Idaho Grain Market Report, March 25, 2021—NEW CROP PRICES

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Prices paid by Idaho Elevators delivered to warehouses in specified locations for barley and wheat on Wednesday March 24, 2021. Barley prices in $/Cwt. And wheat prices in $/bu.

	Barley (Cwt.) FEED 48 lbs or better	MALTING Open Market Malting	Wheat (bu.) Milling #1 SWW	#1 HRW 11.5% Protein	#1 DNS 14% Protein	#1 HWW
Rexburg / Ririe	9.00		5.45	5.31	5.84	5.31
Idaho Falls		8.30-9.06				
Blackfoot / Pocatello		7.62				
Grace / Soda Springs	8.00		5.29	5.20	5.77	
Burley / Rupert	9.00		5.25	5.14	5.72	5.24
Twin Falls / Buhl Jerome / Wendell	8.00-8.75		5.15-5.40			
Meridian	9.00		6.25	5.87	6.05	
Nezperce / Craigmont	6.71		6.40	6.06	6.42	
Lewiston	7.23		6.66	6.32	6.68	
Moscow / Genesee	6.74-7.43		6.30-6.43	6.09-6.26	6.45-6.52	

Prices at Selected Terminal Markets, cash FOB

Wednesday March 24, 2021. Barley prices in $/Cwt. And wheat prices in $/bu.

	#2 Feed Barley 46 lbs. --	Malting Barley	#1 SWW	#1 HRW 11.5% Protein	#1 DNS 14% Protein	#1 HWW
Portland			7.20-7.65	6.97	7.37	
Ogden	8.50		5.29	5.45	6.22	5.45
Great Falls	5.50			5.39-5.70	5.82-6.23	
Minneapolis						

Market News and Trends This Week

BARLEY—Idaho cash feed barley prices were unchanged to up $2.25 for the week ending March 24. Idaho cash malt barley prices were unchanged for the week. Net barley sales of 5,700 MT to Japan were reported by USDA FAS for 2021/2022 for the week of March 12-18. Exports of 700 MT to Japan (300 MT) and Canada (300 MT) were reported for the week.

Barley and Beer Industry News—Barley prices around the world are rising sharply as China sucks in crops from elsewhere after hitting Australia with steep tariffs last year as part of a diplomatic spat, the Nikkei Asian Review reported on March 19. Prior to May 2020, Australia was China's main barley source. But Chinese importers are now escaping the whopping 80.5% tariff on Australian barley by buying up unprecedented volumes mostly from France, Argentina, Canada and Ukraine. Australian farmers, meanwhile, are finding new outlets. In the 12 months to the end of this June, China will buy 6.7 million tons or barley, up from 5.5 million tons last year, according to the International Grain Council. According to the IGC Grains and Oilseeds Index, barley prices in France, Germany, Australia, the Black Sea region and Argentina were $258 per ton on March 5, up 33% on the year and markedly outpacing wheat's 22% gain in the same period. Prices in Canada's main barley-producing province, Alberta, are at 293 Canadian dollars, up 33% on the year. "There is a growing demand from China's livestock industry for barley as a substitute for expensive corn and other feed grains," Dan Wang, chief economist at Hang Seng Bank China, told Nikkei Asia. The Chinese tariff on Australian barely led to the unprecedented situation of Chinese importers accepting Argentinian feed-grade barley for use as malt-grade barley. The premium between feed and malt-grade narrowed to a historic low of $10-15 as a result.

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Market News and Trends This Week—continued

WHEAT—Idaho cash wheat prices were mostly down for the week ending March 24. SWW prices ranged from down $0.59 to up $0.22 from the previous week; HRW prices were down $0.36 to down $0.15; DNS prices were down $0.20 to down $0.05; and HWW prices were down $0.36 to down $0.22. USDA FAS reported net export sales for 2020/2021 for the period March 12-18 at 343,600 MT were down 12 percent from the prior week and up 24 percent from the previous 4 week average. Increases were to Japan (118,800 MT), South Korea (116,400 MT), China (76,300 MT), Algeria (63,700 MT) and Bangladesh (61,600 MT). Exports of 658,800 MT, unchanged from the prior week but up 37 percent from the previous 4 week average, were to the Bangladesh (116,600 MT), Japan (81,500 MT), Algeria (703,700 MT), China (70,300 MT), and Mexico (64,300 MT).

