



MARYLAND GRAIN & LIVESTOCK REPORT

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|----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| August 4, 2006 | MDA #117 | VOLUME 31 | No. 31 | PUB. Weekly |
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WEEKLY GRAIN COMMENTARY

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Corn and wheat futures gained ground this week while soybean prices were up fractionally. Wheat prices continued to be buoyed by poor spring wheat crop conditions. Monday's crop condition report by the USDA showed the spring wheat harvest at 22 percent, up from the previous years 7 percent. Much like the hard red winter wheat harvest, extreme heat and dry conditions have put the crop well ahead of the normal pace. Also helping stimulate wheat prices was an estimated French wheat crop at just above 34 million tonnes, down 2 to 3 percent from last year. In the corn market, traders reacted to Monday's 3% decline in the Good to Excellent crop rating by building in additional risk premium. Iowa's 5% decline along with even larger reductions in MN, (6%) and SD, (12%) had some in the trade beginning to question whether the East has the ability to make up the potential reductions of yields in the West. With the USDA releasing their August 11th report next week, there are some additional concerns as to what adjustments may be made to not only the national yield but also if adjustments are made in terms of acreage abandonment. It seems that with limited evidence on a poor crop, the August report will focus on yields and the September report will focus on both, acreage and yields. In soybeans, prices were bearish in response to the upper Midwest finally getting relief with cool, wet conditions. Although some of the early pods and blooms may have been aborted, the market feels that yields will be able to rebound since the cool down occurred at the beginning of August.

| Grain futures | Corn Basis | | Soybean Basis | | Wheat Basis | |
|----------------|------------|---------|---------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | Nearby | Forward | Nearby | Forward | Nearby | Forward |
| Western, MD | +8 | | -77 | | -82 | |
| Central, MD | -5 | -21 | -53 | -57 | -83 | |
| Southern, MD | -16 | -26 | -43 | -47 | | |
| Upper E. Shore | -2 | -13 | -30 | -34 | | |
| Lower E. Shore | +2 | -5 | -13 | -22 | -86 | |

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY – July 31, 2006

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Temperatures have dried soil conditions as most of Maryland is still below average rainfall as of the week ending July 30th. However, corn and soybeans were reported in mostly good to excellent condition. Corn condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 48 percent good and 36 percent excellent. Other Hay second cutting continues as it is 77 percent complete; just slightly behind the 80 percent 2005 recording. Some vegetable growers were still concerned about harvesting in areas affected by heavy rains earlier in the summer. There were 6.5 days suitable for field work. Fruits were rated in mostly good condition. For the week ending July 30th, apples were rated 1 percent fair and 99 percent good while 15 percent of apples have now been harvested. Currently, 46 percent of peaches have been harvested; ahead of the 28 percent five-year average. Pasture condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 16 percent excellent while hay supplies were rated 6 percent very short, 14 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 5 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 | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | 07/26 | 08/02 | 07/26 | 08/02 | 07/26 | 08/02 | 07/26 | 08/02 |
| Western, MD | 2.55 | 2.55 | 5.25 | 5.10 | 3.25 | 3.20 | 1.60 | 1.60 |
| Central, MD | 2.43 | 2.42 | 5.46 | 5.34 | 3.13 | 3.19 | --- | --- |
| Southern, MD | 2.30 | 2.31 | 5.55 | 5.44 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Upper E. Shore | 2.44 | 2.45 | 5.63 | 5.57 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lower E. Shore | 2.48 | 2.49 | 5.78 | 5.74 | 3.16 | 3.16 | 1.58 | 1.51 |

| Soybean Meal | Lower Eastern Shore | | Dealer's Average Cash Quotes (\$/ton) | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Date | 07/26 | 08/02 | Date | 07/26 | 08/02 |
| 48% Soybean Meal | N/A | N/A | 44% Soybean Meal | N/A | N/A |

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 | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | 07/26 | 08/02 | 07/26 | 08/02 | 07/26 | 08/02 | 07/26 | 08/02 |
| Western MD | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Central MD | 2.41 | 2.43 | --- | 5.44 | 4.05 | 4.04 | --- | --- |
| Southern MD | 2.36 | 2.38 | 5.67 | 5.54 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Upper E Shore | 2.49 | 2.51 | 5.80 | 5.67 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lower E Shore | 2.57 | 2.59 | 5.92 | 5.79 | --- | --- | --- | --- |

