



U.S. GRAINS

June 22, 2017

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For more information on the contents of this newsletter or the U.S. Grains Council, its mission and programs, please contact Alvaro Cordero at (202) 789-0789.

The U.S. Grains Council is a private, non-profit partnership of producers and agribusinesses committed to building and expanding international markets for U.S. barley, corn, grain sorghum and their products. The Council is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has ten international offices that oversee programs in more than 50 countries. Financial support from our private industry members, including state checkoffs, agribusinesses, state entities and others, triggers federal matching funds from the USDA resulting in a combined program value of more than \$26 million.

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE MARKET NEWS

	Week in Review: CME Corn July Contract							
\$/Bu	Friday June 16	Monday June 19	Tuesday June 20	Wednesday June 21	Thursday June 22			
Change	4.500	-8.750	-5.2500	-1.2500	-6.0000			
Closing Price	384.00	375.25	370.00	368.75	362.75			
Factors Affecting the Market	Steady buying pushed July corn up to finish the week higher. Weather forecasts have evened out and are predicting more normal growing conditions for June. USDA announced 4.7 million bushels of 2017/18 corn were sold to Mexico. Outside markets were mixed; the U.S. dollar fell 30 points with higher crude oil.	Expectations for mild Corn Belt temperatures and moderate rains sent the market lower. The rain is a welcome relief even as temperatures rise above 90 degrees in the Dakotas. USDA said 48 million bushels were inspected for export last week. The U.S. dollar was 35 points higher and U.S. equities gained as well.	Another day of good weather erased nearly all of July corn's recent gains. USDA said the good-excellent rating was 67 percent nationally and private corn condition indexes were higher. Brazil's corn harvest is 5 percent complete, behind last year's pace. Outside markets were unhelpful, with a higher dollar and lower oil and equities.	Lackluster trade left July corn to trade both sides of unchanged before spillover selling from soybeans held the market lower at the close. Ethanol production was down from last week, as were ethanol stocks. Outside markets were off too, with the dollar falling 19 points, crude oil losing \$0.98, and equities lower as well.	Better weather in the 10-day forecast sent corn below key technical points. Exports last week reached 47.7 million bushels, a bullish number that puts total shipments at 39 percent of last year. U.S. corn prices are remaining close enough to Brazil to remain competitive. The dollar was unchanged and equities were higher.			

Outlook: July corn has broken its mild uptrend with Thursday's 6-cent drop. This week's trading erased all the early June weather market gains but there are still bullish factors increasing upside potential. Domestic and international corn demand remains solid and the weather forecast isn't set in stone.

Weak crude oil prices pressured ethanol futures and contributed to decreasing ethanol output. Ethanol production fell to 990,000 barrels per day this week, down 12,000 barrels per day from the prior week. Ethanol stocks fell to 22.28 million barrels as summer driving and gasoline demand remains robust. Wednesday's EIA report also noted a bigger-than-expected draw in crude oil inventories, which will support oil and ethanol prices. The energy outlook – particularly ethanol and crude oil stocks/inventories – is bullish for corn. Some private firms are forecasting corn used for ethanol in the 2016/17 crop year to hit 5.560 billion bushels, above USDA's current projection of 5.45 billion bushels.

Brazil's corn harvest is 5 percent complete, which is behind last year's pace but not worryingly so. The delayed harvest and slow farmer selling has kept FOB prices in a very competitive range versus the U.S. Gulf. Currently, U.S. Gulf FOB prices are \$0.04/bushel over those for FOB Paranagua corn, a small enough difference to keep U.S. corn competitive on the export market.

The USDA said 48 million bushels of corn were inspected for export last week, a bullish amount that keeps U.S. exports 44 percent higher than this time last year. With 11 weeks left in the corn marketing year, YTD

exports are well above USDA's projected demand increase of 17 percent. This has many analysts expecting USDA to reduce U.S. ending stocks in upcoming WASDEs. If corn exports remain robust for the remainder of the marketing year, USDA could reduce U.S. ending stocks by 200-300 million bushels.

