentine government is approving another 2 MMT of wheat for export licenses. A Saudi Arabian state owned grain company is joining multinational grain company Bunge in purchasing a majority interest in Canadian grain handler CWB (former Canadian Wheat Board).

CORN – Corn export sales last week were on the high end of trade expectations at 616.5 TMT (588 TMT for MY 2014//15 and 28.5 TMT for MY 15/16), down 8% from the previous week but up 19% from the prior 4-week average. Cumulative corn export sales now tally 84.5% of the USDA's estimate for the year, compared to a 5-year average of 85.4%. Corn export inspections were on the low end of trade expectations at 870.9 TMT, down 26% from the previous week and 4% from the prior 4-week average.

Ethanol corn usage – DOE's Energy Information Agency reported a surprisingly strong downtick in weekly ethanol production last week to 924,000 bbls per day - down another 12,000 bbls or 1.28% last week and down 1.6% from a year ago. Corn used in ethanol totaled 97 million bu., but needs to average more than 100 million bu each week to reach the USDA projection for the year of 5.2 billion bu. U.S. ethanol inventories edged higher to 20.6 million bbls, more than 25% above a year ago.

Corn competitor / buyer news – CONAB is projecting the Brazilian corn crop at 78.99 MMT, up from a previous estimate of 78.2 MMT, based on favorable conditions for second crop corn. USDA has pegged the Brazilian crop at 75 MMT. The Rosario Grain Exchange increased their estimate for Argentina's corn production this week to 25.7 MMT, up 2.2 MMT from their previous estimate, compared to USDA estimate of 24 MMT.

Futures Market trends this week

WHEAT – Wheat futures fell down double digits on Monday under pressure from weather forecasts calling for widespread heavy rains across the Central and Southern Great Plains. Prices continued to slide on Tuesday and Wednesday under pressure of improving chances of precipitation in some of the driest HRW wheat areas and rapid spring wheat planting progress. Wheat settled mixed to lower today (Thursday), as an active storm system continues to deliver beneficial moisture to most of the US winter wheat crop along with favorable winter wheat conditions across Europe, Ukraine, Russia and China. **Wheat market closes on Thursday, 4/16/15...**

	May 2015	Weekly Summary	July 2015	Weekly Summary	Sept 2015	Weekly Summary
Chicago SRW	**$4.94½**	**Down $0.32**	**$4.90¾**	**Down $0.33¼**	**$4.99¼**	**Down $0.33¼**
KC HRW	**$5.08¾**	**Down $0.50½**	**$5.14**	**Down $0.48½**	**$5.26½**	**Down $0.47¼**
MGE DNS	**$5.35**	**Down $0.46**	**$5.46½**	**Down $0.40**	**$5.56¼**	**Down $0.36½**

CORN – Corn prices began the week moderately lower under pressure from improved moisture conditions across the Corn Belt, after a mostly dry winter, coupled with lackluster export and ethanol demand . Corn prices posted modest rebounds on Tuesday and Wednesday but remained under key moving averages, boosted by a slow planting progress and spillover support from soybeans. Corn recovered from early weakness to settle fractionally higher today (Thursday) in choppy trading, with support from a a lower dollar and wetter and colder outlook for the next 6-10 days. **Corn futures contract closes on Thursday, 4/16/15… May 2015 contract at $3.76¼, down $0.00¾ for the week, July 2015 contract closed at $3.83¼, down $0.01½ and the Sept. 2015 contract closed at $3.90¾, down $0.01¾ for the week.**

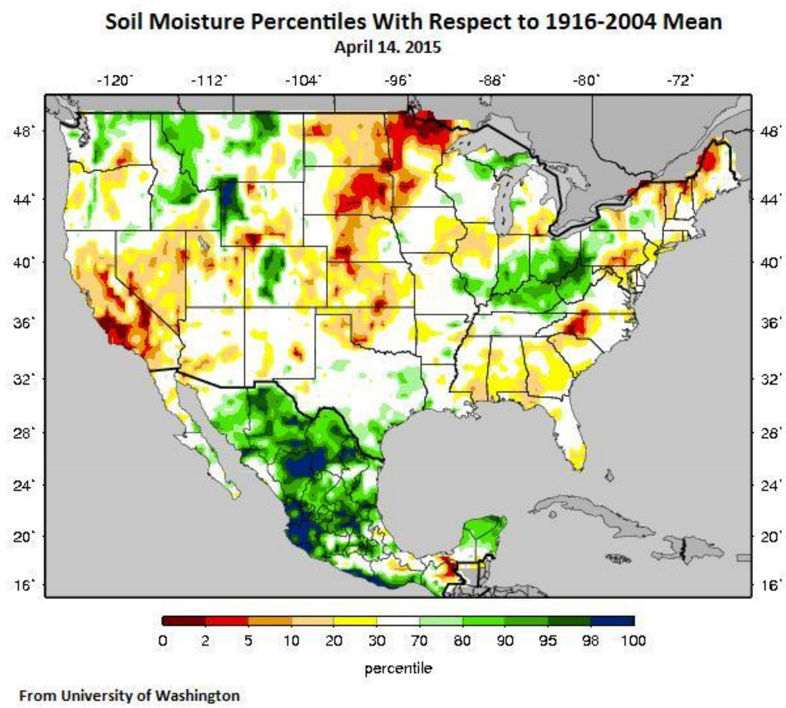
CRUDE OIL – Crude oil churned sharply higher this week, boosted by short covering sparked by evidence of lower U.S. crude oil production, a lower US dollar and doubts about a successful final Iranian oil agreement. DOE continued to show an increase albeit slower build in domestic crude inventories….crude oil increased by 1.29 million bbls, compared to an expected increase of 3.6 million bbls. Distillates increased by 2.012 million bbls while gasoline stocks decreased by 2.087 million bbls, compared to an expected decline of 750,000 bbls. **Crude oil finished modestly higher today (Thursday) – up $0.32 to close at $56.71/bbl, which is up $5.07 for the week.**