Wheat News—The University of Idaho Research and Extension wheat breeding center in Aberdeen has developed a new wheat variety called "UI Cookie", developed by UI researcher , Jianli Chen. UI Cookie was released last April. The Idaho Wheat Commission will manage the commercialization process the new variety. According to Cathy Wilson, Idaho Wheat Commission director of research, UI Cookie has boasted exceptional yields in trials, comparable to UI Stone, it has topped the yields of cereal grains in Idaho for the past two years. The new variety, UI Cookie, also has improved resistance to stripe rust and good tolerance to Fusarium head blight. "Genesee" Joe Anderson, a North Idaho farmer and IWC commissioner said "We do have high hopes for UI Cookie. We're happy to be able to provide value to the grower with this new variety." Casey Chumrau, Executive Director of the IWC said, "I really think the new variety could benefit a lot of growers." The IWC is funded through grower dollars, the commission spends approximately thirty percent of it's annual budget on wheat breeding programs the develop new varieties for Idaho's growing conditions. The wheat breeding program at UI Aberdeen is primarily funded by the IWC, the commission always has the first right to negotiate and exclusive license for any new variety released by the IWC funded program. The IWC has decided to make UI Cookie a true public release, which means growers will be able to hold back seed form the variety for their own planting use the next year. Growers will also not be charged royalties for the variety as they would with other releases. (Idaho State Journal)

CORN—USDA FAS reported net export sales for 2020/2021 for period March 12-18 of 4,481,900 MT, increases were primarily to China (3,890,600 MT), South Korea (353,300 MT), Mexico (196,000 MT), Colombia (131,100 MT), and Indonesia (75,000). Exports of 2,036,000 MT were to Mexico (470,200 MT), China (418,100 MT), South Korea (349,300 MT), Japan (197,300 MT), and Colombia (146,300 MT).

Ethanol Corn Usage—DOE's Energy Information Agency (EIA) reported ethanol production for the week ending March 19 averaged 922 thousand bbls/day down 5.05 percent from the previous week and down 8.26 percent from last year. Total ethanol production for the week was 6.454 million barrels. Ethanol stocks were 21.809 million bbls on March 19, up 2.20 percent from last week and down 9.66 percent from last year. An estimated 93.15 million bu of corn was used in last week's production bringing this crop year's cumulative corn usage for ethanol production at 2.68 billion bu. Corn used needs to average 96.148 million bu per week to meet USDA estimate of 4.95 millions bu for the crop year.

Futures Market News and Trends—Week Ending March 25, 2021

FUTURES MARKET SETTLEMENT PRICES for the Week Ending Thursday, March 25, 2021:

Commodity	May 2021	Week Change	July 2021	Week Change	September 2021	Week Change	December 2021	Week Change
CHI SRW	$6.12½	-$0.14½	$6.08½	-$0.10¾	$6.09½	-$0.10	$6.16	-$0.10½
KC HRW	$5.66¾	-$0.18¾	$5.73	-$0.18¼	$5.79¼	-$0.17¾	$5.88¾	-$0.16½
MGE DNS	$6.17½	-$0.09½	$6.27	-$0.08½	$6.34½	-$0.07¾	$6.42	-$0.08¼
CORN	$5.46½	-$0.11¼	$5.32½	-$0.06¼	$4.82¾	-$0.06¾	$4.65½	-$0.06

WHEAT FUTURES—Wheat futures are down because of drought in some growing areas. **Wheat futures prices ranged from down $0.18¾ to down $0.07¾(per bu) over the previous week.**

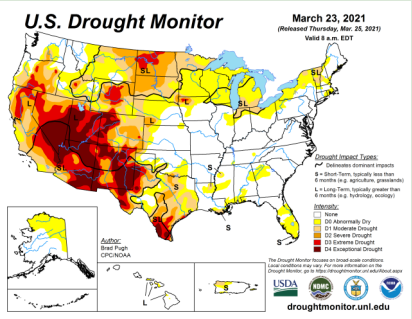
CORN FUTURES—Corn futures prices are down because of drought in some growing areas. **Corn futures prices ranged from down $0.11¼ to down $0.06 (per bu) over the previous week.**

CRUDE OIL FUTURES–Crude oil rates drop as Covid-19 lockdown concerns outweigh Suez Canal disruptions.

EIA reported U.S. crude oil refinery inputs averaged 14.4 million bbls/day during the week ending March 19, 2021 which was 1.0 million bbls/day more than last week's average. Refineries operated at 81.6% of capacity last week. As of March 19 there was an increase in Crude Oil stocks of 1.912 million bbls from last week to 502.711 million bbls, over the 5-year average of 473.077 million bbls. Distillate stocks increased by 3.806 million bbls to a total of 141.553 million bbls, over the 5-year average of 139.532 million bbls; while gasoline stocks increased by 0.204 million bbls to 232.279 million bbls, under the 239.955 million bbl 5-year average. The national average retail regular gasoline price was $2.865 per gallon on March 22, up $0.012 from last week's price and $0.745 over a year ago. The national average retail diesel fuel price was $3.194 per gallon, up $0.003 per gallon from last week's level and $0.535 from a year ago.