Last Friday, the CFTC reported managed money funds had their second-largest short covering effort in corn market history. Funds bought back over 123,000 futures contracts of their short position to end the week with a nearly flat position. Since then, corn futures open interest has increased, suggesting funds are again selling the market in the face of better Corn Belt weather.

From a technical perspective, July corn broke the trendline that was slowly helping prices higher. Chartists will look to \$3.60 ³/₄ (the April 21 low) as a key point for the contract: continued closes above this point will keep corn in its \$3.60-3.75 trading range while closes below will prompt more bearish outlooks. The market's two-month sideways trend has left moving averages as less-than-useful indicators and momentum indicators will likely be more reliable in the near-term. The RSI is neutral but the MACD and stochastic oscillators are showing more bearish swings.

Given good corn demand both domestically and internationally, combined with likely reductions in USDA's ending stock figures, it seems corn still has bullish possibilities. Near-term good weather will dampen enthusiasm for building new long positions, however, and a period of depressed prices and volatility will likely ensue. However, given spreading dryness in the Midwest and solid demand, it seems an ill-advised place to turn bearish.



CBOT JULY CORN FUTURES

Source: Prophet X

Current Market Values:

Futures P	rice Performance	: Week Ending Ju	ne 22, 2017
Commodity	22-Jun	16-Jun	Net Change
Corn			
Jul 17	362.75	384.00	-21.25
Sep 17	370.75	392.00	-21.25
Dec 17	380.75	402.00	-21.25
Mar 18	390.50	411.25	-20.75
Soybeans			
Jul 17	904.00	939.00	-35.00
Aug 17	908.50	943.25	-34.75
Sep 17	909.75	945.00	-35.25
Nov 17	913.25	950.00	-36.75
Soymeal			
Jul 17	293.80	300.90	-7.10
Aug 17	295.40	302.70	-7.30
Sep 17	296.50	304.40	-7.90
Oct 17	296.30	305.40	-9.10
Soyoil			
Jul 17	31.55	33.11	-1.56
Aug 17	31.66	33.24	-1.58
Sep 17	31.79	33.37	-1.58
Oct 17	31.86	33.46	-1.60
SRW			
Jul 17	461.25	465.25	-4.00
Sep 17	475.25	481.50	-6.25
Dec 17	497.50	502.75	-5.25
Mar 18	514.25	518.75	-4.50
HRW			
Jul 17	467.75	473.50	-5.75
Sep 17	485.75	491.50	-5.75
Dec 17	510.75	517.00	-6.25
Mar 18	525.25	529.75	-4.50
MGEX (HRS)			
Jul 17	656.25	642.75	13.50
Sep 17	661.25	647.00	14.25
Dec 17	660.25	644.25	16.00
Mar 18	657.75	642.50	15.25

*Price unit: Cents and quarter-cents/bu (5,000 bu)

U.S. WEATHER/CROP PROGRESS

U.S. Crop Planting Progress						
Commodity June 18, 2017 Last Week Last Year 2012-16 Avg.						
Sorghum	86%	71%	86%	85%		

Source: USDA

U.S. Crop Condition: June 18, 2017						
Commodity Very Poor Poor Fair Good Excellent						
Corn	2%	6%	25%	55%	12%	
Sorghum	1%	4%	29%	61%	5%	
Barley	4%	7%	25%	49%	15%	

Source: USDA

U.S. Drought Monitor Weather Forecast: During the next five days (June 22-26), the NHC guidance indicated that Tropical Storm Cindy (located in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico at 1 pm EDT Wed) will track north, then northeast, then eastward into southwestern Virginia by 7 am EDT Saturday. The WPC's 5-day QPF forecasts the heaviest rains over and to the east of Cindy's center, with 2-5 inches of rain expected in the lower Mississippi and Tennessee Valleys into the central Appalachians. Decent rains (2-3 inches) are also expected in the Texas Panhandle and across Wisconsin and Michigan. Little or no precipitation is expected in the northern Plains and from the Rockies westward, and only light amounts in the western Corn Belt, coastal New England, and parts of Florida. Five-day temperatures should average below-normal from east of the Rockies to the Appalachians, above-normal in the Far West, and near-normal along the East Coast.

