

WEEKLY NEWS ARTICLE UPDATE



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Export Sales Highlights

This summary is based on reports from exporters for the period June 5-11, 2015.

Soybeans: Net sales of 132,900 MT for 2014/2015 were down 19 percent from the previous week and 26 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for Japan (105,000 MT, including 28,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 400 MT), Indonesia (71,800 MT, including 68,000 MT switched from unknown destinations), the Netherlands (70,000 MT, switched from unknown destinations), Pakistan (49,000 MT), and Taiwan (16,300 MT). Decreases were reported for unknown destinations (240,200 MT) and Costa Rica (6,000 MT). Net sales of 532,000 MT for 2015/2016 were reported for unknown destinations (301,000 MT), China (181,000 MT), Costa Rica (49,000 MT), and Taiwan (1,000 MT). Exports of 353,900 MT were up 45 percent from the previous week and 38 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Indonesia (79,700 MT, including 69,300 MT late reporting), the Netherlands (67,000 MT), Mexico (60,800 MT), China (59,300 MT, late reporting), and Japan (43,400 MT).

Optional Origin Sales: For 2014/2015, outstanding optional origin sales total 475,000 MT, all China. For 2015/2016, outstanding optional origin sales total 385,000 MT, all China.

Exports for Own Account: New exports for own account totaling 4,300 MT were reported to Colombia. The current exports for own account balance is 6,200 MT, and is for Colombia (4,300 MT) and Canada (1,900 MT).

Soybean Cake and Meal: Net sales of 96,100 MT for 2014/2015 were down 26 from the previous week and 6 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for Mexico (39,500 MT, including 9,100 MT switched from Honduras and decreases of 100 MT), Panama (30,000 MT), unknown destinations (17,100 MT), Turkey (16,500 MT), Canada (9,100 MT), and Japan (8,500 MT, including 6,100 MT switched from unknown destinations). Decreases were reported for Morocco (25,000 MT), Venezuela (25,000 MT), and Honduras (7,800 MT). Net sales of 80,200 MT for 2015/2016 were reported primarily for the Philippines (41,400 MT) and Mexico (25,100 MT). Exports of 169,500 MT were up 1 percent from the previous week, but down 10 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were the Philippines (47,700 MT), Mexico (18,000 MT), Turkey (16,500 MT), Algeria (14,100 MT), Peru (13,600 MT), and Canada (13,300 MT).

Soybean Oil: Net sales reductions of 100 MT for 2014/2015--a marketing-year low--resulted as increases for Costa Rica (1,500 MT), the Dominican Republic (1,000 MT), and Canada (900 MT), were more than offset by decreases for Guatemala (3,800 MT). Exports of 3,800 MT were down 89 percent from the previous week and 72 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Mexico (2,600 MT) and Canada (1,000 MT).

Wheat: Net sales totaling 315,700 metric tons were reported for delivery in 2015/2016. The primary destinations were Japan (97,700 MT, including 63,200 MT switched from unknown destinations), Mexico (90,500 MT), Iraq (55,000 MT, switched from unknown destinations), Brazil (26,000 MT), Italy (20,000 MT), and Malaysia (8,300 MT). Decreases were reported for unknown destinations (9,800 MT) and Nigeria (6,000 MT). Exports of 284,500 MT were reported to Japan (83,100 MT), Nigeria (40,000 MT), Brazil (33,000 MT), the Philippines (27,500 MT), Mexico (23,600 MT), and Panama (20,400 MT).

Optional Origin Sales: For 2014/2015, outstanding optional origin sales total 23,000 MT, all Italy.

Exports for Own Account: For 2014/2015, the current exports for own account balance is 48,500, all Italy.

Corn: Net sales of 627,200 MT for delivery in 2014/2015 were up 27 percent from the previous week and 3 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for Japan (182,300 MT, including 111,900 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 7,000 MT), Mexico (136,400 MT, including 30,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 2,400 MT), South Korea (129,400 MT, including 130,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 600 MT), Peru (89,400 MT, including 60,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 400 MT), Spain (60,000 MT, switched from unknown destinations), and Egypt (52,700 MT). Decreases were reported for unknown destinations (245,100 MT) and Saudi Arabia (1,200 MT). Net sales of 200,400 MT for 2015/2016 were reported for unknown destinations (155,900 MT), Mexico (30,500 MT), and El Salvador (4,500 MT). Exports of 1,044,900 MT were up 27 percent from the previous week and 6 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were

Mexico (283,400 MT), Japan (272,200 MT), Saudi Arabia (78,800 MT), Peru (75,900 MT), Taiwan (74,100 MT), and South Korea (65,500 MT).

