Idaho Grain Market Report, February 15, 2024—NEW CROP PRICES

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lwilder@barley.idaho.gov 208-334-2090 www.barley.idaho.gov

Prices paid by Idaho Elevators delivered to warehouses in specified locations for barley and wheat on Wednesday February 14, 2024. 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						
Burley / Rupert	No Bid		No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Twin Falls / Buhl Jerome / Wendell	8.25		6.06			
Meridian	10.00		5.49	5.44	6.35	
Nezperce / Craigmont	6.96		5.40	5.46	6.45	
Lewiston	7.48		5.66	5.72	6.71	
Moscow / Genesee	7.43		5.55	5.61	6.66	

Prices at Selected Terminal Markets, cash FOB

Wednesday February 14, 2024 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			6.30-6.65	6.48-6.58	7.48-7.53	
Ogden						
Great Falls	7.40			5.90-6.18	6.67-6.89	

Market News and Trends This Week

BARLEY—Idaho cash feed barley prices were unchanged for the week ending February 14. Idaho cash malt barley prices were down $0.25 to unchanged for the week. Net sales for barley were 14,000 MT to Japan reported by USDA FAS for 2024/2025 for the week of February 2-8. Net exports of were 200 MT to Mexico reported for the week.

Barley News—The reduced supply of barley from crop 2023, and with global production forecast at at 142.6 mln tonnes in 2023/24, despite some variability, there is sufficient quality to meet brewing and distilling requirements, RMI Analytics said in their latest report. The weak demand environment currently hanging over the market is expected to reduce trade volumes from crop 2022 levels. Feed barley demand is forecast lower, partly due to the overall reduced supply of barley, but also a consequence of a rebound in global corn production. With nearly 10 mln tonnes lower production in crop 2023, the drop in demand is only reducing ending stocks to 2.2 mln tonnes. As long as the demand environment remains weak, and no quality issues develop, there is ample supply of malting barley to cover brewing and distilling needs until crop 2024. After four years of relatively good production years (crops 2019-2022) supply has slipped toward the lower end of the 10-year range. The slow pace of barley (and malt) adds a further challenge in convincing farmers to plant barley in 2024. The direction for global malting barley prices remains down, with little sign of any change in the short term as a recovery in demand seems unlikely, RMI Analytics said in their early February report. A large malt premium remains in France for crop 2023, as compared to other origins, although current crop 2024 prices indicate a sharp shift lower. The barley market is searching for a price floor, with no sign a bottom has been reached (yet), the analysts believe. France is the most competitive origin for feed/FAQ barley (as evidenced by recent tender activity). Canada is moving to become more competitive in world markets, driven by weak exports and a softening domestic market. Australia and Argentina are working to stay as close to French values as possible. All with a very limited presence of demand. (CastleMalting.com)

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Market News and Trends This Week—continued

WHEAT—Idaho cash wheat prices were mostly down for the week ending February 15. SWW prices ranged from down $0.12 to up $0.04 from the previous week; HRW prices were down $0.35 to down $0.18; DNS prices were down $0.37 to down $0.18 and HWW prices were not given. USDA FAS reported net sales for 2023/2024 for the period February 2-8 at 349,300 MT. Primarily to the Philippines (118,200 MT), Taiwan (89,700 MT), Japan (54,200 MT), Chile (40,000 MT), and Trinidad and Tobago (900 MT). Exports of 405,300 MT were to Mexico (84,200 MT), Japan (68,900 MT), South Korea (64,600 MT), China (57,100 MT), and Vietnam (38,400 MT).

Wheat News— Wheat farmers and cattle ranchers may see higher prices in 2024 compared to last year, but other Washington commodities might not fare as well, an agricultural economist says. Randy Fortenbery, the Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair in Small Grains Economics at Washington State University, expects "better" wheat markets, especially if farmers have decent yields. Cattle prices are "quite strong" compared to a year ago. But every other livestock sector was down significantly, particularly dairy, said Fortenbery. Last year, U.S. net farm income decreased by an inflation-adjusted 20%, following record income in 2022, said Fortenbery. "It varied a lot, based on where you were and what commodity or agricultural production systems you were involved with," he said. "We're going to see a larger divergence between who does well in 2024 than we even saw in 2023." Softening prices drove the income decrease, Fortenbery said. This year, wheat prices could range from about $5.50 per bushel to below $7.50 per bushel, Fortenbery said. "It's a pretty wide range, because we're still a long way from knowing what this winter wheat crop is going to look like as we approach the summer," he said. "If you get $7, you should probably think about taking it because pretty soon, if you start approaching $8, the market's saying there's a 75% chance we can't hold that as we go into the summer months." Fortenbery presented his annual economic outlook Feb. 7 at the Spokane Ag Show. (Capital Press)

