



MARYLAND GRAIN & LIVESTOCK REPORT

December 14, 2007 MDA #117 VOLUME 32 No. 50 PUB. Weekly

WEEKLY GRAIN COMMENTARY **Kevin McNew** **Adjunct Professor, UMD-College Park**

Grain prices continued to reach new heights this week as tight world supplies and dry conditions in South America fueled the price rally. In the corn market, stronger than expected export sales of 1.466 mmt plus continued stress across Argentina's growing regions helped support prices. There are some light showers expected across northern Argentina and southern Brazil this weekend, but nothing that will provide any significant relief. Temperatures are expected to warm next week which will put additional stress on a corn crop that is already in great need of moisture. Looking ahead to 2008, a recent survey done by Farm Futures magazine indicated that US farmers plan to plant 88 million acres of corn this coming year. Although this is 5.6 million acres less than this past year, it is 3 million acres more than the 84.9 million acres this same survey yielded in August. Using acreage at 88 million and projected yield at roughly 156 bpa. production for next year comes to 12.605 billion bu. Assuming total usage of 13.200 billion bu, 2008/09 carryout would fall to roughly 1.215 billion bu compared to 07/08 ending stocks at 1.797 billion. The corresponding stocks/use ratio would then fall from 14.2% to 9.2%. This would be the 3rd lowest in history behind 1995/96 (5.0%) and 1975/76 (6.9%). For beans, weekly export sales totaled 971,400 MT exceeding market estimates that ranged from 600,000 to 700,000 MT. Year to date sales total 703.6 million bushels compared to the most recent 07/08 year outlook for 995 million in bushels. The market is technically overbought and is ripe for a consolidative set back. The long term trend is still upwards with the strong bullish fundamentals supporting any downward price move but as we enter the end of the year, profit taking could pull beans back 50 to 75-cents on a corrective type move.

	Corn Basis		Soybean Basis		Wheat Basis	
Location	Nearby	Forward	Nearby	Forward	Nearby	Forward
WMD	-3		-93		-136	
CMD	-10	-17	-91	-77	-55	
SMD	-4	-27	-86	-57		
UES	+11	-14	-56	-47	-125	
LES	+26	+3	-41	-32	-128	

CASH GRAINS – REGIONAL – (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES

Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date	12/04	12/11	12/04	12/11	12/04	12/11	12/04	12/11
Western, MD	4.20	4.30	10.11	10.59	7.85	8.05	3.58	3.58
Central, MD	3.99	4.23	10.22	10.61	8.45	8.86	----	----
Southern, MD	4.16	4.29	10.42	10.86	----	----	----	----
Upper E. Shore	4.31	4.44	10.52	10.96	7.99	8.16	----	----
Lower E. Shore	4.46	4.59	10.67	11.11	7.96	8.13	3.75	3.83

Soybean Meal Lower Eastern Shore Dealer's Average Cash Quotes (\$/ton)

Date	12/04	12/11	Date	12/04	12/11
48% Soybean Meal	N/A	350.20	44% Soybean Meal	N/A	338.20

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	
Date	12/04	12/11	12/04	12/11	12/04	12/11	12/04	12/11
Western MD	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD	4.28	4.32	9.63	9.87	6.75	7.15	----	----
Southern MD	4.18	4.22	9.83	10.07	6.75	7.06	2.96	3.03
Upper E Shore	4.31	4.35	9.93	10.17	6.75	7.06	2.96	3.03
Lower E Shore	4.48	4.52	10.08	10.32	6.74	7.04	2.96	2.96

GRAIN FUTURES – Chicago Board of Trade (Cents & Quarter – cents/bushel) Settle – December 12, 2007

Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal ^{1/}	
07Dec	416'6	08Jan	1151'4	07Dec	934'0	07Dec	319'5
08Mar	433'2	08Mar	1170'6	08Mar	940'4	08Jan	322'5
08May	444'2	08May	1183'2	08May	943'0	08Mar	328'2
08Jul	449'6	08Jul	1185'6	08Jul	828'4	08May	331'2
08Sep	449'0	08Aug	1150'0	08Sep	829'0	08Jul	329'2
08Dec	449'2	08Sep	1115'0	08Dec	837'4	08Aug	319'0

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

HAY AND STRAW

New Holland, PA - \$/ton – December 10, 2007

Alfalfa	Mixed Hay	Timothy	Orchard grass	Straw
140.00 - 295.00	165.00 - 335.00	165.00 - 295.00	170.00 - 290.00	100.00 - 190.00

Westminster, MD - \$/bale – December 11, 2007

Alfalfa	Alfalfa Mix	Timothy	Timothy Mix	Grass Mix	Straw
5.00 - 5.50	3.20 - 7.00	3.80 - 6.80	2.00 - 6.00	3.10 - 6.10	2.05 - 2.90

