

WEEKLY NEWS ARTICLE UPDATE



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Export Sales Highlights

This summary is based on reports from exporters for the period June 24-30, 2016.

Exports for Own Account: Exports for own account to Canada totaling 100 MT were applied to new or outstanding sales. The current outstanding balance is 200 MT, all Canada.

Soybeans: Net sales of 637,300 MT for 2015/2016 were down 13 percent from the previous week and 14 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for unknown destinations (429,700 MT), Tunisia (93,000 MT, including 30,000 MT switched from unknown destinations), Vietnam (68,700 MT, including 60,000 MT switched from Iran), Mexico (36,200 MT), Thailand (18,100 MT), and Indonesia (16,100 MT). Reductions were reported for Iran (60,000 MT). For 2016/2017, net sales of 585,700 MT were reported primarily for unknown destinations (358,500 MT), China (129,000 MT), Taiwan (24,000 MT), and Mexico (23,000 MT). Exports of 194,600 MT were down 42 percent from the previous week and 11 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Mexico (62,500 MT), Tunisia (33,000 MT), Japan (31,900 MT), Indonesia (16,200 MT), Costa Rica (14,500 MT), and Vietnam (8,500 MT).

Optional Origin Sales: For 2015/2016, the current optional origin outstanding sales balance is 423,000 MT, all China. For 2016/2017, the current outstanding balance is 63,000 MT, all China.

Exports for Own Account: The current exports for own account outstanding balance totals 500 MT, all Canada.

Soybean Cake and Meal: Net sales of 77,400 MT for 2015/2016 were down 33 percent from the previous week and 24 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for unknown destinations (30,200 MT), Peru (15,000 MT), Mexico (10,700 MT), Canada (6,700 MT), the Dominican Republic (5,500 MT), and Guatemala (4,400 MT, including 3,800 MT switched from El Salvador, 800 MT switched from Panama, and decreases of 300 MT). Reductions were reported for El Salvador (4,400 MT), Panama (3,500 MT), the Philippines (2,200 MT), and Portugal (600 MT). For 2016/2017, net sales of 6,500 MT were reported for unknown destinations (4,800 MT) and Canada (1,700 MT). Exports of 207,300 MT were up 60 percent from the previous week and 20 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Mexico (78,600 MT), the Philippines (69,100 MT), Venezuela (25,000 MT), Canada (13,800 MT), and Guatemala (7,300 MT).

Optional Origin Sales: For 2015/2016, the current optional origin outstanding sales balance is 66,000 MT, all unknown destinations.

Soybean Oil: Net sales of 18,100 MT for 2015/2016 were down 71 percent from the previous week and 31 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for the Dominican Republic (7,400 MT), Mexico (4,900 MT), Guatemala (3,900 MT), Canada (1,500 MT), and Belgium (100 MT). For 2016/2017, net sales of 40,000 MT were reported for China. Exports of 27,200 MT were up noticeably from the previous week and from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Venezuela (10,000 MT), Colombia (5,700 MT), Mexico (5,500 MT), the Dominican Republic (4,900 MT), and Canada (900 MT).

[GMO Food Labeling Bill Passes In The Senate](#)

Jul 08, 2016

(Reuters) - The U.S. Senate on Thursday approved legislation that would for the first time require food to carry labels listing genetically-modified ingredients, which labeling supporters say could create loopholes for some U.S. crops.

The Senate voted 63-30 for the bill that would display GMO contents with words, pictures or a bar code that can be scanned with smartphones. The U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) would decide which ingredients would be considered genetically modified.

The measure now goes to the House of Representatives, where it is expected to pass.

Drawing praise from farmers, the bill sponsored by Republican Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas and Democrat Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan is the latest attempt to introduce a national standard that would override state laws, including Vermont's that some say is more stringent, and comes amid growing calls from consumers for greater transparency.

"This bipartisan bill ensures that consumers and families throughout the United States will have access, for the first time ever, to information about their food through a mandatory, nationwide label for food products with GMOs," Stabenow said in a statement.

