

# Sunflower

## Highlights

March 30, 2015



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### Markets

Traders are mainly focused on the upcoming USDA reports that will be released on March 31.

They are expecting slightly lower corn acres and higher soybean acres versus last year. USDA stocks numbers for March 1 corn, wheat and soybeans are expected to be higher than the average trade guess. Any shift from these bearish thoughts will be a bullish factor for oilseeds. Sunflower acres are expected to show a significant increase after last year's prevent plant acres come back into production in 2015. Crop budgets are still showing both confectionary and oil sunflowers among the top-earners in 2015. New crop sunflower prices are very competitive with other crops as the industry tries to secure 2015 production after 2014's small crop. The potential of tight ending seed stocks by the end of September has confection processors and oil crushers still offering 2015 new crop contracts. All of the sunflower demand sectors are offering Act of God (AOG) contracts for fall delivery. These 'fail safe' contracts have become very popular with farmers throughout the production region. It provides an opportunity to 'lock in' attractive prices now for fall delivery. It removes that all important factor of 'price risk' in these very volatile times.

### ND OILSEED COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

North Dakota sunflower producer Clark Coleman of Bismarck has been elected to his second three-year term on the ND Oilseed Council. Coleman will also continue to serve as second Vice President of the NSA Board of Directors. Coleman represents District 4, which includes the North Dakota counties of Kidder, McIntosh, Burleigh, Stutsman, Emmons, and Logan. Also, in District 5, Myron Dieterle, of Kief, ND was elected to a three-year term as a ND Oilseed Council Member and NSA Board member. This is Dieterle's first term on both the ND Oilseed Council and the NSA Board of Directors. District 5 includes the North Dakota Counties of Eddy, Benson, Wells, Sheridan, Foster, Pierce, Rolette, and Towner.

### SCLEROTINIA FUNDING

Researchers met in late January for the National Sclerotinia Initiative meeting in Minneapolis. Funding will be decided upon on April 23. Great progress is being made on this difficult disease that affects most broadleaf crops and requires multiple genes for resistance. Resistant genes are being identified in a number of wild sunflower species. Transferring those genes to cultivated sunflower is the present task. There is also a project to better balance the intensity and efficiency of selection for Sclerotinia resistance and other sunflower traits to make more progress per generation on all traits proportional to their actual value to the producer. The five sunflower specific projects total funding request this year is \$439,643.

### REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER SEMINAR

Registration is now open for the 2015 NSA Summer Seminar. 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](http://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. See you in Minnesota!

[www.sunflowernsa.com](http://www.sunflowernsa.com)

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