



Hammersmith Reports

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Here we are just a couple of days before the Christmas holiday and just over a week until 2024. Goodness, 2023 certainly went past quickly. 2023 was probably the most difficult year for the world that we have seen in a long time and 2024 doesn't look like it will be any easier.

Sitting here in our wee town in France we are not directly affected by all the world problems. We get all the bad world news on BBC or France24 but it all seems to be far away from little St Remy. However, we do see that all our local prices have increased, just like everywhere. Much is still OK, Amazon.com still gives us next day delivery and gasoline prices are dropping but onions cost a fortune.

It would be great to be looking towards a better year in 2024 and I hope that it is better, but it certainly doesn't look like it will be.

All the best for Christmas and New Year and for a better 2024 than I expect.

Wayne Bacon

WEEKLY USA GRAIN AND PROTEIN REPORT December 23, 2023

It was a down week for most everything this week with US corn down by about USD 4 m/t, US soybeans down by almost USD 10 m/t, soymeal down by about USD 5 m/t and all US wheat prices dropping by around USD 6 m/t.

Next week is only a 4 day week for grain markets due to the Christmas holiday on Monday and trading is expected to be much lower as so many operations are closed or working reduced staff until January. Of course, as we have seen in past years, crazy things can happen to prices when volume is low and traders few.

There was not much reason for the corn market to get excited this week, so it just quietly slipped a little lower. Trade reports do feel that corn prices will move lower the closer that we get to South American corn supply. Weather in South America looks great for crops and corn crop conditions are said to be very good on average.

The weakness in soybean prices was perhaps due to the higher Brazil soy production estimate from one organization. Production was increased by 0.38% while exports were increased by 1.0%. Reports say that speculators are reducing their short futures positions on soybeans --- perhaps just taking profits or anticipating a change in market direction.

There was almost no news that would affect US wheat this week although, like soybeans, speculators are reported to be reducing their short futures positions. Perhaps a wee price rally is expected.

Estimated Bulk Grain Freight in USD per m/t, basis heavy grains.

US Gulf to Europe: Panamax	\$31.00	Steady
US Gulf to Spain: Panamax m/t	\$31.00	Steady
US Gulf Israel: Panamax m/t	\$38.00	Steady
US Gulf to Egypt: Panamax	\$38.00	Steady
US Gulf Turkey: Panamax m/t	\$39.00	Steady
US Gulf Morocco: Handi	\$39.00	Steady
US Gulf Algeria/Tunisia: Handi	\$40.00	Steady
US Gulf Nigeria: 30,000 m/t	\$45.00	Steady
US Gulf other Med: Handi	\$41.00	Steady
US Gulf South Africa: Handi	\$41.00	Steady
US Gulf to Philippines: Panamax	\$52.00	Steady
US Gulf Japan: Panamax	\$61.00	Steady
US Gulf China: Panamax	\$60.00	Steady
US PNW South Africa – 40,000 m/t	\$65.00	Steady
US PNW Philippines: Panamax	\$39.00	Steady
US PNW Japan: Panamax	\$32.00	Steady
US PNW China: Panamax	\$31.00	Steady
US East Coast Nigeria: Handisize	\$45.00	Steady
US Lakes – Europe – 30,000 m/t	\$60.00	Steady
US Lakes – Morocco – 30,000 m/t	\$69.00	Steady
France/Germany to Algeria: Handi	\$32.00	Steady
France/Germany to China: Panamax	\$82.00	Steady
France/Germany to Egypt: Panamax	\$33.00	Up \$1.00
France/Germany to Iran: Panamax	\$45.00	Steady
France/Germany to Jordan	\$40.00	Steady
France/Germany to Morocco: Handi	\$31.00	Steady
France/Germany to Saudi Arabia: Panamax	\$65.00	Steady
France/Germany to Turkey: Handi	\$35.00	Steady
France/Germany to Yemen: Handi	\$66.00	Steady
Argentina to Algeria: Handi	\$62.00	Up \$1.00
Argentina to China: Panamax	\$51.00	Steady
Argentina to Japan: Panamax	\$52.00	Steady
Argentina to Egypt: Panamax	\$53.00	Steady
Argentina to Europe: Panamax	\$37.00	Steady
Argentina to Morocco: Handi	\$61.00	Up \$1.00
Argentina to Libya: Handi	\$63.00	Up \$1.00
Argentina to Jordan: Panamax	\$55.00	Steady
Argentina to Saudi Arabia: Panamax	\$63.00	Steady
Argentina to Iran: Panamax	\$61.00	Steady
Argentina to Indonesia: Panamax	\$59.00	Steady
Argentina to South Africa: Panamax	\$35.00	Steady
Argentina to Kenya: Handi	\$57.00	Steady
Argentina to Spain: Panamax	\$37.00	Steady
Argentina to Tunisia: Handi	\$62.00	Up \$1.00
Brazil to Algeria/Tunisia: Handi	\$50.00	Steady
Brazil to China: Panamax	\$46.00	Steady
Brazil to Japan: Panamax	\$47.00	Steady
Brazil to South Korea: Panamax	\$48.00	Steady
Brazil to Europe: Panamax	\$39.00	Steady
Brazil to Morocco: Handi	\$49.00	Steady

