



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - July 7, 2005

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******I.D.E.A. Golf Social and Meeting***

Mark your calendars and plan to attend an I.D.E.A. golf social and meeting on August 17 in Innisfail, Alberta. The breakfast meeting will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m, followed by golf and concluding with a luncheon meeting. Keep posted for additional details to follow. All I.D.E.A. members all welcome to attend.

******I.D.E.A. Member Conference Call***

The I.D.E.A. Member Conference Call for July 12 has been cancelled, since many retailers are on holidays or attending other events.

******Strike by Container Truckers Hurts Special Crop Industry***

A strike by the Vancouver Container Truck Association (VCTA) is affecting the export of specialty grains such as peas, lentils and beans, as well as fresh and frozen pork.

The Vancouver Port Authority is calling for the immediate appointment of a facilitator to resolve the dispute saying the work stoppage is immobilizing between 30 and 40 per cent of the containerized cargo that normally moves through the port.

According to the authority, 31 per cent of import containers are moved by truck while 63 per cent of those for export are moved that way.

Larry Weber, a Saskatoon grain broker with Weber Commodities says the disruption in specialty crop movement is coming at a bad time. Pulse crop shipments are occurring for the religious holiday known as Ramadan. In addition, many producers are making sales to make room for new crop production.

Weber says most specialty crops are shipped in bulk from the prairies to the West Coast. The product is "stuffed" in containers at special facilities and then trucked to the container port to be loaded onto ships. Without container trucking, movement stops. (Source: by Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the *AgExpert Express* newsletter by permission of *AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada*.)

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*****WGRF to Invest \$12.5 Million in AAFC Wheat and Barley Research**

Western Canadian wheat and barley growers will invest \$12.5 million over five years in research programs for those crops at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) institutions, through the Wheat and Barley Check-off Funds, administered by Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF).

The funding is a renewal of a long-standing partnership between WGRF and AAFC, which has supported the development of more than 30 new wheat and barley varieties over the past 10 years. The funding will continue to focus on the development of new varieties for Western Canada with higher productivity, improved adaptation and superior consumer quality.

The WGRF agreement with AAFC is structured with a five-year framework renewable for an additional five years, with approximately \$2.2 million invested annually for wheat development and \$300,000 annually for barley development.

"There are many examples of innovative new directions in each of these programs," says WGRF Chair Keith Degenhardt, a Hughenden, Alta. producer. "For example, hard white wheat is a new class that will help us compete in the Asian market, which prefers white wheat. Also, in hullless food barley, progress is opening the door to using this health-boosting grain to a much greater extent in a range of food products. This is happening as consumer awareness increases about barley's advantages for lowering cholesterol and reducing the risk of cancer."

For more information on the Wheat and Barley Check-off Funds and resulting research progress, visit <http://www.westerngrains.com/>. (Source: Agnet)

*****Wheat and Durum PROs Slightly Higher**

On June 23, the Canadian Wheat Board released its latest Pool Return Outlook (PRO) for the 2005-06 crop year. Wheat, durum and feed barley PROs were up slightly, while malting barley was unchanged as compared to last month.

The wheat PRO is up \$1 to \$3 a tonne. The CWB says continued production problems in the U.S. hard red winter wheat region, coupled with dryness concerns in the U.S. corn belt have lent support to U.S. futures market values. In addition, production problems due to dryness and heat in southern Europe and parts of the Former Soviet Union have also supported prices.

The durum PRO is up \$1 to \$10 per tonne. The \$10 increase is on the number 4 grade. The increase on a No. 1 CWAD with 13.0 per cent protein is \$4 a tonne. No. 1 CWAD with 11.5 per cent protein has only a \$1 a tonne increase compared to last month.

The CWB says persistent dryness across the Mediterranean region has reduced production, strengthening price prospects into the new crop period. Despite good production prospects in North America, higher grade and protein durum stocks are expected to remain tight.

With reduced feed barley supplies in the Black Sea region and southern Europe, the CWB has raised the feed barley PRO for Pool A (first half of the new crop year) by \$1 a tonne. However, the export price for Canadian farmers is unlikely to be as attractive as the domestic market.

On malting barley, the PRO is unchanged. While global demand is expected to be stable to slightly stronger, beneficial rains in Australia have improved their production outlook. (Source: by Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)