WEEKLY NEWS ARTICLE UPDATE

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Articles in This Edition

Export Sales Highlights

This summary is based on reports from exporters for the period January 6-12, 2017.

Soybeans: Net sales of 979,600 MT for 2016/2017 were up noticeably from the previous week and 22 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for China (612,100 MT, including 320,100 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 6,100 MT), Mexico (184,000 MT, including decreases of 600 MT), Indonesia (81,200 MT, including 49,000 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 3,000 MT), Germany (75,300 MT), and Thailand (71,800 MT, including 66,000 MT switched from unknown destinations). Reductions were reported for unknown destinations (290,200 MT). For 2017/2018, net sales of 66,700 MT were reported for unknown destinations (66,000 MT) and Japan (700 MT). Exports of 1,579,200 MT were up 10 percent from the previous week, but down 6 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were China (993,700 MT), Indonesia (85,300 MT), Thailand (78,700 MT), Germany (75,300 MT), and Mexico (69,700 MT).

Optional Origin Sales: For 2016/2017, new optional origin sales totaling 63,000 MT were reported for China. The current optional origin outstanding balance of 183,000 MT is for China.

Exports for Own Account: The current exports for own account outstanding balance of 52,500 MT is for Canada.

Soybean Cake and Meal: Net sales of 269,800 MT for 2016/2017 were up noticeably from the previous week and 82 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for unknown destinations (67,300 MT), the Philippines (51,000 MT), Indonesia (46,000 MT), Peru

(24,700 MT), and Colombia (17,100 MT, including decreases of 100 MT). For 2017/2018, net sales of 48,800 MT were reported for unknown destinations.   Exports of 269,700 MT were up 29 percent from the previous week and 33 percent from the prior 4-week average.   The primary destinations were the Philippines (140,600 MT), Mexico (48,500 MT), Colombia (25,600 MT), Canada (22,200 MT), and the United Arab Emirates (10,200 MT).

Soybean Oil: Net sales of 41,500 MT for 2016/2017 were up noticeably from the previous week and from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for Colombia (14,500 MT), the Dominican Republic (6,400 MT), Guatemala (4,700 MT), Mexico (4,600 MT), and Nicaragua (3,500 MT). Exports of 37,600 MT were up noticeably from the previous week and 63 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Morocco (15,000 MT), Mexico (6,800 MT), Colombia (6,300 MT), Guatemala (5,100 MT), and Venezuela (2,000 MT).

U.S. 2017 Soybean Seedings to Top 90 Million Acres -Farm Futures

CHICAGO, Jan 19 (Reuters) - U.S. farmers were poised to plant more than 90 million acres of soybeans this spring, topping the record high set last year by about 7 million acres, a Farm Futures survey of growers indicated on Thursday.

Farm Futures' survey of 1,060 producers projected U.S. soybean plantings at 90.52 million acres, up from 83.4 million in 2016. The survey put U.S. corn seedings at 90.49 million acres, down from the 94.0 million acres farmers planted last year.

If realized, the figures would represent the first time since 1983 that U.S. farmers plant more soybeans than corn.

The survey projected U.S. all-wheat plantings for harvest in 2017 at 45.68 million acres. Farm Futures said the total included the 32.4 million acres of winter wheat that the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported last week.

Trump Expects 'Big Results' from His Choice to Lead USDA

19-Jan-2017
WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump said Thursday that he expects that former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, his choice to lead the Agriculture Department, will "deliver big results for all Americans who earn their living off the land."

Agriculture secretary was the final Cabinet post to be announced by Trump, who is set to take office Friday.

Perdue, 70, is a farmer's son who built businesses in grain trading and trucking before becoming the first Republican governor of Georgia since Reconstruction.

Perdue, from the small city of Bonaire in rural central Georgia, would be the first Southerner in the post in more than two decades. He is not related to or affiliated with the food company Perdue or the poultry producer Perdue Farms.

"From growing up on a farm to being governor of a big agriculture state, he has spent his whole life understanding and solving the challenges our farmers face, and he is going to deliver big results for all Americans who earn their living off the land," Trump said in a statement.

Perdue, in a statement released by Trump's transition team, said he began as "a simple Georgia farm boy," and he pledged to "champion the concerns of American agriculture and work tirelessly to solve the issues facing our farm families."

