



GRAIN & LIVESTOCK REPORT

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MARKET ANALYSIS -December 4, 2003

Corn started the week in tremendous fashion by finishing up on a 4 week high but the move above \$2.50 is expected to prompt a fair amount of farmer selling which could bring prices down a tad. Although export news has been fairly quiet, there is a sense of optimism in this market on that front. The continued weakness in the U.S. dollar is expected to help with more exports (the dollar index is at a seven year low). Even more bullish news helped in that department when the Chinese trade delegation has rescheduled their trade meetings for late December, which lifted the nearby contract even higher. Ethanol production remained at record high levels in October and rising livestock and poultry numbers have risen. USDA sales numbers by the end of the week were toward the low end of expectations and couldn't satisfy the bull's appetite so prices gave up a little of their gains of late. Soybean futures have continued to rebound from signs of weakness early in the week and this it seems is being driven by the tight supply and demand situation, which is generating bullish talk. Asian rust is appearing on Brazil beans causing concern over yields, but planting progress has been favorable and Brazil is expected to produce a record crop at this point. By midweek the January contract settled nearly 50 cents above last week's low and are about a quarter off the contract highs. The November 2004 contract printed a new contract high of \$6.05 – another good year price wise looks likely. In the wheat export market we are seeing a lot more purchases by countries that did not buy last year (probably because of the deflated dollar). The Chinese delegation visit is like icing on the excellent export business and should keep the bullish momentum going. The USDA weekly export sales number came in above expectations at 892 thousand metric tons, and this positive fundamental news continues to underpin this market, but some traders argue that the current price has already incorporated the good export news over the last couple of weeks.

BASIS TABLE

LOCATION	CORN BASIS		SOYBEAN BASIS		WHEAT BASIS	
	CASH(Dec03)	NEW(Dec03)	CASH(Jan04)	NEW(Nov04)	CASH(Dec03)	NEW(Jul04)
Western MD	+27	N/A	-50	N/A	-54	N/A
Central MD	+18	N/A	-44	N/A	-12	-20
Southern MD	+13	Even	-35	-25	N/A	-30
Upper E. S	+23	+5	-40	-25	N/A	-27
Lower E. S	+31	+12	-31	-25	-52	-28

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

There were 4.4 days suitable for field work for the week ending November 30, 2003. Soybeans were 87 percent harvested, 11 percent more than last year and 6 percent less than the five-year average. Harvest of soybeans should finish up this week, assuming the weather will be good. Farmers are making their last few field preparations for the coming cold weather season. Topsoil moisture was rated 66 percent adequate and 34 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 80 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus. Precipitation for the month of November was above average for all of Maryland's 23 counties. Prince George's county received the most precipitation with 5.5 inches, 2.3 inches above normal. Worcester received the least amount of precipitation with 3.2 inches of rain, which is normal for this time of year. This will be our last weekly crop and weather summary until April 2004.

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

Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	11/19	12/03	11/19	12/03	11/19	12/03	11/19	12/03
Western Md	2.78	2.76	7.06	7.28	3.30	3.48	2.45	2.45
Central MD	2.64	2.67	7.11	7.34	3.30	3.90	2.50	2.50
Southern MD	2.46	2.62	7.14	7.43	---	---	---	---
Upper E. Shore	2.51	2.72	7.17	7.38	---	---	---	---
Lower E. Shore	2.61	2.80	7.16	7.47	---	3.50	---	1.40

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

Date	11/19	12/03	Date	11/19	12/03
48% Soybean Meal	268.00	270.00	44% Soybean Meal	256.00	258.00

FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE-REGIONAL (\$/bu) For Harvest delivery Dealer's Avg Quote

Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	11/19	12/03	11/19	12/03	11/19	12/03	11/19	12/03
Western Md	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Central MD	---	---	---	---	---	3.58	---	---
Southern MD	2.44	2.49	5.46	5.77	3.21	3.48	1.44	1.45
Upper E Shore	2.49	2.54	5.46	5.77	3.24	3.51	1.55	1.55
Lower E Shore	2.56	2.61	5.58	5.77	3.23	3.50	1.51	1.51

GRAIN FUTURES - Chicago Board of Trade (cents/bu) -Dec 03, 2003

Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal ¹	
Dec	249.25	Ja04	778.25	Dec	402.00	Dec	233.30
Mr04	252.25	Mar	777.50	Mr04	414.75	Ja04	234.10
May	255.00	May	759.50	May	405.75	Mar	233.60
Jul	256.25	Jul	743.25	Jul	378.25	May	230.60
Sept	251.50	Aug	715.00	Sept	381.25	Jul	226.80
Dec	249.25	Sept	662.00	Dec	391.00	Aug	218.80