Grocers: Vermont GMO Law Could Lead to Fines of \$10M a Day

18-Jun-2015

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Vermont's first-in-the-nation law requiring the labeling of foods made with genetically modified organisms could cost the nation's grocers up to \$10 million a day in fines, according to a letter from an industry organization that is suing to block the law.

The letter to Gov. Peter Shumlin from the head of the Grocery Manufacturers Association, dated Wednesday, said that companies could be fined up to \$1,000 a day per item that mistakenly ends up on store shelves without the label required by the law, which is due to take effect next year.

"Even with the best of intentions, excellent supply chain logistics and herculean efforts, product will be in the wrong place at any given time, resulting in millions upon millions of dollars in potential fines," said GMA President Pamela G. Bailey.

She estimated more than 100,000 items sold in the state would require Vermont-specific labels, and companies could quickly amass millions in fines if only 5 to 10 percent of products slip through.

Shumlin had a clear response Thursday: "Just label your products. All of them nationwide."

He said labeling foods with genetically modified organisms — which can include food made from seeds that were originally engineered in laboratories to have certain traits, like resistance to herbicides — is already required by 64 countries.

"The industry's real concern is that as goes Vermont so will go America," Shumlin said. "Plain and simple Vermont's law is about giving consumers the right to know what is in their food. For too long consumers in America have been denied that right."

Bailey said members of the association have determined that changing labels to comply with Vermont's law will cost more than they earn selling their products in the state.

"A \$10 million per day fine to comply with the labeling law of the second smallest state in the Union is hugely problematic for an industry that employs 14 million U.S. workers and represents the largest sector of manufacturing," she said.

A proposal pending in Congress would block mandatory GMO labeling efforts such as Vermont's and others being considered by a number of states. The bill, introduced by Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kan., provides for voluntary certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Much of the country's corn and soybeans are genetically modified, with much of that going to animal feed. GMO corn and soybeans can also be made into popular processed food ingredients like high-fructose corn syrup and soybean oil.

The Vermont law calls for labeling processed GMO foods and for retailers to post signs on displays of unpackaged genetically engineered foods. It also sets a civil penalty of \$1,000 per day per product.

Throughout the legislative and legal debate on GMO labeling, industry groups have argued there is no difference between foods made with GMOs and other foods.

The Grocery Association argues in its federal lawsuit to block the law that the First Amendment gives them broad discretion about what to include on their labels and that there's no compelling state interest to offset that.

The legal case is pending.

Bailey acknowledged in her letter the association is trying to block the law in court, but until that happens it is working to comply.

"We would appreciate the opportunity to work cooperatively with the state to minimize the liability that almost certainly will arise despite the best efforts of the GMA member companies, as well as others in the industry," the letter said.

China scraps rapeseed stockpiling scheme, 2015/16 imports seen down -sources - RTRS

By Niu Shuping and Dominique Patton

BEIJING, June 17 (Reuters) - China will scrap its rapeseed stockpiling policy this year and offer subsidies to five key growing regions instead, industry sources said on Wednesday, in an attempt to curb surging state stockpiles and cheap imports.

Beijing, which ended its cotton and soybean stockpiling scheme in 2014, has said it wants to give the market a bigger role in setting farm prices and move away from its stockpiling policy under which grains are bought at artificially high prices. ([Full Story](#))

"It is a huge financial burden for the central government given the big inventories while the policy failed to boost farmers' income. Areas under rapeseed have been decreasing every year," said one industry source with an official think-tank.

China will scrap the rapeseed stockpiling scheme starting from the current year to May 2016, the source added.

Key growing areas, including Hubei and Hunan, will be given subsidies, which they can use to subsidise farmers or crushers, said the source, who did not want to be named as he was not authorized to talk to media.

An official with China's State Grain Administration said the rapeseed stockpiling policy had not been finalised.

Beijing started stockpiling rapeseed in 2008 and has built up an inventory of nearly 6 million tonnes of rapeseed oil. The annual storage cost is estimated at as high as 1.5 billion yuan (\$241.60 million) plus interest costs of 4 billion yuan, a local media report says.