For the ensuing five-day period (June 27-July 1), odds favor above-median precipitation in the southern Plains, along the Gulf and southern Atlantic Coasts, and in the Great Lakes region and New England, with sub-median rainfall in the Northwest, and the Tennessee Valley. Chances favor subnormal temperatures in the eastern half of the Nation while above-normal readings are likely in southern Florida and west of the Rockies.

Follow this link to view current U.S. and international weather patterns and future outlook: <u>Weather and Crop</u> <u>Bulletin</u>.

U.S. Export Sales and Exports: Week Ending June 15, 2017								
Commodity	Gross Sales (MT)	Exports (MT)	YTD Exports (000MT)	YTD Bookings (000MT)	% Change YTD Bookings			
Wheat	584,900	717,800	1,436.2	7,525.1	8%			
Corn	612,500	1,211,500	45,281.7	55,146.0	19%			
Sorghum	62,100	63,800	3,976.7	4,429.5	-42%			
Barley	800	700	0.8	29.3	218%			

U.S. EXPORT STATISTICS

Source: USDA/FAS

Corn: Net sales of 528,800 MT for 2016/2017 were down 12 percent from the previous week, but up 16 percent from the prior 4-week average. Increases were reported for Japan (249,600 MT, including 57,500 MT switched from unknown destinations and decreases of 13,100 MT), Mexico (82,200 MT, including 25,000 MT switched from unknown destinations), South Korea (52,800 MT, switched from unknown and decreases of 10,700 MT), and Spain (48,500 MT, including 40,000 MT switched from unknown destinations). Reductions were reported for unknown destinations (118,600 MT), Colombia (4,300 MT), and the Dominican Republic (3,700 MT). For 2017/2018, net sales of 124,000 MT were reported for Mexico (120,000 MT) and El Salvador (4,000 MT). Exports of 1,211,500 MT were up 22 percent from the previous week and 6 percent from the prior 4-week average. The primary destinations were Mexico (378,100 MT), Japan (336,300 MT), South Korea (127,000 MT), Israel (67,500 MT), and Peru (49,500 MT).

Optional Origin Sales: The current optional origin outstanding balance for 2016/2017 of 122,000 MT is for South Korea (68,000 MT) and unknown destinations (54,000 MT). The current outstanding balance for 2017/2018 of 112,000 MT is for unknown destinations.

Barley: Net sales of 800 MT for 2017/2018 were reported for Taiwan (500 MT) and South Korea (300 MT). Exports of 700 MT were reported to Japan (600 MT) and South Korea (100 MT).

Sorghum: Net sales of 62,100 MT for 2016/2017 were up 2 percent from the previous week and up noticeably from the prior 4-week average. Increases were for China (59,100 MT, including 55,000 MT switched from unknown destinations) and unknown destinations (3,000 MT). Exports of 63,800 MT were up noticeably from the previous week, but down 2 percent from the prior 4-week average. The destinations were China (59,100 MT), Mexico (4,600 MT) and South Korea (100 MT).

U.S. Export Inspections: Week Ending June 15, 2017							
Commodity	Export Inspections		Current Market		YTD as		
(MT)	Current Week	Previous Week	YTD	Previous YTD	Percent of Previous		
Barley	2,096	144	2,384	1,891	126%		
Corn	1,218,738	1,072,708	46,630,431	32,412,928	144%		
Sorghum	119,697	1,392	4,932,997	7,367,776	67%		
Soybeans	275,461	511,718	51,887,181	44,133,424	118%		
Wheat	739,634	801,725	1,627,814	1,192,879	136%		

Source: USDA/AMS. *Marketing Year is June 1-May 31 for wheat and barley and September 1-August 31 for corn, sorghum and soybeans. Week-to-week reports will vary due to exporter reported conditions and cancellations to previous week's reports.

