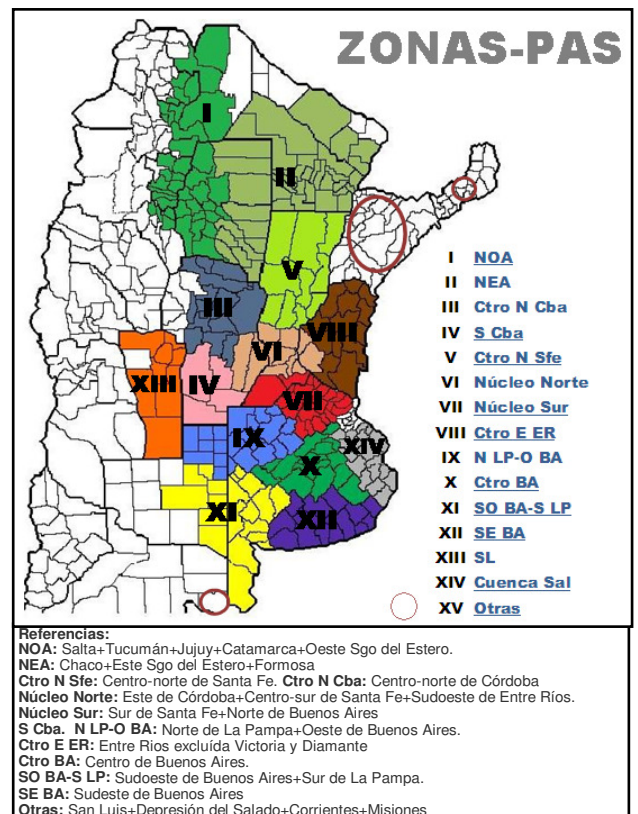




Weekly Ag Report

BUENOS AIRES GRAIN EXCHANGE

WEEK ENDED ON Aug. 23, 2012



CROP REPORT - HIGHLIGHTS

Estimations and Agricultural Projections Department
 Buenos Aires Grain Exchange

WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

BUENOS AIRES GRAIN EXCHANGE

AUGUST 23, 2012

OUTLOOK SUMMARY

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOK: AUGUST 23 TO 30, 2012: TEMPERATURES ABOVE NORMAL FOLLOWED BY RAINFALLS OVER THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AREA AND SHARP DECREASE IN TEMPERATURES.

At the beginning of the current perspective, winds coming from the northern sector will determine an overall rise in temperature with abundant humidity and cloudiness. At the same time, a Pampero front will expand across the national agricultural area leading to localized downpours: Precipitations ranging from moderate to abundant (10 to 50mm) will fall over the Chaco region, northeast of Santa Fe, Misiones and Corrientes; Moderate to very abundant precipitations (10 to 100mm) will be observed in the east of San Luis, south and central Córdoba, south of Santa Fe, east of La Pampa and most of Buenos Aires. Severe storms, hail and winds are likely to be reported in Southeast Buenos Aires; The rest of the national agricultural area will observe scarce precipitations (less than 10mm) with localized higher values. Winds will then rotate towards the southwest and then towards the southeast dropping temperatures below normal for several days: Only the east of Salta, most of Santiago del Estero, the north of the Mesopotamia region and the center of Cuyo will observe temperatures above 5°C; The center of NWA, most of Cuyo and most of the Pampeana region will report temperatures between 0 and 5°C, with chances of localized frosts; the west-central area of NWA, the center of Cuyo and the hilly areas of Buenos Aires will observe minimum temperatures below zero with generalized frosts; The west-end of NWA and the west-end of Cuyo will report minimum temperatures below -5°C, with chances of intense frosts.

The precipitations reported so far in August highlight the development of “El Niño” phenomenon. It should be noted, however, that this process will be irregular, with warm and dry periods, due to the strong residual effect of “La Niña” phenomenon which affected the two preceding campaigns.

WHEAT

The rainfalls of the last seven days have continued to improve the moisture conditions of the plots over vast regions of the national agricultural area. Consequently, large sectors of Buenos Aires and Entre Ríos are reporting hydric excess, especially on low grounds. At the same time, these rains came as a great relief to regions such as La Pampa, Santa Fe and Chaco, as well as some areas of the east and south of Cordoba, and northeast of Santiago del Estero.

In addition, the recovery was significant and timely for the central region, where most of the planted plots have started the stem elongation phase. Currently, these regions have offset their hydric deficit, and shortly after initiating their reproductive stages, which are critical for the production of potential yield, they present no limitations whatsoever. The situation is different in Chaco, where many of the plots were in poor conditions before the precipitations, reason for which they were pastured in the last weeks.

With no rains for more than thirty days, most of the plots seeded in the NW region are going through the ear growing phase in hydric conditions ranging from regular to poor.

WHEAT PLANTING

2012/13 SEASON

As Of: Aug 23, 2012

Zone		Hectareage (ha)		Percentage Planted(%)	Hectares Planted
		2009/10	2010/11		
I	NOA	450.800	340.000	100,0	340.000
II	NEA	310.000	190.000	100,0	190.000
III	Ctro N Cba	378.000	265.000	100,0	265.000
IV	S Cba	142.500	130.000	100,0	130.000
V	Ctro N SFe	184.000	160.000	100,0	160.000
VI	Núcleo Norte	340.000	265.000	100,0	265.000
VII	Núcleo Sur	292.800	240.000	100,0	240.000
VIII	Ctro E ER	220.000	150.000	100,0	150.000
IX	N LP-OBA	260.000	210.000	100,0	210.000
X	Ctro BA	170.000	140.000	100,0	140.000
XI	SO BA-S LP	836.000	680.000	100,0	680.000
XII	SE BA	941.000	770.000	100,0	770.000
XIII	SL	4.400	3.000	100,0	3.000
XIV	Cuenca Sal	60.500	50.000	100,0	50.000
XV	Otras	10.000	7.000	100,0	7.000
TOTAL		4.600.000	3.600.000	100,0	3.600.000

CORN

The remaining plots are being collected, mostly grouped in the northern provinces of Salta, Tucumán, Chaco, Santiago, as well as in the north-center of Cordoba. Likewise, there are plots still standing in the province of Buenos Aires, precisely in the west-center region. In addition to the floods registered during the fall, there were high volume precipitations in the last few days, which continue to delay the harvest of the plots.

