The world’s agri-food stakeholders began closely watching the Black Sea region—sometimes referred to as “Europe’s bread basket”—following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Russia produces around 13% of global barley, while Ukraine accounts for 5% (2020/21 crop). Together, these countries account for 30% of global barley exports, a significant amount. Although the Black Sea region is a major barley producer, very few maltsters in the rest of the world depend on barley from the location. In the past crop season, Ukraine benefitted from 30% of global barley exports, a significant amount. Although the Black Sea region is a major barley producer, very few maltsters in the rest of the world depend on barley from the location. In the past crop season, Ukraine benefitted from 30% of global barley exports, a significant amount. Although the Black Sea region is a major barley producer, very few maltsters in the rest of the world depend on barley from the location. In the past crop season, Ukraine benefitted from 30% of global barley exports, a significant amount. Although the Black Sea region is a major barley producer, very few maltsters in the rest of the world depend on barley from the location. In the past crop season, Ukraine benefitted from

RaboResearch, tells FoodIngredientsFirst. For brewers, the impact is less severe as barley accounts for only 5% of 

Market News and Trends This Week

BARLEY—Idaho cash feed barley prices were unchanged for the week ending March 23. Idaho cash malt barley prices were unchanged for the week. Net barley sales of 100 MT were reported to South Korea by USDA FAS for 2021/2022 for the week of March 11-17. No exports were reported for the week.

Barley and Beer Industry News—Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has resulted in some domino effects on agriculture commodity prices. Analysts are forecasting critical impacts on supply and demand of food products. Energy prices are rising as a result of sanctions internationally on Russia, grain costs, packaging and logistics are anticipated to rise. According to a new RaboResearch report (Rabobank), melting barley prices in western Europe are currently 50% above levels seen a year ago. This is anticipated to have a major impact on maltsters, for whom barley inputs make up 65% of costs. “Sourcing from alternative destinations, changing recipes of beer and cutting logistics costs by having activities closer to the consumer, all require long term actions and investments,” Francois Sonneville, director beverages at RaboResearch, tells FoodIngredientsFirst. For brewers, the impact is less severe as barley accounts for only 5% of costs. But RaboResearch indicates there is a risk that protectionism could derail the entire value chain, such as in the case that western Europe were to stop exporting melting barley or other grains to countries outside the EU and brewers might not get the right quantity or quality of malt. The world’s agri-food stakeholders began closely watching the Black Sea region—sometimes referred to as “Europe’s bread basket”—following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Russia produces around 13% of global barley, while Ukraine accounts for 5% (2020/21 crop). Together, these countries account for 30% of global barley exports, a significant amount. Although the Black Sea region is a major barley producer, very few maltsters in the rest of the world depend on barley from the location. In the past crop season, Ukraine benefitted from the trade war between Australia and China, sending almost a million metric tons of barley (18% of its exports) to China. Another 54% of its barley exports go to the Middle East, 17% to North Africa and 10% to the EU. (Foodingrediensfirst)
**Market News and Trends This Week—continued**

**WHEAT**—Idaho cash wheat prices were up for the week ending March 23. SWW prices ranged from up $0.25 to up $0.63 from the previous week; HRW prices were up $0.30 to up $0.49; DNS prices were up $0.38 to up $0.60; and HWW prices were up $0.49. USDA FAS reported net sales for 2022/2023 for the period March 11-17 at 367,300 MT. Increases were to unknown destinations (142,200 MT), Colombia (69,700 MT), Nigeria (46,000 MT), Panama (44,400 MT), and the Philippines (30,500 MT). Exports of 366,100 MT were to South Korea (83,300 MT), the Philippines (57,600 MT), Mexico (57,000 MT), Honduras (34,100 MT), and Venezuela (31,500 MT).

