



GRAIN & LIVESTOCK REPORT

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Market Analysis - April 27, 2005

November soybean prices were up last week; 25 cents in total, but most traders believe that it would take an enormous amount of fund buying to keep that momentum going. The fund buying last week was tied to the smaller than expected Brazilian crop – estimates of 47 to 50 million metric tons compared to the USDA estimate of 54 million. This news swamped the bearish news of low export sales of 157 thousand tons. It is becoming decidedly difficult to make any predictions in this market with low export activity driving prices down but fears of Asian rust pushing prices up. The funds trading activity will ultimately determine the fate of prices. On Monday prices were up, but were nowhere close to session highs as speculative buying waned toward the end of the day. On Tuesday they returned and gave prices a gentle nudge northwards. Demand for cash beans is strong, and gulf basis levels seem to also be supporting futures. On the bull side – technical indicators look good for beans, basis levels remain firm and the funds are buying (lightly). On the bear side, old crop supply/demand are still negative and South American activity is increasing. Corn also enjoyed an ‘up’ week last week, albeit a modest one. The funds were light buyers and that combined with weather worries and a widely held perception that European import restrictions will not stifle exports provided the fuel to this fire. Basis bids were also reported to be strong nationwide. The market did head south a tad on Wednesday but that was probably just profit taking. The speculative traders are of the mind to slash yields (because of colder than expected weather) and hence buy up contracts but it is still too early to do that. Grain yields will probably be lower than last year, and although there seems to be adequate corn available in stock, balances could get tight if world grain yields take a dip. We won’t know this for several months yet. Planting weather for the rest of this month and May will determine the direction of corn futures. Wheat futures found support from corn and soybeans last week and the funds did all the buying in that market. The fundamentals do not justify the rally here, so this might be a good time to lock in prices. The funds continued to buy all week long and some traders had to cover their short positions as a result adding to the upward move. There will be pressures in the next coming weeks as we approach harvest but for the time being this market has found some strength.

BASIS TABLE

| LOCATION    | CORN BASIS   |            | SOYBEAN BASIS |            | WHEAT BASIS |            |
|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|             | CASH (May05) | NEW(Dec05) | CASH (May05)  | NEW(Nov05) | CASH(May05) | NEW(Jul05) |
| Western MD  | +27          | n/a        | -38           | n/a        | -10         | n/a        |
| Central MD  | +30          | +8         | -34           | -35        | -38         | -14        |
| Southern MD | +5           | -11        | -25           | -22        | -20         | -32        |
| Upper E. Sh | +18          | +2         | -12           | -17        | n/a         | -33        |
| Lower E. Sh | +27          | +10        | -1            | -8         | -6          | -33        |

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Warm weather has advanced the planting season and spurred small grain growth. There were 5.1 days suitable for field work. Small grains were beginning to develop and were reported in mostly good to excellent condition. Barley was rated 4 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Pasture was rated 14 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 25 percent excellent while hay supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 24 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus.

For a complete copy of the Crop Weather Summary go to: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/md/rlsetoc.htm#Crop>

