

Sunflower

Highlights

May 26, 2015



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Markets

Old and new crop sunflower prices lost some ground in the past week as most oilseed market news as been bearish. Expectations for a big 2015 US soybean crop coupled with rising carryout stocks outlook have weighed on CBoT prices. Some private analyst groups estimate that the final US 2015 soybean planted acres could be closer to 87.0 million versus USDA estimate of 84.6 and 83.7 last year. This could add as much as 130 million bushels to the US 2015/16 carryout that is already forecasted at 500 million bushels. Higher carryout would suggest lower new crop soybean prices. Adding further pressure has been rising estimates of South American production and disappointing US export sales. Soybean production estimates out of both Argentina and Brazil continue to edge higher. US export sales have slowed down as buyers turn to cheaper South American sources to satisfy needs. Excellent planting progress and overall good weather is limiting buying interest from traders. Unless weather turns ugly and planting slows down it will be difficult for markets to rally in the near term.

PLANTING PROGRESS

Minnesota sunflower producers are well ahead of schedule this planting season. 65 percent of that state's sunflower acreage is already planted, that's 18 days ahead of last year and 8 days ahead of average. Growers in the Dakotas made good progress over the past week as well – North Dakota reports 29 percent of the sunflower crop as planted, that's ahead of last year's 11 percent at this same time. South Dakota is a bit behind average, at 4 percent planted so far.

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Av
N. Dakota				
Planted	29	14	11	20
S. Dakota				
Planted	4	---	10	10
Texas				
Planted	61	58	48	54
Colorado				
Planted	5	4	3	11
Kansas				
Planted	4	1	6	8
Minnesota				
Planted	65	52	9	43

Source: USDA NASS

MARKET UPDATE

For sunflower prices at various locations refer to our website www.sunflowernsa.com/daily-market-news/.

www.sunflowernsa.com

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CONAGRA FOODS ANNOUNCES \$50 MILLION EXPANSION

ConAgra Foods is expanding in Waterloo, Iowa and adding 55 jobs. Omaha-based ConAgra said in a news release groundbreaking is expected in mid-June and the new operation could begin production in late 2016. The \$55 million project will add about 55 full-time jobs to ConAgra's workforce. The expansion will add 99,000 square feet to the existing facility to accommodate production of the company's David sunflower seed snacks. The expansion will include construction of processing, packaging, warehouse, and administrative areas for new product. ConAgra says the expansion will increase plant production by 30 percent.

NSA SUMMER SEMINAR IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY

The NSA's 33rd Annual Summer Seminar is less than a month away. Join us at Madden's on Gull Lake in Brainerd, MN on June 23-25 for an informative and fun event. Register now on the NSA website www.sunflowernsa.com/events/. Click on the "Register Now" button to begin registration. Registration will increase to \$325 and golf to \$130 after June 6, so register now!