

WEEKLY NEWS ARTICLE UPDATE



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Export Sales Highlights

This summary is based on reports from exporters for the period March 6-12, 2015.

Soybeans: Net sales of 342,000 MT for 2014/2015 were up noticeably from the previous week, but down 13 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for Bangladesh (107,500 MT, including 55,000 MT switched from China), Mexico (102,200 MT), unknown destinations (93,500 MT), Indonesia (32,100 MT, including 25,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 4,600 MT), and Japan (31,100 MT). Decreases were reported for China (37,300 MT) and Canada (3,400 MT). Net sales of 5,000 MT for 2015/2016 were for Japan. Exports of 639,200 MT were up 7 percent from the previous week, but down 33 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were China (272,400 MT), Bangladesh (107,500 MT), Egypt (67,700 MT), Indonesia (45,300 MT), Taiwan (42,400 MT), and Japan (31,300 MT).

Optional Origin Sales: For 2014/2015, outstanding optional origin sales total 656,000 MT, all China.

Exports for Own Account: The current exports for own account balance is 1,900 MT, all Canada.

Export Adjustments: Accumulated exports to Bangladesh were adjusted down 52,500 MT for week ending March 5th. These shipments were inadvertently reported last week by the wrong exporters. They are reported this week by the correct exporters.

Soybean Cake and Meal: Net sales of 204,000 MT for 2014/2015 were up noticeably from the previous week and 51 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for Mexico (46,300 MT), Canada (42,100 MT), Colombia (31,300 MT, including 4,000 MT switched from unknown destinations), Morocco (19,800 MT, including 20,500 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 700 MT), Peru (19,100 MT, including 2,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 5,000 MT), and Nigeria (13,200 MT, switched from unknown destinations). Decreases were reported for Guatemala (4,300 MT) and unknown destinations (3,900 MT). Net sales of 13,600 MT for 2015/2016 were reported for unknown destinations (10,600 MT) and Guatemala (3,000 MT). Exports of 220,100 MT were down 21 percent from the previous week and 23 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were the Philippines (45,200 MT), Colombia (31,500 MT), Mexico (26,900 MT), Cuba (24,200 MT), Morocco (19,800 MT), Canada (19,100 MT), and Nigeria (13,200 MT).

Soybean Oil: Net sales of 8,100 MT for 2014/2015 were up 77 percent from the previous week, but down 8 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for the Dominican Republic (3,200 MT), Costa Rica (2,000 MT, including 500 MT switched from unknown destinations), Mexico (1,500 MT), Canada (900 MT), and Trinidad (800 MT). Exports of 17,400 MT were down 13 percent from the previous week and 4 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Peru (5,000 MT), Mexico (4,700 MT), Colombia (4,000 MT), Costa Rica (2,000 MT), and Canada (1,500 MT).

[U.S. February Soybean Crush Up 3.8 Percent from Year Ago - NOPA](#)

CHICAGO, March 16 (Reuters) - U.S. processors crushed 3.8 percent more bushels of soybeans in February than a year earlier as export demand for soymeal remained robust, a trade group said on Monday.

The National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) said that U.S. members crushed 146.970 million bushels of soybeans during February, compared with 141.612 million a year earlier.

Analysts had been expecting the February crush to hit 148.537 million bushels, based on the average of estimates in a Reuters poll. Forecasts ranged from 143.2 million to 160.5 million, with a median of 147 million.

The January soybean crush was 162.675 million bushels.

Processors produced 3.478 million tons of soymeal during February. The group's soymeal exports totaled 791,532 tons during the month, up 10.8 percent from 714,231 tons in February 2014.

NOPA said soyoil stocks rose to 1.322 billion lbs from 1.228 billion lbs in January. Analysts had expected soyoil stocks at 1.332 billion lbs. Stocks were 1.893 billion a year ago.

NOPA is the largest U.S. trade group for oilseed crushers.

Lawmakers Ask Administration to List Monarch Butterfly Under ESA

By Agri-Pulse staff

WASHINGTON, March 16, 2015-- In a letter to President Barack Obama, 52 House Democrats led by Rep. Chellie Pingree of Maine called for protection of the monarch butterfly under the Endangered Species Act.

Although the letter recognized efforts by farmers and local, state and federal agencies to plant milkweed -- the main food source for the butterfly -- and educate the public on the plight of the monarch, the signers say it is not enough and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) must take regulatory action.

FWS announced in February more than \$3 million in funding to increase habitat for the butterfly, whose numbers are estimated to have fallen by 90 percent in recent years.

"However, without a sea change in how the federal government addresses the use of herbicides, especially as applied to herbicide-resistant crops, vital monarch habitats will simply continue to disappear," according to the letter. "We believe that the Endangered Species Act represents the last best chance to save this amazing species and its incredible migration."