The stockpiling has driven local rapeseed prices to nearly 40 percent higher than on the world market, spurring imports of from top exporter Canada. An end to state buying could free up more locally-grown rapeseed, denting overseas purchases by the top buyer China and dragging on global benchmark futures [RSc1](#).

"Domestic rapeseed oil supply will increase by about 800,000 tonnes in 2015/16," said an analyst at the official think-tank China National Grain and Oils Information Centre (CNGOIC).

CNGOIC expects China's rapeseed imports in 2015/16 to drop 6 percent to 4.8 million tonnes from a record 5.1 million tonnes in 2014/15. China JC Intelligence Co. Ltd projects arrivals at 4.2 million tonnes.

An executive with a large crusher in Hubei said subsidy details had not been published by the local government, leading to confusion on what prices to pay farmers.

The company has been trying to buy rapeseed from the current harvest at import rates, but farmers are reluctant to sell as the new price is nearly 40 percent lower than the price the government paid last year, the executive said.

(\$1 = 6.2086 yuan)

The Federal Role in GMO Food Labeling

By former Secy. of Agriculture Dan Glickman

The Hill, June 15, 2015

Across America a political battle is raging over proposed state laws mandating the labeling of genetically modified food. Although the scientific community overwhelmingly agrees that GMO foods are safe, some 60 percent of Americans still have concerns. As a society we need to be careful in rejecting the views of the overwhelming majority of scientists worldwide; otherwise the naysayers will always find reasons to slow down the road to progress, especially when the future requires a significant increase in sustainable food production to meet a rapidly growing population. Nonetheless it is the consumer's right to know what they eat and make decisions based on accurate information. The question is how to provide this sensibly. What is not needed is a state-by-state solution to this problem. What is needed is a uniform national solution that effectively ensures consumer trust in the food system while not heaping unrealistic costs on the food and agriculture sector.

To date, upwards of 70 different labeling bills and ballot initiatives have been introduced in 30 states across the United States. Since 2012, voters have rejected referendums, sometimes very narrowly, in California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington. Vermont remains the only state to unilaterally pass a mandatory GMO labeling law, which will be fully implemented by July 2016.

Consumers have the right to know that a label is more than just a sticker on a box. A national GMO-free standard provides a trustworthy mechanism for consumers to make choices without imposing a vast array of state-by-state regulatory burdens on farmers and food producers. Such a standard would be a voluntary certification program for food producers similar to the widely adopted USDA organic food-labeling model. Accommodating each state's varied label requirements will mean a huge degree of confusion and costs as food will be labeled differently state to state. According to a 2014 study by economists at Cornell University, the average American family could see their grocery costs rise by \$500 per year as a direct result of a patchwork of GMO labeling mandates. Additionally,

since there is no evidence of health and safety implications for food that contains GMOs, a lack of standard labeling will confuse people who now see labels as providing objective information on health and nutrition.

More than 2,000 studies show a consensus among leading global scientific and health organizations – from the American Medical Association to the World Health Organization – that GMO ingredients are safe for human consumption and can have a positive environmental impact. For agriculture, it can mean an effective way to produce crops with less water, less pesticides and other chemicals and more sustainable farming. That being said, consumer trust in GMO ingredients is still uncertain in many quarters. The food and agriculture industry needs to do a much better job explaining these issues thoughtfully. To some degree the GMO issue has become an ideological argument, not a substantive debate. I believe GMO food is safe to eat, but out of concern for those who strongly disagree, we ought to have a uniform federal standard of GMO labeling to provide consumers who wish to buy GMO free foods with trustworthy and uniform information.

Consumers have a right to an abundant, affordable, and nutritious supply of food, the peace of mind that the food is safe, and an understanding of how it gets from the farm to their table. USDA's efforts to develop a voluntary certification and labeling regime for foods that do not contain GMOs will be extremely helpful. Congress as well can enact legislation that creates a uniform national solution, preferably with a voluntary certification process. Both these regulatory and legislative actions can build consumer trust in our nation's food supply and protects farmers' need to innovate and produce food safely and sustainably.

Glickman served as Secretary of Agriculture under President Bill Clinton from 1995 to 2001. He is currently executive director of the Congressional program at the Aspen Institute.

[Monsanto Surprised by French Environment Minister's Comments on Roundup®](#)

BRUSSELS--(Business Wire)--

Over the weekend, French Environment Minister Ségolène Royal made comments about the sale of Roundup® lawn and garden products to French consumers that were widely misreported by media in several countries.