GRAIN FUTURES – Chicago Board of Trade (Cents & Quarter – cents/bushel) Settle – August 2, 2006

| Corn | | Soybeans | | Wheat | | Soybean Meal ¹ | |
|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| 06Sep | 247'2 | 06Aug | 581'6 | 06Sep | 401'4 | 06Aug | 162'5 |
| 06Dec | 264'2 | 06Sep | 587'2 | 06Dec | 421'4 | 06Sep | 164'3 |
| 07Mar | 277'4 | 06Nov | 601'2 | 07Mar | 439'0 | 06Oct | 165'8 |
| 07May | 287'2 | 07Jan | 613'2 | 07May | 448'0 | 06Dec | 168'6 |
| 07Jul | 296'2 | 07Mar | 622'2 | 07Jul | 453'4 | 07Jan | 170'1 |
| 07Sep | 303'0 | 07May | 631'4 | 07Sep | 460'0 | 07Mar | 172'8 |

/Price Unit: Dollars and cents/ton (100 tons (2,000 lbs/ton))

| HAY AND STRAW | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| New Holland, PA - \$/ton – July 31, 2006 | | | | | | |
| Alfalfa | | Mixed Hay | | Timothy | Orchard grass | Straw |
| 95.00 - 160.00 | | 70.00 - 220.00 | | 55.00 - 200.00 | 95.00 - 215.00 | 75.00 - 140.00 |
| Westminster, MD - \$/bale – August 1, 2006 - -- 59 Lots | | | | | | |
| Alfalfa | | Alfalfa Mix | Timothy | Timothy Mix | Grass Mix | Straw |
| 2.60 - 3.90 | | 2.20 - 6.30 | 3.60 - 4.00 | 1.70 - 4.20 | 1.20 - 6.00 | 1.50 - 2.90 |
| POULTRY | | | | | | |
| Negotiated price for truck lot of ready-to-cook, ice-pack, Grade A Fryers (\$ per CWT) – Week Ending – August 5, 2006 | | | | | | |
| | | Current Week | Week Ago | Month Ago | Year Ago | |
| N.Y. Weighted Avg. | | 64.71 | 64.79 | 69.60 | 72.43 | |
| 12 City Composite | | 67.40 | 67.93 | 64.27 | 72.95 | |
| LAMBS – Westminster, MD - \$/cwt – August 1, 2006 | | | | | | |
| Lambs | | Under 50lbs | 85.00 - 95.00 | Sheep | | |
| | | 50 - 80 lbs | 85.00 - 90.00 | Too Fat Rams | 12.00 - 27.00 | |
| | | 90 - 130 lbs | 80.00 - 85.00 | | | |
| TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS – August 2, 2006 | | | | DIRECT MARKET HOGS – Westminster, MD – August 1, 2006 | | |
| Base Price Range | | Carcass Basis | Sows (1 -3) | Butcher Hogs | | Sows |
| a.m. | | Base 185 lb Hog | 300 – 449 lbs | #1 215 - 275 lbs | 44.00 - 48.00 | Heavyweights |
| Eastern Corn belt | | 61.00 - 70.27 | 35.17 - 39.09 | #2 175 - 185 lbs | 41.00 - 50.00 | Lightweights |
| Iowa, Minn | | 63.00 - 70.50 | 34.85 - 37.26 | Heavyweights | 29.50 - 30.00 | Boars |
| | | | | | | Heavyweights |
| | | | | | | 11.50 - 12.00 |
| Market Hogs - Millsboro, DE – July 11, 2006 - dollars/cwt 40.00 | | | | | | |
| Next sale date – August 8, 2006 | | | | | | |
| FEEDER PIGS – (\$/CWT) – | | | | | | |
| Gumboro, DE July 11, 2006 | | | | New Holland, PA | | |
| Next sale date – August 8, 2006 | | | | Head | | Trend: |
| Head: 152 | | | | Not Available | | |
| Under 30 lbs | 72.00 - 134.00 | 50 - 59 lbs | 45.00 - 82.00 | | | |