The letter says that the annual migration of monarchs from North America to Mexico has plummeted because of the use of herbicides on genetically engineered crops that kill milkweed.

"When the monarchs got to Mexico they used to cover 50 square miles. By 2013 they covered an area about the size of a football field," Pingree said. "The loss of habitat and devastation of the monarch population should be a wakeup call. If we keep applying ever increasing amounts of chemicals to farmlands, it's going to have an impact on the environment."

FWS is currently conducting a year-long review of a petition to protect the monarch under the ESA. The Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, and the Xerces Society filed the petition last year. Listing the butterfly could make it illegal to modify monarch habitat - much of which is found in Midwestern cropland areas - without a permit

[German Wheat Harvest Seen Down from Bumper Year](#)

HAMBURG, March 13 (Reuters) - Germany's 2015 wheat crop will fall 4.1 percent on the year to 26.65 million tonnes only falling slightly from last year's exceptionally large harvest, the country's association of farm cooperatives said on Friday.

The association forecast the 2015 winter rapeseed crop will fall 16.6 percent on the year to 5.20 million tonnes.

Germany is the European Union's second largest wheat producer after France and in most years the EU's largest producer of rapeseed, the EU's main oilseed for edible oil and biodiesel production.

The association said Germany's grain harvest of all types is good but would not quite reach last year's record harvest at 49.59 million tonnes in 2015, down 4.6 percent on the year although 7.4 percent above the average in the last five years.

The mild winter meant crops had come through without significant frost damage but the exceptionally high yields achieved last year are not likely to be repeated, it said.

Rapeseed is set to suffer from both a reduced planted area and lower yields, it said.

Germany's crop of winter barley, used for animal feed, is set to fall 4.8 percent on the year to 9.04 million tonnes, it said. The spring barley crop, used for beer and malt production, will fall 2.7 percent to 2.01 million tonnes.

The grain maize (corn) crop will fall 5.7 percent to 4.84 million tonnes, it said.

[First Soy Ship to Leave Brazil's New Tegram Terminal](#)

SAO PAULO, March 17 (Reuters) - The new Tegram terminal in the northeastern port of Ponta da Madeira will send off on Tuesday its first soy cargo, officially opening a new grains shipment channel in the world's No. 2 soy producer.

The ship Scythia Graeca, contracted by the U.S.-based CHS Inc, was finalizing bureaucratic paperwork and would sail for China briefly, the terminal operator said. He said there are no corn shipments expected for the time being.

Another ship is scheduled to dock at the terminal on March 20, this time carrying soy for Louis Dreyfus Commodities, according to Williams shipping agents.

Brazil's southeastern ports including Santos and Paranagua have been unable to accommodate surging grains output from Brazil.

In a bid to increase productivity, Paranagua, Brazil's second-largest soy port, said on Tuesday it was inaugurating two new ship loaders that would increase operating capacity by 33 percent. Each ship loader can load 2,000 tonnes per hour, up from 1,500 tonnes per hour handled by the old ship loaders, the port said in a statement.

Ports farther north including Ponta da Madeira are closer to Brazil's main center-west grain belt as well as to the Panama Canal, making them an attractive investment for international companies.

U.S.-based CHS owns 25 percent of a warehouse at the Grains Terminal of Maranhão (Tegram). Glencore Plc, CGG Trading, Amaggi and Louis Dreyfus Commodities operate the three other warehouses at the terminal.

Tegram, which is located next to a grains terminal operated by miner Vale, is expected to export 2 million tonnes of grains in 2015. Brazil will likely ship 46.8 million tonnes of soybeans abroad in the 2014/15 crop year, mostly to China, according to government figures.

[Record U.S. Soy Acres Planned in 2015, Corn to Dip -Farm Futures](#)

CHICAGO, March 18 (Reuters) - U.S. farmers plan to sow 87.25 million acres of soybeans this spring, the most on record, while paring corn acreage to 88.34 million, according to a producer survey released on Wednesday by Farm Futures magazine.

The soybean figure is up 4.2 percent from the 83.7 million acres seeded in 2014. The survey's corn figure is down 2.5 percent from 2014 plantings of 90.6 million acres, and would represent the smallest corn acreage since 2010.

"Growers are interested in preserving cash, with farmers in most areas of the country ready to jump on the soybean bandwagon," Bryce Knorr, Farm Futures market analyst, said in a statement. "This was especially true down into the Delta, where cotton should lose acres," Knorr said.

The magazine's survey of 1,297 farmers in 41 states pegged 2015 cotton seedings at 9.4 million acres, down 15 percent from last year.

