

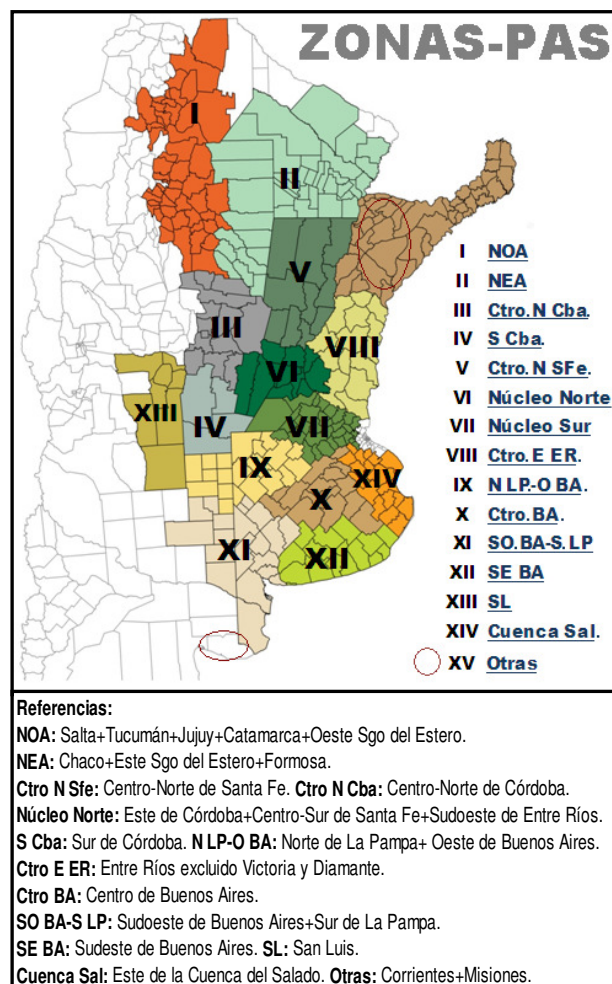


Weekly Ag Report

BUENOS AIRES GRAIN EXCHANGE

WEEK ENDED ON May. 23, 2013

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



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

BUENOS AIRES GRAINS EXCHANGE

MAY 23, 2013

AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OUTLOOK: MAY 23 TO 29, 2013: COLD AND HUMID WEATHER.

OUTLOOK SUMMARY

At the beginning of the current perspective, southerly winds will bring a cold and wet polar maritime air mass, which will lead to a sharp temperature drop over most of Argentina, Uruguay and southern Brazil. However, increasing cloudiness, atmospheric humidity and winds will prevent the occurrence of frosts. Towards the middle of the perspective, winds will rotate towards the north, moderately raising maximum temperatures. Towards the end of the perspective, the passage of a front will little rainfall activity will bring humidity, cloudiness and drizzle. Only the northeast of the agricultural area will report abundant precipitations.

WHEAT

The planting of wheat is in slow progress nationwide, which is mainly due to the fact that many regions are observing a scarce hydric supply. Consequently, up to now 3.2% of a surface estimated in 3,900,000 hectares has been planted during the present season, reporting a YOY increase of area of 8.3 % (2012/13: 3,6 M Has). In total numbers, some 125 thousand hectares were incorporated, as opposed to 220 thousand hectares planted in the same period last season (5.5% progress 24/05/12).

The planting process has begun during the last seven days in the regions of the south of Córdoba, mid-north of Santa Fe, north belt, Cuenca del Salado, and some isolated plots in the southeast of Buenos Aires, near Tres Arroyos, where long cycle varieties are being incorporated. The neighboring region of the southwest of Buenos Aires and south of La Pampa started planting fifteen days ago, more precisely on the south end of the region, in the districts of Patagones and Villarino. The mid-east of Entre Ríos, another PAS region, should have started planting by now, but the excess of surface moisture is hampering the advance of the machines.

The south belt region is expecting to incorporate specific plots during the next week, while the majority of the surface will be covered in early June.

SOYBEAN

Up to the present report the harvest has covered 93 % of the suitable area, reporting a weekly progress by only 2.8 % and a YOY advance by 3.7 %. In total numbers, after collecting more than 17.6 million hectares, the national average yield fell to 2.61 Tn/Ha, and the partial volume accrued is in excess of 46 MTN. The evolution of the average yield remained within expected parameters, allowing us to sustain our national harvest estimation of **48,500,000** tons for the ongoing season.

