

# Sunflower Highlights

## Markets

The US dollar continues to make headlines with its rise against other currencies. The stronger dollar is putting US exports at a premium to other suppliers. Traders fear this will lead to a downturn in US exports. USDA released its latest supply and demand report last week. To the disappointment of traders, USDA did not lower their estimate of US 2014/15 soybean carryout or the size of the South American soybean crop. South America remains the main trading focus with big crops expected to be harvested. Weather continues to remain mostly favorable in Brazil. Rain has delayed the Argentine sunflower harvest with only 35 percent of the crop harvested. This compares to last year at this time when 52 percent was in the bin. Drier weather is expected this week which should aid harvest progress. The next important USDA reports will be released at the end of the month. USDA is surveying farmers for 2015 crop planting intentions and March 1 stocks. Traders are expecting slightly lower corn acres and higher soybean acres versus last year.

## NSA GOES TO WASHINGTON, DC



National Sunflower Association Board Members made visits to members of Congress from Kansas, Minnesota, North and South Dakota regarding the proposed FY 2016 budget for the National Sclerotinia Initiative (NSI). They also emphasized the importance of supporting full funding of export promotion programs such as the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program and Market Access Program (MAP). The group also updated each member on the status of sunflower in regards to the Food Safety Modernization Act. Additionally the group conveyed NSA opposition to the President's proposed cuts to the Federal Crop Insurance Program and reopening the Agriculture Act of 2014; the legislation took 3 years to pass, and has yet to be fully implemented. Board members also reaffirmed their support of setting the Section 179 small business expensing limit at \$500,000 in 2015, with a \$2 million dollar acquisition limit. The group also met with key staff members of the USDA ARS (Agricultural Research Service) to insure continued funding for the Sunflower Research Unit in Fargo, ND.

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## MINNESOTA SUNFLOWER COUNCIL HAS NEW WEBSITE

The Minnesota Sunflower Council has developed a new website to help growers find the information they need. The website provides information about yield data, production, chemicals, diseases, and marketing, and more. The website also links to other sites, including the National Sunflower Association and North Dakota State University. Check it out at [www.mnsunflower.org](http://www.mnsunflower.org).

## NSA WEBSITE OFFERS HELP FOR GROWERS

Sunflower acres are expected to increase this year, as many producers look at oil and confection sunflowers for the first time in several years. If that's you, or someone you know, you'll want to visit our website: [www.sunflowernsa.com/growers](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/growers). You'll find answers to your questions about growing sunflower and you'll also find a Sunflower Production Resource Book for your area. The books provide guidelines and recommendations on production practices, pest identification, field selection, and more. Find the production books here: [www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/production-resource-books/](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/production-resource-books/).