

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Hog Prices: ↑↓ Soymeal: ↑↑  
Corn: ↔ CDN Dollar: ↓↓

US Slaughter	
428,000	Wednesday
417,000	Wednesday (year ago)
W. Corn Belt	\$73.93
National Price	\$76.29
Daily Sig 3	\$137.82
Daily Sig 4	\$137.72
Thunder Creek	\$138.61
4-Month Fwd	\$159.56
1 Export Sows (+500lbs) \$ 54.25 cwt.	
<b>B of C Ex. Rate (Noon)</b> \$1.0170 CAD/\$0.9832 USD	
<b>Cash Prices: Week Ending March 22, 2013</b>	
Signature 3	61.97/136.61
Signature 4	64.21/141.56
h@ms Cash	63.53/140.06
Hylife	61.44/135.45
Thunder Creek	63.05/139.00
ISO Weans	\$27.07 US Avg.
Feeder Pigs	\$58.15 US Avg.

**Forward contract prices opened higher this morning.** US cash markets are expected to trade steady to lower this morning, as packers have supplies secured for this holiday shortened slaughter week. The pork cut-out is pressuring the operating margins of US packers by dropping last week to the lowest level seen since September 2012. Lean Hog futures could see some significant action in trade today, as there are three reports (Quarterly Hog and Pigs, Grain Stocks and Prospective Plantings) that will have an influence on the market. The USDA Quarterly Hogs and Pigs is expected to show a modest increase in most categories of the report. The table below reflects the industry estimates for each of the individual categories going into the report, as reported by the Dow Jones News. Please note that the Risk Management Department will be closed tomorrow in observance of Good Friday, but will reopen at the normal time on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Analyst Estimates of USDA March Hogs and Pigs Report**  
Source: Dow Jones. Percent of Year Ago

All hogs and pigs on March 1	100.7	100.3 - 101.6
Kept for breeding	100.3	99.7 - 101.2
Kept for marketing	100.8	100.3 - 101.7
Dec-Feb pig crop	101.2	100.6 - 101.7

**Canadian delivered soymeal prices opened higher this morning.** US soybean futures are trading lower ahead of the two major reports from USDA/NASS that are scheduled for release at 12:00PM (DST) today: Grain Stocks and Prospective Plantings. Pre-report estimates are expecting 935 million bu. for stocks and 78.457 million acres for prospective plantings. There are rumors that stocks will be lower than expected which could influence the market higher. However, large prospective plantings could keep new crop prices relatively in check.

**Canadian delivered corn prices opened even this morning.** US corn futures are trading lower. Unlike soybeans, there are no expected deviations from pre-report estimates. But like soybeans, futures prices will be affected by them. Pre-report estimates are expecting 5.13 billion bu. in stocks and 97.753 million acres for prospective plantings. Analysts are looking for numbers below 5 billion bu. in stocks and 97.2 million acres in plantings to be supportive.

Fixed Forward Range	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
(Maple Leaf Sig. #3)	146.85 149.18	154.69 163.55	159.82 164.48	163.38 165.71	156.64 163.81	149.16 150.57	142.36 149.85	134.27 140.35	137.07 139.88
(Maple Leaf Sig. #4)	146.09 149.16	153.59 161.81	160.54 163.80	162.92 164.18	159.02 163.33	149.06 155.76	149.28 150.55	136.18 144.53	138.54 142.17
Soymeal Delivered	506	508	508	509	509	509			
Corn Delivered	306	308	310						

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## 2013 Easter Forward Contracting Schedule

Date	Hours of Operation
March 29, 2013 (Fri.)	Closed - No Forward Contracting
March 31, 2013 (Mon.)	Regular Hours - Forward Contracting Available