CORN—USDA FAS reported net sales for 2023/2024 for period February 2-8 were 1,306,900 MT, were to Mexico (421,100 MT), Colombia (351,200 MT), unknown destinations (108,000 MT), Honduras (105,400 MT), and South Korea (82,700 MT). Exports of 903,300 MT were primarily to Mexico (425,800 MT), Japan (129,600 MT), Colombia (75,200 MT), Saudi Arabia (55,000 MT), and Taiwan (54,700 MT).

Ethanol Corn Usage—DOE's Energy Information Agency (EIA) reported ethanol production for the week February 9 was 1.083 million bbls/day up 4.8 percent from the previous week and up 6.8 percent from last year. Total ethanol production for the week was 7.581 million barrels. Ethanol stocks were 25.810 million bbls, up 4.2 percent from last week and up 1.9 percent from last year. An estimated 107.50 million bu of corn was used in last week's production bringing this crop year's cumulative corn usage for ethanol production at 2.368 billion bu. Corn used needs to average 103.19 million bu per week to meet USDA estimate of 5.375 billions bu for the crop year.

Futures Market News and Trends—Week Ending February 15, 2024

FUTURES MARKET SETTLEMENT PRICES for the Week Ending Thursday, February 15, 2024:

Commodity	March 2024	Week Change	May 2024	Week Change	July 2024	Week Change	Sept 2024	Week Change
CHI SRW	$5.67	-$0.29¾	$5.67¼	-$0.32	$5.70	-$0.31	$5.79	-$0.29¾
KC HRW	$5.75¾	-$0.25¾	$5.70	-$0.29½	$5.63½	-$0.30¼	$5.71¼	-$0.30½
MGE DNS	$6.58	-$0.26¼	$6.58¾	-$0.24¼	$6.62¾	-$0.23¼	$6.70½	-$0.19¾
CORN	$4.17¾	-$0.11¼	$4.29¾	-$0.11¾	$4.39¾	-$0.11	$4.45½	-$0.12¼

WHEAT FUTURES—Wheat futures were down due to slowing global trade and improving global crop outlooks. **Wheat futures prices ranged down $0.32 to down $0.19¾ (per bu) versus the previous week.**

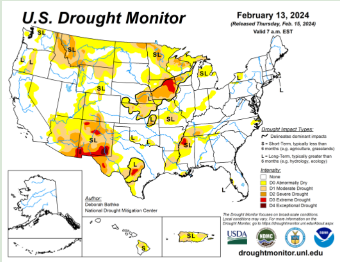
CORN FUTURES—Corn futures prices down due to pressure from improved crop weather and forecasts for larger supplies in South America. **Corn futures prices ranged from down $0.12¼ to down $0.11 (per bu) versus the previous week.**

CRUDE OIL FUTURES—Crude oil futures rose Thursday, shaking off earlier losses on the back of a weak global demand forecast for 2024. (CNBC)

EIA reported U.S. crude oil refinery inputs averaged 14.5 million bbls day during the week ending February 9 was 297 thousand bbls/day less than last week's average. Refineries operated at 80.6% of capacity last week. As of February 9 there was an increase in Crude Oil stocks of 12.018 million bbls from last week to 439.450 million bbls, under the 5-year average of 449.045 million bbls. Distillate stocks decreased by 1.915 million bbls to a total of 125.659 million bbls, under the 5-year average of 136.405 million bbls; while gasoline stocks decreased by 3.658 million bbls to 247.330 million bbls, under the 252.949 million bbl 5-year average. The national average retail regular gasoline price was $3.192/per gallon on February 12, 2024, up $0.056 from last week's price and down $0.198 from a year ago. The national average retail diesel fuel price was $4.109 per gallon, up $0.21 from last week's price and down $0.335 from last year.

