

Sunflower

Week in Review

March 9, 2015



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Markets

The birdfood market continues to trade at a premium to crush plant prices. The market took back some of last week's rally in sunflower prices with old crop losing 50-55 cents. New crop dropped by 50-65 cents. 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. They are also looking for USDA stocks numbers for March 1 corn, wheat and soybeans to be higher than the average trade guess. If the March USDA planting intentions report confirms higher intended soybean acres for 2015 it could be negative to new crop soybean prices. The US dollar hit an 11 ½ year high against a basket of currencies and is like a lead weight around the neck of commodities. The stronger U.S. dollar could lead to a slowdown in exports as importers look for cheaper sources of product. South America remains the main trading focus with big crops expected to be harvested. Weather continues to remain mostly favorable in Brazil and Argentina. South American weather and crop production prospects will be the main focus of traders in the near term.

RMA ANNOUNCES 2015 PRICE ELECTIONS

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced 2015 crop insurance prices for sunflower last week. Oil-types have a spring price of \$16.90 per hundredweight with confections at \$26.50. Producers have the option of choosing Yield Protection, Revenue Protection and Revenue Protection with the Harvest Price Exclusion. All three policies have the same price election. Projected price elections for the major commodities are corn \$4.15, soybeans \$9.73, and spring wheat \$5.85 per bushel. When formulating your crop insurance plan for 2015, the best advice is to sit down with your local crop insurance agent so that you can put together the best risk management plan for your operation. Your crop insurance agent can help you manage your business risks through effective, market-based risk management solutions offered by RMA.

SPRING DRYING AND STORAGE CRITICAL

Temperatures are finally warming up a bit, and as temps increase, it's important to pay special attention to stored sunflowers. An increase in outdoor temperatures and solar heat warms bins, and increases the stored sunflower temperature. Some tips to keep stored sunflower from getting too warm:

- Run aeration fans periodically to keep the temperature at a proper level.
- Monitor stored sunflowers closely to detect any storage problems early.
- Check the moisture content of stored sunflower to determine if it needs to be dried. Oil sunflowers need to be dried to 8 percent for summer storage to prevent spoilage

For more information on drying and storing, visit

www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/harvesting-storage/drying-storing/.

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA LEADS STATE OIL SUNFLOWER PRODUCTION

In 2014, the Northwest District was the largest oil sunflower-producing district with 52.4 million pounds, up 33 percent from 2013, according to estimates released by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The West Central District produced 10.6 million pounds of oil sunflowers. The total oil sunflower production for Minnesota was 65.3 million pounds, a 27 percent increase from last year. In the Northwest District, the yield decreased 140 pounds from the previous year to 1,470 pounds per acre for oil sunflowers. At the state level, the yield was 1,450 pounds per acre, a 9 percent decrease from 2013. Minnesota produced 22.6 million pounds of non-oil sunflowers, up 25 percent from 2013. Yield decreased 340 pounds from last year to 1,560 pounds per acre.

SUNFLOWER OIL EXPORTS INCREASE

Sunflower oil exports continue to increase to Japan. From October 2013 to January 2014, Japan imported just 121 metric tons (MT) of sunflower oil. This year, from October 2014 to January 2015, Japan has imported 2,122 MT of sunflower oil. Exports to Canada continue to increase as well; Canada imported 5,325 MT from October 2013 to January 2014, compared to 6,715 MT from October 2014 to January 2015. Total sunflower oil exports were 10,576 MT, compared to 8,914 MT during the same time frame a year ago.

“GROWERS” LINK ON NSA WEBSITE PROVIDES HELPFUL INFORMATION

Spring planting on your mind? If you’ve got questions about growing sunflower, we’ve got answers! Visit our website www.sunflowernsa.com. The “Growers” section of our website addresses many questions and factors that influence a successful crop of sunflower. Several links are provided that give more details about many important topics such as: approved chemicals, production, marketing, crop insurance, etc. Here’s a link to the growers page: www.sunflowernsa.com/growers.

EXPORTS OF IN-SHELL SUNFLOWER AND KERNEL INCREASE

Exports of sunflower kernel are up more than 800 metric tons (MT) from a year ago. From October 2014 to January 2015, kernel exports stand at 4,488 MT. That compares to 3,663 MT during the same time frame a year ago. Mexico is the top importer of sunflower kernel, at 1,297 MT from October 2014 to January 2015. Canada and Spain remain big importers, with 1,191 MT and 726 MT respectively so far this year. Exports to Korea also increased significantly. Meantime, exports of in-shell sunflower to Kuwait jumped from 196 MT from October 2013 to January 2014 to 1,283 MT from October 2014 to January 2015. Romania, Turkey, Greece, and Spain were other top importers of in-shell sunflower.

upcoming events

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

Sunflower Week In Review – markets at a glance

WEEKLY PRICES recorded on Monday, March 9, 2015 (\$/CWT)

	Deliver	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change	2015 NEW Crop
Chicago Oil	Nearby	43.64	32.65	30.88	-1.77	31.20
Fargo, ND	NuSun	20.75	19.65	19.15	-.50	18.80
Enderlin, ND	NuSun	20.80	19.70	19.15	-.55	18.70
Goodland, KS	NuSun	19.20	19.75	19.20	-.55	19.20

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

	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change
Soybean Oil	42.11	31.90	30.25	-1.65
Cotton Oil (pbsy)	73.86	47.83	46.00	-1.83
Corn Oil	45.00	37.00	38.50	+1.50

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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