



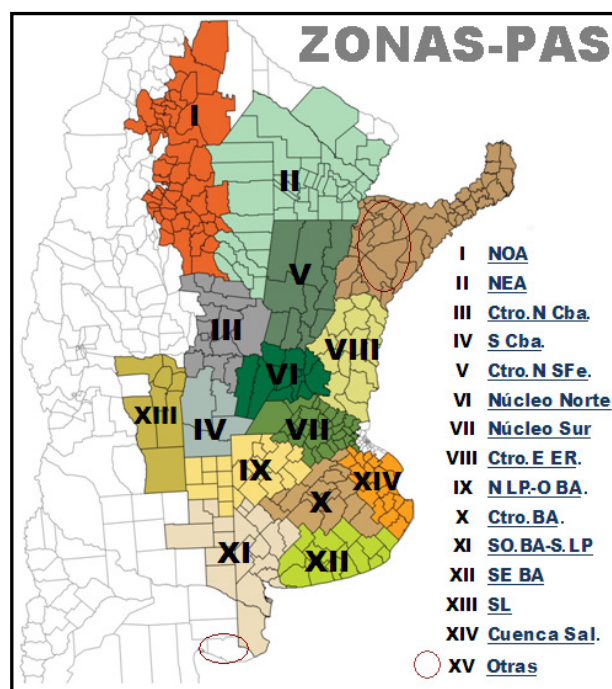
Weekly Ag Report

BUENOS AIRES GRAIN EXCHANGE

WEEK ENDED ON Feb. 28, 2013

CROP REPORT - HIGHLIGHTS

Estimations and Agricultural Projections Department
Buenos Aires Grain Exchange



Referencias:

NOA: Salta+Tucumán+Jujuy+Catamarca+Oeste Sgo del Estero.

NEA: Chaco+Este Sgo del Estero+Formosa.

Ctro N Sfe: Centro-Norte de Santa Fe. **Ctro N Cba:** Centro-Norte de Córdoba.

Núcleo Norte: Este de Córdoba+Centro-Sur de Santa Fe+Sudoeste de Entre Ríos.

S Cba: Sur de Córdoba. **N LP-O BA:** Norte de La Pampa+ Oeste de Buenos Aires.

Ctro E ER: Entre Ríos excluido Victoria y Diamante.

Ctro BA: Centro de Buenos Aires.

SO BA-S LP: Sudoeste de Buenos Aires+Sur de La Pampa.

SE BA: Sudeste de Buenos Aires. **SL:** San Luis.

Cuenca Sal: Este de la Cuenca del Salado. **Otras:** Corrientes+Misiones.

WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

BUENOS AIRES GRAINS EXCHANGE

February 28, 2013

AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOK: FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 6, 2013: MODERATE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATIONS FOLLOWED BY A DROP IN TEMPERATURES.

OUTLOOK SUMMARY

At the beginning of the perspective, the entrance of northerly winds will bring atmospheric humidity and cloudiness leading to a rise in temperatures over most of the agricultural área. During the early days of March, the passage of a storm front will reactivate rainfalls over most of the agricultural area of the Southern Cone: Eastern Paraguay, most of the Chaco region, the east of Santiago del Estero, most of Santa Fe the far northeast of La Pampa, most of Buenos Aires, most of Mesopotamia and most of Uruguay will observe abundant/very abundant precipitations (25 to 75mm), with severe local storms, chances of hail and winds; Central NOA, the west of the Chaco region, the east of Cuyo, most of Córdoba, most of La Pampa and Central Buenos Aires will observe moderate precipitations (10 to 25mm) with abundant local values: western NOA, and western Cuyo will observe scarce precipitations (less than 10mm) Southerly winds will arrive along with the front leading to a drop in temperatures over most of the agricultural area.

SOYBEAN

Although there was a good volume of precipitations in most of the agricultural region during the last fifteen days, there are still some areas that have not recovered their moisture level. In addition, the rains arrived late on the north provinces, and consequently, the yields were significantly affected in the NW area; while in the neighboring NE region the soybean crop is still capable of recovering its condition even if partially, since it is passing through its vegetative stage. Therefore the chances of a good harvest yield might be improved.

As we mentioned earlier, most of the central strip of the agricultural area has also suffered potential yield losses due to the pod abortions registered during the extended dry, high temperature period, which began at the beginning of January and ceased in mid-February. Most of these plots are now at their grain filling stage, with slim chances of offsetting the losses suffered.

Likewise, the harvest expectations for first seeding plots vary from region to region. In some parts of the north belt area, besides the yield losses for pod abortions, there were uneven births as a consequence of the water excesses accumulated during the seeding/emergence period of the crop. Conversely, the outlook is different in the south areas of Córdoba, north of La Pampa and west of Buenos Aires, where the early seeding plots were sown with good hydric supplies and environment conditions, unlike second or late first seeding plots.

