CBOT soybeans drop to 1 week low on export concerns

CHICAGO, Dec 8 (Reuters) - CBOT soybean futures fell to a 1 week low on Friday as expectations for a bumper crop in S.America threatened to cut into U.S. exports.

Traders shrugged off signs of strong demand for U.S. soybeans amid the improving outlook for harvests in Brazil & Argentina. For the week, CBOT soybeans were down 0.4%. AgRural on Friday raised its forecast for 2017-18 Brazil soybean production to 112.9m tonnes from 110.2m. Forecasts for rain in Argentina in the 11-to-15 day weather outlook added pressure. Soymeal futures also fell but soyoil rose, which traders attributed to unwinding of long soymeal/short soyoil spreads. Soymeal futures rose 0.7% this week. Soyoil futures posted a weekly loss of 0.2%.

The USDA said that private exporters reported the sale of 268,000 tonnes of soybeans for delivery to China during the 2017-18 marketing year. The government also disclosed another 129,000-tonne sale to unknown destinations for 2017-18 and a 66,000-tonne sale to unknown destinations for 2018-19.

Malaysian Palm oil

Palm oil falls for 6th day on bearish data outlook

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Reuters) - Malaysian palm oil futures slid to fresh lows on Monday evening, hitting their weakest in five & a half months, as traders were cautious ahead of official data from the MPOB scheduled for release on Tuesday. Palm oil stockpiles in Malaysia are seen rising in November as export volumes fall faster than output, weighing on prices.

A Reuters poll forecast that inventories at the end of November will rise 11.4% to 2.44m tonnes on-month, its highest levels in about 2 years, while output is pegged to drop 3% to 1.95m tonnes.

Exports are forecast to fall 6% from October to 1.45m tonnes in November. The benchmark palm oil contract for Feb delivery on the BMD Exchange fell 0.8% to 2,459 ringgit at the close of trade, charting a 6th consecutive day of declines. It earlier fell to 2,455 ringgit, its lowest since June 30. Trading volumes stood at 45,026 lots at the end of the trading day. "Palm oil futures are trading cautiously ahead of Nov supply &demand data from MPOB," said a trader, adding that expectations of a decline in exports for the first 10 days of Dec contributed to falling prices.

Cargo surveyor ITS reported a 16.6% fall in Malaysian palm oil shipments for Dec. 1-10 against the corresponding period the previous month. Palm oil may fall to 2,462 ringgit, a break below which could cause a loss to 2,426 ringgit, said a market analyst.

In other related oils, the Jan soybean oil contract on the CBoT was down 0.3%, while the Jan soybean oil contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange was slightly down 0.1%. Palm oil prices are affected by other edible oils as they compete for a share in the global vegetable oils market.

Crude oil futures prices fell as last week’s rise in the U.S. rig count pointed to a further increase in American production that could undermine OPEC-led efforts to tighten markets.

Gold prices prices steadied above a four-month low, but lacked upward momentum as expectations of higher interest rates in the United States supported the US$.

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