USDA
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Upper Midwest Region – Minnesota Field Office
Cooperating with the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
nassrfoumr@nass.usda.gov
www.nass.usda.gov

Minnesota AgriView

Vol 16-08 April 11, 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

The annual *Prospective Plantings* report published by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service is based on the voluntary responses from approximately two thousand Minnesota producers. This report provides an indication of the acres farmers intend to plant in the 2016 crop year. Actual plantings will depend upon weather, economic conditions and the availability of production inputs at the time producers must make their final planting decisions.

Minnesota farmers intend to plant 8.2 million acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2016, 100,000 acres more than last year's actual planted acres.

Farmers in Minnesota intend to plant 7.4 million acres of **soybeans**, down 3 percent from 2015.

Spring wheat producers intend to plant 1.35 million acres, down 130,000 acres from last year.

Minnesota **oat** producers intend to plant 200,000 acres of oats, down 80,000 acres from 2015.

Minnesota farmers intend to plant 100,000 acres of **barley**, down 35,000 acres from the previous year.

Minnesota farmers intend to harvest 1.70 million acres of **dry hay** in 2016, up 8 percent from last year. If realized, this would be second smallest number of acres harvested, behind only last year's record low.

Minnesota farmers intend to plant 444,000 acres of **sugarbeets** this year, up 1,000 acres from 2015.

Producers in Minnesota intend to plant 96,000 acres of **sunflowers** in 2016, down 5,000 acres from 2015. **Oil Sunflower** intentions, at 75,000 acres, are 2,000 acres below 2015. **Non-oil sunflower** planting intentions, at 21,000 acres, are 3,000 acres below last year.

Nationally, **corn** planted area for all purposes in 2016 is estimated at 93.6 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 2013, and will be the third highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944.

U.S. **soybean** planted area for 2016 is estimated at 82.2 million acres, down less than 1 percent from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage intentions are down or unchanged in 23 of the 31 estimating States.

U.S. **all wheat** planted area for 2016 is estimated at 49.6 million acres, down 9 percent from 2015. The 2016 winter wheat planted area, at 36.2 million acres, is down 8 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 26.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.60 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.37 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2016 is estimated at 11.3 million acres, down 14 percent from 2015. Of this total, about 10.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2016 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, up 3 percent from the previous year.

Area Planted – Minnesota and United States: 2014-2016

Crop	Minnesota				United States			
	2014	2015	Intended 2016	'16 as % of '15	2014	2015	Intended 2016	'16 as % of '15
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Barley	75	135	100	74	3,031	3,558	3,140	88
Canola	15.0	23.0	24.0	104	1,715.0	1,777.0	1,747.5	98
Corn, all	8,200	8,100	8,200	101	90,597	87,999	93,601	106
Dry edible beans	155.0	190.0	155.0	82	1,701.6	1,764.4	1,559.0	88
Hay, all[2]	1,910	1,570	1,700	108	57,062	54,437	54,305	100
Oats	230	280	200	71	2,753	3,088	2,751	89
Soybeans	7,350	7,600	7,400	97	83,276	82,650	82,236	99
Sugarbeets	440.0	443.0	444.0	100	1,162.5	1,158.8	1,158.6	100
Sunflowers, all	62.0	101.0	96.0	95	1,565.3	1,859.1	1,693.4	91
Sunflowers, oil	47.0	77.0	75.0	97	1,174.0	1,550.5	1,444.0	93
Sunflowers, non-oil	15.0	24.0	21.0	88	391.3	308.6	249.4	81
Wheat, all	1,262	1,532	1,385	90	56,841	54,644	49,559	91
Wheat, spring	1,220	1,480	1,350	91	13,025	13,247	11,348	86
Wheat, winter	42	52	35	67	42,409	39,461	36,216	92

[1] Area harvested.

GRAIN STOCKS

Minnesota corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2016, totaled 939 million bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2015. Of the total stocks, 71 percent were stored on-farm. The December 2015-February 2016 indicated disappearance totaled 343 million bushels, 4 percent less than the 359 million bushels used during the same period last year.

