

Idaho Grain Market Report, December 14, 2023—NEW CROP PRICES

Published weekly by the Idaho Barley Commission
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Prices paid by Idaho Elevators delivered to warehouses in specified locations for barley and wheat on Wednesday December 13, 2023. 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	No Bid		No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Idaho Falls		No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Blackfoot / Pocatello	No Bid		No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Grace / Soda Springs	7.20		6.35	6.32	7.37	6.47
Burley / Rupert	No Bid		No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Twin Falls / Buhl Jerome / Wendell	9.00		6.30			
Meridian	10.00		5.85	5.84	6.92	
Nezperce / Craigmont	No Bid		5.85	5.96	7.22	
Lewiston	No Bid		6.11	6.22	7.48	
Moscow / Genesee	7.43		5.88-6.00	5.99-6.11	7.22-7.25	

Prices at Selected Terminal Markets, cash FOB

Wednesday December 13, 2023. 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			6.75-7.05	6.87-6.97	7.94-8.09	
Ogden	7.20		7.00	6.92	7.97	7.07
Great Falls	8.02			6.10-6.37	6.99-7.24	

Market News and Trends This Week

BARLEY—Idaho cash feed barley prices were unchanged for the week ending December 13. Idaho cash malt barley prices were unchanged for the week. No net sales for barley were reported by USDA FAS for 2022/2023 for the week of December 1-7. No exports were reported for the week.

BARLEY—Slowing growth and heightened competition dealt craft brewers a blow in 2023. But opportunities for innovation give cause for hope. 2023 proved challenging for many small and independent brewers. All signs point to production being down in 2023, a first (excluding a unique 2020) for independent brewers. The primary culprits are slowing demand growth, competition from across beverage alcohol, and a retail environment marked by declining draught sales and reduced shelf space for craft. Many of craft's challenges call for new strategies to reach new and existing customers in new occasions with new flavors and innovations. Amid headwinds, there is good news: the continued overall popularity of the category. Independent brewers still sell more than one out of eight beers in the United States, and consumers spend roughly a quarter of their beer dollars on a beer from a small and independent brewer. The Brewers Association continued its work to ensure small brewers have equitable access to markets, fair tax rates, and sensible regulations. Additionally, the BA brought significant resources to bear to support state-specific beer law modernizations like license stacking, ending draconian regulations, and the expansion of retail rights for breweries across multiple states. The Brewers Association prioritized working closely with state guilds across the country to update outdated laws and regulations, with efforts supporting shipping craft beer directly to consumers, beer franchise law reform, and self-distribution authorization for small and independent craft brewers. The Brewers Association invests in the future of craft beer through opportunity-making, member and community engagement, and high-impact philanthropy. With its sixth mentorship program cohort, the Brewers Association has connected more than 200 mentors with 190 professionals looking to pursue a career in the industry or develop their knowledge and skills. (Brewers Association)

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Market News and Trends This Week—continued

WHEAT—Idaho cash wheat prices were down for the week ending December 13. SWS prices ranged from down \$0.50 to down \$0.15 from the previous week; HRW prices were down \$0.35 to down \$0.18; DNS prices were down \$0.83 to down \$0.03 and HWW prices were down \$0.35. USDA FAS reported net sales for 2023/2024 for the period December 1-7 at 1,490,500 MT. Primarily to China (1,120,000 MT), the Philippines (124,100 MT), Mexico (87,300 MT), Japan (62,500 MT), and Chile (32,000 MT). Exports of 289,600 MT were to Japan (79,800 MT), Mexico (50,100 MT), the Philippines (46,600 MT), Thailand (27,700 MT), and Italy (23,400 MT).