A nationwide standard is favored by the food industry, which says state-by-state differences could inflate costs for labeling and distribution. But mandatory GMO labeling of any kind would still be seen as a loss for Big Food, which has spent millions lobbying against it.

Farmers lobbied against the Vermont law, worrying that labeling stigmatizes GMO crops and could hurt demand for food containing those ingredients, but have applauded this law.

Critics like Senator Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont, say the bill's vague language and allowance for electronic labels for scanning could limit its scope and create confusion.

"When parents go to the store and purchase food, they have the right to know what is in the food their kids are going to be eating," Sanders said on the floor of the Senate ahead of the vote.

He said at a news conference this week that major food manufacturers have already begun labeling products with GMO ingredients to meet the new law in his home state.

Another opponent of the bill, Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, said it would institute weak federal requirements making it virtually impossible for consumers to access information about GMOs.

Food ingredients like beet sugar and soybean oil, which can be derived from genetically-engineered crops but contain next to no genetic material by the time they are processed, may not fall under the law's definition of a bioengineered food, critics say.

GMO corn may also be excluded thanks to ambiguous language, some said.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) raised concerns about the involvement of the USDA in a list of worries sent in a June 27 memo to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

In a letter to Stabenow last week, the USDA's general counsel tried to quell those worries, saying it would include commercially-grown GMO corn, soybeans, sugar and canola crops.

The vast majority of corn, soybeans and sugar crops in the United States are produced from genetically-engineered seeds. The domestic sugar market has been strained by rising demand for non-GMO ingredients like cane sugar.

The United States is the world's largest market for foods made with genetically altered ingredients. Many popular processed foods are made with soybeans, corn and other biotech crops whose genetic traits have been manipulated, often to make them resistant to insects and pesticides.

"It's fair to say that it's not the ideal bill, but it is certainly the bill that can pass, which is the most important right now," said American Soybean Association's (ASA) director of policy communications Patrick Delaney.

The association was part of the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food, which lobbied for what labeling supporters termed the Deny Americans the Right to Know, or DARK Act, that would have made labeling voluntary. It was blocked by the Senate in March.

[Global Fish Consumption Rises Above 20 KG Per Year](#)

ROME, July 7 (KUNA) -- Global per capita fish consumption has risen to over 20 kilograms per year, due to a balanced agricultural supply and demand, a new Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) report showed Thursday. The report, entitled, "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016", notes that almost a third of commercial fish stocks are now fished at biologically unsustainable levels, almost triple the level of 1974. Moreover, global total capture of fishery production in 2014 was 93.4 million tons, including output from inland waters, a slight increase from the previous two years.

The report also added that fish accounts for 6.7 percent of all protein consumed by humans, in addition to being a rich source of long-chain omega-3 fatty acids and a slew of vitamins and minerals. In addition, fishery products accounted for one percent of all global merchandise trade, representing more than nine percent of total agricultural exports. "Life below water, which the Sustainable Development Agenda commits us to conserve, is a major ally in our effort to meet a host of challenges," FAO Director-General José Graziano Da Silva said. Meanwhile, the report also showed that marine environments continue to dwindle in some regions due to the implementation of effective management regulations, like in the Northwest Atlantic, where the annual catch is now less than half the level of the early 1970s.

"This report shows that fisheries can be managed sustainably, while also pointing to the growing potential of aquaculture to boost human nutrition and support livelihoods with productive jobs," Da Silva added.

[Report: Vermont Supermarkets Lose 3,000 Products over GMO Law](#)

JULY 6, 2016

Effective July 1, 2016, a new Vermont law stipulates that any product containing genetically engineered ingredients be labeled as such. And it's already causing big changes for the state's supermarkets.

WCAX, the CBS news affiliate out of Burlington, Vt., reports that about 3,000 products will no longer be available. The extensive list includes a broad range of foods, including snack foods, soft drinks, baby formula, frozen entrees, breads, meats and spices.

Supporters, including Sen. Bernie Sanders, say the legislature "did the right thing" with this GMO labeling law.

