

March 18, 2024

Weather

- Cold air has invaded the north-central United States this morning with temperatures dropping to the single digits and teens in the northern Plains and upper Midwest
- Cold air will settle into the Midwest, Delta, Tennessee River Basin and interior southeastern states Tuesday with frost and freeze conditions possibly impacting fruit and vegetable crops and injuring wheat
 - Wheat production potentials should not be seriously harmed
- West Texas received some welcome rain Friday into Saturday with the Rolling Plains and Low Plains reporting greater than expected rainfall
 - Follow up rain is not likely to be very great – at least not in the high Plains region
- U.S. hard red winter wheat production areas are unlikely to get much precipitation in the high Plains region this week
- Snow in Canada's southwestern Prairies and Montana during mid-week this week will shift east southeast across the northern Plains to the upper Midwest
- A larger late winter/early spring storm may impact the northern Midwest and eastern northern Plains late this coming weekend into early next week
- Improving rainfall is expected later this week across Brazil's grain, oilseed and cotton areas that should help to moisten the topsoil; subsoil moisture improvements may not be nearly as great – at least not in southwestern portions of the nation
- Argentina and the remainder of Brazil should see a good mix of rain and sunshine during the next two weeks, although Bahia, northeastern Minas Gerais and northern Espirito Santo are unlikely to get enough rain to counter evaporation
- Europe and CIS precipitation is expected to be mixed with periods of sunshine leaving conditions mostly good for crops

- China will be wettest in east-central and southeastern parts of the nation during the next ten days as suggested last week
- Eastern Australia not nearly as wet in the forecast today as that suggested Friday

News:

- USDA attache to Argentina lowered their 23/24 MY soybean production forecast to 49.5 mln mt. The post noted Argentina's soy crush in January was up 12% on the year in spite of last year's poor production and low stockpiles.
- Buenos Aires Grain Exchange data pegged Argentina Corn conditions at 25% good to excellent, 58% fair and 17% poor to very poor. Argentina's corn harvest pace at 3.2% complete, with 1.994 mln mt harvested from 288,983 hectares.
- NOPA February 2024 US Soybean Crush: 186.194 million bushels; expected 178.06 mln bu.; prior month 185.78 mln bu; NOPA February 2024 US Soyoil Stocks: 1.690 billion lbs; expected 1.59 bln lbs; prior month 1.507 billion lbs
- China imported 160,000 MT of pork during the first two months of this year, down 56.7% from the same period last year. The sharp drop in imports comes as China's pork production reached the highest level since 2014 last year.
- Ukraine's corn plantings this year are expected to fall 4.5% to 3.863 million hectares, according to the first forecast from the ag ministry. It says farmers could also decrease plantings of spring wheat and sunflowers but could increase area sown to spring barley and soybeans. The corn sowing outlook is better than expected in February when a survey compiled by the ag ministry showed an expected decrease of 9%. Ukraine used to be the world's largest producer and exporter of sunflower oil, however, a decrease in sunoil prices could cause producers to cut the area sown for sunflower to 5.292 million hectares from 5.307 million last year, the data showed.
- Indonesia will pause corn imports as domestic output has started to rise with the beginning of what authorities expect to be a bumper harvest, which is already helping stabilize prices, officials said. Indonesia estimates its corn production will rise 10.3% to 5.34 MMT. Food procurement firm Bulog had been allocated a corn import quota of 500,000 MT this year on top of the 500,000 MT allotted for the last three months of 2023, some of which is set to arrive this year. But authorities want to prioritize purchases from local farmers, National Food Agency (NFA) deputy chief Andriko Noto Susanto told a government meeting.
- President Vladimir Putin won a landslide victory in Russia's election on Sunday, winning 87.8% of the vote, the highest ever result in the country's post-Soviet era. Putin, 71, is set to embark on a new six-year term that will see him overtake Josef Stalin and become Russia's longest-serving leader for more than 200 years if he completes it.
- China's crude oil throughput in January and February rose 3% compared to the same two months a year earlier, data showed, as refineries raised production to meet strong demand for transport fuels over the busy Lunar New Year travel period.

Total refinery throughput in the world's second-largest oil consumer was 118.76 million metric tons, equivalent to 14.45 million barrels per day, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed.

Technically Speaking:

Market Fundamentals:

Yesterday's Trades: no new trades.

ADVICE: No New Advice

COMMENTS:

As mentioned last week the weather is supposed to bring frost and freezing temperatures across a good part of the Midwest down to the interior Gulf Coast states and Southeast Tuesday morning. It is expected not to bring with it much damage to any crops other than some minor potential damage to wheat.

Some Ukrainian planting numbers released show a decrease of about 4 ½% of corn acres. If you remember back in February, they were calling for closer to a 9% decrease. They also said they could lower the spring wheat planting areas and increase soybeans. They look to also decrease their sunflower production due to sunoil prices.

Friday's US Crush Numbers were once again a record with soyoil stock slightly increasing.

Most of the grains are currently trading marginally lower off their highs as continued choppy trading seems to be starting off the week. Corn is slightly lower with possible overhead resistance from the 50-day moving average and trying not to turn negative technically. Chicago go is about 7 cents off the highs and if it ends up closing the day at or below its lows (depending on the contract) could post a daily key reversal lower. Soybeans are slightly lower on the day having with about a 15-cent trading range. The November contract came within 2 cents of last week's highs before falling off and is now trading about 9 cents from its own highs.

The meats are higher on the day with a positive start to the week which is needs are technically this are precarious.

Gulke Group Spec Table Buy/Sell Stops				(*New Positions in BOLD)			
	3/18/2024			Today's Stops		Current Position*	
	High	Low	Close	Buy	Sell	Long	Short
CN24	451 3/4	444	449	457 1/4	440 3/4		446 3/4
CZ24	472 3/4	465 1/2	470 3/4	478 1/2	463		467 1/4
SN24	1213 3/4	1198	1212 1/2	1228 3/4	1196 1/4	1175 3/4	
SX24	1191 1/2	1175 1/4	1190 3/4	1207 1/2	1174	1141 3/4	
SMN24	343.3	337.5	339.1	345.1	333.2	347.2	
BON24	50.10	48.28	49.92	52.24	47.60	48.36	
WN24	552	542 1/4	544	554 1/4	533 3/4	551 1/2	
KWN24	569 1/4	555 1/2	559 3/4	574	545 1/2	561	
MWN24	665 1/2	651 1/2	653 1/2	668	639		652 1/4
LCJ24	188.425	186.650	187.250	189.525	184.975		187.475
LCV24	186.350	184.825	185.675	187.400	183.950		185.450
LHJ24	87.525	84.950	86.925	89.700	84.150	85.250	
LHV24	86.975	86.225	86.750	87.700	85.800		82.825
FCJ24	253.875	251.250	252.125	254.950	249.300		253.350
CTK24	94.55	93.26	93.940	95.28	92.60	98.63	
CTN24	94.26	93.13	93.590	94.92	92.26	97.28	
SBK24	22.15	21.72	22.120	22.60	21.64	21.55	
GCJ24	2176.9	2158.7	2161.50	2180.20	2142.80		2173.90
NRK24	17.89	17.81	17.82	17.93	17.72	18.550	
DJM24	39426.00	39048.00	39153	39551	38755		39521.00
CLJ24	81.45	80.49	81.04	82.20	79.88	79.80	
NGJ24	1.774	1.646	1.655	1.798	1.512	1.739	
DXM24	103.13	102.935	103.060	103.45	102.67	102.983	
USM24	119 7/32	118 15/32	118 23/32	119 23/32	117 23/32		118 31/32

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