

Sunflower

September 8, 2015



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Week in Review

Markets

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. There wasn't much in terms of market moving news heading into the long Labor Day weekend. After the previous week's volatile trading on the CBoT, traders were probably glad to relax a little. The Chinese markets were closed for two days at the end of last week. Traders are nervous about volatility this week as Chinese markets reopen. In addition, China has a lot of important economic data that will be released this week. Continuing uncertainty over China's economic situation could impact their import demand this fall and early 2016 and will affect US markets. This Friday, USDA will issue its latest supply and demand report for US corn and soybean production. Most traders believe that USDA will make only slight adjustments if any to the previous month's data. Weather reports, crop progress and conditions, along with China news will be the main market movers.

CROP PROGRESS

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Av
N. Dakota				
<i>Petals Dry</i>	82	62	56	62
<i>Bracts Yellow</i>	32	15	3	24
<i>Mature</i>	5	---	---	---
S. Dakota				
<i>Petals Dry</i>	54	33	43	61
<i>Bracts Yellow</i>	4	---	10	28
Texas				
<i>Harvested</i>	39	38	72	39
Kansas				
<i>Blooming</i>	94	88	90	94
<i>Petals Dry</i>	38	20	34	48

Source: USDA NASS

SUNFLOWER CROP CONDITIONS

State	VP	Poor	Fair	Good	Ex
N. Dakota	0	8	21	63	8
S. Dakota	0	2	20	72	6
Minnesota	0	6	36	50	8
Colorado	0	5	32	51	12
Kansas	1	2	30	59	8

Source: USDA NASS (not all states reporting)

GROWER REPORT

It's been a dry six weeks in northern Minnesota. Crookston area producer Kevin Capistran says in the past six weeks his area has received less than an inch of rain. That, combined with temperatures in the 90s, led him to desiccate one of his three sunflower fields last week. He says he may still desiccate his remaining two fields. As for yield, Capistran is anticipating an above average this year.

ESTIMATING YIELDS IN SUNFLOWER FIELDS

Sunflower yields can be estimated using the tried and true method that is used during the annual sunflower survey. Typically, September is an ideal month to estimate yields. Sunflowers should be at R7 stage of growth. For more on estimating yield, visit www.sunflowerusa.com/magazine/details.asp?ID=592&Cat=18

WHOLE FOODS STORES TO CARRY COLORADO MILLS SUNFLOWER OIL

Sunflower oil made by Lamar, CO based Colorado Mills will be carried in 21 Whole Foods Markets in Colorado. It is the first time Colorado Mills products have been available in retail stores – until now much of the company's products has been used by major U.S. snack food companies. Initial order numbers were not available, but Whole Foods local product coordinator says each store in Colorado will likely order at least one case of 12 bottles. Each 750-milliliter bottle will retail for \$11.99. Oil for the new retail line will be bottled in Denver.

REDUCING BLACKBIRD DAMAGE

Petals are beginning to drop on sunflowers, and that means it's time to start thinking about blackbirds. Research finds that as much as half of the blackbird damage to ripening sunflower happens in the first two weeks after petal drop. These are blackbirds that have been reared locally are in the process of developing their long range flying feathers. That makes these birds difficult to move, but there are ways to lower damage, including cattail management, cannons, harassment, desiccants, and repellants. These can be even more effective when used in combination. For more information on blackbird control, visit www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/black-birds/.

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/.

SEED QUALITY

Harvest is underway in the High Plains and the Kansas Grain Inspection Service has supplied the NSA with some early harvest sample data from various locations in Texas and Colorado. The following are the averages: Oil Content: 44.9%; Foreign Material: 6.4%; Moisture: 6.8%; Test Weight: 34.8 lbs.

upcoming events

September 15, 2015 – NSA Research Committee Meeting

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

June 28-30, 2016 – NSA Summer Seminar, Bismarck, ND

Sunflower Week In Review – markets at a glance

WEEKLY PRICES recorded on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 (\$/CWT)

	Deliver	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change	2015 NEW Crop
Chicago Oil	Nearby	32.03	27.92	26.85	-1.07	27.17
Fargo, ND	NuSun	16.90	17.25	16.75	-.50	16.85
Enderlin, ND	NuSun	17.20	NQ	NQ	---	16.85
Goodland, KS	NuSun	16.75	17.10	16.70	-.40	16.70

US CRUDE OIL VALUES (dollars per 100 lb. internal U.S. locations)

	Last Year	Last Week	This Week	Change
Soybean Oil	32.78	27.42	26.10	-1.32
Cotton Oil (pbsy)	65.00	44.79	43.85	-.94
Corn Oil	38.50	44.50	44.50	NC

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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