



Grain Commentary

This week had the market stumbling once again with failing commodity and equity markets across the globe. Traders are reducing their risk by selling long commodity positions with concerns of global economic stability.

Relative to the dollar the index has rallied a total of 7.0% in the last three weeks. This makes our commodities more valuable and forces global buyers to search for cheaper products outside of the US.

There are still reports of better than expected yields in the corn states contributing to the market pressure. Corn is now at a 75 day low.

.For the week CZ11 corn lost .535 cents and CH12 the same. SX11 soybeans lost .975 cents and SF12 lost .98 cents. Wz11 wheat lost .475 cents.

-Rick Parker

Current Grain Prices		in Prices		9/23/2011	
Frankenmuth Area			Thumb Area		
Corn	Basis	Price	Corn	Basis	Price
Current	-50	5.88	Current	-50	5.88
O/N 11	-50	5.88	O/N 11	-50	5.88
O/N 12	-55	5.23	O/N 12	-60	5.18
Soy-beans			Soy-beans		
Current	-90	11.68	Current	-80	11.63
O/N 11	-90	11.68	O/N 11	-80	11.63
O/N 12	-90	11.63	O/N 12	-95	11.58
White Wheat			White Wheat		
Current	-50	5.91	Current	-50	5.91
J/A 12	-50	6.48	J/A 12	-50	5.91
J/A 13	-70	6.72	J/A 13	-85	6.57
ALL WHITE WHEAT BIDS WILL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL					
\$.25 ADDED FOR MILL QUALITY					
Red Wheat			Red Wheat		
Current	-75	5.66	Current	-75	5.66
J/A 12	-75	6.23	J/A 12	-85	6.13

OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) PREMIUMS		
CORN	CZ11	\$0.27
	CZ12	\$0.34
SOYBEANS	SX11	\$0.21
	SX12	\$0.75
WHEAT	WN12	\$0.48

Please contract Rick Parker on this exciting new program



Edible Info

Rain has delayed dry bean harvest across the U.S. and Canada but most agree that it has been beneficial. Last week's freezing temperatures, specifically in North Dakota, has caused greater concern. Signs of frost damaged beans are visible but no one really knows yet how serious the damage is – or its impact on markets. The pinto bean harvest has advanced beyond the halfway point. The front half of the pinto bean harvest produced slightly above average but most think we'll end up with a very average yield when everything is

wrapped up. Of course, we'll be much smarter in a week or two.

In Michigan, yields have generally been a pleasant surprise at this early point. Quality is excellent to date. Be patient with selling, especially with your black beans or we'll outpace demand and put pressure on the market. Selling off the combine has been steady so far. Keep an ear open for comments on the quality of North Dakota's crop which is expected to have some issues and continue

to monitor the growing crop in Mexico. Remember, dry conditions halted planting with only about half the acreage seeded. As far as we can tell they still need rain.

Thank you for being diligent with your cleanout procedures as you move between dry beans, corn and soybeans.

-Joe Cramer



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Phone List

Michigan Plants	Phone
Cass City	989-872-5847
Emmett	810-384-6519
Fairgrove	989-693-6496
Frankenmuth	989-652-9971
Gera	989-652-8131
Gilford	Call Reese
Quincy	517-639-3165
Rapson	989-269-7957
Reese	989-868-4146
Richville	989-868-4186
Ohio Plants	
Kent	330-673-2941
New York Plants	
Churchville	585-293-3030
Indiana Plants	
Ligonier	260-894-4114
North Dakota Plants	
McCanna	701-397-5261
GRAIN REPORT	
Frankenmuth	989-652-7001

The Agronomist Corner

Time For Wheat

Harvest has started and wheat planting will be right behind it. Remember to consider some of the following techniques to get your crop off to an excellent start this fall.

First and foremost always plant treated seed! There is nothing more disheartening than to see a load rejected at harvest for smutty wheat. We offer clean and treat services at selected plants. This insures uniform application of treatment. Planter box treatments are better than nothing, but be cautious. If product is not applied uniformly control can be less than ideal.

For high production wheat always consider a fall starter fertilizer. We have starter recommendations based upon soil type and planting date. Our recommended starters have a manufactured fertilizer that we blend with additional nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The manufactured grade fertilizer contains micro nutrients important to high wheat production; sulphur, manganese, zinc and copper. The manufactured fertilizer portion is also a terrific way to get better distribution of these important micronutrients.

As planting dates approach and extend past October consider bumping nitrogen rates. There has been excellent success in running fall nitrogen rates from 30-40 # actual. These higher rates allow the wheat to get a better start and some additional fall growth as the calendar starts to slip by towards late fall/early winter. The other benefit we have noticed is that if we don't have ideal topdress conditions on frost the extra fall nitrogen will allow ample nitrogen for the crop until topdress application can take place.

Seeding rates are crucial for maximum production. Our old fashioned way of thinking of 2 1/2 to 3 bushels per acre is not always a best practice. Seed size amongst different varieties can vary drastically. Ideal seeding rates should be 1.6 to 1.8 million seeds per acre for planting dates from mid September to 1st part of October. As you plant later into mid to late October we want to gradually increase that rate to 1.8 to 2 million seeds per acre.

As you are ready to go to the field and if you have other thoughts or questions with regards to getting your crop off to a good start feel free to call one of our *Certified Crop Advisors* on our agronomy team. We are here to consult with you on making the best decisions for yield optimization.

-Keith Martus

Flour News

Our flour milling division has been extremely busy this past year. The U.S. demand for wheat flour is down about 1.8% through the second quarter of the year, but our flour output is up about 2.8%. Star of the West has been very fortunate to be supplying many of the food companies that have experienced growth. We also have been successful in offering to the market, many specialty products, some of which are milled from soft white wheat grown right here in the Saginaw Valley and Thumb of Michigan. Thanks to all the growers who have continued to plant soft white wheat!

We thought that you might be interested in some of the grocery products that contain wheat products milled by Star of the West.

Kellogg Frosted Mini Wheats, Kellogg Raisin Bran and Raisin Bran Crunch
Kellogg Fruit Loop and Apple Jacks, Kellogg All Bran and Bran Flakes
Post Raisin Bran, General Mills Cinnamon Toast Crunch
General Mills Wheaties, Malt-O-Meal Raisin Bran
Malt-O-Meal Bran Flakes, Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers
Pepperidge Farm gourmet cookies, Joy ice cream cones
Campbell Soup cream soups, Campbell Soup tomato soup
Dunkin' Donuts, Dawn Doughnuts, American Licorice sour ropes

Blue Bunny ice cream sandwiches and cones, Sara Lee frozen pies, Bakers' Square restaurant pies
Countless other store brand and private label cereals, cookies, pies, batters, breadings, and crackers

Thanks again for supporting our customers with your purchases of their wheat based food products!

-Mike Fassezke