

Sunflower

Highlights

August 31, 2015



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Markets

It was another volatile week of trading on the CBoT. A rally in CBoT soyoil contracts helped sunflower prices erase heavier losses and end the week mixed at down 10 to up 15 cents at the crush plants. Soyoil rallied on an increase in crude petroleum oil prices and fund buying. Trading was volatile based on continuing uncertainty over China's economic situation and impact it could have on their import demand this fall and early 2016. USDA's report from earlier this month pegged the US soybean crop much higher than most trade analysts thought. Recently crop scout reports hint that the US soybean crop could be closer to USDA August guess than thought earlier. The next USDA supply and demand report released in September could have a big impact on prices going forward. Birdfood prices remain strong as plants try to purchase the last remaining old crop stocks. August and September are historically strong months for birdfood prices as plants gear up for the winter sales season. Weather reports, crop progress and conditions, along with demand news will be the main market movers.

CROP PROGRESS

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Av
N. Dakota				
Blooming	100	99	97	98
Petals Dry	62	29	30	41
Bracts Yellow	15	4	---	---
S. Dakota				
Blooming	97	93	93	93
Petals Dry	33	15	15	31
Texas				
Harvested	38	37	57	26
Kansas				
Blooming	88	78	84	89
Petals Dry	20	10	17	33

Source: USDA NASS

SUNFLOWER CROP CONDITIONS

State	VP	Poor	Fair	Good	Ex
N. Dakota	0	8	21	63	8
S. Dakota	0	2	19	75	4
Minnesota	0	4	34	53	9
Colorado	0	5	31	51	13
Kansas	1	2	30	59	8

Source: USDA NASS (not all states reporting)

SUNFLOWER SURVEY TRAINING

Training for this year's NSA Sunflower Survey is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 near Pierre, SD from 2:00—3:45pm. Participants will learn about conducting and recording details for the survey, identifying sunflower diseases and insects. There will be some hands-on training in the field as well.

Contact Ruth Beck at 605-773-8120 or ruth.beck@sdstate.edu to register.

www.sunflowernsa.com

NSA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Anyone requesting a special accommodation should notify NSA within a reasonable time frame. NSA will accommodate reasonable requests.

SUNFLOWER SAMPLES NEEDED

Attention producers: if you identify Phomopsis stem canker in your field, or find symptoms similar to the disease, researchers at South Dakota State University want a sample. The SDSU Plant Science Department will use samples in the Phomopsis stem canker research they're working on. They're developing a diagnostic assay for detection and quantification of pathogens causing the disease on sunflower. For more on the research, and to learn how to submit samples, visit igrow.org/agronomy/other-crops/sunflower-rust-and-phomopsis-stem-canker-appearing-on-sunflower/

BENEFITS OF DESICCATION

Now is a great time to start thinking about desiccating your sunflower crop. Getting the crop harvested several weeks early can result in higher yields and lower drying costs. Late season crop damage and blackbird damage can be reduced and desiccation may also slow down head diseases such as Sclerotinia. Early dry down can also minimize artificial drying costs. September and the first half of October harvest can often allow the use of air-drying to lower seed moisture in storage. For more about desiccation, visit www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/harvesting-storage/desiccant-considerations/.

GROWER REPORT

It's been a good growing season for sunflower in Texas. Mike Williams of SunGold Foods Inc. says the crop received good moisture and appears to be doing well. Harvest is underway and while Williams says it's still too early to judge the quality of the crop, he's optimistic.