

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

US Slaughter	
401,000	Thursday
411,000	Thursday (year ago)
W. Corn Belt	\$88.30
National Price	\$93.04
Daily Sig 3	\$164.49
Daily Sig 4	\$167.84
Thunder Creek	\$165.11
4-Month Fwd.	\$163.53
1 Export Sows (+500lbs)	\$ 43.00 cwt.
B of C Ex. Rate (Noon) \$1.0163 CAD/\$0.9839 USD	
Cash Prices: Week Ending May 17, 2013	
Signature 3	75.09/165.55
Signature 4	75.49/166.42
h@ms Cash	74.81/164.92
Hylife	n/a
Thunder Creek	74.93/165.20
ISO Weans	\$27.24 US Avg.
Feeder Pigs	\$55.52 US Avg.

Forward contract prices opened higher this morning. US cash markets lost everything that they gained earlier in the week in yesterday's trade. Tight packer margins forced some to cut hours from their Saturday slaughters, allowing others to drop cash bids. This week's slaughter is expected to be less than 2.07 million hogs, the smallest non-holiday weekly kill since last summer. The pork cut-out pushed higher with the help of gains in both the loin and belly primal cuts, taking the benchmark wholesale price to the highest level seen since last summer. Futures traders have responded to the strength in meat prices by adding value to all Lean Hog contracts. With the nearby contracts now trading at a premium to the current cash market by about \$5.00/cwt., producers looking for added protection should consider this recent development to be a good pricing opportunity. However, the focus of producer hedging is now starting to shift to the fall and winter periods, which are trading at a larger than average discount to the current cash market.

Canadian delivered soymeal prices opened higher this morning. US soybean futures are trading higher. Strength comes from strong meal exports and good crush margins. Exports sales of beans, while weaker than expected, supported the market with cumulative sales of 99%. While prices have crept upward amid supply tightness, feed buyers also have to contend with availability issues. Local members are reminded that on-time delivery of meal is unlikely (nor guaranteed) next week as recent planting activity in the US has strained trucking resources.

Canadian delivered corn prices opened higher this morning. US corn futures are trading mixed. The nearby contract is supported by export sales but there is a bearish tone moving forward. 'Round the clock planting activity has ramped up as a result of drier than expected fields; cumulative planting estimates have shot up from 50% to between 60% and 70% by next week; 28% was planted last week. Although wetter conditions are forecast, there is talk of 100% of the crop being planted by the end of May.

Fixed Forward Range	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
(Maple Leaf Sig. #3)		167.54 170.84	168.26 170.63	162.65 166.43	148.98 150.87	142.68 150.25	133.74 139.89	136.58 139.42	137.94 143.61	144.09 147.40
(Maple Leaf Sig. #4)		167.26 170.55	168.25 169.53	160.01 166.47	150.86 156.90	146.42 151.00	135.93 144.00	137.94 141.61	138.89 142.00	144.57 147.68
Soymeal Delivered	534	535	536	543	543	412	411	411		
Corn Delivered	291	293	295							

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