Agriculture secretaries are often from the Midwest, where corn and soybeans dominate the markets. U.S. farm policy has long been favorable to those crops, and congressional battles over massive farm bills every five years often divide along regional lines. Southerners have pushed for subsidy programs that are more favorable to rice and cotton, which can be more expensive to grow.

The last three agriculture secretaries were from Iowa, North Dakota and Nebraska.

Many farm-state lawmakers and agriculture groups grew concerned as Trump approached his inauguration without having named an agriculture secretary candidate. Earlier Thursday, Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley tweeted that he was frustrated with the process.

"NEED Ag leader w dirt under finger nails 4farmers," he wrote.

Perdue began his political career as a Democrat in the Georgia Legislature in the 1990s. After switching his allegiance to the Republican Party, he was elected governor in 2002. The victory over an incumbent Democrat completed Georgia's shift to a solidly Republican state, ending generations of Democratic control of state government.

Despite that political change, Perdue showed little interest in pushing big programs or signature legislation during his two terms. Instead he focused on finding ways to save money while improving customer service by state agencies. He often referred to himself as Georgia's CEO.

Critics accused Perdue of failing to tackle some of Georgia's biggest problems, such as struggling public schools.

Perdue, who was re-elected in 2006, didn't rely only on his business acumen as governor. A devout Southern Baptist, he also found a place for faith in his administration. In 2007, when a withering drought gripped Georgia and neighboring states, he held a prayer rally in front of the Capitol in Atlanta to pray for rain.

Perdue brought an end to Georgia's conflicts over a state flag that featured the Confederate battle emblem. The flag was replaced by lawmakers under Perdue's Democratic predecessor, but the new design proved unpopular. Perdue insisted Georgia voters should pick the flag. A referendum was held in 2004, though Southern heritage groups were outraged that the options did not include the old flag with the Confederate symbol.

Under Perdue's watch, Georgia adopted tough food-safety regulations after a deadly U.S. salmonella outbreak was traced to Georgia-made peanut butter. He moved the state office that issues water permits for irrigation and other agricultural uses from Atlanta to rural South Georgia, where it would be closer to farmers. Perdue poured millions of state dollars into Go Fish, a program that aimed to lure bass fishing tournaments to the state.

The ex-governor, whose full name is George Ervin Perdue III, was born in rural Perry, Georgia. He attended the University of Georgia, where he played football as a walk-on and earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine. Following a stint in the Air Force, he returned to Georgia and settled in Bonaire, a city of about 14,000 people.

Perdue already has family serving in Washington. A cousin, former Dollar General CEO David Perdue of Sea Island, Georgia, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2014.

Argentine Farmers Wait for Flood Water to Recede to Access Crops
By Jonathan Gilbert
(Bloomberg) -- Soybean producers in Argentina's agricultural heartland are waiting for flood waters to recede to see if their farms survived three days of torrential rains.

President Mauricio Macri said Tuesday that the country will declare an emergency in the region as it attempts to help growers. For a second year, farmers are grappling with excessive rainfall that threatens to curb their export of crops including soybeans, one of the country's biggest foreign earners. Prices for soybeans -- as well as the oil and meal made from the oilseed -- jumped Tuesday in Chicago trading on speculation the flooding will disrupt global supplies.

"We don't have roads, we can't get in," Ricardo Emidi, a farmer in Santa Fe province with 350 hectares (865 acres) of soybeans and corn, said in a phone interview. Emidi said he hopes his soybeans were developed enough to withstand the weekend's floods. Still, substantial losses on the Pampas are a near certainty after more than 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain in three days, according to Agroindustry Minister Ricardo Buryaile.

"The losses are big," Buryaile told TN television, a Buenos Aires-based channel, adding that it would be a few days before damages could be assessed.

Argentina, the world's biggest producer and exporter of soybean meal, is expected to ship 32.3 million metric tons of the feed ingredient in the 2016-17 season, the U.S. Agricultural Department said in a Jan. 12 report. Soybean meal futures for March delivery surged to a five-month high in Chicago on Tuesday after rains curbed Argentina's supply outlook.