Minnesota soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2016, totaled 166 million bushels, up 36 percent from the 122 million bushels on hand March 1, 2015. Of the total stocks, 60 percent were stored on-farm. Indicated disappearance for December 2015-February 2016 was 101 million bushels, 2 percent more than the 99 million bushels used during the same quarter last year.

Minnesota oats stocks stored in all positions on March 1, 2016, totaled 26.5 million bushels, 65 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2015. Of the total stocks, 83 percent were stored off-farm.

Minnesota all wheat stocks stored in all positions on March 1, 2016, totaled 76.9 million bushels, up 30 percent from the 59.0 million bushels on March 1, 2015. Of the total stocks, 51 percent were stored on-farm. The December 2015-February 2016 indicated disappearance was 15.8 million bushels, 12 percent less than the 17.9 million bushels used in the same quarter last year.

Minnesota barley stocks stored in all positions on March 1, 2016, totaled 7.81 million bushels, 5 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2015. Of the total stocks, 26 percent were stored on-farm. Indicated disappearance for December 2015-February 2016 was 2.5 million bushels.

Grain Stocks by Position – Minnesota and United States: March 1, 2015 and 2016

Position and Grain	Minnesota			United States		
	March 1 2015	March 1 2016	'16 as % of '15	March 1 2015	March 1 2016	'16 as % of '15
	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(percent)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(percent)
On-Farm Stocks						
Barley	1,200	2,000	167	41,990	57,610	137
Corn	580,000	670,000	116	4,380,000	4,335,000	99
Oats	2,400	4,600	192	20,810	26,800	129
Soybeans	72,000	99,000	138	609,200	727,500	119
Wheat	26,000	39,000	150	278,710	319,800	115
Off-Farm Stocks [1]						
Barley	6,217	5,811	93	76,247	79,535	104
Corn	193,702	268,757	139	3,369,806	3,472,935	103
Oats	13,646	21,901	160	38,609	48,480	126
Soybeans	50,183	66,954	133	717,399	803,294	112
Wheat	33,029	37,899	115	861,697	1,051,730	122
Total Stocks						
Barley	7,417	7,811	105	118,237	137,145	116
Corn	773,702	938,757	121	7,749,806	7,807,935	101
Oats	16,046	26,501	165	59,419	75,280	127
Soybeans	122,183	165,954	136	1,326,599	1,530,794	115
Wheat	59,029	76,899	130	1,140,407	1,371,530	120

[1]Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

U.S. **corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2016 totaled 7.81 billion bushels, up 1 percent from March 1, 2015. Of the total stocks, 4.34 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.47 billion bushels, are up 3 percent from a year ago. The December 2015 - February 2016 indicated disappearance is 3.43 billion bushels, compared with 3.46 billion bushels during the same period last year.

U.S. s**oybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2016 totaled 1.53 billion bushels, up 15 percent from March 1, 2015. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 728 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 803 million bushels, are up 12 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2015 - February 2016 quarter totaled 1.18 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **all wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2016 totaled 1.37 billion bushels, up 20 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 320 million bushels, up 15 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 1.05 billion bushels, are up 22 percent from a year ago. The December 2015 - February 2016 indicated disappearance is 375 million bushels, 4 percent below the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2016 totaled 137 million bushels, up 16 percent from March 1, 2015. On-farm stocks are estimated at 57.6 million bushels, 37 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 79.5 million bushels, are 4 percent above March 2015. The December 2015 - February 2016 indicated disappearance totaled 43.4 million bushels, 15 percent above the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2016 totaled 75.3 million bushels, 27 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2015. Of the total stocks on hand, 26.8 million bushels were stored on farms, up 29 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 48.5 million bushels, up 26 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2015 - February 2016 totaled 7.57 million bushels, slightly above the same period a year ago.

MONTHLY PRICES

The February 2016 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Minnesota was $3.31 per bushel. This was down $0.16 from the January price, and $0.32 lower than the February 2015 price.

The February 2016 average price received by farmers for **soybeans**, at $8.12 per bushel, was down $0.21 from the January price, and $1.62 lower than the February 2015 price.