| 30 - 39 lbs | 120.00 - 131.00 | 60 - 69 lbs | 56.00 - 60.00 | | | |
| 40 - 49 lbs | 55.00 - 100.00 | 70 - 79 lbs | 30.00 | | | |
| Chicago Mercantile Exchange \$/cwt) – August 2, 2006 | | | | | | |
| CATTLE –LIVE FUTURES | | | | HOGS-LEAN FUTURES | | |
| AUG06 | 82.93 | FEB07 | 89.85 | AUG06 | 68.60 | FEB07 |
| OCT06 | 87.58 | APR07 | 88.35 | OCT06 | 61.28 | APR07 |
| DEC06 | 88.05 | JUN07 | 83.60 | DEC06 | 59.63 | MAY07 |
| | | | | | | 61.13 |
| | | | | | | 61.15 |
| | | | | | | 64.78 |
| STOCKER – FEEDER CATTLE – (\$/cwt) | | | | | | |
| Winchester, VA – July 31, 2006 | | | | Westminster, MD – August 1, 2006 | | |
| Steers | | 300 - 400 lbs | 120.00 - 134.00 | Steers | | 200 - 300 lbs |
| | | 400 - 500 lbs | 124.00 - 134.00 | | | 71.00 - 109.00 |
| | | 500 - 600 lbs | 121.00 - 129.00 | | | 400 - 500 lbs |
| | | 700 - 800 lbs | 98.00 | | | Jerseys |
| | | 900 - 1100 lbs | 90.00 | | | 73.00 - 82.50 |
| Heifers | | 300 - 400 lbs | 119.00 - 136.00 | Heifers | | 200 - 300 lbs |
| | | 400 - 500 lbs | 109.00 - 115.50 | | | 106.00 |
| | | 500 - 600 lbs | 104.75 - 115.00 | | | 400 - 500 lbs |
| | | 600 - 700 lbs | 94.00 - 103.00 | | | 78.83 |
| SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt) | | | | | | |
| Westminster, MD – August 1, 2006 | | | | Fed Heifers | | |
| Sltr. Cows | | | | Select | | 75.00 |
| Premium | 48.00 - 52.00 | | | Hols. Bull Calves #1 | | 170.00 - 190.00 |
| Breakers | 44.25 - 48.00 | | | #2 | | 140.00 - 160.00 |
| Boners | 39.50 - 44.00 | | | #3 | | 100.00 - 140.00 |
| Thin/Slow | 39.00 & down | | | Culls | | 50.00 - 90.00 |
| Fed Steers | | | | Jerseys | | 5.00 - 40.00 |
| Choice & Prime | 84.00 - 86.00 | | | Beef Cross | | 100.00 - 150.00 |
| Select | 75.50 | | | Holstein Heifers #2 | | 245.00 - 380.00 |
| Holsteins | 66.50 - 70.00 | | | | | |
| Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage – August 3, 2006 | | | | | | |
| Sltr. Steers: | | | Hols. Steers: | | | |
| H Ch & Pr 2-4 | 1235 -1480 lbs | 85.00 - 88.25 | Hi Ch & Pr 2-3 | 1670 - 1775lbs | 71.50 - 75.00 | |
| | 1510 - 1610 lbs | 82.25 - 87.50 | Prime 2-3 | 1320 - 1585 lbs | 70.75 - 75.75 | |
| Choice 2- 3 | 1160 -1475 lbs | 83.25 - 86.50 | Sel & Lo Ch 1-3 | 1265 - 1575 lbs | 65.75 - 69.75 | |
| | 1500 - 1600 lbs | 81.00 - 85.00 | | | | |
| H Sel & LoCh 1-3 | 1135 -1395 lbs | 82.00 - 85.50 | Sltr. Cows: | | Percent Lean | Bulk |
| Select 1-2 | 1005 -1295 lbs | 78.00 - 81.50 | Premium White | 65 - 75 | 55.75 - 56.25 | |
| | | | Breakers | 75 - 80 | 50.00 - 52.00 | |
| | | | Boners | 80 - 85 | 44.00 - 47.75 | |
| Sltr Heifers | | | Lean | 88 - 90 | 41.50 - 45.25 | |
| H Ch & Pr 2-4 | 1240 - 1410 lbs | 81.75 - 85.00 | | | | |

Compiled by USDA, NASS, Maryland Field Office

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