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Commodity Consulting/Brokerage
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Date: June 23, 2015

The start of the week yesterday brought good gains for almost the entire ag commodity complex. Grains and oilseeds were up nicely. Cattle complex futures scored triple digit gains in all but the front end June live cattle. All the feeder contracts were up more than \$2.00. Hogs unfortunately didn't participate in the bullishness, dropping triple digits on the front two months and a little milder losses on the deferreds. Last week's hog kill was up 13.47% from a year ago, which likely explains the reluctance of hogs to join in on the buying. At the same time, the cattle kill was down 10.59% from last year.

The cattle complex might have ended with stellar gains, but they didn't start there. We had a COF report Friday that was on the border between neutral and mildly friendly in the actual data compared to the expectations. COF June 1 came in 1% larger than a year ago which was right at the expectations. Placements in May were 1 ½% below the expectations at 90% of a year ago and marketings were ½% above the average trade guess at 92%. There is still obvious discrepancy in the fact marketings have been well below year ago levels for months while On Feed totals are larger. From the outside looking in that would indicate a strong backlog of cattle in feedlots. I don't "think" that's the case though, or weights would be towering over year ago levels and gaining even more ground every week. Weights are large, but not to the extent that would indicate a strong backlog of delayed sales.

Cattle slg. ___111,000 unch wa -4k ya

Choice Cutout ___252.83 +1.51 Select Cutout ___247.85 +1.62

Feeder Index: ___228.03 +2.39

Lean Index. ___79.43 -.37 Pork cutout ___84.70 +2.05

Hog slg. ___417,000 -7k wa +40k ya

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Soybeans led the charge higher in grains Monday with some contracts knocking at the door of 20 cents higher at the close. Corn gained 4-6 cents and Chicago wheat had most closes in the double digits higher with KC just below the double digit mark.

After the close, crop condition ratings and crop progress numbers were released. Corn conditions slid two points out of g/ex and sits at 71% g/ex nationwide compared to 73% last week and 74% last year. 83% of the Iowa corn is g/ex, 70% in Illinois, 80% in Minnesota and 69% in Nebraska. Those are the big 4 in corn production.

Soybean condition ratings dropped 2 points as well down to 65% g/ex. That compares to 67% last week and 72% a year ago at this time. Illinois beans were rated 60% g/ex and Iowa at 80% g/ex. The soybean planting pace only gained 3%, increasing to 90% planted versus 95% on average for this date. Illinois is 5 points behind normal and Iowa 1 point behind. Kansas and Missouri were the big laggards still with Kansas 18% behind normal at 73% done. Missouri is 37% behind at only 51% complete. With 10% of the crop still needing planted yet, the question being pondered by the trade is whether some of those acres will end up as prevent plant, or just go in late at the risk of potentially not yielding as well as beans would with a normal planting date. That's a BIG part of the recent rally in the beans and at times that has spilled over into the corn and wheat markets as well, riding the coat tails. The other side of the rally has been fund short covering.

Winter wheat condition ratings were 41% g/ex, down from 43% last week, but well above the 30% from last year still. Harvest progress showed 19% complete versus 31% on average. That 19% is a gain of 8 points over the week prior. Texas is 64% done which is right on schedule. Oklahoma is 58% complete, well below the 73% average of past years. Kansas was 8% done compared to 33% normally.

6-10 day forecasts last night showed above normal precip in the Southern Plains, extending over into the Eastern Corn Belt. Below normal precip was pegged for Nebraska north into the Canadian Plains. Temperatures were forecast at below normal across the entire Corn Belt and the vast majority of the Plains.

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