The February 2016 price for **spring wheat** was $4.46 per bushel, down $0.34 from January, and $1.22 below February 2015.

All hay prices in Minnesota averaged $82.00 per ton in February, down $6.00 from the January price, and $22.00 per ton less than February 2015. **Alfalfa hay** prices fell $23.00 per ton from one year ago, to $90.00, while **other hay** prices were $13.00 per ton lower than last year, at $65.00.

The February average price was $16.10 per cwt for **milk**, down $0.40 from January, and $1.60 per cwt below one year ago.

Livestock Prices Received by Farmers - United States

	February 2015	January 2016	February 2016
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Calves .... cwt	277.00	196.00	201.00
Cattle, all beef .... cwt	159.00	130.00	132.00
Cows[1] .... cwt	110.00	74.20	77.50
Steers and heifers .... cwt	161.00	132.00	134.00
Hogs, all .... cwt	50.40	43.60	49.60
Barrows and gilts .... cwt	50.80	44.00	49.80
Sows .... cwt	39.70	31.50	45.40
Eggs (market).................. doz	1.12	0.969	0.970

[1] Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

Prices Received by Farmers - Minnesota and United States

	Minnesota			United States		
	February 2015	January 2016	February 2016	February 2015	January 2016	February 2016
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Barley, all ....bu	5.43	5.00	4.95	5.22	5.46	5.50
Beans, dry edible .... cwt	(D)	35.70	25.10	32.10	28.50	24.80
Corn ....bu	3.63	3.47	3.31	3.79	3.66	3.57
Hay, all baled ....ton	104.00	88.00	82.00	153.00	137.00	136.00
Alfalfa ....ton	113.00	100.00	90.00	167.00	147.00	142.00
Other ....ton	78.00	67.00	65.00	131.00	121.00	125.00
Oats ....bu	2.97	2.31	1.90	3.08	1.92	2.21
Potatoes .... cwt	10.00	10.40	10.20	9.14	8.58	8.48
Soybeans ....bu	9.74	8.33	8.12	9.91	8.71	8.51
Spring wheat ....bu	5.68	4.80	4.46	5.55	4.80	4.56
Sunflowers, all .... cwt	(S)	18.90	23.30	21.50	20.00	20.50
Milk, all .... cwt	17.70	16.50	16.10	16.80	16.10	15.70

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (S) Insufficient number of reports to establish an estimate.

ANALYSIS OF THE MAR. 31 USDA NASS REPORTS

By: Ward E. Nefstead, Associate Professor & Extension Economist, Dept. of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

The Grain Stocks and Prospective Plantings reports were released on Thursday, March 31. First, regarding the Grain Stocks report, the expectation by the trade was for 7.81 billion bushels of corn to be on hand as of March 1, 2016. The estimate by NASS was 7.81 billion bushels, up 1% from last year. Of this total, 4.34 billion bushels were stored on farms (down 1% from last year) with 3.47 billion bushels stored off-farm (up 3% from last year). So the trade guess was confirmed in the actual report. The disappearance (measure of pace of demand for corn) for December 2015 to February 2016 was 3.43 billion bushels, compared to 3.46 billion bushels last year.

As for soybean stocks as of March 1, 2016, the trade average was 1.556 billion bushels with the NASS estimate coming in at 1.53 billion bushels, up 15% from last year. Of this total, 728 million bushels were store on farms (up 19% from last year) with 803 million bushels (up 12%) stored off farm. What was noticed was the size of stocks being larger than normal. Disappearance of soybeans from the December 2015 to the February 2016 period was 1.18 billion bushels, (down 1% from last year). This was a somewhat slower pace of demand although exports to China remain at high levels.

The wheat picture on stocks as of March 1, 2016 is as follows: expectations of 1.356 billion bushels by trade sources, actual stocks were listed at 1.37 billion bushels (up 20% from last year). Of this total, 320 million bushels were stored on farm (up 15% from last year) with 1.45 billion bushels stored off farm (up22% from last year). So stocks were somewhat greater than expected. The disappearance of wheat from December 2015 to February 2016 was 375 million bushels, down 4% from last year.

