

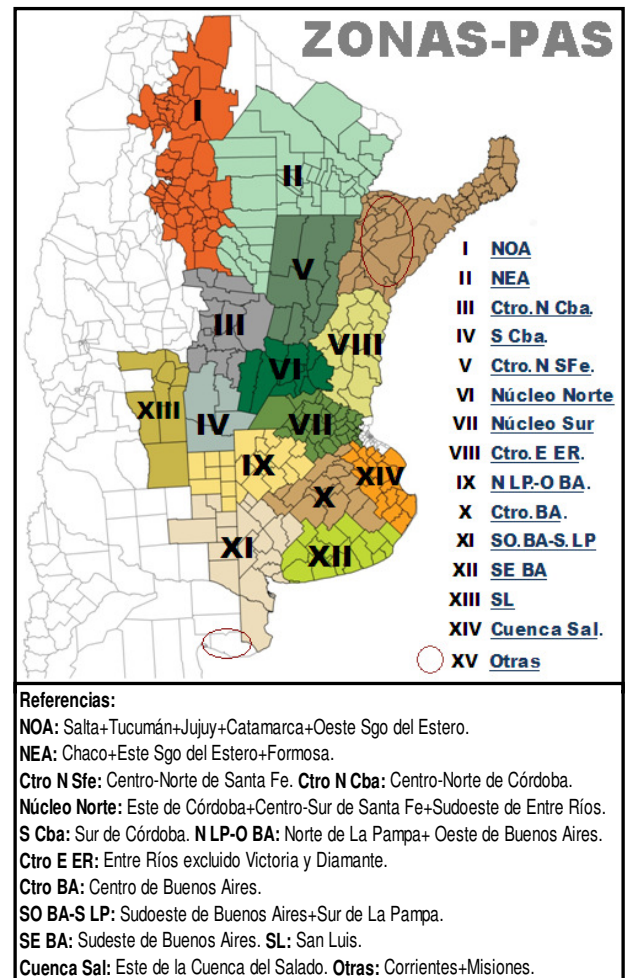


Weekly Ag Report

BUENOS AIRES GRAIN EXCHANGE

WEEK ENDED ON Feb. 13, 2014

CROP REPORT - HIGHLIGHTS
Estimations and Agricultural Projections Department
Buenos Aires Grain Exchange



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

BUENOS AIRES GRAINS EXCHANGE

FEBRUARY 13, 2014

AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOKI: FEBRUARY 13 TO 19, 2014: TEMPERATURE RISE AND PRECIPITATIONS OVER MOST OF THE AGRICULTURAL AREA

OUTLOOK SUMMARY

At the beginning of the current perspective, the presence of northerly winds will raise temperatures above normal over most of the agricultural area. Towards the middle of the perspective, the passage of a storm front will bring abundant precipitations to the north and most of the west of the agricultural area. The front will be accompanied by southerly winds that will lead to a sharp temperature drop in the south of the agricultural area, while the North will remain under the influence of tropical air.

SOYBEAN

After the hydric recovery observed during the last few weeks, most of the central strip has improved its harvest expectations on first and second sowing plots. Nevertheless, a wide area comprised by the west, center and south of Buenos Aires, as well as most of La Pampa and areas of the south of Córdoba, has not been able to offset the poor condition of the first plots which are already in advanced reproductive phases. Within this scenario, after sowing a record surface of 20.35 MHA, we maintain our harvest projection at 53,000,000 tons.

Meanwhile, areas of the mid-east of the agricultural region present abundant moisture, which is conducive to the development of diseases and the spreading of plagues. Besides, the lack of ground is hampering the access to the plots in order to perform the necessary controls. Therefore, it will be necessary to carry out a thorough assessment in the next weeks to assert the harvest expectations in these areas.

In the north of the country, the NW area has replenished the plots in the province of Salta, where the crop is in vegetative phases in good conditions. Toward the south, the area has not recovered from the hydric deficit of the summer, thus leaving plots without sowing and keeping a condition ranging from regular to bad.

In Córdoba, the conditions of the plots in the mid-north of the province varies from good to very good, while the crop is starting the grain filling phase (R5) on first plots, or starting to bloom (R1) on second plots. Toward the south of the province the condition of the crop is heterogeneous and varies from regular to good, depending on the rains accumulated during the last weeks.