Contrary to widespread media coverage, Ms. Royal did not propose a ban on the sale of Roundup to French consumers. She proposed restricting it to behind-the-counter sales-a system that already exists in several other European countries including Germany. Furthermore, she proposed this in the context of a law that would apply to all pesticides sold in the country, not just Roundup.

Monsanto was surprised by Ms. Royal`s decision to single out Monsanto`s Roundup®-brand weed killer by name, since it is just one 180 different glyphosate-based weed killers sold to gardeners and farmers in France and other countries.

As of today there is no new or recent scientific data that has given European regulators reason to question the current authorisation or sales conditions of Roundup in Europe. Monsanto and other producers of glyphosate-branded products continue to work with the competent regulatory authorities to ensure the decennial renewal for glyphosate in the European Union (EU). Glyphosate was last renewed for sale within the EU in 2002.

The renewal of the authorisation for glyphosate is conducted at the European level every 10 years on the basis of the exhaustive corpus of all available data and new scientific research, including a recent assessment of glyphosate by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organisation. The current renewal process was led by Germany, which reaffirmed the safety of the substance in early 2015 in its report to the European Union. The German report is now subject to review by the European Food Safety Authority before a final decision by the European Commission.

"Monsanto is confident in the quality of the products that we offer to gardeners and which have been specifically designed for a safe use by consumers," said Ralph Dyrnes, commercial lead for Monsanto`s international Lawn & Garden products business. "When used according to the recommendations on the packaging, the product does not pose any specific risks to the user."

Furthermore, he said, Monsanto and Roundup have been actively promoting good practices for gardeners for more than 20 years. This is about using the right product (formula: in concentrated form or ready-to-use mixture) at the right place at the right time (season and weather conditions: for instance, always favour a clear day with no wind to avoid undesired drift and run-off) with the right equipment (sprayer). All of this information is widely circulated and brought to consumers` attention, both at the point of sale and on specialised websites which propose appropriate solutions combining various alternatives including chemical weed killers, manual weeding, changing the garden layout, etc.

Like all the active substances authorised for use in pesticides in Europe, glyphosate is subject to a strict regulatory process prior to being put on sale. A similar approval process applies to formulated products (e.g. including the active substance plus any additives).

[U.S. May Soy Crush Up 15 Percent from Year Ago-NOPA](#)

CHICAGO, June 15 (Reuters) - U.S. soybean processors posted their busiest May ever last month as soymeal exports remained well ahead of the typical pace, an industry trade group said on Monday.

The National Oilseed Processors Association said in its monthly report that members crushed 148.416 million bushels of soybeans during May, up 15 percent from a year earlier. The crush eclipsed the previous May record of 144.002 million bushels set in 2008.

Soymeal exports during the month totaled 551,146 tons, up from 465,301 tons a year earlier and the third biggest on record, according to the NOPA data.

Analysts had been expecting a May crush of 147.299 million bushels, based on the average of estimates in a Reuters poll of six analysts. Forecasts ranged from 143.500 million to 150.700 million. The median was 148.048 million bushels. ([Full Story](#))

NOPA members crushed 150.363 million bushels of soybeans during April.

Soyoil stocks rose to 1.578 billion lbs in May from 1.441 billion lbs in April. Analysts had forecast soyoil stocks at 1.401 billion lbs. Stocks were 1.970 billion a year ago.

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

[U.S. Distillers' Grains Prices Tumble on China Cancellation Talk](#)

By Michael Hirtzer

CHICAGO, June 12 (Reuters) - Prices for U.S. distillers' dried grains with solubles (DDGS) fell more than \$15 per short ton this week on chatter that top importer China was cancelling cargoes or pushing back deliveries until autumn, export sources said on Friday.

China cancelled two bulk vessels of U.S. DDGS and could cancel as many as six more cargoes, two sources said. The vessels can hold as much as 55,000 tonnes of DDGS, a protein-rich animal feed that is a byproduct of corn-based ethanol.

Another source said the country was only "rolling over" deliveries until October or later, a relatively common occurrence in grain export markets when buyers seek to take advantage of lower prices during the autumn harvest when supplies are most plentiful.

In the U.S. barge export market, bids for DDGS were seen at \$170 per ton for June and July shipments, down from \$187 on Monday and \$200 at the beginning of the month, they said. In eastern Iowa, DDGS were trading at \$160 per ton, the lowest levels of the year, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.

