

Sunflower

Week in Review

Markets

Markets are being helped to some extent by a sagging US dollar. A lower dollar makes US exports more competitive on the world market. There was also some buying on the CBoT based on South American logistics concerns but traders are more worried about the spread of US bird flu and impact it could have on US corn and soymeal feed use. Last week *Oil World* reported that the crush is increasingly driven by oil demand because of a combined decline of world production of rapeseed oil and sun oil, reduced supplies of olive oil and below average growth in world palm oil production. This has resulted in vegetable oils starting to stabilize as they are providing a larger share of the crush value due to the erosion in meal values. This is good news for high oil bearing crops such as sunflower. Also, according to *Oil World* another major factor to watch is rainfall in the palm and lauric oil producing countries. If the prevailing El Nino conditions prevail in the next one to three months it would create a major fundamental change on the supply side.

SUNFLOWERS CAN HELP MANAGE SOIL

Producers know all too well the challenges that come with saline and sodic soils. The two soils are two different problems: saline soils have too much salt, while sodic soils have too much sodium. Some soils can be both saline and sodic. Planting sunflower can help reduce soil salinity and bring soil back into production. NDSU extension specialist in soil health Chris Augustin says if the soil is saline, crops that are salt tolerant and are high water users, like sunflower, should be planted. Sunflower's deep-roots can pull salts down as they use water. Also, sunflowers planted as a late season cover crop (following winter wheat or barley harvest) can use about six inches of additional soil moisture.

REMINDER ABOUT STORED SEED

Producers who have stored seed are reminded to keep a close watch on seed moisture. It's a good idea to have bins probed and tested regularly to protect your investment.

May 4, 2015



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PEST MANAGEMENT APP AVAILABLE

Tired of carrying around those thick pest management guides? Download the NDSU Pest Management app -- it includes everything that is printed in pest management guides, plus more. For example, the app has full color photos of weeds, insects, and diseases. The app is available for both Apple and Android devices – just search NDSU Pest Management. The app is free, thanks to funding from several commodity groups, including the National Sunflower Association. Producers who use the app are encouraged to send comments and feedback to ndsu.pest.management@ndsu.edu.

REGISTER ONLINE FOR 2015 SUMMER SEMINAR

Rooms are filling up quickly for this year's NSA Summer Seminar, so register now! This year's Summer Seminar will be held June 23-25 at Madden's Resort in Brainerd, MN. Register online at www.sunflowernsa.com/events. A block of rooms is being held under the "National Sunflower Association" for June 23- 25, 2015. The rooms will be held until May 21, so make your reservation now! Visit our website for a link to make online reservations at Madden's and for more information on the resort. The program is being finalized now so check back soon for more information.

NSA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline to apply for the Curtis Stern Memorial Scholarship is quickly approaching. Applications are due by Friday, May 15, 2015. This year's scholarship is \$4,500. Funds assist students who study in the field of agriculture with special emphasis on sunflower production, promotion, or research. Preference will be given to students who are in their last two years of undergraduate studies or in graduate level studies and have maintained at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0=A scale. The scholarship is a tribute to the dedicated work of Curtis Stern, an industry advocate, and former NSA board member. Applications can be submitted directly from the ND Community Foundation website at www.ndcf.net/Scholarships/entryform.asp?id=65. Contact Tina Mittelsteadt at tinam@sunflowernsa.com with any further questions.

HELPFUL RESOURCES ONLINE FOR PRODUCERS

Have questions about growing sunflowers? You'll find the answers to your questions on our website! Visit www.sunflowernsa.com and click on the "Growers" section – you'll find answers to frequently asked questions there as well as links to more information about many important topics, including approved chemicals, production, marketing, crop insurance, and more.

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK

Take a minute to "like" our Facebook page – you'll be glad you did! Find us at www.facebook.com/sunflowernsa. It's a great way to connect with producers and industry leaders, and share what's happening with sunflower where you are!

upcoming events

June 23-25, 2015 – 2015 NSA Summer Seminar, Brainerd, MN

January 12-13, 2016 – NSA Research Forum, Fargo, ND

Sunflower Week In Review – markets at a glance

WEEKLY PRICES recorded on Monday, May 4, 2015 (\$/CWT)

	Deliver	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change	2015 NEW Crop
Chicago Oil	Nearby	40.98	31.66	32.47	+.81	32.80
Fargo, ND	NuSun	21.40	21.00	21.00	NC	18.85
Enderlin, ND	NuSun	21.35	20.70	20.80	+.10	18.70
Goodland, KS	NuSun	18.90	19.45	19.40	-.05	19.40

US CRUDE OIL VALUES

(dollars per 100 lb. internal U.S. locations)

	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change
Soybean Oil	41.17	31.16	31.97	+.81
Cotton Oil (pbsy)	81.17	49.66	50.47	+.81
Corn Oil	43.50	40.00	40.50	+.50

Prices recorded here are believed to be reliable at the time of publication. Individual companies have the right to correct any errors that may occur. Contact these facilities for complete market details.

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