So far, 99.6% of the suitable surface has been harvested, accounting for a total of 3.49 million hectares, and an accrued volume of 19.2 M TN, reporting a national average yield of 5.5 tons/ha. The weekly progress rate reported a slight increase of 0.6 points, and the YOY rate was up by 0.3 percentage points from a similar period in the last season. Consequently, we maintain our harvest projection at 19,300,000 tons.

On the other hand, the rains registered during the last two weeks are improving the soil conditions over a large portion of the agricultural area, providing a good perspective prior to the start of the new corn season 2012/13.

CORN HARVEST

2011/12 SEASON

As of: Aug. 23, 2012

Zone		Hectareage (ha)			Percentage harvested	Hectares harvested	Yeld (1) (qq/ha)	Production (Tn)
		Sown	Lost	Harvestable				
I	NOA	255.000	15.000	240.000	100	239.651	49,9	1.195.215
II	NEA	270.000	20.000	250.000	100	249.713	43,4	1.082.740
III	Ctro N Cba	475.000	16.000	459.000	100	457.219	67,0	3.063.366
IV	S Cba	500.000	67.500	432.500	100	432.500	45,0	1.946.250
V	Ctro N SFe	160.000	28.000	132.000	100	132.000	54,0	712.800
VI	Núcleo Norte	527.000	14.500	512.500	100	512.500	63,2	3.239.000
VII	Núcleo Sur	460.000	40.500	419.500	100	418.948	51,6	2.161.772
VIII	Ctro E ER	165.000	20.000	145.000	100	145.000	49,5	717.750
IX	N LP-OBA	535.000	69.000	466.000	98	455.500	59,0	2.687.450
X	Ctro BA	136.000	30.000	106.000	100	105.688	58,0	612.990
XI	SO BA-S LP	107.000	22.000	85.000	99	84.519	45,5	384.559
XII	SE BA	85.000	3.500	81.500	100	81.432	70,0	570.024
XIII	SL	115.000	15.000	100.000	100	100.000	44,5	445.000
XIV	Cuenca Sal	60.000	4.000	56.000	100	56.000	50,0	280.000
XV	Others	20.000	0	20.000	100	20.000	60,0	120.000
TOTAL		3.870.000	365.000	3.505.000	99,6	3.490.669	55,1	19.218.916

SUNFLOWER

The covering work has been delayed in the last seven days, due to the abundant precipitations accumulated during this period. In the NE area and the north-center of Santa Fe, which concentrate the seeding, the rainfalls ranged between 70 and 120 mm. For this reason, the planting work will be resumed next week.

Up to now, 9.7% of the **2,000,000 hectares** projected for the cycle were covered. The weekly progress rate is +0.7%, while the YOY figure reports a delay of 2.4 percentage points. In the west and central regions of Buenos Aires, the abundant rains of the last months have flooded several areas, for which reason those plots will need to be drained of the excess water to achieve an adequate seeding.

MALTING BARLEY

With a 100% of the plots seeded, **1,570,000 hectares** were covered nationwide. The rains of the last two weeks over the entire agricultural area have significantly benefited the plantations, which had suffered continuous frosts and a poor hydric supply in the month of July, limiting the development of the crop.

Over the North Belt, 80% of the plots are coursing the tillering phase in very good conditions, while the remaining 20% are starting the stem elongation phase. Towards the neighboring South Belt region, the tillering percentage is slightly smaller, accounting for 75%, and a 22% of plots are still differentiating leaves, while only a 3% are starting stem elongation. Both regions are reporting very good conditions for the crop, where the plots are recovering from the frosts that affected the most advanced fields.

In the west of Buenos Aires and the north of La Pampa, specifically in the districts of 9 de Julio, C. Casares, Pehuajo and C. Tejedor, the consecutive rainfalls have produced floods on numerous plots. It is even possible that a large portion of this surface will go to waste, due to the high sensitivity of this crop to the floods. Other areas such as Azul, Bolívar, and Daireaux are in a similar situation.

MALTING BARLEY PLANTING

2012/13 Season

As Of: Aug 23, 2012

Zone		Hectareage (he)		Percentage Planted (%)	Hectares Planted
		2011/12	2012/13		
II	NEA	0	700	100	700
III	Ctro N Cba	600	600	100	600
IV	S Cba	5.500	6.600	100	6.600
V	Ctro N Sfe	1.000	2.800	100	2.800
VI	Núcleo Norte	24.000	35.000	100	35.000
VII	Núcleo Sur	108.000	143.000	100	143.000
VIII	Ctro E ER	3.600	5.800	100	5.800
IX	N LP-OBA	94.000	122.000	100	122.000
X	Ctro BA	58.000	79.000	100	79.000
XI	SO BA-S LP	190.000	285.000	100	285.000
XII	SE BA	680.000	870.000	100	870.000
XIII	SL	500	500	100	500
XIV	Cuenca. Sal.	14.800	19.000	100	19.000
TOTAL		1.180.000	1.570.000	100,0	1.570.000