

Sunflower

October 19, 2015



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Week in Review

Markets

Harvest of the U.S. sunflower crop is picking up steam. A hard freeze last week in the main sunflower production area should aid in harvest progress. Initial yield reports are comparable to the USDA projected yields and quality has been excellent. Most of the U.S. sunflower crop is rated in the good to excellent categories so yields and quality are expected to be above average. USDA has estimated U.S. sunflower production at 2.91 billion pounds for 2015. The October yield forecast, at a record high 1,629 pounds per acre, is 160 pounds higher than last year's yield. The Dakotas, Minnesota and Colorado expect an increase in average yields of 110 to 250 pounds per acre versus last year. The increased production will help meet the growing demand for sunflower oil, confection seeds and kernel. Traders are thinking that El Nino weather could reduce global palm oil production. This and potential for higher Asian demand is helping to support world vegetable oil prices. CBOT soybean contracts are expected to firm up on these thoughts. NuSun and high oleic prices are following the oil demand trend and are very competitive.

CROP PROGRESS

Minnesota's sunflower harvest is 78% complete, two weeks ahead of average and three weeks ahead of last year's harvest. North and South Dakota producers are also well ahead of last year, but closer to average at 31% and 34% harvested. In South Dakota, 78% of the sunflower crop is reported in good to excellent condition.

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Av
N. Dakota				
<i>Mature</i>	98	94	93	96
<i>Harvested</i>	31	14	10	26
S. Dakota				
<i>Mature</i>	89	77	78	---
<i>Harvested</i>	34	5	11	32
Texas				
<i>Harvested</i>	74	68	85	74
Kansas				
<i>Bracts Yellow</i>	91	77	86	92
<i>Mature</i>	65	49	66	78
<i>Harvested</i>	26	5	11	28
Colorado				
<i>Harvested</i>	46	18	13	40
Minnesota				
<i>Harvested</i>	78	56	26	53

Source: USDA NASS

SUNFLOWER CROP CONDITIONS

State	VP	Poor	Fair	Good	Ex
N. Dakota	0	7	21	65	7
S. Dakota	0	2	20	71	7
Colorado	0	1	33	53	13
Kansas	1	3	31	57	8

Source: USDA NASS (not all states reporting)

NSA RECEIVES SPECIALTY CROP GRANT

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture has awarded the National Sunflower Association \$108,230 to develop a super confection sunflower variety effectively resistant to downy mildew and rust. The money is part of 27 grants totaling over \$2.4 million to promote the development, cultivation, and sales of specialty crops in North Dakota. North Dakota Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring says the 2014 Farm Bill increased funding for specialty crops and North Dakota received a substantial amount for these grants. Goehring says as farmers work to diversify their production, these grants help provide important information through research on production, management, and marketing systems.

GROWER REPORT

Mohall, ND producer Jeff Oberholtzer is in the middle of harvesting his 1,500 acres of high oleic sunflower and so far he's happy with the harvest. Oberholtzer says yields are averaging 1,800-2,000 lbs and test weights at pushing 32 lbs.

REDUCE RISK OF COMBINE FIRES

Sunflower is an oil-based crop, and fine fibers from sunflower seeds pose a constant fire hazard, especially when conditions are dry. Here are some tips to help reduce the risk this harvest season:

- Keep a clean work area when harvesting sunflower. Blow the combine and grain dryer setup with an air hose daily. If possible, consider having a portable leaf blower on hand for this in the field.
- Try nighttime harvesting, when humidity levels are higher.
- Keep a small pressure sprayer filled with water on hand in the combine in case of fire.

For more on reducing the risk of combine fires visit www.sunflowernsa.com/surveys/combine-fire-reponses/

CALL FOR PAPERS

There's still time to submit your research paper to present at the National Sunflower Association's Research Forum, set for January 12-13, 2016 in Fargo, ND. Presentations may be either oral or in the form of a poster. Submit your application online at www.sunflowernsa.com/research/2016-call-for-papers/. You do not have to submit the actual paper or poster at this time, just the information indicated online and the author information. Submissions must be completed by November 13, 2015.

SUN OIL EXPORTS UP TO JAPAN

Sunflower oil exports to Japan have nearly doubled from this time last year. From October 2014 to August 2015, Japan imported 4,342 metric tons (MT) of sunflower oil, compared to 2,575 MT during the same time period in 2013/14.

Canada remains the top importer of sunflower oil, importing 17,562 MT from October 2014 to August 2015. Overall, U.S. sunflower oil exports were lower for October 2014 to August 2015 from the same time period the previous year. So far, 27,049 metric tons of sunflower oil have been exported, compared to 34,986 MT during October 2013-August 2014.

EXPORTS OF SUNFLOWER KERNEL INCREASE

Exports of U.S. sunflower kernel are up from last year, with exports to Mexico and Korea nearly doubling. From October 2014 to August 2015, Mexico imported 2,113 metric tons (MT) of sunflower kernel, compared to 1,183 MT during the same time frame a year ago. From October 2014 to August 2015, Korea imported 2,307 MT, compared to 1,208 MT at the same time the prior year. Overall, sunflower kernel exports are up from 9,498 MT a year ago to 11,096 MT through August of the current marketing year. Spain remains the top importer of in-shell sunflower, importing 19,027 MT from October 2014 to August 2015. In-shell exports as of the end of August were down slightly from a year ago, at 52,398 MT compared to 64,049 MT during October 2013 to August 2014.

upcoming events

October 21, 2015 - NSA Research Committee Conference Call

December 1-2, 2015 – Ag Horizons Conference, Pierre, SD

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

June 28-30, 2016 – NSA Summer Seminar, Bismarck, ND

Sunflower Week In Review – markets at a glance

WEEKLY PRICES recorded on Monday, October 19, 2015 (\$/CWT)

	Deliver	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change	2016 NEW Crop
Chicago Oil	Nearby	31.70	28.01	28.14	+.13	29.05
Fargo, ND	NuSun	17.10	16.60	16.45	-.15	NQ
Enderlin, ND	NuSun	16.95	16.85	16.45	-.40	NQ
Goodland, KS	NuSun	16.50	16.20	15.75	-.45	NQ

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

	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change
Soybean Oil	31.70	26.79	26.39	-.40
Cotton Oil (pbsy)	43.70	45.18	45.14	-.04
Corn Oil	35.50	42.50	42.50	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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