POULTRY					
Negotiated price for truck lot of ready-to-cook, ice-pack, Grade A Fryers (\$ per CWT) – Week Ending – December 15, 2007					
	Current Week		Prev. Week	Prev. Month	Prev. Year
N.Y. Weighted Avg.	66.50		67.76	67.76	61.71
12 City Composite	70.40		71.21	70.05	65.83
SHEEP & LAMBS - Westminster, MD – December 11, 2007 - \$/cwt					
Sheep	40.00 - 70.00	Lambs	Under 50 lbs	105.00 - 125.00	
Yearlings	70.00 - 95.00		50 - 80 lbs	110.00 - 125.00	
Too Fat	26.00 - 40.00		90 - 130 lbs	110.00 - 135.00	
			Feeders (Very thin)	67.50 - 100.00	
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS – December 13, 2007			DIRECT MARKET HOGS – Westminster, MD – December 11, 2007		
Base Price Range	Carcass Basis	Weighted	Butcher Hogs		Sows
	Base 185 lb Hog	Average	Heavy Weights	26.00 - 40.50	Light Weights
					25.00
Iowa, Minn	44.00 - 55.50	53.81			Boars
Eastern Corn belt	51.00 - 54.00	51.94			Heavy Weights
					Light Weights
					22.00
Market Hogs - Millsboro, DE - November 13, 2007 - dollars/cwt 27.50 - 30.00 Next sale date – December 11, 2007					
FEEDER PIGS – (\$/CWT) – Gumboro, DE November 13, 2007 Next sale date – December 11, 2007					
Head: 183					
Under 30 lbs	180.00		50 - 59 lbs	50.00 - 70.00	
30 - 39 lbs	56.00 - 120.00		60 - 69 lbs	50.00 - 68.00	
40 - 49 lbs	40.00 - 75.00		70 - 79 lbs	50.00	
CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE -\$/cwt) – December 12, 2007					
CATTLE –LIVE FUTURES			HOGS-LEAN FUTURES		
DEC07	93.53	JUN08	93.80	DEC07	55.18
FEB08	96.80	AUG08	94.95	FEB08	61.75
APR08	98.38	OCT08	99.00	APR08	67.15
					73.68
					76.28
					75.40
STOCKER – FEEDER CATTLE – (\$/cwt)					
Winchester, VA – December 10, 2007			Westminster, MD – December 11, 2007		
Steers	300 - 400 lbs	114.00 -131.00	Steers	200 - 300 lbs	108.00 -121.00
	400 - 500 lbs	97.50 -117.25		400 - 500 lbs	76.00 - 79.00
	500 - 600 lbs	92.00 -113.00		600 - 700 lbs	71.00 - 87.00
	600 - 700 lbs	90.50 - 93.00		800 -1000 lbs	76.00 - 77.00
	700 - 800 lbs	92.50 - 95.50			
	800 - 900 lbs	91.75			
Heifers	300 - 400 lbs	89.00 -113.00	Heifers	200 - 300 lbs	77.50 - 95.00
	400 - 500 lbs	88.00 -106.00		400 - 500 lbs	72.00 - 95.00
	500 - 600 lbs	82.00 - 93.00		600 - 700 lbs	65.00 - 77.00
	600 - 700 lbs	70.00 - 84.50		800 -1000 lbs	48.00 - 58.00
	700 - 800 lbs	83.00 - 86.00			
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)					
Westminster, MD – December 11, 2007			Fed Heifers		
Sltr. Cows			Choice	86.25 - 88.75	
Premium - (2 head)	67.00 - 68.00		Holsteins	64.00 - 69.50	
Breakers	47.50 - 52.50				
Boners	42.50 - 47.00		Hols. Bull Calves #1	110.00 - 122.00	
Thin/Slow	42.00 & Down		#2	100.00	
Fed Steers			Culls	30.00 - 60.00	
Choice & Prime	87.00 - 91.50		Jerseys	10.00 - 30.00	
Low Choice	82.50 - 85.50		Beef Cross	100.00 - 130.00	
Select	73.50 - 79.00		Hols. Heifers #2	280.00	
Holsteins	79.25				
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage – December 13, 2007					
Sltr. Steers:			Sltr. Heifers:		
Hi Ch & Pr 2-3	1150 - 1590 lbs	87.00 - 90.00	Choice 2-3	1183 -1387 lbs	84.50 - 86.50
Full/YG 4-5		82.00 - 86.50	Full/YG 4-5		80.50 - 83.75
Choice 2- 3	1185 - 1550 lbs	85.50 - 88.25	Heiferettes	1025 -1435 lbs	55.00 - 65.00
	1550 - 1605 lbs	82.00 - 85.25			
Hi Sel & Lo Ch 2-3	1145 - 1485 lbs	83.00 - 86.00			
Select 1-2	1095 - 1335 lbs	80.75 - 82.75			
Hols. Steers:			Sltr. Cows:	Percent Lean	Avg. Dressing
Hi Ch & Pr 2-3	1200 - 1490 lbs	82.75 - 86.00	Premium White	65 - 75	53.00 - 58.00
Choice 2-3	1330 - 1677 lbs	76.00 - 80.50	Breakers	75 - 80	47.50 - 52.50
Hi Sel & Lo Ch 2-3	1290 - 1622 lbs	72.00 - 76.00	Boners	80 - 85	43.00 - 47.25
Select 1-2	1150 - 1575 lbs	68.50 - 72.50	Lean	88 - 90	37.00 - 42.50
Standard 1-2	1115 - 1388 lbs	63.00 - 67.00			

Compiled by USDA, NASS, Maryland Field Office
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