USDA (Grain Inspec	tions for Exp	ort Report: \	Week Ending Jun	e 15, 2017	
Region	YC	% of Total	WC	% of Total	Sorghum	% of Total
Lakes	12,672	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Atlantic	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Gulf	636,133	52%	5,500	100%	116,462	97%
PNW	309,115	25%	0	0%	0	0%
Interior Export Rail	255,318	21%	0	0%	3,235	3%
Total (Metric Tons)	1,213,238	100%	5,500	100%	119,697	100%
White Corn Shipments by Country (MT)			5,500	to El Salvador		
Total White Corn (MT)			5,500			
Sorghum Shipments by Country (MT)					116,462	to China
					3,137	to Mexico
					98	to Panama
Total Sorghum (MT)					119,697	

Source: USDA, World Perspectives, Inc.

FOB

Yellow Corn (USD/MT FOB Vessel)							
YC FOB Vessel	GL	JLF	PNW				
Max. 15.0%	Basis	Flat Price	Basis	Flat Price			
Moisture	(#2 YC)	(#2 YC)	(#2 YC)	(#2 YC)			
FH July	+0.42 N	\$159.34	+0.56 N	\$164.85			
July	+0.40 N	\$158.55	+0.56 N	\$164.85			
August	+0.37 U	\$160.52	+0.53 U	\$166.82			

Due to the low volume of trade in the market, we are unable to provide accurate White Corn FOB values for this week's report.

Sorghum (USD/MT FOB Vessel)						
#2 YGS FOB Vessel NOLA TEXAS						
Max 14.0% Moisture	Basis Flat Price		Basis	Flat Price		
LH July	+0.95 Z	\$187.29	+0.75 Z	\$179.42		
August	+0.95 Z	\$187.29	+0.75 Z	\$179.42		

Due to the low volume of trade in the market, we are unable to provide accurate Feed Barley FOB values for this week's report.

Corn Gluten Feed Pellets (CGFP) (FOB Vessel U.S. \$/MT)							
	July	August	September				
New Orleans	\$132	\$132	\$132				
Quantity 5,000 MT							
Corn Gluten Mea	al (CGM) (FOB Ves	sel U.S. \$/MT)					
Bulk 60% Pro.	July	August	September				
New Orleans	\$590	\$590	\$590				
*5-10,000 MT Minimum							
Corn Gluten Meal (CGM) (0	Offers, Rail and Tr	uck Delivered U.S	5. \$/ST)				
	June	July	August				
Rail Delvd. Savannah	\$513	\$513	-				
Rail Delvd. Chicago	\$500	\$500	\$500				
Truck Delvd. Chicago	\$520	\$520	-				

*All prices are market estimates.

DDGS Price Table: June 22, 2017 (USD/MT) (Quantity, availability, payment and delivery terms vary)						
Delivery Point Quality Min. 35% Pro-fat combined	July	August	September			
Barge CIF New Orleans	147	147	148			
FOB Vessel GULF	160	160	162			
Rail delivered PNW	183	184	185			
Rail delivered California	185	186	187			
Mid-Bridge Laredo, TX	181	182	184			
FOB Lethbridge, Alberta	155	157	158			
40 ft. Containers to South Korea (Busan)	178	180	180			
40 ft. Containers to Taiwan (Kaohsiung)	177	177	178			
40 ft. Containers to Philippines (Manila)	185	187	188			
40 ft. Containers to Indonesia (Jakarta)	184	186	187			
40 ft. Containers to Malaysia (Port Kelang)	185	187	188			
40 ft. Containers to Vietnam (HCMC)	191	192	193			
40 ft. Containers to Japan (Yokohama)	187	188	189			
40 ft. containers to Thailand (LCMB)	181	183	183			
40 ft. Containers to China (Shanghai)	181	182	184			
40 ft. Containers to Bangladesh (Chittagong)	206	207	210			
40 ft. Containers to Myanmar (Yangon)	206	207	209			
KC & Elwood, IL Rail Yard (delivered Ramp)	140	140	141			

Source: WPI, *Prices are based on offer indications only; terms of delivery, payment and quality may vary from one supplier to another, impacting the actual value of the price.