The survey projected plantings of spring wheat (other than durum) at 13.4 million acres, up from 13.025 million last year, and durum wheat seedings at 1.6 million acres, up from 1.4 million in 2014. Prices for durum, used to make pasta, have risen due to poor-quality U.S. and Canadian harvests in 2014.

Farm Futures forecast total wheat plantings at 55.6 million acres, down 2.1 percent from 2014. The survey put seedings of winter wheat at 40.6 million acres, above the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Jan. 12 forecast of 40.5 million, but down from 42.4 million acres planted in 2014.

Sorghum plantings were seen rising 18 percent to 8.4 million acres, reflecting strong demand for the feed grain from China.

The USDA is scheduled to release its 2015 planting intentions report on March 31, based on a survey of more than 80,000 producers.

Consumers Worried About GMOs, Pesticides, Study Shows

Tracy Loew, Statesman Journal 9 p.m. PDT March 17, 2015

Jazzminh Moore, 36, of Salem, shops for non-GMO foods at LifeSource Natural Foods in Salem. (Photo: ANNA REED / Statesman Journal)

More than 80 percent of consumers want the government to do more about food safety, including testing and labeling of genetically modified organisms, a new survey from Healthline, the online health news service, concludes.

"Healthline.com's survey findings demonstrate that U.S. consumers are really paying attention to the different food options available for themselves or for their families," said David Kopp, EVP and general manager of the Media Group at Healthline.

Healthline surveyed 2,490 readers across the country between Dec. 26, 2014 and Feb. 4, 2015.

More than 80 percent of respondents were concerned about the health effects of food that has been genetically modified or contains synthetic pesticides or fertilizers or chemical additives.

Two-thirds said they would not knowingly purchase milk from cows that had been given synthetic hormones. And 44 percent said at least half the groceries they buy are organic, even though it has raised their grocery bills.

The survey also showed that food allergies and restricted diets are becoming a way of life for many consumers with more than a third of households dealing with an allergy or sensitivity.

The most common restricted diets were gluten-free, paleo and dairy-free.

The survey comes as the Oregon Legislature is weighing several bills related to GMOs, including one that would refer a labeling law to voters this November.

Biodiesel Advocates Want Heating Oil Standard in NY

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - A coalition of environmental groups and renewable energy advocates want New York to require all heating oil sold in the state to include at least 2 percent biodiesel.

The proposal passed the Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation Tuesday. Its sponsor is Assemblyman Steven Englebright, a Long Island Democrat who says a biodiesel standard would reduce carbon emissions while boosting the state's agricultural industry.

Biodiesel is made from vegetable oils and animal fats and can be blended with traditional heating oil.

Supporters of a biodiesel standard include the New York League of Conservation Voters, the New York Public Interest Research Group and the state's Corn and Soybean Growers Association.

Conventional oil companies are opposed. The American Petroleum Institute says the mandate could lead to an increase in prices.

Brazil Farmers Buying up African Land On the Cheap

For years we have heard stories about American and Chinese businessmen and farmers buying up land in South America in order to grow row crop corn and soybeans. Now we are getting reports that South American farmers are making the jump across the Atlantic to buy up ground in Africa, particularly in Mozambique. Reports from Reuters show the government of Mozambique recently offered farmers from Brazil 50 year leases on 15 million acres of land: an equivalent to a bit more than half of the acreage under cultivation in Iowa. The price was reported at \$5.30 per acre. Wow!

Compare that to the going rate of good farmland in Brazil at over \$4,000 per acre, who wouldn't be interested? From what I've heard, the farmers that are taking the deal operate in Brazil's "Cerrado Region," a vast, scrubby savanna with unpromising, acidic soil. In just 30 years, they have turned what once was considered an agricultural wasteland into one of the world's most productive sources of corn, cotton, and soybeans. The land in Mozambique is said to be quite similar to that of the Brazilian Cerrado. Using technology developed in the Cerrado, there is a chance Mozambique could emerge as agriculture's next frontier.

Certainly something that could greatly enhance the country's economy. According to the World Food Program, 54% of the population lives below the national poverty line; 63% of rural children live in absolute poverty; and 34% of households are food insecure and face perpetual hunger. However, according to a Financial Times article, this deal isn't really about feeding Mozambique; it's about producing commodities for the export markets and the government getting the tax dollars.

The article reports that the allure for Cerrado farmers -- apart from laying claim on basically free land -- is increased proximity to lucrative markets in the Middle East and Asia. Of course, some of the profit will trickle down to Mozambique's people in the form of low-wage farm work. Make no mistake, Africa looks to be the next big jump in the race to develop more global ag production.