So what does this mean? Stocks of grains are ample with demand average or slightly below average.

(Nefstead article continued). Now for the real news. The prospective plantings report contained some surprises. The acreage of corn to be planted for the 2016 crop year was 93.6 million acres. This was just about 4 million acres over the previous estimate. This would make the acreage of corn close to the 2013 record acreage and approaching an all-time high. Milder weather and an early spring may be some of the reasons for this change. Corn future reacted by moving $.15 lower after the report. Soybean acres were pegged at 82.2 million acres, less than the 83.57 million acre estimate by trade sources. Soybean prices were just marginally lower after the report. Wheat acreage was estimated at 49.6 million acres, down 9% from last year. Spring wheat acreage was estimate at 11.3 million acres, less than the trade estimate of 12.838 million acres.

With stocks being larger, putting some pressure on old crop prices, the attention will shift to the new crop with corn acreage putting a lid on new crop price rallies. Weather will play a major role once crops are planted. There is still some concern over El Nino patterns and the incidence of drought in late summer. That will yet to be determined. For now, it will be important for producers to make consistent marketings in the event of further price weakness.

HOGS & PIGS

On March 1, 2016, there were 7.95 million hogs and pigs on Minnesota farms. The March 1 inventory was down 1 percent from both the previous quarter and the previous year. The December 2015-February 2016 quarterly pig crop was 3.00 million head, down 4 percent from both the previous quarter and last year. A total of 270,000 sows farrowed during this quarter. The average pigs saved per litter was 11.10 for the quarter, equal to the previous quarter. As of March 1, producers planned to farrow 275,000 sows and gilts in the March-May quarter and 290,000 head during the June-August quarter.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2016 was 67.6 million head. This was up slightly from

March 1, 2015, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2015. Breeding inventory, at 5.98 million head, was down slightly from last year, and down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 61.7 million head, was up slightly from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2015-February 2016 pig crop, at 29.6 million head, was down slightly from 2015. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, down 1 percent from 2015. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 10.30 for the December-February period, compared to 10.23 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 8.00 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.40 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the March-May 2016 quarter, down 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2015, but up 1 percent from 2014. Intended farrowings for June-August 2016, at 2.91 million sows, are down 3 percent from 2015, and down 3 percent from 2014.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 46 percent of the total United States hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

Hogs and Pigs, Breeding, Market, and Total Inventory – Selected States and United States: March 1, 2015 and 2016 [Data may not add to totals due to rounding.]

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	2015	2016	‘16 as % of ‘15	2015	2016	‘16 as % of ‘15	2015	2016	‘16 as % of ‘15
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Illinois	490	500	102	4,260	4,600	108	4,750	5,100	107
Iowa	1,030	980	95	19,770	19,220	97	20,800	20,200	97
Minnesota	**570**	**560**	**98**	**7,430**	**7,390**	**99**	**8,000**	**7,950**	**99**
Missouri	400	385	96	2,500	2,565	103	2,900	2,950	102
Nebraska	420	420	100	2,730	2,930	107	3,150	3,350	106
North Carolina	890	880	99	7,710	7,820	101	8,600	8,700	101
United States	5,982	5,980	100	61,418	61,664	100	67,399	67,644	100

Hogs and Pigs, Market Inventory by Weight Group – Selected States, and United States: March 1, 2015 and 2016
[Data may not add to totals due to rounding.]

State	Under 50 pounds		50-119 pounds		120-179 pounds		180 pounds and over	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Illinois	1,330	1,450	1,260	1,370	890	920	780	860
Iowa	5,030	4,720	6,410	6,100	4,940	4,820	3,390	3,580
Minnesota	**2,600**	**2,500**	**2,050**	**2,280**	**1,550**	**1,530**	**1,230**	**1,080**
Missouri	1,250	1,200	505	535	380	420	365	410
Nebraska	870	930	780	800	615	660	465	540
North Carolina	2,800	3,080	1,810	1,730	1,640	1,710	1,460	1,300
United States	19,454	19,382	17,129	17,263	13,580	13,744	11,255	11,274