

# Sunflower

## Highlights

### CROP PROGRESS

October 13, 2015



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### Markets

Many producers are harvesting to take advantage of nearby price premiums at the crush plants and to get the crop off before Mother Nature takes some it. Something else to keep in mind is oil premiums that are paid on sunflower. Premiums are offered at the crush plants on oil content above 40% at a rate of 2% price premium for each 1% of oil above 40%. For example, 45% oil content results in a 10% price premium which pushes gross returns from oil sunflower even higher. USDA released its estimate U.S. sunflower production at 2.91 billion pounds for 2015. That's a 31 percent increase from last year. Area planted, at 1.86 million acres, is up 10 percent from the June estimate and up 19 percent from last year. Sunflower growers expect to harvest 1.78 million acres, up 11 percent from June and up 18 percent from the 2014 acreage. The October yield forecast, at a record high 1,629 pounds per acre, is 160 pounds higher than last year's yield. Higher yields are expected in four of the nine states included in the report with an increase in average yields of 110 to 250 pounds per acre versus last year.

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Avg
<b>N. Dakota</b>				
<i>Mature</i>	94	81	78	85
<i>Harvested</i>	14	7	2	14
<b>S. Dakota</b>				
<i>Bracts Yellow</i>	95	85	91	97
<i>Mature</i>	77	53	71	---
<i>Harvested</i>	5	---	7	17
<b>Texas</b>				
<i>Harvested</i>	NA	60	84	57
<b>Kansas</b>				
<i>Petals Dry</i>	96	90	91	94
<i>Bracts Yellow</i>	77	60	81	86
<i>Mature</i>	49	---	54	67
<i>Harvested</i>	5	---	6	18
<b>Colorado</b>				
<i>Harvested</i>	18	13	3	26
<b>Minnesota</b>				
<i>Harvested</i>	56	25	13	37

Source: USDA NASS

### SUNFLOWER CROP CONDITIONS

State	VP	Poor	Fair	Good	Ex
<b>N. Dakota</b>	0	7	20	66	7
<b>S. Dakota</b>	0	2	19	71	8
<b>Minnesota</b>	0	7	36	48	9
<b>Colorado</b>	0	8	31	48	13
<b>Kansas</b>	1	3	31	57	8

Source: USDA NASS (not all states reporting)

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### SHEARER'S FOODS, LLC BUYS BARREL O' FUN

Shearer's Foods, L.L.C. is expanding again in the snack food category, planning to make its third acquisition within two years. Shearer's Foods will buy three Barrel O' Fun snack foods companies owned by KLN Enterprises, Inc. under an agreement reached by Shearer's and KLN. The companies are in Perham, MN, Phoenix, AZ and Waterford, PA. Barrel O' Fun uses sunflower oil to make such products as traditional and kettle-cooked potato chips, whole corn tortilla and corn chips, cheese puffs and curls, gourmet popcorn and baked potato crisps. The products are shipped nationwide to retail stores, food service organizations and private label customers. Local management will remain in place for each of the Barrel O' Fun companies. The transaction remains subject to customary regulatory approval. Closing is expected by the end of the year.

### GROWER REPORT

Bismarck, ND area producer Clark Coleman started sunflower harvest on Saturday, and if all goes well, he plans to wrap up the harvest by Thursday. Coleman has about 1,200 acres of high oleic sunflowers. He says so far yields range from 1,700-2,000 lbs, but he expects the fields he has left to cut to be even better. Coleman hasn't taken any samples yet, but he says the sunflower quality looks good.