Brazil to Iran: Panamax	\$61.00	Steady	
Brazil to Saudi Arabia 30/40,000 m/t	\$64.00	Steady	
Brazil to Spain: Panamax	\$39.00	Steady	
Brazil to Turkey/Egypt: Panamax	\$59.00	Steady	
Australia to Saudi: Panamax	\$52.00	Steady	
Australia to Europe: Panamax	\$61.00	Steady	
Black Sea freight			
Black Sea to China: Panamax	\$62 Russia	Ukraine \$57	
Black Sea to Indonesia: Panamax	\$60 Russia	Ukraine \$77	
Black Sea to Egypt: 40/50,000	\$23 Russia	Ukraine \$30	
Black Sea to Egypt: 30,000	\$23 Russia	Ukraine \$29	
Black Sea to Iran: Panamax	\$50 Russia	Ukraine \$61	
Black Sea to Europe: Panamax	\$28 Russia	Ukraine \$30	
Black Sea to Morocco – Handi	\$29 Russia	Ukraine \$48	
Black Sea to Tunisia/Algeria – Handi	\$28 Russia	Ukraine \$47	
Black Sea to Jordan: Panamax	\$37 Russia	Ukraine \$53	
Black Sea to Libya – Handi	\$29 Russia	Ukraine \$48	
Black Sea to Saudi: Panamax	\$45 Russia	Ukraine \$70	
Black Sea to Turkey – Handi	\$16 Russia	Ukraine \$40	
Black Sea to South Africa – Handi	\$57.00	Steady	
Russia to Turkey (Izmir)– coaster 5,000 m/t	\$63.00	Corrected	
Russia to Egypt – coaster 5,000 m/t	\$83.00	Corrected	
Ukraine to Turkey – coaster 5,000 m/t	\$65.00	Corrected	
Ukraine to Egypt – coaster 5,000 m/t	\$96.00	Corrected	
Baltic Dry Index	2094	Down 254	
Baltic Capesize Index	3398	Down 715	
Baltic Panamax Index	1909	Up 9	
Baltic Supramax Index	1369	Down 57	
Baltic Handysize Index	879	Down 29	
Global Container Index - Freightos	1346	Up 65	

All shipments in bulk grain vessels unless stated otherwise.

(NOLA is New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.)

FOB port or location specified. Prices in US\$, in metric tons:

ALL PRICES ARE FOR January 2024/March 2024

Wheat, USA Soft Red Winter, US Gulf	USD 264<<267 Apr	
Wheat, USA Hard Red Winter 11 protein, US Gulf	USD 284<<287 Apr	
Wheat, Ukraine 11.5 pro, 30,000+ m/t	USD 205<<210 Apr	
Wheat, Russia 12.5 pro, 30,000+ m/t	USD 245<<250 Apr	