Wheat News—A slate of actions aimed at preparing the Pacific Northwest for a scenario in which four dams on the Lower Snake River are breached appears to be under consideration as the Biden administration looks to resolve a 22-year-long legal dispute over declining salmon populations. A draft settlement document titled "U.S. government commitments in support of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative and in Partnership with the Six Sovereigns" was recently made public by four House members opposed to dam breaching. Labeled "CONFIDENTIAL MEDIATION DOCUMENT — NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION" in large, red letters, the paper lays out a number of potential commitments federal agencies may pursue in a settlement, including a program that aims to support renewable energy deployment by four tribal nations. The departments of Energy and Agriculture, through the program, would provide "targeted technical assistance, planning and funding" to the tribes for clean energy projects to offset the power lost if Congress authorized a breach of the dams, according to the document. The Energy, Transportation, Agriculture, and Interior departments, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers also would analyze options for replacing transportation infrastructure, recreation opportunities, and access to water supplies threatened by a potential breach, according to the document. These actions would be done in partnership with the states of Oregon and Washington, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe. It's unclear whether the proposals laid out in the document are still being considered by the parties. (Agri Pulse)

CORN—USDA FAS reported net sales for 2023/2024 for period December 1-7 were 1,490,500 MT, were to Mexico (669,800 MT), unknown destinations (386,400 MT), China (143,300 MT), South Korea (65,400 MT), and Saudi Arabia (50,000 MT). Exports of 851,000 MT were primarily to Mexico (374,600 MT), Colombia (159,200 MT), China (141,300 MT), Honduras (48,800 MT), and Canada (35,400 MT).

Ethanol Corn Usage—DOE's Energy Information Agency (EIA) reported ethanol production for the week December 8 was 1.077 million bbls/day down 0.2 percent from the previous week and up 1.2 percent from last year. Total ethanol production for the week was 7.518 million barrels. Ethanol stocks were 22.100 million bbls, up 3.1 percent from last week and down 9.5 percent from last year. An estimated 106.60 million bu of corn was used in last week's production bringing this crop year's cumulative corn usage for ethanol production at 1.448 billion bu. Corn used needs to average 101.65 million bu per week to meet USDA estimate of 5.325 billions bu for the crop year.

Futures Market News and Trends—Week Ending December 14, 2023

FUTURES MARKET SETTLEMENT PRICES for the Week Ending Thursday, December 14, 2023:

Commodity	March 2024	Week Change	May 2024	Week Change	July 2024	Week Change	Sept 2024	Week Change
CHI SRW	\$6.15¾	-\$0.16	\$6.25¾	-\$0.14¾	\$6.31½	-\$0.14	\$6.40¾	-\$0.14
KC HRW	\$6.36½	-\$0.24½	\$6.40½	-\$0.26	\$6.43¾	-\$0.26	\$6.53½	-\$0.25
MGE DNS	\$7.17¼	-\$0.12¼	\$7.26¾	-\$0.11½	\$7.34¼	-\$0.09½	\$7.41¼	-\$0.12
CORN	\$4.79¼	-\$0.06¼	\$4.92	-\$0.05½	\$5.01½	-\$0.04½	\$5.01¾	-\$0.05¾

WHEAT FUTURES—Wheat futures declined in profit-taking moves Friday after reaching four-month highs earlier in the week as China continued to buy US supplies. **Wheat futures prices ranged down \$0.26 to down \$0.09½ (per bu) versus the previous week.**

CORN FUTURES—Corn futures prices were down on price pressure from the soybean and wheat complexes. **Corn futures prices ranged from down \$0.06¼ to down \$0.04½ (per bu) versus the previous week.**

CRUDE OIL FUTURES—Oil prices edged up about 1% on Wednesday from a five-month low in the prior session on a bigger-than-expected weekly withdrawal from U.S. crude storage and on worries about the security of Middle East oil supplies after a tanker attack in the Red Sea. (Reuters)

EIA reported U.S. crude oil refinery inputs averaged 16.1 million bbls day during the week ending December 8 was 179 thousand bbls/day more than last week's average. Refineries operated at 90.2% of capacity last week. As of December 8 there was a decrease in Crude Oil stocks of 4.258 million bbls from last week to 440.773 million bbls, over the 5-year average of 450.020 million bbls. Distillate stocks increased by 1.494 million bbls to a total of 113.539 million bbls, under the 5-year average of 129.119 million bbls; while gasoline stocks increased by 0.409 million bbls to 224.013 million bbls, under the 228.770 million bbl 5-year average. The national average retail regular gasoline price was \$3.136/per gallon on December 11, 2023, down \$0.095 from last week's price and down \$0.103 from a year ago. The national average retail diesel fuel price was \$3.987 per gallon, down \$0.105 from last week's price and down \$0.767 from last year.