In the mid-north of Santa Fe first sowing soybean is in critical stages of differentiation of pods (R3) in good conditions, while second plots are starting to bloom (R1) in better conditions. Toward the south, the North Belt presents first plots starting the grain filling (R5) with high yield expectations. Toward the South Belt the water excess is more generalized on the east margin, and the sanitary condition of the crop is not favorable either.

Finally, the Buenos Aires region maintains a meagre condition of the crop, with a large surface in regular conditions, and only a few areas presenting a good state. Specifically, the region of the west of Buenos Aires and north of La Pampa shows first sowing plots in critical stages of pods differentiation or grain filling (R4-R5).

CORN

The sowing has finished nationwide, and the north of the country has taken advantage of a week with available moisture to fulfill its sowing project. Meanwhile, the collection of early materials incorporated in August continues in the mid-north of Santa Fe, mid-east of Entre Ríos and Corrientes. The productivities observed so far are variable, depending on the impact of the thermic stress and the period when it occurred.

On the other hand, the area was adjusted from last season (2012/13), due to an underestimation in the mid-north of Córdoba and north of La Pampa-west of Buenos Aires. Therefore, the final production for 2012/13 is modified, going from 24.8 MTN to 27 MTN, some 9 % on top of the original estimation. Consequently, the area projected for the current season 2013/14 will jump from 3.3 MHA, as published in previous reports, to a surface of 3,570,000 HA. The YOY variation remains at 10 % as was previously reported.

Taking into account the adjusted area, as well as an average yields nearing 7.0 Tn/ha nationwide, we publish our first production estimate for the ongoing season at 23,500,000 tons. Such volume is around 13 % below the volume collected last season (2012/13: 27 MTN). Although the climatic anomalies during the cycle are an essential factor to make estimations, the recovery of late and second plots aided by the rainfalls will leverage the said volume of harvested corn grain.

Likewise, the rains of the month of January and the current February are helping to restore the condition of the late sowing materials. This is mainly observed in the central region of the country, as well as in the NW area. This latter region not only incorporated the plots estimated for this season, but it also increased the surface of the crop as compared to last season, to the detriment of other crops such as soybean, beans and Chia.

On the other hand, it is important to point out that plots are still being milled in the north of La Pampa and west of Buenos Aires, due to the severe thermo-hydric stress suffered during the critical period of the crop. The diversity of conditions in the area depend not only on the distribution and the amount of rain received during the cycle, but also on the usage capacity of the soils where the corn is planted on.

CORN PLANTING				As of: Feb. 13, 2014	
2013/14 Season		Hectareage (Ha)		Percentage planted (%)	Hectares planted
Zonas		2012/13	2013/14		
I	NOA	265.000	282.000	100,0	282.000
II	NEA	285.000	302.000	100,0	302.000
III	Ctro N Cba	620.000	580.000	100,0	580.000
IV	S Cba	456.000	410.000	100,0	410.000
V	Ctro N SFe	147.000	136.000	100,0	136.000
VI	Núcleo Norte	510.000	360.000	100,0	360.000
VII	Núcleo Sur	410.000	320.000	100,0	320.000
VIII	Ctro E ER	151.000	151.000	100,0	151.000
IX	N LP-OBA	466.000	424.000	100,0	424.000
X	Ctro BA	225.000	218.000	100,0	218.000
XI	SO BA-S LP	107.000	100.000	100,0	100.000
XII	SE BA	95.000	90.000	100,0	90.000
XIII	SL	137.000	130.000	100,0	130.000
XIV	Cuenca Sal	57.000	48.000	100,0	48.000
XV	Otras	19.000	19.000	100,0	19.000
TOTAL		3.950.000	3.570.000	100,0	3.570.000

SUNFLOWER

The harvest of sunflower has advanced by only 0.2% during the last seven days, since there was no significant progress of harvest in the sunflower belts. Consequently, the harvest progress nationwide is 23% of the suitable area, which corresponds to a surface of 335 thousand hectares. The average yield is 1.4 Tn/Ha, while the harvest volumen accrued is around 490 thousand tons, and the final projection remains at 2,300,000 Tn .

As we have reported, the harvest finished in the NE area with a low regional yield of 1.15 Tn/Ha. Meanwhile the neighboring region of the mid-north of Santa Fe has not been able to finish the harvest due to the precipitations of the last days.