| CASH GRAINS - REGIONAL - (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES                     |                   |          |                    |        |                     |                           |           |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|--------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------|
| Grade and Commodity                                                              | #2 Y Shelled Corn |          | #2 Yellow Soybeans |        | #2 Red Winter Wheat |                           | #3 Barley |      |
|                                                                                  | 4/19              | 4/26     | 4/19               | 4/26   | 4/19                | 4/26                      | 4/19      | 4/26 |
| Western Md                                                                       | 2.36              | 2.35     | 5.90               | 5.89   | 3.00                | 3.08                      | 1.79      | 1.79 |
| Central MD                                                                       | 2.31              | 2.38     | 5.87               | 5.93   | 3.63                | 3.56                      | 2.05      | 2.05 |
| Southern MD                                                                      | 2.10              | 2.13     | 5.96               | 6.02   | 2.83                | 2.98                      | ----      | ---- |
| Upper E. Shore                                                                   | 2.23              | 2.26     | 6.09               | 6.15   | ----                | ----                      | ----      | ---- |
| Lower E. Shore                                                                   | 2.31              | 2.35     | 6.20               | 6.26   | 3.00                | 3.12                      | 1.60      | 1.54 |
| Soybean Meal Lower Eastern Shore Dealer's Average Cash quotes (\$/ton)           |                   |          |                    |        |                     |                           |           |      |
| Date                                                                             | 4/19              | 4/26     | Date               | 4/19   | 4/26                |                           |           |      |
| 48% Soybean Meal                                                                 | 230.00            | 235.00   | 44% Soybean Meal   | 218.00 | 223.00              |                           |           |      |
| 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 |      |
|                                                                                  | 4/19              | 4/26     | 4/19               | 4/26   | 4/19                | 4/26                      | 4/19      | 4/26 |
| Western Md                                                                       | ----              | ----     | ----               | ----   | ----                | ----                      | ----      | ---- |
| Central MD                                                                       | 2.36              | 2.42     | 5.85               | 5.88   | 3.15                | 3.32                      | ----      | ---- |
| Southern MD                                                                      | 2.18              | 2.23     | 5.99               | 6.01   | 2.98                | 3.14                      | 1.55      | 1.55 |
| Upper E Shore                                                                    | 2.31              | 2.36     | 6.04               | 6.06   | 2.97                | 3.13                      | 1.55      | 1.55 |
| Lower E Shore                                                                    | 2.40              | 2.44     | 6.13               | 6.15   | 2.98                | 3.13                      | 1.60      | 1.54 |
| GRAIN FUTURES- Chicago Board of Trade (\$/bu) Settle - Apr 26, 2005              |                   |          |                    |        |                     |                           |           |      |
| Corn                                                                             |                   | Soybeans |                    | Wheat  |                     | Soybean Meal <sup>1</sup> |           |      |
| 05May                                                                            | 213.00            | 05May    | 636.60             | 05May  | 322.60              | 05May                     | 199.60    |      |
| 05Jul                                                                            | 221.60            | 05Jul    | 643.40             | 05Jul  | 333.40              | 05Jul                     | 199.10    |      |
| 05Sep                                                                            | 228.60            | 05Aug    | 641.20             | 05Sep  | 340.60              | 05Aug                     | 199.00    |      |
| 05Dec                                                                            | 237.60            | 05Sep    | 634.20             | 05Dec  | 350.00              | 05Sep                     | 197.50    |      |
| 06Mar                                                                            | 244.60            | 05Nov    | 630.60             | 06Mar  | 358.40              | 05Oct                     | 196.40    |      |
| 06May                                                                            | 249.40            | 06Jan    | 631.00             | 06May  | 358.40              | 05Dec                     | 196.50    |      |