NYMEX Crude Oil Futures finished the week ending Thursday, December 14, 2023 to close at \$71.58/bbl (January contract), up \$0.35 for the week.

USDA U.S. Drought Monitor—December 14, 2023

Northeast: No significant changes in the region this week.

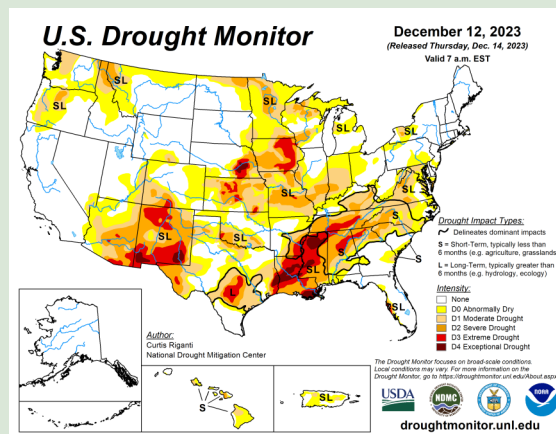
Southeast: Expansion of drought in eastern South Carolina, eastern North Carolina, and southeast Georgia. Improvements were made in northern Georgia, northeast Alabama, and eastern Tennessee.

Midwest: Some improvements were made in parts of Ohio and Kentucky. Drought was expanded in Missouri and Illinois.

High Plains: Drought was expanded in Kansas

West: Improvements were made on the Oregon Pacific coast, eastern Washington, the Idaho Panhandle, and far northeast Oregon.

South: Degrations were made in northeast Texas, northeast Oklahoma, and northern Arkansas. Drought expanded in central Texas. Minor improvements were made in around Midland and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.



USDA U.S. Crop Weather Highlights—December 14, 2023

West: Any precipitation is confined to the southern Rockies and the Pacific Northwest. Snow is blanketing the former region, especially across northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Light showers are affecting the latter region as a cold front nears the northern Pacific Coast. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather is promoting late-season fieldwork.

Plains: Unusually warm weather prevails along and near the Canadian border, further reducing the coverage of any remaining snow. Nationally, snow coverage in the Lower 48 States stood at 19% early today, the lowest mid-December value since 2006. Farther south, however, a slow-moving storm system is producing rain and wet snow across the central and southern High Plains, leading to rural travel disruptions and a temporary increase in live-stock stress.

Corn Belt: Mild, dry weather favors any late-season fieldwork, as well as farm maintenance activities. Today's Mid-western high temperatures should generally range from 45 to 55°F.

South: A few showers are developing in the western Gulf Coast region, mainly across southern Texas. Elsewhere, dry weather and near- or above-normal temperatures are promoting late-season fieldwork, including cotton and sugarcane harvesting. Some producers in southern Florida are planting winter vegetables.

Outlook for U.S.: A storm system traversing the south-central U.S. will intensify late in the week over the Gulf of Mexico. Mixed precipitation, cold rain and wet snow, will linger into Friday across the central and southern High Plains. Subsequently, the low-pressure system will move northward along the Atlantic Coast, delivering rainy, windy weather across the eastern U.S. Some of the heaviest rain—locally to 2 to 6 inches or more—should fall across the lower Southeast, including Florida. In contrast, only light precipitation will fall during the next 5 days in the Midwest, while completely dry weather should prevail across much of the northern Plains, Great Basin, and In-termountain West. During the weekend, Pacific storminess will begin to spread inland along the West Coast, with significant precipitation possible by Sunday and Monday in northern and central California. The NWS 6- to 10-day out-look for December 19 – 23 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures across the lower Southeast, including Florida, while warmer-than-normal weather will cover the remainder of the country. Mean-while, near- or below-normal precipitation across the North and from the Mississippi Valley eastward should con-trast with wetter-than-normal conditions from California to the central and southern Plains.

International Crop Weather Highlights—Week ending December 9, 2023

Europe: Colder-than-normal weather continued over central, northern, and eastern Europe, though warmer tem-peratures returned at the end of the period. Moderate to heavy rain maintained adequate to abundant moisture reserves for dormant winter crops from northern Spain into England, France, and western Germany. Locally heavy showers in the Balkans erased lingering drought concerns, while light snow kept winter grains and oilseeds well insulated in eastern Germany, Poland, and the Baltic States.