**Wheat News**—For many farmers, tractors are a required tool to prep the soil, plant seed, and to harvest. Diesel fuel is needed to run the tractors. “Without fuel, this tractor is just a sit and wait,” said Neil Durrant, 4th generation farmer at Big D Ranch in Meridian. Many Americans are feeling the pinch at the pump, farmers are feeling it on a bigger scale. Durrant’s tractor holds 200 gallons of diesel and needs to be filled up daily. In 2021, it cost him around $400 to fill, today that price has doubled to $800, Durrant said. “It doesn’t seem like it’s going to get any better, so going into the summer and fall when we start harvesting, prices are going to be high.” Big D Ranch harvests corn, wheat, sugar beets, hay, peppermint, and pinto beans. Durrant and most farmers use tractors for almost every process, from start to finish. “We are feeling it really bad here on our end, but those costs are going to be carried on to the consumer and they are going to feel it when they go to the grocery stores,” Durrant said. If gas prices don’t take a steep decline, Durrant said consumers should expect an eight to ten percent increase in some goods at grocery stores. Durrant says the he and many farmers worry about fuel issues as well as drought as they start planting this season. “We don’t have enough water to grow the crop,” Durrant said. “Those 100 acres I have been farming, I might only have enough water to farm 50 of it.” Durrant hopes that consumers are prepared to see the cost of goods increase. “We are trying to produce the best crop out there so that when you go home tonight you have something on your dinner plate that is not costing you an arm and a leg, but with that comes costs, and when costs go up, we’ve got to pass those costs onto consumers,” he said. (KTVB)

**CORN**—USDA FAS reported net sales for 2021/2022 for period March 11-17 of 979,500 MT, increases were primarily to Mexico (265,300 MT), Colombia (153,900 MT), South Korea (127,200 MT), unknown destinations (92,600 MT), and Israel (69,700 MT). Exports of 1,492,100 MT were to China (477,900 MT), Japan (294,500 MT), Mexico (260,700 MT), Colombia (108,400 MT), and Canada (90,100 MT).

**Ethanol Corn Usage**—DOE’s Energy Information Agency (EIA) reported ethanol production for the week ending March 18 averaged 1.042 million bbls/day up 1.56 percent from the previous week and up 19.90 percent from last year. An estimated 105.78 million bu of corn used needs to average 100.244 million bu per week to meet USDA estimate of 5.35 billion bu for the crop year.

**Market News**—Corn futures prices down on high supply concerns. Corn futures prices ranged from down $0.20 to down $0.53 ½ (per bu) over the previous week.

**CORN FUTURES**—Corn futures prices down on high supply concerns. Corn futures prices ranged from down $0.06 ½ to down $0.22 (per bu) over the previous week.

**CRUDE OIL FUTURES**—Oil prices resume climb after US stockpiles drop in tight market. Supply remains tight. The latest data from the American Petroleum Institute industry group showed crude stocks fell by 4.3 million barrels for the week ended March 18, according to market sources, which defied analysts’ forecasts for an increase.

EIA reported U.S. crude oil refinery inputs averaged 15.9 million bbls/day during the week ending March 18, 2022 which was 276 thousand bbls/day more than last week’s average. Refineries operated at 91.1% of capacity last week. As of March 18 there was an increase in Crude Oil stocks of 2.508 million bbls from last week to 413.399 million bbls, under the 5-year average of 472.856 million bbls. Distillate stocks decreased by 2.071 million bbls to a total of 112.135 million bbls, under the 5-year average of 135.605 million bbls; while gasoline stocks decreased by 2.948 million bbls to 238.043 million bbls, over the 237.899 million bbl 5-year average. The national average retail regular gasoline price was $4.239 per gallon on March 21, 2022, down $0.213 from last week’s price but $0.076 over a year ago. The national average retail diesel fuel price was $5.134 per gallon, up $0.401 from last week’s level but up $1.940 from a year ago.

**NYMEX Crude Oil Futures** finished the week ending Thursday, March 24, 2022 to close at $112.34/bbl (May contract), up $9.25 for the week.
**Northeast:** Abnormal dryness introduced in northern Maine. Abnormal dryness removed from Washington D.C. Expansion of abnormal dryness and moderate drought in the Mid-Atlantic.