Wheat, Romania 12.5 pro	USD 275<<280 Apr	
Wheat, Superior, France, Rouen	USD 247<<254 Apr	
Wheat, milling, 12.0%, Argentina, Upriver	USD 235<<260 Apr	
Wheat, feed, Black Sea	USD 200/210	
Barley, France, Rouen port	USD 220/225	
Barley, feed, Argentina, upriver	USD 220/225	
Barley, feed, Black Sea, 30,000+	USD 190/195	
Barley, feed, Australia	USD 260/265	
Corn, 2YC FOB NOLA USA	USD 210<<215 Apr	
Corn, 3YC FOB USA Pacific northwest	USD 230<<235 Apr	
Corn, FOB Argentina port, upriver	USD 215>>210 Apr	
Corn, FOB Brazil port	USD 230>>215 Apr	
Corn, FOB France – Atlantic	USD 219/222	
Corn, FOB Romania	USD 230<<240 Apr	
Corn, FOB Russia	USD 210<<225 Apr	
Corn, FOB Ukraine, 30,000+ m/t	USD 185<<195 Apr	
Sorghum, FOB Argentina port	USD 285/290	
Sorghum, FOB Texas	USD 268/271	
Soymeal, 48% protein, FOB NOLA	USD 465>>455 Apr	
Soymeal, 48% protein, USA, Rotterdam	USD 495>>485 Apr	
Soymeal, 47% pro, FOB Argentina	USD 470>>415 Apr	
Soymeal, 48% protein, Brazil, Rotterdam – spot	USD 510/515	
Soymeal, 48% protein, FOB Brazil	USD 450>>415 Apr	
Soybeans, FOB NOLA	USD 505<<510 Apr	
Soybeans, Argentina, FOB	USD 500>>460 Apr	
Soybeans, Brazil, FOB	USD 525>>470 Apr	
Soybeans, Black Sea	No prices	
Corn Gluten Meal, USA FOB NOLA	USD 640/650	
Corn Gluten Feed, USA FOB NOLA	USD 225/230	
DDGS corn, 35 profat, USA FOB NOLA	USD 275>>265 Apr	

Corn gluten meal prices were down this week due to very good supply availability and a drop off in demand from the pet food industry. Lower CGM prices should attract new buying interest from overseas users. Corn gluten feed prices were steady during the week.

DDGS domestic and export prices were lower this week by as much as USD 5 m/t for January and February and as much as USD 8 m/t lower for March and April. Supplies to export ports were very good which is putting some pressure on prices.

Export buyers of feed ingredients in containers, especially to the Mediterranean and Middle East area, are finding it more difficult to arrange freight as the realignment of shipping schedules by container lines due to Red Sea problems is making Med freight harder to fix. This is affecting shipments from Asia west bound and the USA eastbound.

SECTION 2 --- FISHMEAL COMMENTS AND PRICES: PERUVIAN "INDICATION" FISHMEAL PRICES:

There is still no quota for fishing in the South of Peru but there is now a 10 day fishing period allowed from December 21 to 31. Any catch will be applied against the new 2024 South quota which will be announced in January.

The weekly catch in the Central/North region is still very low due to mini-bans and poor landings in Paíta and Chimbote -- catch was only as 21,000 m/t for the week --- this brings the total catch to 1.103 million m/t with 578,400 m/t still available on the quota.

Prices in Peru for better grades are remaining strong as supply is limited while the prices for lower grades are slipping a bit. China would like to buy more but they need Prime grades as stocks in China are mainly standard fishmeal. There is just not much Prime or Super Prime fishmeal available.

MSI Ceres mentioned this week that container rates for fishmeal are expected to move higher shortly due to the problems in transiting both the Panama Canal and the Red Sea.

European fishmeal prices – FOB North German port.

Descriptions and protein levels have been adjusted this week thanks to input from FF Skagen.

Type	Protein %	Price per m/t USD
Herring fishmeal	72% protein	2,010
Danish standard fishmeal	71% protein	1,855
Peru fishmeal	65% protein	2,050
Chile fishmeal	66% protein	2,050
Iceland fishmeal	71% protein	2,030

ALL PRICES SHOWN ARE IN CONTAINER, ON VESSEL, AT ORIGIN --- US DOLLARS
Minimum shipment of 200 m/t for fishmeal

Specification	Price per m/t FOB Vessel Peru port	Price per m/t Chile port
65% protein standard steam	1550/1570	
67% protein 150 TVN	1650/1670	
67% protein 120 TVN	1800/1820	1800/1820
67% protein 1000 hist, 120 TVN	1920/1940	1900/1920
68% protein 500 hist, 100 TVN	2020/2040	2050/2070
Fish oil, crude bulk	No prices	5,100/5,200
Fish oil, crude drums	No prices	No prices
Fish oil, flexi tank	No prices	No prices
Fish oil, Omega 3: 28%EPA/DHA	12,000+	No prices

INFORMATION: gtee = guarantee, TVN = total volatile nitrogen, hist = histamine

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