Middle East: Warm weather kept winter wheat and barley from going dormant in Turkey and Iran; crops typically go dormant in early December. Moderate to heavy rain in Turkey and Syria boosted soil moisture for winter grain establishment. Dry weather in Iran increased soil moisture deficits in primary western and northern growing areas.

Asia: A tropical cyclone tracked up eastern India producing widespread heavy showers and localized flooding but overall benefiting rabi crops. Dry weather prevailed across eastern wheat and rapeseed areas of China, with unsea-sonable warmth increasing moisture demands. The rainy season was well established across the bulk of Java, Indo-nesia, after a lengthy delay, aiding establishment of rice and other seasonal crops.

Australia: In the wake of recent soaking rains, drier weather overspread the south and east, allowing winter crop harvesting to regain momentum and encouraging additional sorghum planting. In the west, seasonably warm, dry weather favored wheat, barley, and canola harvesting.

South America: Warm, showery weather maintained overall favorable corn and soybean prospects in southern Brazil. Showers were generally lighter farther north, although the rainy weather prevented a return of stressful temperatures.

WHEAT: The outlook for 2023/24 U.S. wheat this month is for unchanged supplies and domestic use, higher exports, and reduced ending stocks. Exports are raised 25 million bushels to 725 million on several large recent export sales of Soft Red Winter (SRW) wheat to China. SRW exports are raised 30 million bushels to 175 million, the largest SRW exports since 2013/14. White wheat exports are lowered 5 million bushels to 155 million on a slow pace of sales and shipments. Projected all wheat ending stocks are reduced by 25 million bushels to 659 million, still up 13 percent from last year. The season-average farm price is raised \$0.10 per bushel to \$7.30 on lower projected stocks, NASS prices reported to date, and price expectations for the remainder of the marketing year.

The global wheat outlook for 2023/24 is for higher supplies, consumption, and trade with reduced stocks. Supplies are raised 1.3 million tons to 1,052.9 million, primarily on higher government production estimates for Australia and Canada partially offset by a reduction for Brazil. Global consumption is raised 1.8 million tons to 794.7 million, mainly on higher feed and residual use for the EU, South Korea, and Thailand and increased food, seed, and industrial use primarily for China. World trade is raised 2.2 million tons to 207.2 million on higher exports by Australia, the United States, Canada, and Ukraine. Projected 2023/24 global ending stocks are reduced 0.5 million tons to 258.2 million, the lowest since 2015/16.

COARSE GRAINS: This month's 2023/24 U.S. corn outlook is for higher exports and lower ending stocks. Exports are raised 25 million bushels to 2.1 billion reflecting the pace of sales and shipments to date. With no other use changes, corn ending stocks are reduced 25 million bushels to 2.1 billion. The season-average corn price received by producers is unchanged at \$4.85 per bushel.

Global coarse grain production for 2023/24 is forecast 2.7 million tons higher to 1,502.0 million. The 2023/24 foreign coarse grain outlook is for larger production, increased trade, and higher ending stocks relative to last month. Foreign corn production is raised with increases for Russia, Ukraine, the EU, and Egypt partially offset by reductions for Mexico and Canada. Corn production for Ukraine and Russia is raised based on reported harvest results to date. EU corn production is higher as an increase for France is partially offset by a reduction for Bulgaria. Mexico corn production is cut mostly reflecting lower area. Foreign barley production is raised with increases for Canada and Australia.

BARLEY: December -WASDE report shows the outlook for 2023/2024 U.S. barley supplies were unchanged at 257 million bushels from the projected estimates at 257 million bushels. The December report estimates a projected yield of 72.4 bushels/acre with 2.6 million acres expected to be harvested, unchanged from the November 2023/2024 estimates report. Projected use is at an estimated 188 million bushels, and projected imports at 14 million bushels. Ending stocks for 2023/2024 are projected to be 69 million bushels. The season-average farm price is up at \$7.40 bu on updated NASS prices compared to \$7.20/bu in November 2023/2024 estimates.