Farmers in southeastern Cordoba province, which neighbors Santa Fe, haven't been able to access fields either, Lucas Cerino, an estimates analyst at Cordoba Grain Exchange, said by phone. Losses should be expected in at least two Cordoba counties where soybean planting totals about 925,000 hectares (2.3 million acres), Cerino said.

The ministry may cut its soybean production estimate of 56.6 million tons on fears of crops drowning, Martin Moreno, head of estimates said on Monday. The agency is scheduled to release its next monthly crop report on Jan. 19. Buryaile is also set to convene an emergency committee that day.

While farms remain under water, asphalt roads leading to the Rosario port and crushing complex began to dry, clearing the way for grain trucks, Guillermo Wade, manager of the port and maritime chamber, said in an e-mail. About 2,100 trucks arrived, up from 1,700 on Monday.

Brazil to Boost New Crop Financing by About 20 Percent -Temer

By Lisandra Paraguassu and Anthony Boadle

BRASILIA, Jan 16 (Reuters) - Brazil will increase a subsidized credit line available to farmers to prepare for the 2017-2018 crop by about one-fifth to 12 billion reais ($3.72 billion), President Michel Temer told Reuters on Monday.

The new crop financing will allow Brazilian producers to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides at reduced interest rates to better plan future production.

Last year, the government made 10 billion reais available to prepare for the 2016-2017 crop, which is on track to break records.

The agricultural sector has provided a rare glimmer of hope amid the worst recession on record in Brazil, the top exporter of soy, coffee, sugar, orange juice and tobacco.

Government crop agency Conab forecasts a record soy crop of 103.8 million tonnes for the 2016-2017 season in the country. Favorable weather is expected to improve corn and wheat crops as well, it said.

"We will inject 12 billion reais into agriculture," Temer said in an interview in his office in the Planalto presidential palace. "It will be announced this week or next week (as part of) the pre-crop plan."

Last year, state-controlled Banco do Brasil, the country's No. 1 lender by assets, offered a preferential interest rate of 8.75 percent for new crop financing. The government usually pays the difference between that rate and the normal cost for the bank to raise the capital in the market.

Interest rates in Brazil are falling from decade-high levels as inflation subsides during the economic slowdown. The central bank cut its benchmark lending rate last week by 75 basis points to 13.00 percent - markets had expected a smaller cut.

Temer, who took over from former president Dilma Rousseff after her impeachment last year, also said in the interview that government agency Sebrae would announce a further 1.2 billion reais in cheap financing for small- and medium-sized businesses.

The increase in credit comes as Temer's center-right government seeks ways to drag Latin America's largest economy out of a two-year recession without placing further strain on overstretched government finances.

His government announced a series of measures in December aimed at reducing the debts of struggling companies and making it easier to do business in Brazil. ($1 = 3.2251 reais)

Soya Proves Recipe for Filtering Out Fine Pollutants
16-Jan-2017

A team of Chinese and American scientists have come up with an affordable air filter made of soybean protein that can screen out almost all the harmful fine pollutants that defy existing air filters.

The environmentally friendly air filter was able to remove more than 99.94 per cent of PM2.5 pollutants - fine particles in smog that are smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter and most harmful to health, a study showed.

The air filter was developed by researchers from the University of Science and Technology Beijing and Washington State University.

Their study will be published tomorrow in the latest issue of the Composites Science and Technology journal.

Zhong Weihong, a materials engineering professor at the US university, who was part of the team, said the soybean filter could remove most toxic chemical pollutants in the air - including carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide - which existing air filters had failed to screen out.

PM2.5 pollutants, which are produced by all types of combustion, including car engines, can pass through human lungs and enter the blood supply.

The filtering material in the new air filter used natural purified soybean protein as well as bacterial cellulose, an organic compound produced by bacteria, the report said.

Soya contained many functional chemical groups, which could capture polluting particles at a molecular level, it said.

Materials used to make the filter could be cheaply obtained as soya protein and bacterial cellulose were widely used in various household items, including adhesives, plastics and wound dressings, the study said.

These materials were also biodegradable because they were made from soybeans, which were among the most abundant plants in the world.

Zhong said the filter material could also be used in existing air filter machines. She said she had experienced China's pollution problems first-hand when visiting her home country and found Beijing shrouded in smog.

"Air pollution is a very serious health issue," she said. "If we can improve indoor air quality, it would help a lot of people."