NYMEX Crude Oil Futures finished the week ending Thursday, February 15, 2024 to close at $78.03/bbl (March contract), up $1.19 for the week.

USDA U.S. Drought Monitor—February 15, 2024



Northeast: No significant changes were made in the region this week.

Southeast: Widespread improvements in the region. Abnormal dryness expanded in eastern North Carolina.

Midwest: Abnormal dryness expanded in Wisconsin and St. Louis. Abnormal dryness was removed form southeast Missouri.

High Plains: Improvements were made in Southwest Nebraska, Kansas, and eastern Colorado.

West: Widespread improvements in the region. Drought expanded in southern Montana, northern Wyoming, central Idaho, south-central Oregon, eastern Idaho, and western Montana.

South: Widespread improvements were in the region. Drought expanded in west Texas.

USDA U.S. Crop Weather Highlights—February 15, 2024

West: Moisture associated with a storm system centered near the northern Pacific Coast continues to spread inland. Early today, some of the most significant precipitation is falling in the Pacific Northwest and northern Intermountain West. Snow falling from the northern Cascades to the northern Rockies is especially beneficial for improving water supply prospects, as most of that region has snow-water equivalencies that are 50 to 75% of average for mid-February.

Plains: Modestly colder air is arriving across Montana and the Dakotas. Additionally, light snow is overspreading southern and western Montana. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather covers the southern half of the Plains, where today's high temperatures will reach 70°F or higher in much of Texas.

Corn Belt: Rain showers have moved east of the Mississippi River, while wet snow is falling in the vicinity of the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, generally mild Midwestern weather prevails, continuing a recent trend. In fact, during the first half of the month, temperatures averaged at least 20°F above normal in locations such as St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Fargo, North Dakota, threatening upper Midwestern February records for warmth that were largely set in 1998.

South: Mild, dry weather prevails. Today's high temperatures will rebound to near 80°F in parts of Florida and should top 70°F throughout the Gulf Coast region. Early-season agricultural activities, including corn and sorghum planting in southern and coastal Texas, are well underway across the Deep South.

Outlook for U.S: During the next few days, a west-to-east storm track across the country will feature fast-moving storms producing generally light snow. For example, the storm system currently affecting the Midwest will reach the northern Atlantic Coast early Friday, while the system arriving in the Northwest will traverse the country and cross the middle Atlantic Coast by Saturday. The trailing system will also produce some rain across the Deep South, mainly from southern Texas to Florida. Briefly cooler weather in the central and eastern U.S. could result in weekend freezes as far south as south-central Texas and the central Gulf Coast States. Meanwhile, pulses emanating from a broad area of stormy weather over the northern Pacific Ocean will maintain showery conditions in the Far West. In fact, 5-day precipitation totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more in parts of California, with the heaviest rain and snow falling during the weekend and early next week. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for February 20 – 24 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than normal conditions across Florida's peninsula. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across the Plains, Midwest, and South should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in much of the West and from the lower Great Lakes region into northern New England.

International Crop Weather Highlights—Week ending February 10, 2024

Europe: Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over central and eastern Europe, hastening Balkans' winter grains and oilseeds out of dormancy more than one month ahead of normal. Widespread showers maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for greening (north) to vegetative (south) winter crops across Spain, Italy, France, England, and Germany.

Middle East: Drier and warmer weather reduced winter grain cold hardiness in central Turkey and northern Iran. Light showers from the eastern Mediterranean Coast into west-central Iran maintained favorable moisture supplies but allowed lowland flooding to recede in Israel after last week's downpours.

Asia: Light showers and cool weather in northern India and Pakistan supported wheat and rapeseed, while heat in southern India increased water demands for crops. Snow (north) and rain (south) moved through eastern China, favoring overwintering wheat and rapeseed, but bitter cold weather followed. Widespread showers continued to benefit rice and oil palm in southern sections of the region, although drier weather prevailed in western Malaysia.

Australia: In southern Queensland and New South Wales, showers sustained average to above-average soil moisture for cotton and sorghum, aiding crop development.

South America: Locally heavy showers brought needed relief from stressful heat and dryness to immature summer crops in Argentina.