Many U.S. exporters had long since sold most of their supplies of DDGS for June shipment. The price declines "tell me that supplies are being put back into the market," an exporter said.

Weakening animal feed demand in China, coupled with cheaper prices for the competing feed of soy meal, led some Chinese buyers of DDGS to seek a way out of their trades.

China a year ago stopped issuing import permits for DDGS amid large domestic corn stockpiles and concerns that they contained then-unapproved genetically modified corn variety Agrisure Viptera, developed by Syngenta AG and known as MIR 162.

China approved the GMO corn trait late in 2014 and resumed buying of DDGS, with U.S. exports there reaching a near-record of 601,834 tonnes in April.

[Informa Lowers U.S. Soy Area Estimate but Stays Above USDA](#)

CHICAGO, June 19 (Reuters) - Informa Economics has lowered its estimate of U.S. soybean plantings this year to 86.760 million acres from 87.185 million previously, the private analytics firm said Friday in a note to clients.

Informa's figure was still above the U.S. Department of Agriculture's March forecast for a record-high 84.635 million acres. The USDA is scheduled to release revised plantings estimates on June 30.

Informa estimated U.S. 2015 corn planted area at 88.777 million acres, a slight increase from its month-ago forecast of 88.737 million. In March, the USDA projected corn plantings at 89.199 million acres.

Informa put U.S. all-wheat plantings at 56.197 million acres, up from 55.947 million previously. It estimated plantings of spring wheat other than durum at 13.469 million acres, up from 13.219 million previously, and above the USDA's March estimate of 12.969 million.

For durum wheat, Informa left its 2015 plantings estimate at 1.977 million acres, unchanged from May and above the USDA's figure of 1.647 million.

The firm projected 2015 U.S. all-cotton seedings at 9.429 million acres, up from 9.334 million previously but below the USDA's March forecast of 9.549 million.

Informa projected U.S. 2015 corn production at 13.564 billion bushels, based on an average yield of 166.4 bushels per acre.

For soybeans, Informa put production at 3.871 billion bushels based on an average yield of 45.0 bushels per acre.

Wine Thefts a Growing Problem in France

A Chablis vineyard has been attacked four times in a year
John Lichfield

Paris

Fears are growing of a new type of organised crime in France: the "theft to order" of high-quality Burgundy and other wines.

A leading vineyard in the Chablis area has been attacked four times in a year – and in the latest raid, reminiscent of a jewelry heist, an armoured car was used to demolish its sales-room doors.

The thieves stole more than 600 bottles of Chablis Grand Cru, one of the most prized white wines in the world.

"It has moved to a new stage," said Julien Brocard, proprietor of the Domaine Brocard, at Pr hy in northern Burgundy. "Before, they just used to break the windows. This time they smashed into the sales area with a specially armored car. They only took our best bottles, the Chablis Grand Crus from vineyards like Vaulorent, Vau de Vey, Les Preuses and Los Clos vintages 2011, 2013 and 2013. They

knew exactly what they were looking for. There must be some kind of network which markets this wine.”

Police also believe they are dealing with a well-organized gang, stealing wine to order. All bottles of Grand Cru Chablis are numbered. It would not be possible to sell the stolen wine to shops or restaurants in France without their illegal origin becoming apparent.

Investigators think the gang may be shipping the wine to unscrupulous traders or private buyers outside of France.

Captain Patrick Lyon, of the local crime investigation unit, said: “Some vineyards are not sufficiently protected. We are advising them to install heavier doors, alarm systems and cameras.”

Frédéric Gueguen, president of the Chablis wine-makers’ union, said: “We need more gendarmes on the ground. Our members are growing more and more exasperated. This could end in a tragedy.”

Mr Brocard said the raiders had also caused €50,000 (£36,180) of damage.

“It has come to the point where we have to protect our wine like jewels,” he said. “We are living under siege”.

There have been 13 similar raids in the Chablis area in the last year and a scattering of attacks on vineyards elsewhere. An armoured car was also used in another Chablis raid in the village of Lignerolle.

Mr Brocard said Chablis wine-producers were reluctant to move their most-prized bottles to secure town warehouses because their livelihood depended on having samples on the premises for visitors to taste and buy.

Chablis made entirely from Chardonnay grapes, is one of the world’s most-celebrated white wines and Chablis Grand Cru sells retail in France for €45 - €70 a bottle.