There are still more than 1.3 million hectares to be harvested in the agricultural area. Around 50 % of that surface consists of first seeding plots which are split evenly between the province of Buenos Aires and the NE area. In the latter region, the rains observed during the last seven days have interrupted the harvest over most of the productive belt of Chaco. The other half of the remaining surface nationwide presents second seeding plots which are mostly located in the Buenos Aires region.

Finally, the Buenos Aires region concentrates less than half of the first seeding plots still pending harvest, as well as most of the second seeding plots remaining to be harvested. If the weather conditions of the next few days allow the advance of the harvesters the collection will be positioned to close nationwide at the end of the season 2012/13.

SOYBEAN HARVEST

2012/13 SEASON

As of: May. 23, 2013

Zone		Hectareage (ha)			Percentage harvested	Hectares harvested	Yield (1) (qq/ha)	Production (Tm)
		Sown	Lost	Harvestable				
I	NOA	1.360.000	320.000	1.040.000	95,3	990.600	8,5	842.194
II	NEA	2.010.000	140.000	1.870.000	79,8	1.491.325	14,7	2.194.384
III	Ctro N Cba	2.500.000	20.000	2.480.000	98,8	2.450.240	23,4	5.722.050
IV	S Cba	1.440.000	22.000	1.418.000	99,1	1.405.238	21,3	2.989.625
V	Ctro N SFe	1.150.000	15.000	1.135.000	96,4	1.094.140	30,5	3.338.740
VI	Núcleo Norte	3.400.000	50.000	3.350.000	100,0	3.350.000	36,1	12.099.115
VII	Núcleo Sur	2.680.000	12.000	2.668.000	97,9	2.612.506	34,6	9.049.779
VIII	Ctro E ER	1.200.000	8.000	1.192.000	98,8	1.177.696	22,0	2.590.798
IX	N LP-OBA	1.360.000	12.000	1.348.000	91,8	1.236.790	28,2	3.491.657
X	Ctro BA	418.000	13.000	405.000	77,3	313.065	24,7	773.045
XI	SO BA-S LP	415.000	15.000	400.000	88,0	352.000	16,1	567.560
XII	SE BA	1.337.000	50.000	1.287.000	65,6	844.272	20,1	1.698.726
XIII	SL	155.000	8.000	147.000	99,8	146.706	17,3	254.252
XIV	Cuenca Sal	215.000	9.000	206.000	70,0	144.200	24,2	348.402
XV	Others	60.000	6.000	54.000	100,0	54.000	18,9	101.920
TOTAL		19.700.000	700.000	19.000.000	93,0	17.662.778	26,1	46.062.246

CORN

As producers finish the collection of soybeans, they start focusing on the harvest of corn. Therefore, the weekly progress rate registered during the last seven days was 4.5 %, and the YOY evolution reports a decrease by -6 %. The harvest of the cereal crop is expected to gain momentum in the next few weeks if the weather is favorable.

Up to the present report 50.5% of the suitable surface was collected, accounting for 1.83 million hectares in total, and an overall volume of 13.7MTN. The national average yield reports 7.57 Tn/Ha.

The harvest process is spreading in the north of the agricultural area, with very low productivity in the NW region. The severe drought suffered in the region shows in the yield levels obtained.

The south of Córdoba reports fluent harvest progress on late and second plots. After wrapping the harvest of early plots with good yields, the producers are turning to the collection of late corn plots.

Towards the mid-east of Entre Ríos, after 100% of the early plots were collected, the advance of the harvesters on late plots is gaining speed.

Finally, the north of La Pampa – west of Buenos Aires is resuming the harvest process. The collection of early plots is near to finishing with very good productivity this season.

Under these circumstances, we maintain our estimated production of **24,800,000** tons at the closing of the season.