NYMEX Crude Oil Futures finished the week ending Thursday, March 25, 2021 to close at $58.56/bbl (May contract), down $2.88 for the week.

U.S Drought Monitor—March 25, 2021



Northeast: Widespread showers (.5 to 1.5 inches) in the northern Mid– Atlantic and southern New England. Dry conditions in much of Main, northern New Hampshire and Vermont, Upstate New York, and parts of Massachusetts, slight increases of abnormal dryness and moderate drought were made.

Southeast: Widespread rainfall (.5 to 2 inches) in much of the Southeast, improvements to abnormal dryness and moderate drought. Abnormal dryness and moderate drought linger across Alabama. Increases abnormal dryness in Georgia. Expanded abnormal dryness in Florida's peninsula. Moderate drought was added to south Florida where fire dangers are very high.

Midwest: A large decrease in abnormal dryness and moderate drought across Middle Mississippi Valley and lower Ohio Valley. Increase abnormal dryness and moderate drought across lower Michigan, extreme northern Indiana, and southern Wisconsin.

High Plains: Improvements were made from extreme drought to moderate drought in southwest El Paso. Expansion of severe and extreme drought across parts of North Dakota.

West: Expansion of sever drought in northeast Montana, Abnormal dryness was eliminated in south-central Montana. Increase extreme and exceptional drought in western Arizona and southeast California. Expanded severe and extreme drought across parts of southern California. Removal of severe drought in southwest Oregon. Decreased extreme and exceptional drought in northern and northeast New Mexico. Widespread exceptional drought across southeast New Mexico.

South: Extreme and exceptional drought in Texas.

USDA U.S. Crop Weather Highlights—March 25, 2021

West—Rain and snow are spreading inland across the Great Basin, Northwest, and Intermountain West. The average water equivalency of the high elevation Sierra Nevada is at 18 inches, about 65% of the normal late-March average.

Plains—Cool, dry conditions is replacing rainfall across the southeastern Plains. Cool, dry conditions in the remainder of the region, except for mild conditions in parts of the Dakotas.

Corn Belt—Rainfall in the region. Rainfall in the lower Missouri Valley, moving northeastward. No significant rainfall in the far upper Midwest, where drought persists.

South—Dry conditions maintaining heavy irrigation demand across Florida's peninsula. Heavy rainfall causing local flooding across the interior Southeast, including the Tennessee Valley. Warm, humid conditions along and near the Gulf Coast benefit pasture growth and the development of spring-sown crops.

Outlook for U.S.— A storm system crossing the lower Mississippi Valley moving northeastward. Rainfall could reach 2 -4 inches across the interior Southeast, causing local flooding. Rainfall totals could reach 1-2 inches from the lower Midwest in to the Northeast. Possible snowfall across northern Maine. Light rainfall in the West. A storm from the Great Lakes region moving across eastern Canada, bringing some rain. Weekend showers and thunderstorms in the Southeast. The NWS 6-10 day weather outlook for March 30– April 3 calls for above normal temperatures and drier conditions across much of the country. Warm, dry conditions in California and the north-central U.S. Cooler than normal in the south-central U.S. and parts of the Pacific Northwest. Wetter than normal conditions form southern Texas and the western Gulf Coast region int o the middle and northern Atlantic States.

International Crop Weather Highlights—March 24, 2021

Europe— Moisture supplies are favorable for winter grains and oilseeds across the continent. Cold conditions kept winter crops dormant in northeastern growing areas and halted wheat and rapeseed development in the Balkans.

Middle East-Rain and snow in Turkey has boosted moisture supplies from the eastern Mediterranean Coast into Iran for dormant to vegetative winter grains.

Asia–Hot conditions earlier than normal across the region are promoting rapid maturation of later-planted winter grown crops. Warm weather with showers in eastern and southern China promoted development of wheat, rapeseed, and early crop rice. Rainfall boosted moisture for immature winter rice and irrigation supplies for spring sown rice in southern and eastern sections of the region.

Australia– Heavy rainfall hampered drydown and harvesting of mature cotton and sorghum.

South America–Untimely warm and dry conditions in central Argentina stressed corn and soybeans. Favorable showers for corn and cotton in central and northeastern Brazil. Dry conditions in southern Brazil promoted fieldwork, although more moisture is needed for late-developing soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul.

South Africa– Sunny conditions boosted rapid development of corn, sugarcane, and other summer crops.

Northwestern Africa-Rainfall boosted soil moisture for reproductive wheat and barley in Morocco, Crop yield prospects are improved. Short term dryness is affecting vegetative to reproductive winter grains across western and eastern Algeria and inland portions of Tunisia.

Western FSU-Cold conditions in Ukraine and Russia kept winter crops dormant.