**Southeast:** Removal of moderate drought in the Florida Panhandle. Expansion of moderate drought and the introduction of severe drought along the Coast Plain of North Carolina. Sever drought was introduced into southern North Carolina.

**Midwest:** Abnormal dryness and moderate drought was reduced across parts of southwestern Iowa and northern Missouri. Some removal of moderate drought in northern Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

**High Plains:** Expansion of extreme and severe drought across western North Dakota and southern South Dakota.

**West:** Deterioration of drought in northwestern California.

**South:** Improvements were made in eastern Oklahoma, eastern Texas, and the Ark-LA-Tex.

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**USDA U.S. Crop Weather Highlights—March 24, 2022**

**West:** Warm, dry conditions. High temperatures could exceed 90 degrees in parts of the Desert Southwest. Western warm conditions area starting to melt some high-elevation snowpack. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the average water equivalency of the Sierra Nevada snowpack has fallen to 14 inches (50% of the average to date), down from a seasonal peak near 16 inches.

**Plains:** Warm, breezy conditions. Recent rainfall across the central Plains, extending southward into portions of Oklahoma and Texas' northern panhandle, improved prospects for drought-stressed winter grains. Extremely dry conditions in many areas of Texas. Moisture needed in large areas of the northern High Plains.

**Corn Belt:** Chilly, showery conditions. High temperatures will remain below 50 degrees, except west of the Missouri River and in portions of the Ohio Valley.

**South:** Showers and thunderstorms in the southern Atlantic States. Dry conditions in the remainder of the country, although fieldwork delays continue in the areas that recently received heavy rain. Very dry conditions across the Deep South Texas, significant wildfire threats are heightened. In Texas, 42% of the intended corn acreage, statewide, had been planted by March 20, along with 30% of the sorghum.

**Outlook for U.S.:** Showery conditions along the Atlantic Coast and in the Northeast. Cool conditions in the Midwest and Northeast. Scattered rain and snow showers in the Midwest and Northeast. Hard freezes throughout the Midwest and Northeast. Temperatures could fall below 32 degrees in the interior Southeast, including the Tennessee Valley. Dry, warm conditions in the remainder of the country. In the next 5 days, little to no precipitation will fall across the Plains and much of the South. Rain and snow showers will cover the western U.S. next week. The precipitation is not expected to improve high-elevation snowpack. The NWS 6-10 day weather outlook for March 29–April 2 calls for above normal temperatures and precipitation across much of the country. Cooler conditions in the Midwest.

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**International Crop Weather Highlights—Week ending March 19, 2022**

**Europe:** Heavy rain in Spain and Portugal boosted moisture for vegetative winter grains and eased long term drought in western and southern portion of the Iberian Peninsula. Dry conditions in Italy reduced soil moisture for vegetative wheat and barley. Warm, sunny conditions in northeastern Europe favored wheat, barley, and rapeseed. Cold and snowy conditions in the Balkans halted winter crop development.

**Middle East:** Rain, snow, and cold conditions on Turkey, protected wheat and barley form freeze damage and boosted mountain snowpacks and summer crop irrigation supplies. Rainfall from the eastern Mediterranean Coast into Iran, maintaining good early season prospects for vegetative wheat and barley.

**Asia:** Hot, dry conditions across India and environs promoted maturation and harvesting of rabi crops. Rainfall and above normal temperatures aided development of wheat, rapeseed, and early-crop rice in China. Rainfall across south-west Asia, favoring seasonal rice and other crops. Hot conditions in Thailand and surrounding areas.

**Australia:** Showers in the east, aiding drydown of mature cotton and sorghum and helping the summer crop harvest progress.

**South America:** Rainfall in Parana, Brazil and in second crop corn producing areas farther north. Cool, dry conditions in Argentina, slowing development of immature summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

**South Africa:** Favorable conditions for immature corn.

**Northwestern Africa:** Heavy rainfall in Morocco brought some relief from the exceptional drought, prospects for reproductive to filling winter wheat and barley remained poor. Heavy rainfall in Algeria and Tunisia.