¹ \$/ton

HAY AND STRAW (\$/cwt)				
New Holland, PA - \$/ton - Dec 01, 2003 - 96 Loads				
Alfalfa	Mixed	Timothy	Orchardgrass	Straw
100.00-210.00	112.00-240.00	135.00-200.00	97.00-197.00	130.00-230.00
Westminster, MD - \$/bale - Dec 01, 2003 - 120 Lots				
Alfalfa	Timothy	Mixed	Grass	Straw
2.80-5.00	1.90-5.40	1.70-4.60	1.60-4.00	2.80-3.80
Southern, MD - Regional Farmers' Market - \$/bale - Next Sale Dec 06, 2003				
POULTRY (Grade A) - Week Ending Dec 06, 2003 - Negotiated Price, (\$/cwt)				
	<u>Current Week</u>	<u>Week Ago</u>	<u>Month Ago</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>
NY Wtd Avg. (Fryers)	61.25	61.13	58.86	46.35
12-City Composite	65.37	66.02	64.04	53.36
LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt - Dec 01, 2003				
Good Ch	100-125 lbs	103.00-112.00	Good	80-100 lbs
				114.00-122.00
			Good	60- 80 lbs
				116.00-133.00
			Sheep	Yearlings
				45.00-62.00
				80.00-97.00
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS - Dec 04, 2003			DIRECT MARKET HOGS - Westminster, MD- Dec 02, 2003	
Base Price Range	Carcass Basis	Sows (1-3)	# 1&2	260-290 lbs
a.m.	Base 185 lb Hog	300-449 lbs		39.00-42.00
Eastern Cornbelt	40.50-52.15	23.00-33.74		
Iowa, Minn	42.00-49.32	22.00-30.35	Millsboro, DE Market Hogs - (\$/cwt) - Dec 02, 2003 \$ 32.00-33.00	
FEEDER PIGS - (\$/cwt) -				
Gumboro, DE -			New Holland, PA	
Head:	Trend:		Head:	slaughter <i>Effective Immediately</i>
	Next Sale 12/16/03			All pigs are mandated to go to slaughter. No feeders will be reported until further notice
CATTLE-LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Dec 03, 2003			HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Dec 03, 2003	
Dec	98.15	Apr	83.05	Dec
Ja04	94.97	Jun	75.65	49.47
Feb	93.20	Aug	74.15	May
				59.85
				Fb04
				54.35
				Jun
				63.00
				Apr
				57.45
				Jul
				60.87
STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE - (\$/cwt)				
Winchester, VA - Dec 01, 2003			Westminster, MD - Dec 02, 2003	
Steers	300- 400 lbs	112.00-126.00	Steers	300- 500 lbs
	400- 500 lbs	95.00-107.00		500- 700 lbs
	500- 600 lbs	83.50- 97.00		700- 900 lbs
	600- 700 lbs	82.50- 93.50		Few
	900-1100 lbs	90.50- 96.50		88.00- 93.00
Heifers	300- 400 lbs	92.50-104.50	Heifers	900-1075 lbs
	400- 500 lbs	85.00- 99.00		300- 500 lbs
	500- 600 lbs	78.00- 89.00		500- 700 lbs
	600- 700 lbs	75.00- 84.50		700- 900 lbs
	700- 800 lbs	76.50- 81.00	Bulls returning to farm	
			#1	95- 120 lbs
			#2	90- 110 lbs
			Heifers #1	90- 110 lbs
			#2	70- 80 lbs
			Beef X Bulls & Heifers	70- 100 lbs
				130.00-150.00
				90.00-120.00
				440.00-480.00
				170.00-255.00
				107.00-147.00
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage - Week Ending - Dec 06, 2003				
Bull, Holstein			Plainer	
Heifers, Hols		N/A	Plainer	N/A
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)				
Westminster, MD - Dec 02, 2003				
Fed Steers			Fed Heifers	
H-Ch 2-4	1200-1450 lbs	102.00-105.00	H-Ch 2-4	1100-1350 lbs
Returned to Feed	1100-1300 lbs	73.00- 79.00	Low Dressing	
Cows			L-Ch Holstein	1150-1600 lbs
Hi-dressing		59.00- 62.00	Calves	
Breakers		52.00- 63.00	Good slaughter	90- 120 lbs
Boners		50.00- 58.00		70- 90 lbs
Lean		42.00- 50.00		60.00-75.00
Thin & Light		41.00-DOWN		50.00-65.00
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage - Week Ending - Dec 06, 2003				
Steers, Choice, 2-3				N/A
Cows, Breakers 75-80 pct lean				
Bulls, YG 1				
Vealers, Good & Choice				

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

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