DISTILLER'S DRIED GRAINS WITH SOLUBLES (DDGS)

DDGS Comments: DDGS prices were steady this week despite volatility in corn and ag futures market prices. Flagging ethanol production supported merchandisers' efforts to defend offers while international buyers held to low bids. Despite it being a quiet trade week, pricing consistency aided in slowly narrowing the bid/ask spread.

Nationally, the average FOB ethanol plant price for DDGS increased \$3-4/MT to \$105.22/MT. Kansas City soybean meal prices were largely steady, pushing DDGS' per-protein unit cost advantage two cents lower to \$1.83. Barge CNF NOLA rates were \$3/MT lower at \$146/MT.

On the international market, FOB Gulf DDGS were \$1/MT lower at \$160/MT while corn FOB Gulf prices fell slightly. DDGS are priced at 101 percent of FOB Gulf corn, down from last week and still historically undervalued. Prices for 40-foot containers to Southeast Asia averaged \$187/MT this week, steady with the week prior. Freight rates increased this week but CNF Asia prices were unchanged as merchandisers completed trades on tight margins to promote business.

COUNTRY NEWS

Brazil: Corn production is on pace to reach a record 95 MMT, up 30 percent from last year. The second crop currently being harvested may have some quality issues but overall is in good condition. However, storage options may be limited. (USDA/FAS)

China: Only 120 KMT of corn was sold on June 22 out of the 1.3 MMT offered. Out of the 14 auctions since May 3, over 23 MMT of reserve corn has been auctioned and at a lower average price than a year earlier. The average auction price (\$199/MT; \$5.06/bu) is 39 percent below the original acquisition cost, excluding storage

and interest costs. Last year the government auctioned 20 MMT of corn and directly sold an additional 20 MMT. Notably, corn prices remain relatively high in the grain deficit south where imports of corn, sorghum and barley should be attractive. (Bloomberg; Brokers Reports)

Mexico: The Energy Regulatory Commission approved a plan to expand the ethanol blend requirement to 10 percent. The Association for Sustainable Movement says it will require a \$1 billion investment to build 10 plants over the next five years to refine ethanol. Separately, 120 KMT of corn was purchased this week from the U.S. and nearly 10 MMT of the 13 MMT of American corn purchased thus far this year has been shipped. (Bloomberg; Platts)

Paraguay: Thousands of farmers are protesting a government plan to impose a 15 percent export tax on corn, soy, and wheat exports. A vote on the measure will occur next week in the Congress and is backed by President Horacio Cartes' party. (Reuters)

Ukraine: UkrAgroConsult says the corn crop is in good condition due to optimal growing conditions for plant growth, development, grain formation and filling. (Bloomberg)

OCEAN FREIGHT MARKETS AND SPREAD

Bulk Freight Indices for HSS — Heavy Grain, Sorghum and Soybeans*				
Route and Vessel Size	Current Week (USD/MT)	Change from Previous Report	Remarks	
55,000 U.S. Gulf-Japan	\$36.75	Up \$0.50	Handymax at \$37.25/MT	
55,000 U.S. PNW-Japan	\$19.00	Up \$0.50	Handymax at \$19.50/MT	
55,000 U.S. Gulf-China	\$36.25	Up \$0.75	North China	
PNW to China	\$18.00	Up \$0.50		
25,000 U.S. Gulf-Veracruz, México	\$14.25	Up \$0.25	3,000 MT daily discharge rate	
35-40,000 U.S. Gulf-Veracruz, México	\$12.25	Up \$0.25	Deep draft and 6,000 MT per day discharge rate.	
25/35,000 U.S. Gulf-East Coast	\$17.00	Up \$0.50	West Caset Calembia at \$25.00	
Colombia, from Argentina	\$25.75	Up \$0.25	West Coast Colombia at \$25.00	
40-45,000 U.S. Gulf-Guatemala	\$24.75	Up \$0.75	Acajutla/Quetzal - 8,000 out	
26-30,000 U.S. Gulf-Algeria	\$25.50 \$28.50	Up \$0.50	8,000 MT daily discharge 3,000 MT daily discharge	
25-30,000 U.S. Gulf-Morocco	\$24.50	Up \$0.50	5,000 discharge rate	
55,000 U.S. Gulf-Egypt	\$21.75	Up \$0.75	55,000 -60,000 MT	
PNW to Egypt	\$22.00	Up \$0.50	St. Lawrence to Egypt \$22.25	
60-70,000 U.S. Gulf-Europe- Rotterdam	\$13.25	Down \$0.50	Handymax at +\$1.50 more	
Brazil, Santos-China	\$25.25	Up \$0.25	E4 E8 000 Supremax Danamax	
Itacoatiara Port upriver	\$24.50	Up \$0.75	54-58,000 Supramax-Panama	
Amazonia-China	\$29.00	Up \$0.50	60-66,000 Post Panamax	
56-60,000 Argentina-China Upriver with Top-Off	\$32.50	Up \$0.50	—	