CORN HARVEST

2012/13 SEASON

As Of: May. 23, 2013

Zone		Hectareage (Ha)			Percentage Harvested	Hectares Harvested	Yield (qq/Ha)	Production (Tn)
		Sown	Lost	Harvestable				
I	NOA	265.000	26.500	238.500	4	9.275	26,9	24.910
II	NEA	285.000	10.830	274.170	18	48.154	35,7	171.855
III	Ctro N Cba	450.000	6.840	443.160	40	175.590	65,9	1.156.320
IV	S Cba	456.000	6.110	449.890	52	232.980	66,3	1.544.109
V	Ctro N SFe	147.000	5.116	141.884	68	96.571	68,6	662.695
VI	Núcleo Norte	459.000	5.398	453.602	83	375.159	90,4	3.174.845
VII	Núcleo Sur	410.000	7.133	402.867	72	288.904	92,6	2.675.373
VIII	Ctro E ER	151.000	4.024	146.976	74	108.317	58,2	630.649
IX	N LP-OBA	416.000	7.718	408.282	45	185.309	82,8	1.533.522
X	Ctro BA	225.000	3.600	221.400	57	125.730	83,3	1.046.718
XI	SO BA-S LP	107.000	2.408	104.593	40	41.596	54,6	227.322
XII	SE BA	94.000	1.598	92.402	25	23.491	85,2	200.070
XIII	SL	137.000	1.315	135.685	36	49.353	52,4	258.437
XIV	Cuenca Sal	57.000	1.454	55.547	76	42.297	83,0	351.000
XV	Otras	19.000	342	18.658	44	8.153	51,6	42.063
TOTAL		3.678.000	90.385	3.587.615	50,5	1.810.878	75,7	13.699.887

GRAIN SORGHUM

The rainfalls registered last week slowed down the harvest of the crop in most of the agricultural area. Consequently, the harvest progress during the last fifteen days posted only 7%, raising the national harvest progress to 52% of the suitable surface up to the present report. In total numbers, some 547 thousand hectares were collected, contributing a partial volume accrual of 2.4 million tons, and a national average yield of 4.52 Tn/Ha.

The provinces of Córdoba, Santa Fe and Entre Ríos have reported the highest harvest progress, with yields of varied results. It is also relevant to point out that these regions have suffered the threat of the bird plagues prior to the harvest, which increased the per-hectare losses to a significant percentage.

The region of the north of La Pampa – west of Buenos Aires is behind schedule in the harvest, as producers are prioritizing the collection of soybeans and corn. Likewise, this region also reports a high percentage of losses by bird attacks.

Within this framework, we maintain our estimated production for the end of the season at **5,000,000** tons. Nevertheless, we are not as yet ruling out the possibility of adjusting the current projection in case the average productivity levels continue to fall in important areas such as the NE region, the mid-north of Santa Fe, mid-east of Entre Ríos, and the north of La Pampa – west of Buenos Aires region.

GRAIN SORGHUM HARVEST

2012/13 SEASON

As Of: May. 23, 2013

Zone		Hectareage (Ha)			Percentage Harvested	Hectares Harvested	Yield (qq/ha)	Production (Tn)
		Sown	Lost	Harvestable				
I	NOA	24.000	2.400	21.600	20	4.320	35,0	15.120
II	NEA	230.000	8.500	221.500	32	70.880	30,0	212.640
III	Ctro N Cba	134.000	6.000	128.000	74	94.720	54,5	516.224
IV	S Cba	47.000	3.500	43.500	55	23.925	50,0	119.625
V	Ctro N SFe	195.500	12.200	183.300	83	152.139	43,0	654.198
VI	Núcleo Norte	51.500	1.300	50.200	91	45.682	56,0	255.819
VII	Núcleo Sur	26.000	520	25.480	78	19.874	63,0	125.209
VIII	Ctro E ER	96.000	7.800	88.200	80	70.560	45,0	317.520
IX	N LP-OBA	42.000	1.550	40.450	20	8.090	45,0	36.405
X	Ctro BA	8.000	400	7.600	10	760	47,0	3.572
XI	SO BA-S LP	138.000	3.500	134.500	15	20.175	33,0	66.578
XII	SE BA	7.000	300	6.700	10	670	48,0	3.216
XIII	SL	52.000	1.750	50.250	35	17.588	40,0	70.350
XIV	Cuenca Sal	29.000	500	28.500	22	6.270	50,0	31.350
XV	Otras	20.000	350	19.650	60	11.790	40,0	47.160
TOTAL		1.100.000	50.570	1.049.430	52	547.443	45,2	2.474.985