Finally, after assessing the response of the crop to the hydric recovery registered since the second half of February, we are forced to adjust the productivity estimation to **48,500,000 tons**. The current figure describes a cut by 1.5 M TN (-3%) as compared to the previous report, but it is still around 21.6 % above the volume obtained during the cycle of 11/12 (Production of season 2011/12: 39.9 M TN). Nevertheless, this new projection is subject to the weather conditions of the near future in each region.

CORN

The hydric stress that affected part of the national corn producing belt has been softened by precipitations accumulated during the last seven days, coupled with low temperature registers for this period of the year.

The plots that were sown during the month of September and early October in the central region of the national agricultural area have not been affected by the drought of January, since they evolved through the critical period of the cycle with good hydric supply. Therefore only the grain filling stage was impacted and the loss of yield should be minimum. However, the area covered at the end of October hit the critical stage at the time of minimum hydric influx and highest temperatures, which produced an irreversible loss of yield. Finally, although the surface sown at later dates also suffered a period of scarce humidity, the area is now at its full critical phase (flowering and fruit set) with good humidity levels and moderate temperatures, which is likely to bring out good yields.

On the other hand, these precipitations are delaying the harvest in the areas of Córdoba, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos and the north of Buenos Aires. It is important to mention that the first early corn plots were recently collected in the south of Córdoba. The productivity results are so far ranging from regular to very good.

Up to date, the harvest of commercial corn registers an increase of 6 %, which represents an overall surface of 225 thousand hectares collected. The yields obtained and the continuous precipitations accumulated over wide areas of the agricultural region for the last 3 weeks allow us to maintain our production estimate of **25,000,000 tons**. If such volume is obtained, we will have a record harvest, which will be 16.3 % above the result obtained in the previous cycle (2011/12; 21.5 M TN).

SUNFLOWER

The harvest is in progress over the sunflower belts of Buenos Aires and La Pampa, although it is delayed by the accumulated rains of the last seven days. So far, 35.9 % of the suitable surface was collected, yielding an average of 1.77 TN/HA. In total, more than 620 thousand hectares have been harvested, obtaining a productivity volume of 1.1 MTN.

The main sunflower producing area, the southeast of Buenos Aires, has started the harvest. Although a few plots were collected so far, the yields obtained are already in excess of the local historical averages.

At the same time, the harvest is progressing in the west, center and southwest of Buenos Aires, and in the north and south of La Pampa. Just like the region mentioned above, the sunflower crop has good prospects today, thanks to the generous hydric supply during the whole cycle. These results allow us to maintain our productivity projection at **3.2 MTN**, which if accomplished, it will be 11.1 % below the volume obtained in the previous cycle (3.6 MTN).

SUNFLOWER HARVEST

2012/13 SEASON

As of: Feb. 28, 2013

Zone	Hectareage (Ha)			Percentage Harvested	Hectares Harvested	Yield (qq/Ha)	Production (Tn)	
	Sown	Lost	Harvestable					
I	NOA	-	-	-	-	-	-	
II	NEA	370.000	15.000	355.000	100	355.000	16,5	585.750
III	Ctro N Cba	3.000	400	2.600	95	2.470	18,0	4.446
IV	S Cba	22.000	700	21.300	32	6.816	17,0	11.587
V	Ctro N SFe	195.000	4.000	191.000	100	191.000	19,0	362.900
VI	Núcleo Norte	7.500	120	7.380	48	3.542	24,0	8.502
VII	Núcleo Sur	7.000	200	6.800	21	1.428	20,0	2.856
VIII	Ctro E ER	9.500	700	8.800	29	2.552	16,0	4.083
IX	N LP-OBA	115.000	14.000	101.000	14	14.140	22,0	31.108
X	Ctro BA	27.000	3.000	24.000	12	2.880	20,0	5.760
XI	SO BA-S LP	460.000	11.000	449.000	4	15.715	18,0	28.287
XII	SE BA	475.000	13.500	461.500	3	11.538	23,3	26.882
XIII	SL	32.000	2.000	30.000	17	5.100	14,0	7.140
XIV	Cuenca Sal	73.000	3.000	70.000	13	9.100	25,0	22.750
XV	Otras	4.000	250	3.750	16	600	15,0	900
TOTAL		1.800.000	67.870	1.732.130	35,9	621.881	17,7	1.102.952

GRAIN SORGHUM

The harvest of commercial grain sorghum has started in the mid-north region of Santa Fe, yielding results ranging from 4 to 8 TN/HA. The collection covered around 2% of the suitable area.

The hydric recovery registered during the last two weeks has helped improve the conditions of the plots sown in most of the agricultural area. The bulk of these plots are currently evolving through reproductive stages that range from mid-flowering to grain filling, with improved harvest yield expectations after the rains. The NE region is the only area with plots mostly passing through vegetative stages (leaf differentiation), aided by precipitations of moderate intensity registered at the start of the week.

Therefore, after seeding 1.1 M Has nationwide, our productivity estimation for the ongoing cycle climbs to **5,400,000 tons**, which represents a YOY increase near to 32 % compared to the previous season (Cycle 11/12: final production estimated in 4.1 M TN).

Buenos Aires, February 28, 2013

Buenos Aires Grains Exchange