

Michael Haigh-Assistant Professor  
University of MD Cooperative Extension

Market Analysis - April 13, 2005

Corn was up three cents last week and after a very active week, that was a blessing. We saw the USDA report come in last week and that did not clear up anything – in fact, it made things far more uncertain as to what was going to happen in the next few months. The March planting intentions was supportive with acres being reported at 81.4 million v guesses of 82.4 million, and export numbers came in at an outstanding 1.1 million tons. It was the bearish stocks numbers however that kept the prices pinned down. This week trade stayed within a narrow trading range, rising on Monday, rising again on Tuesday and then falling on Wednesday. Some traders seem to think predicted rainfall for this week will delay corn planting and raise prices but others are just shrugging that off – it is too early to predict yield cuts now. Soybeans had a horrible week last week dropping 15 cents but most of the losses occurring in the old crop. The USDA numbers for soybean were mixed (just like corn) but in this case the stocks were supportive and the planting intentions were negative. The market shows enormous uncertainty with last Thursday and Friday exhibiting a 50 cent trading range (almost 10% of the price). With the rust situation still in the U.S. traders still seem reluctant to sell. On Monday of this week there was buying, just like in corn, but one got a sense there was always downward pressure in the markets but by Wednesday the commercials (hedgers) supported the May contract and some technical buying helped things along. On the bull side another Brazilian firm has cut soybean estimates again and technical support seems to be growing. On the bear side that is old news and no one is really paying that much attention to it. However, basis levels seem to be improving nationwide and there is no argument there that it is deserved. Wheat saw yet more losses last week – about 15 cents lower in Chicago and Kansas and 20 cents lower in Minneapolis. Weekly export sales last week were moderate to low (366,000 tons). The wheat stocks numbers were below expectations but the planting intentions are what drove this market down. The lack of decent export business seems to continually drag this market down. Wheat performance this week was mixed (up and down) and mixed across exchanges. A lot of it didn't make much sense – there was slight improvement in U.S. winter wheat and this was given the reason for the pressure in the market (when the report was released on Monday). Then KC red winter futures rose all day Monday. There is no reason to get bullish on wheat based on the fundamentals and I am not sure it is worth doing anything with the market acting like this. What is clear is that the longer term price outlook should be bullish if only yields were to return to normal.

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

The weather improved this week with most of the state receiving less than an inch of rain. Temperatures averaged in the 50's. The change in weather allowed farmers more field time but planting of spring crops is behind normal by about two weeks due to rain and cooler than normal temperatures earlier this spring. Small grains were beginning to develop and were reported in good to excellent condition. **Barley** was rated 2 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. **Winter wheat** was rated 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. **Pasture** was rated 1 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. **Hay supplies** were rated 5 percent very short, 29 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 51 percent adequate and 49 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 60 percent adequate and 40 percent surplus.

CASH GRAINS - REGIONAL - (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES								
Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	4/5	4/12	4/5	4/12	4/5	4/12	4/5	4/12
Western Md	2.36	2.36	5.82	5.81	3.11	3.03	1.83	1.83
Central MD	2.32	2.32	5.73	5.73	3.66	3.66	2.40	2.05
Southern MD	2.06	2.07	5.83	5.83	2.86	2.86	----	----
Upper E. Shore	2.21	2.20	5.96	5.96	----	----	----	----
Lower E. Shore	2.28	2.29	6.07	6.07	3.01	3.00	1.55	1.55

Soybean Meal	Lower Eastern Shore		Dealer's Average Cash quotes (\$/ton)		
Date	4/5	4/12	Date	4/5	4/12
48% Soybean Meal	214.00	217.00	44% Soybean Meal	202.00	205.00

FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE-REGIONAL (\$/BU) for Harvest delivery Dealer's Avg Quotes								
Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	4/5	4/12	4/5	4/12	4/5	4/12	4/5	4/12
Western Md	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD	2.33	2.33	5.61	5.62	3.19	3.19	----	----
Southern MD	2.16	2.16	5.76	5.78	3.01	3.01	1.55	1.55
Upper E Shore	2.29	2.29	5.81	5.83	3.00	3.00	1.55	1.55
Lower E Shore	2.38	2.38	5.90	5.92	3.01	5.51	1.60	1.55

GRAIN FUTURES- Chicago Board of Trade (\$/bu) Settle - Apr 12, 2005							
Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal <sup>1</sup>	
05May	206.60	05May	617.40	05May	311.00	05May	187.30
05Jul	215.20	05Jul	624.40	05Jul	321.20	05Jul	187.90
05Sep	222.20	05Aug	622.40	05Sep	328.40	05Aug	188.50
05Dec	231.00	05Sep	613.20	05Dec	337.60	05Sep	187.30
06Mar	238.00	05Nov	608.20	06Mar	345.00	05Oct	184.50
06May	242.40	06Jan	610.00	06May	345.00	05Dec	185.00

