

Sunflower

Week in Review

Markets

NOAA released their longer term forecasts last week. They look for the drought situation to grow worse in the Upper Midwest and project it to persist beyond the planting season. Small grain planting in the Northern Plains is off to good start in comparison to last year's rain delayed planting season. However if dry conditions persist in the Northern Plains as forecast it will affect crop production as there is very little soil moisture to carry the crop through the growing season. Traders continue to see US export sales winding down seasonally as supplies from South America enter the world market. A huge soybean crop is hitting the market as Argentina and Brazil are both harvesting big crops. Sunflower prices had a mixed week with the market taking back some of the past two weeks rally. The birdfood market continues to trade at a premium to crush plant prices. Crop budgets are still showing 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 and the potential of very tight ending seed stocks by the end of September.

NSA SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The National Sunflower Association is seeking applicants for the Curtis Stern Memorial Scholarship. In tribute to the dedicated work of Curtis Stern, an industry advocate, and former NSA board member, the NSA Board of Directors established a memorial scholarship in his name. The ND Community Foundation and a committee consisting of NSA members administer the fund. Funds assist students who study in the field of agriculture with special emphasis on sunflower production, promotion, or research. Preference will be given to students who are in their last two years of undergraduate studies or in graduate level studies and have maintained at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0=A scale. Application deadline is Friday, May 15, 2015. \$4,500 is available for award this year. Applications can be submitted directly from the ND Community Foundation website at www.ndcf.net/Scholarships/entryform.asp?id=65. Contact Tina Mittelstadt at tinam@sunflowernsa.com with any further questions.

April 20, 2015



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PLANTER CONSIDERATIONS

As sunflower planting approaches for the major production region, it's important to take a close look at planter condition and settings. Achieving the perfect plant stand is one of the most critical challenges for growers each year. The NSA website offers a series of tutorial videos featuring John Smith, Agricultural Engineer with the University of Nebraska at Scottsbluff. Smith conducted seed placement tests on oil sunflower and large seeded confections using a variety of metering and planter types. His observations and recommendations for calibration and adjustments to achieve excellent plant spacing can be viewed at www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/planting/

REGISTER ONLINE FOR 2015 SUMMER SEMINAR

Register now for the 2015 NSA Summer Seminar. This year's Summer Seminar will be held June 23-25 at Madden's Resort in Brainerd, MN. Register online at www.sunflowernsa.com/events. A block of rooms is being held under the "National Sunflower Association" for June 23- 25, 2015. The rooms will be held until May 21, so make your reservation now! Visit our website for a link to make online reservations at Madden's and for more information on the resort. The program is being finalized now so check back soon for more information.

SUNFLOWER OIL EXPORTS INCREASE

Just five months into the 2014-15 marketing year, Japan is only 338 metric tons (MT) behind last year's sunflower oil imports for the entire marketing year. From October 2014 to February 2015, Japan has imported 2,137 MT of sunflower oil, compared to just 295 MT a year ago. For the entire 2014-15 marketing year, 2,575 MT of sunflower oil was exported to Japan. Exports to Canada are also up, from 6,526 MT a year ago to 8,297 MT so far this year. Overall, sunflower oil exports have increased, from 10,561 MT from October 2013 to February 2014 to 12,587 MT from October 2014 to February 2015.

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upcoming events

June 23-25, 2015 – 2015 NSA Summer Seminar, Brainerd, MN

January 12-13, 2016 – NSA Research Forum, Fargo, ND

EXPORTS OF IN-SHELL SUNFLOWER AND KERNEL INCREASE

Exports of both in-shell sunflower and sunflower kernel continue to increase. From October 2014 to February 2015, kernel exports stand at 5,495 metric tons (MT). That compares to 4,489 MT during the same time frame a year ago. Spain remains the top importer of sunflower kernel. From October 2014 to February 2015, 1,528 MT of sunflower kernel was exported to Spain, compared to 1,246 MT a year ago. In-shell exports increased from 22,718 MT from October 2013 to February 2014 to 23,439 MT from October 2014 to February 2015. So far this marketing year, exports to Turkey have increased from 1,928 MT last year to 2,925 MT.

HELPFUL RESOURCES ONLINE FOR PRODUCERS

Have questions about growing sunflowers? You'll find the answers to your questions on our website! Visit www.sunflowernsa.com and click on the "Growers" section – you'll find answers to frequently asked questions there as well as links to more information about many important topics, including approved chemicals, production, marketing, crop insurance, and more.

Sunflower Week In Review – markets at a glance

WEEKLY PRICES recorded on Monday, April 20, 2015 (\$/CWT)

	Deliver	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change	2015 NEW Crop
Chicago Oil	Nearby	43.00	31.04	31.59	+.55	31.96
Fargo, ND	NuSun	21.75	19.55	19.45	-.10	18.70
Enderlin, ND	NuSun	21.75	19.55	19.65	+.10	18.55
Goodland, KS	NuSun	19.50	20.00	19.60	-.40	19.60

US CRUDE OIL VALUES (dollars per 100 lb. internal U.S. locations)

	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change
Soybean Oil	42.50	30.29	30.84	+.55
Cotton Oil (pbsy)	83.00	49.04	49.59	+.55
Corn Oil	43.50	39.00	39.00	NC

Prices recorded here are believed to be reliable at the time of publication. Individual companies have the right to correct any errors that may occur. Contact these facilities for complete market details.

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