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

| <b>HAY AND STRAW</b>                                                           |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| <b>New Holland, PA - \$/ton - Apr 25, 2005 - 112 Loads</b>                     |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Alfalfa                                                                        | Mixed Hay              | Timothy            | Orchardgrass                                             | Straw                                                                        |               |              |       |
| 100.00-150.00                                                                  | 60.00-200.00           | 55.00-170.00       | 50.00-135.00                                             | 100.00-200.00                                                                |               |              |       |
| <b>Westminster, MD - \$/bale - Apr 26, 2005 -126 Lots</b>                      |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Alfalfa                                                                        | Alfalfa Mix            | Timothy            | Timothy Mix                                              | Grass Mix                                                                    | Straw         |              |       |
| 2.00-3.00                                                                      | 1.60-3.50              | 1.30-3.90          | 1.00-1.90                                                | 1.10-4.25                                                                    | 2.90-4.20     |              |       |
| <b>POULTRY (Grade A) - Week Ending - Apr 30, 2005</b>                          |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
|                                                                                | <u>Current Week</u>    | <u>Week Ago</u>    | <u>Month Ago</u>                                         | <u>Year Ago</u>                                                              |               |              |       |
| NY Wtd Avg. (Fryers)                                                           | 71.59                  | 71.52              | 72.78                                                    | 76.04                                                                        |               |              |       |
| 12 City Composite                                                              | 73.02                  | 72.77              | 74.07                                                    | 76.53                                                                        |               |              |       |
| <b>LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt - Apr 26, 2005</b>                         |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Lambs                                                                          | 20-40 lbs              | 102.50-195.00      | 90-130 lbs                                               | 90.00-110.00                                                                 | Sheep         | 43.00-98.00  |       |
|                                                                                | 40-80 lbs              | 102.00-192.50      |                                                          |                                                                              | Fat           | 30.00-43.00  |       |
| <b>TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS - Apr 26, 2005</b>                                    |                        |                    |                                                          | <b>DIRECT MARKET HOGS - Westminster, MD - Apr 26, 2004</b>                   |               |              |       |
| <b>Base Price Range</b>                                                        | <b>Carcass Basis</b>   | <b>Sows (1-3)</b>  |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>a.m.</b>                                                                    | <b>Base 185 lb Hog</b> | <b>300-449 lbs</b> | <b>Butcher Hogs (Heavy)</b>                              | 40.00-44.75                                                                  |               |              |       |
|                                                                                |                        |                    | <b>Sows (Thin)</b>                                       | 30.00-36.25                                                                  |               |              |       |
| Iowa, Minn                                                                     | 56.25-72.65            | 32.00-45.50        |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Eastern Cornbelt                                                               | 55.75-70.50            | 41.75-48.25        | Millsboro, DE Market Hogs - (\$/cwt) - Next Sale 5/17/05 |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>FEEDER PIGS - (\$/cwt) -</b>                                                |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>Gumboro, DE -</b>                                                           |                        |                    | <b>New Holland, PA -</b>                                 |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>Head:</b>                                                                   | <b>Trend:</b> None     |                    | <b>Head:</b> None                                        | <b>Trend:</b> All went to slaughter                                          |               |              |       |
|                                                                                | Next Sale 5/17/05      |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>CATTLE-LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Apr 26, 2005</b> |                        |                    |                                                          | <b>HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Apr 26, 2005</b> |               |              |       |
| <b>Apr05</b>                                                                   | 93.90                  | <b>Aug05</b>       | 86.25                                                    | <b>May05</b>                                                                 | 76.93         | <b>Aug05</b> | 74.75 |
| <b>May05</b>                                                                   | 88.20                  | <b>Oct05</b>       | 86.23                                                    | <b>Jun05</b>                                                                 | 76.75         | <b>Oct05</b> | 63.73 |
| <b>Jun05</b>                                                                   | 87.13                  | <b>Dec05</b>       | 87.13                                                    | <b>Jul05</b>                                                                 | 77.20         | <b>Dec05</b> | 61.03 |
| <b>STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE - (\$/cwt)</b>                                        |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>Winchester, VA - Apr 25, 2005</b>                                           |                        |                    |                                                          | <b>Westminster, MD - Apr 26, 2005</b>                                        |               |              |       |
| <b>Steers</b>                                                                  | 300- 400 lbs           | 140.00-160.00      | <b>Steers M&amp;L</b>                                    | 300-400 lbs                                                                  | 100.00-150.00 |              |       |
|                                                                                | 400- 500 lbs           | 133.00-147.00      |                                                          | 500-600 lbs                                                                  | 111.00-120.00 |              |       |
|                                                                                | 500- 600 lbs           | 121.00-138.00      |                                                          | 700-800 lbs                                                                  | 87.00-102.00  |              |       |
|                                                                                | 600- 700 lbs           | 118.00-128.50      | <b>Heifers M&amp;L</b>                                   | 200-300 lbs                                                                  | 110.00-155.00 |              |       |
|                                                                                | 700- 800 lbs           | 102.00-113.00      |                                                          | 400-500 lbs                                                                  | 103.00-126.00 |              |       |
| <b>Heifers</b>                                                                 | 300- 400 lbs           | 127.00-145.00      |                                                          | 600-700 lbs                                                                  | 83.00- 94.00  |              |       |
|                                                                                | 400- 500 lbs           | 117.00-132.00      | <b>Farm Calves</b>                                       |                                                                              |               |              |       |
|                                                                                | 500- 600 lbs           | 114.00-120.00      | <b>Holstein Bulls #1</b>                                 |                                                                              | 177.50-202.50 |              |       |
|                                                                                | 600- 700 lbs           | 109.00-113.50      | #2                                                       |                                                                              | 125.00-167.50 |              |       |
|                                                                                | 700- 800 lbs           | 93.50- 99.00       | <b>Holstein Heifers #2</b>                               |                                                                              | 220.00-270.00 |              |       |
|                                                                                |                        |                    | <b>Beef Cross</b>                                        |                                                                              | 157.50-162.50 |              |       |
| <b>Lancaster, New Holland &amp; Vintage - Week Ending - Apr 30, 2005</b>       |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Bull, Hols                                                                     |                        | N/A                | Plainer                                                  | N/A                                                                          |               |              |       |
| Heifers, Hols                                                                  | 90-110 lbs             | 450.00-640.00      | Plainer                                                  | ----                                                                         | 175.00-375.00 |              |       |
| <b>SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)</b>                                               |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>Westminster, MD - Apr 26, 2005</b>                                          |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>Fed Steers</b>                                                              |                        |                    | <b>Fed Heifers</b>                                       |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| LCh                                                                            | 86.25-88.50            |                    | Ch                                                       | 94.00-96.75                                                                  |               |              |       |
| <b>Cows</b>                                                                    |                        |                    | LCh                                                      | 87.00-89.50                                                                  |               |              |       |
| High Dressing                                                                  | 58.25-64.75            |                    | <b>Veal Calves</b>                                       |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Utility                                                                        | 51.75-58.00            |                    | Jersey's                                                 | 65.00-77.50                                                                  |               |              |       |
| Canners                                                                        | 44.75-51.00            |                    | Weak/Rough/Thin                                          | 47.50-77.50                                                                  |               |              |       |
| Shelly                                                                         | 42.50-Down             |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| <b>Lancaster, New Holland &amp; Vintage - Week Ending - Apr 30, 2005</b>       |                        |                    |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Steers, Choice 2-3                                                             | 1100-1495 lbs          | 91.75-94.25        |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Cows, Breakers 75-80 pct lean                                                  |                        | 59.00-62.75        |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |
| Bulls, YG 1                                                                    | 1065-2165 lbs          | 67.25-73.75        |                                                          |                                                                              |               |              |       |

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

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