"They had hearings, they discussed the issue and they passed unprecedented law in the United States," he says.

Vermont resident A.J. Swan told WCAX that he supports GMO labeling but admits he doesn't understand the effects of GMOs on human health.

"A GMO in the minds of people right now is negative," he says. "I am guilty of believing that when I haven't done the full research on it."

The law stipulates that any packaged food produced with genetic engineering must have “clear and conspicuous” labeling as such. Further, foods containing GMOs cannot carry any statements “that contain the word natural or any words of similar import.”

According to a December Associated Press-GfK poll, 66% of Americans favor requiring food manufacturers to put labels on products that contain genetically modified organisms, or foods grown from seeds engineered in labs.

Proponents of the law say they have a right to know what’s in the foods they eat. Opponents worry about cost of changing existing labels or higher food prices due to less competition.

"You now have less choice for consumers," Robert Letovsky, a professor of business at St. Michael's College, tells WCAX. "Less choice means less competition, inevitably prices are going to rise."

The Senate is expected to vote on a federal GMO labeling bill this week that would preempt the Vermont law and other state laws. The bill would require mandatory labeling for foods containing genetically modified ingredients. Companies would be allowed to disclose that information via text, a symbol, website link, QR code or phone number.

Meantime, a recent survey conducted by the MSR Group charges that the Vermont law misleads consumers into believing foods containing GMO ingredients are “less safe, less healthful, less nutritious and worse for the environment” – all claims that are not consistent with the current scientific consensus.

Brazil 2015-16 Corn Output Est. Down 18% to 69.1 MMT: Conab

By Tatiana Freitas

(Bloomberg) -- Output forecast compares to 76.2 MMT in June, Brazil’s national supply co., known as Conab, says in its 10th report for 2015-16 season.

Average estimate. of five analysts surveyed by Bloomberg was 75.9 MMT

Winter corn output forecast at 43.1 MMT vs 50 MMT in June; down from 54.6 MMT in past season

Average estimate was 48.8 MMT at Bloomberg survey

Soybean crop seen at 95.3 MMT, down from 95.6 MMT forecast in June; dropping 1% from 96.2 MMT in past season

Total grain, oilseed and fiber production estimate cut to 189.3 MMT vs 196.5 MMT in June; down from 207.7 MMT last season

Soy exports est. at 54.3 MMT vs 54.1 MMT in June; compares to 54.3 MMT last season

Corn exports est. cut to 22 MMT vs 25.4 MMT in June; compares with 30.2 MMT in previous season

[Do U.S. Food Subsidies Make People Fat?](#)

by Maggie Fox

[NBC News](#) |

Researchers say they have turned up more evidence that U.S. government policies that subsidize foods such as meat, cheese and corn are helping make Americans fatter and healthier.

They found that people who ate these foods the most were also more likely to be overweight or obese and to have unhealthy levels of cholesterol and blood sugar.

And the researchers, led by Karen R. Siegel, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tie their findings directly to U.S. subsidies.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dietary Guidelines for Americans emphasize consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, protein and moderate amounts of dairy, while recommending limited consumption of saturated fats, sugars, salt and refined grains," Siegel's team writes in the Journal of the American Medical Association's JAMA Internal Medicine.

"At the same time, current federal agricultural subsidies focus on financing the production of corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, sorghum, dairy and livestock, the latter of which are in part via subsidies on feed grains."

"Our results suggest that individuals whose diets consist of a lower proportion of subsidized foods have a lower probability of being obese."

The policies have been controversial for years, with health experts saying the U.S. government should drop subsidies on beef, dairy and other products and instead help farmers raise cheaper fruits and vegetables.

But USDA and other experts argue that it's not so simple to tie subsidies to American eating habits and say the beef, dairy and grain industries are important for the U.S. economy.

To answer the question, Siegel's team looked at just over 10,000 people who took part in a federal survey that included a list of what they had eaten the day before.