<sup>1</sup> \$/ton

<b>HAY AND STRAW</b>							
<b>New Holland, PA - \$/ton - Apr 11, 2005 - 123 Loads</b>							
<b>Alfalfa</b> 25.00-185.00	<b>Mixed Hay</b> 25.00-190.00	<b>Timothy</b> 40.00-200.00	<b>Orchardgrass</b> 25.00-155.00	<b>Ballage</b> 25.00-30.00	<b>Straw</b> 160.00-220.00		
<b>Westminster, MD - \$/bale - Apr 12, 2005 -162 Lots</b>							
<b>Alfalfa</b> 1.00-2.80	<b>Alfalfa Mix</b> 1.10-4.10	<b>Timothy</b> 1.00-3.40	<b>Timothy Mix</b> 1.20-2.60	<b>Grass Mix</b> 1.00-3.90	<b>Straw</b> 1.80-3.25	<b>Mulch</b> .25-.85	
<b>Southern, MD - Regional Farmers' Market - \$/bale - Apr 02, 2005</b>							
<b>Product</b>	<b>Lo/Hi</b>	<b>Avg Price</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Lo/Hi</b>	<b>Avg Price</b>		
THE LAST SM HAY SALE FOR THE SEASON WILL BE APR 16, 2005							
<b>POULTRY (Grade A) - Week Ending - Apr 16, 2005</b>							
	<b>Current Week</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>			
NY Wtd Avg. (Fryers)	71.48	72.65	69.57	76.04			
12 City Composite	73.22	73.75	71.74	76.96			
<b>LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt - Apr 12, 2005</b>							
<b>Lambs</b> 30-40 lbs	115.00-152.50	70-100 lbs	132.50-165.00	<b>Old Ewes (mostly)</b>	41.00-58.00		
50-60 lbs	140.00-160.00			( Fat)	24.00-38.00		
<b>TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS - Apr 12, 2005</b>				<b>DIRECT MARKET HOGS - Westminster, MD - Apr 12, 2004</b>			
<b>Base Price Range</b> a.m.	<b>Carcass Basis</b> Base 185 lb Hog	<b>Sows (1-3)</b> 300-449 lbs	<b>Straight Hogs</b> 215-280 lbs	43.00-48.00			
			<b>Heavy &amp; Fat</b>	25.00-45.00			
			<b>Sows Mostly</b>	40.00-43.00			
<b>Iowa, Minn</b>	56.25-70.76	N/A					
<b>Eastern Cornbelt</b>	55.00-68.24	32.96-46.00	<b>Millsboro, DE Market Hogs - (\$/cwt) - Next Sale Apr 19, 2005</b>				
<b>FEEDER PIGS - (\$/cwt) -</b>							
<b>Gumboro, DE -</b>			<b>New Holland, PA -</b>				
<b>Head:</b>	<b>Trend:</b>		<b>Head:</b>	<b>Trend:</b>			
	Next Sale Apr 19, 2005			N/A			
<b>CATTLE-LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Apr 12, 2005</b>			<b>HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Apr 12, 2005</b>				
<b>Apr05</b>	89.03	<b>Aug05</b>	83.70	<b>Apr05</b>	69.70	<b>Jul05</b>	78.43
<b>May05</b>	85.20	<b>Oct05</b>	84.55	<b>May05</b>	76.08	<b>Aug05</b>	75.68
<b>Jun05</b>	84.68	<b>Dec05</b>	85.80	<b>Jun05</b>	77.65	<b>Oct05</b>	63.93
<b>STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE - (\$/cwt)</b>							
<b>Winchester, VA - Apr 11, 2005</b>			<b>Westminster, MD - Apr 12, 2005</b>				
<b>Steers</b>	300- 400 lbs	141.00-152.00	<b>Steers M&amp;L</b>	200-300 lbs	92.50-160.00		
	400- 500 lbs	131.00-146.00		mostly	135.00-160.00		
	500- 600 lbs	129.00-143.00		400-500 lbs	100.00-139.00		
	600- 700 lbs	117.50-126.00		600-700 lbs	100.00-119.00		
	700- 800 lbs	97.00-112.00		800-900 lbs	69.00- 87.00		
	800- 900 lbs	102.50-103.50	<b>Heifers M&amp;L</b>	200-300 lbs	115.00-144.00		
	900- 1100 lbs	94.00- 94.50		400-500 lbs	102.00-139.00		
<b>Heifers</b>	300- 400 lbs	128.00-139.50		600-700 lbs	75.00-100.00		
	400- 500 lbs	120.00-130.50		800-900 lbs	61.00- 66.00		
	500- 600 lbs	111.00-128.85	<b>Farm Calves</b>				
	600- 700 lbs	101.50-120.00	<b>Holstein Bulls #1</b>		172.50-205.00		
	700- 800 lbs	95.00- 99.00	#2		127.50-170.00		
	800- 900 lbs	85.00- 94.50	<b>Holstein Heifers</b>		490.00-590.00		
				300-400 lbs	270.00-490.00		
<b>Lancaster, New Holland &amp; Vintage - Week Ending - Apr 16, 2005</b>							
<b>Bull,</b>	N/A		<b>Plainer</b>	N/A			
<b>Heifers,</b>			<b>Plainer</b>				
<b>SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)</b>							
<b>Westminster, MD - Apr 5, 2005</b>							
<b>Fed Steers</b>			<b>Fed Heifers</b>				
<b>Ch</b>	95.00-97.25				96.00-96.25		
<b>L-Ch</b>	87.00-94.00						
<b>Cows</b>			<b>Calves</b>				
<b>High Dressing</b>	56.00-60.50		<b>Culls</b>		85.00-122.50		
<b>Good</b>	47.00-56.00		<b>Jerseys</b>		25.00-87.50		
<b>Medium</b>	39.25-46.50						
<b>Thin &amp; Slow</b>	35.00-Down						
<b>Lancaster, New Holland &amp; Vintage - Week Ending - Apr 16, 2005</b>							
<b>Steers, Choice 2-3</b>							
<b>Heifers, Choice</b>	N/A						
<b>Cows, Breakers 75-80 pct lean</b>							
<b>Bulls, YG 1</b>							

For more information about this report, call 410-841-5740 or write:

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
 50 Harry S Truman Parkway  
 Annapolis, MD 21401

Lewis R. Riley . . . . . Secretary of Agriculture  
 John R. Brooks, DVM . . . . . Deputy Secretary  
 Norman Bennett . . . . . Director, Md. Agricultural Statistics  
 Jeanne McCarthy-Kersey . . . . . Deputy Director, Md. Agricultural Statistics