

Sunflower

Highlights

Markets

Sunflower prices had a good week with the birdfood market still giving support to old and new crop prices. Old crop seed prices gained 45 to 65 cents per cwt. 2015 new crop added 25 to 50 cents per cwt. Crop budgets are still showing both confectionary and oil sunflowers among the top-earners in 2015. New crop sunflower prices are very competitive with other crops as the industry tries to secure 2015 production after 2014's small crop. The potential of tight ending seed stocks by the end of September has oil crushers still offering 2015 new crop contracts. Traders continue to talk about potential U.S. soybean export sale cancellations, record high South American soybean production, and the export line-up of vessels. Adding more pressure is the U.S. dollar continuing to trade higher against a basket of currencies. The downside of a stronger U.S. dollar is that it could lead to a slowdown in exports as importers look for cheaper sources of product. On the positive side oil stocks are tighter than a year ago and there are some concerns for palm oil production this year. This scenario looks promising for high oil content seeds such as sunflower.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR ARC/PLC PROGRAMS

Farmers now have until March 31 to update yields and reallocate base acres. The USDA has granted a one-time extension to producers for the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres has been extended until March 31, 2015. The final day for farm owners and producers to choose ARC or PLC coverage also remains March 31, 2015. There are online tools available to help producers explore projections on how ARC or PLC coverage will affect their operation. Find those tools at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. To learn more, contact your local Farm Service Agency county office.

NSA WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Jirik joins the NSA Board of Directors as a crush industry representative. Mark is commercial manager for Cargill in West Fargo, ND. Mark has been with Cargill in a variety of positions for 15 years. Also new to the NSA Board of Directors is Chuck Todd. Chuck farms about 1,000 acres near Onida, SD and was recently appointed to the South Dakota Oilseed Council. Welcome to the board, Mark and Chuck!

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March 2, 2015



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JIM KROGH 2015 NSA GOLD AWARD WINNER

Jim Krogh has been named the NSA 2015 Gold Award winner. Krogh began his career in 1975 as a technician to the plant breeder at Agway, Inc. He became general manager in 1978. In 2002, CHS purchased Agway and Krogh remained general manager; in fact, he held that position until he retired in 2013. The NSA Board of Directors selected Krogh for the award at their February meeting. They'll present Krogh with the award at the summer seminar, which will be held in Brainerd, MN June 23-25, 2015.

NSA TEAM GOING TO WASHINGTON

National Sunflower Association Board members and farmers from four different states will be in Washington, DC March 8-10. The team includes: Art Ridl (Dickinson, ND), Karl Esping (Lindsborg, KS), Kevin Capistran (Crookston, MN), and Lance Hourigan (Lemmon, SD). Executive director, John Sandbakken, will also be attending. The group will visit with members of Congress about farm program issues, Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations, and the Food Safety Modernization Act. They will also meet with key staff members of the USDA ARS to insure continued funding for the Sunflower Research Unit in Fargo, ND.