Toward the west of Buenos Aires and North of La Pampa, the first harvest trials have been made. It is important to point out that the surface harvested is not yet significant for the region, since only a few isolated plots were collected.

Toward the SE of Buenos Aires it is estimated that 67% of the plots are filling grains, while the remaining 33% is going through physiological maturity, and the collection of the first plots will start in ten days.

SUNFLOWER HARVEST								As of: 13/02/2014
2012/13 Season		Hectareage (Ha)			Percentage	Hectares	Yield	Production
Zone	Sown	Lost	Harvestable	Harvested (%)	Harvested	(qq/Ha)	(Tn)	
I	NOA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
II	NEA	230.000	23.000	207.000	100,0	207.000	11,5	238.050
III	Ctro N Cba	3.000	150	2.850	20,0	570	17,0	969
IV	S Cba	22.000	-	22.000		-		-
V	Ctro N SFe	150.000	750	149.250	82,0	122.385	19,2	234.979
VI	Núcleo Norte	7.000	-	7.000	30,0	2.100	22,0	4.620
VII	Núcleo Sur	9.000	-	9.000	30,0	2.700	25,0	6.750
VIII	Ctro E ER	5.000	-	5.000		-		-
IX	N LP-OBA	100.000	-	100.000		-		-
X	Ctro BA	45.000	-	45.000		-		-
XI	SO BA-S LP	420.000	-	420.000		-		-
XII	SE BA	380.000	-	380.000		-		-
XIII	SL	30.000	-	30.000		-		-
XIV	Cuenca Sal	75.000	-	75.000		-		-
XV	Otras	4.000	-	4.000		-		-
TOTAL		1.480.000	23.900	1.456.100	23,0	334.755	14,6	489.040

GRAIN SORGHUM

The sowing of grain sorghum is finished nationwide, although there are still some isolated plots remaining to be sown in the NE area. Although the optimal window has finished, producers might sow some more plots due to the abundant precipitations registered during the last weeks. Up to date, 1,080,000 hectares were covered, such surface being 1.8 % smaller than the one sown last season (2012/13: 1,100,000 HA).

Comparing the current season with the last one 2012/13, we observe that the largest reduction of area was in the SW of Buenos Aires by a -13 % (2013/14: 120,000 HA, 2012/13: 138,000 HA). On the other margin of the country, the NE area showed an increase by +6.5 % (2013/14: 245,000 HA, 2012/13: 230,000 HA); such increase was observed mainly on late sowing dates on sunflower plots.

During the last week the sowing has been focused on the NW and NE areas, where the water availability, though heterogeneous, was enough to continue the sowing at good pace. In the NE area, the early sown plots are going through advanced grain filling phases. On the other hand, the late sown plots range from three leaves unfolded to pre-blooming.

Finally, in the SW of Buenos Aires and south of La Pampa the plots are in phases from 6 leaves unfolded to blooming in bad conditions. The bad state of the crop is due to the thermo-hydric stress that has affected the crop for over a month.

GRAIN SORGHUM PLANTING				As of: Feb. 13, 2014	
2013/14 Season		Hectareage (Ha)		Percentage planted (%)	Hectares planted
Zone		2012/13	2013/14		
I	NOA	24.000	24.000	100,0	24.000
II	NEA	230.000	245.000	100,0	245.000
III	Ctro N Cba	134.000	134.000	100,0	134.000
IV	S Cba	47.000	44.000	100,0	44.000
V	Ctro N SFe	195.000	205.000	100,0	205.000
VI	Núcleo Norte	51.500	40.000	100,0	40.000
VII	Núcleo Sur	26.000	20.000	100,0	20.000
VIII	Ctro E ER	96.000	85.000	100,0	85.000
IX	N LP-OBA	42.000	45.000	100,0	45.000
X	Ctro BA	8.000	8.000	100,0	8.000
XI	SO BA-S LP	138.000	120.000	100,0	120.000
XII	SE BA	7.000	7.000	100,0	7.000
XIII	SL	52.000	52.000	100,0	52.000
XIV	Cuenca Sal	29.000	29.000	100,0	29.000
XV	Otras	20.000	22.000	100,0	22.000
TOTAL		1.100.000	1.080.000	100,0	1.080.000

Buenos Aires, February 13, 2014

Buenos Aires Grains Exchange