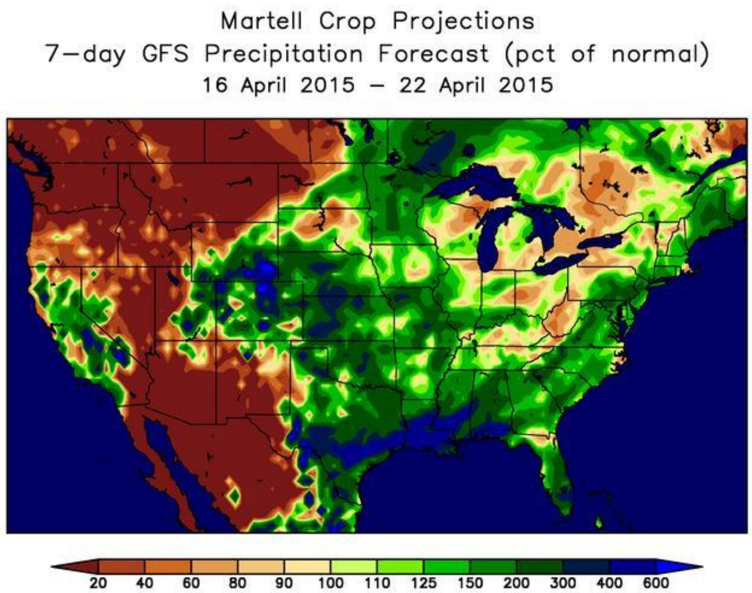
Crop	% Progress	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average	Condition rating % good/excellent	Previous Week	Previous Year
US barley	27% planted	NA	15%	15%			
ID barley	**65% planted**	**58%**	**52%**	**32%**			
US spring wheat	17% planted	NA	5%	11%			
ID spring wheat	**60% planted**	**50%**	**52%**	**35%**			
US winter wheat	6% headed	NA	5%	8%	42% g/ex	44% g/ex	34%
ID winter wheat	**0% headed**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**65%**	**NA**	**87%**
Corn	2% planted	NA	3%	5%			

USDA Crop Progress / Condition Report, April 13, 2015

Weather/Crop Outlook –

- **U.S. – <u>PNW</u>** – Cool, windy but mostly drier conditions overspread the PNW. The Central and Northern Rockies saw more heavy rain and snow showers this week, boosting late season snow pack. The 6-10 day outlook calls for unseasonably warm and dry conditions. **<u>Great Plains</u> –** Weekend showers missed some of the driest HRW areas in western Kansas but a low pressure system continued to spin a series of heavy storms throughout the region, bringing beneficial moisture to most winter wheat areas. The 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks call for strong cooling and wetter conditions to prevail, with more than three-fourths of the region expected to receive above normal precipitation. **<u>Northern Plains</u>** – Mostly warmer and drier conditions prevailed across much of this region, allowing spring grain planting to get off to a strong start. **<u>Corn Belt</u>** – Much of the central belt emerged from winter with less than 50% of normal moisture as depicted in the soil moisture map below. However heavy rain storms this week have replenished moisture in many critical areas. The nearby and 6-10 day outlook calls for cooler than normal temperatures and rainfall across two-thirds of the Corn Belt. Conditions remain unfavorably wet in the Eastern and Delta regions, delaying planting.





- **Europe –** Winter grain conditions remain mostly very favorable and spring planting is progressing rapidly across the Western and Northern belts.
- **Black Sea region –** Ukraine and Southern Russia continued to receive benefitial moisture this week, with dry conditions easing in Central Russia.
- **China –** North China Plains trending drier.
- **Northern Africa –**Sunny warm conditions prevailed, aiding winter grain development.
- **Middle East –** Additional rains from Turkey into Iran are maintaining very favorable conditions for winter grain crops. .
- **South America –** Brazil continues to see favorable rainfall for second crop corn, while rains slowed harvest in central and southern Argentina, although conditions are turning drier.
- **Australia –** Eastern region turned drier, but the southeastern and western regions continued to receive favorable moisture to aid winter cereal planting.