They found that on average, 56 percent of the calories people remembered having eaten came from the major subsidized foods.

And those who ate the most of these foods were 37 percent more likely to be obese and 41 percent more likely to have too much belly fat. They were 14 percent more likely to have high cholesterol and 21 percent more likely to have unhealthy blood sugar levels.

"The present finding that higher subsidy scores are associated with adverse cardiometabolic risk highlights the effect that agricultural subsidies may be having on health disparities in the United States, in part due to the lower cost per calorie of unhealthier food and the higher cost per calorie of healthier food," they wrote.

"Although eating fewer subsidized foods will not eradicate obesity, our results suggest that individuals whose diets consist of a lower proportion of subsidized foods have a lower probability of being obese."

"While processed food prices may be low, commodity subsidies are not the primary cause."

But Raj Patel of the University of Texas at Austin says it's no quite so simple.

While cheap food is one big cause of America's epidemics of obesity, heart disease and diabetes, junk foods that are not subsidized are a large part of the equation, he wrote in a commentary.

"Furthermore, among a range of agricultural products, farmers receive the greatest share of the retail price in beef and milk at 50 percent compared with only 7 percent for processed food, such as bread," Patel wrote.

"So, while processed food prices may be low, commodity subsidies are not the primary cause."

Doctors need to do more to help Americans drop their addiction to cheap, unhealthful food, Patel said.

[Fat Lot of Good — as Long as It is Right Sort](#)

New Zealand Herald, 06-Jul-2016

Saturated fats in butter, lard and red meat raise the risk of early death, but replacing these with fats like olive oil can offer substantial health benefits, a three-decade study confirmed yesterday.

The research involving more than 120,000 people was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine.

"There has been widespread confusion in the biomedical community and the general public in the last couple of years about the health effects of specific types of fat in the diet," said lead author Dong Wang, a doctoral candidate at Harvard University's TH Chan School of Public Health.

"This study documents important benefits of unsaturated fats, especially when they replace saturated and trans fats."

Among the key findings of the study were that people who ate more saturated and trans fats had higher mortality rates than those who consumed the same number of calories from carbohydrates.

It also found that replacing saturated fats like butter, lard, and fat in red meat with unsaturated fats from plant-based foods - such as olive oil, canola oil, and soybean oil - could offer "substantial health benefits and should continue to be a key message in dietary recommendations".

The findings were based on questionnaires answered by health professionals every two to four years about their diet, lifestyle, and health for up to 32 years. Trans fats, including partially hydrogenated oil products like margarine, had the most severe impact on health.

The study found that every 2 per cent higher intake of trans fat was associated with a 16 per cent higher chance of dying early.

Every 5 per cent higher increase in consumption of saturated fats was linked to an 8 per cent greater risk of dying.

But eating large amounts of unsaturated fats "was associated with between 11 per cent and 19 per cent lower overall mortality compared with the same number of calories from carbohydrates," said the study.

These included polyunsaturated fats like omega-3 and omega-6 found in fish oils as well and soy and canola oils.

"People who replaced saturated fats with unsaturated fats - especially polyunsaturated fats - had significantly lower risk of death overall during the study period, as well as lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease, cancer, neurodegenerative disease, and respiratory disease, compared with those who maintained high intakes of saturated fats," said the study.

While some outside experts noted that the study was observational in nature and relied on surveys, which can introduce bias, the overall result is in line with many other large studies on diet and health.

[TTIP free trade deal between U.S. and EU at dead end - Italy minister](#)

ROME, July 5 (Reuters) - A free trade deal being negotiated by the European Union and the United States is at a dead end and an agreement with Canada is also at risk, Italy's industry minister said on Tuesday.

"I think (the TTIP deal) will fall through, and the agreement with Canada is at risk of doing the same. We have been negotiating it for too long," Carlo Calenda said at an event in Rome. Calenda said confidence in the negotiations was lacking.

Talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a sweeping U.S.-European free trade deal, started three years ago, but the two sides have been unable to settle differences over various issues, including agriculture.