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

*Numbers for this table based on previous night's closing values.

OCEAN FREIGHT COMMENTS

Transportation and Export Report: Jay O'Neil, O'Neil Commodity Consulting: Baltic Freight Traders staged a decent rally this week. The Baltic Panamax index rose to 1,109; up 18 percent from last week's close. As usual, the physical market did not follow in lock step. Physical markets were up 1-2 percent week-overweek and did not exhibit as much enthusiasm as the Baltic Index Traders seem to have. The larger Capesize freight markets actually fell back a bit this week.

What is concerning, however, is that I see the orders for new vessels starting to creep back up. This is not what the market needs and is just a continued example of why vessel owners are their own worst enemy. Will they ever learn?

Baltic-Panamax Dry-Bulk Indices				
This	Last	Difference	Percent	
Week	Week	Difference	Change	
15,315	13,105	2,210	16.9%	
7,796	6,571	1,225	18.6%	
17,911	16,278	1,633	10%	
	This Week 15,315 7,796	This Last Week Week 15,315 13,105 7,796 6,571	This WeekLast WeekDifference15,31513,1052,2107,7966,5711,225	

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Below is a recent history of freight values for Capesize vessels of iron ore from Western Australia to South China:

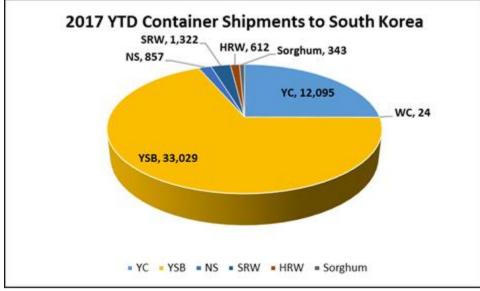
Week Ending June 22, 2017		
Four weeks ago:	\$6.00 - \$6.35	
Three weeks ago:	\$6.05 - \$6.40	
Two weeks ago:	\$5.30 - \$5.80	
One week ago:	\$5.00 - \$5.90	
This week	\$4.85 - \$5.45	

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

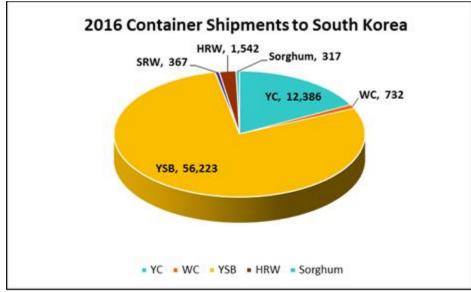
U.SAsia Market Spreads					
June 22, 2017	PNW	Gulf	Bushel Spread	MT Spread	Advantage
#2 Corn	0.61	0.39	0.22	\$8.66	PNW
Soybeans	0.76	0.43	0.33	\$12.99	PNW
Ocean Freight	\$18.00	\$36.25	0.46-0.50	\$18.25	JULY

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

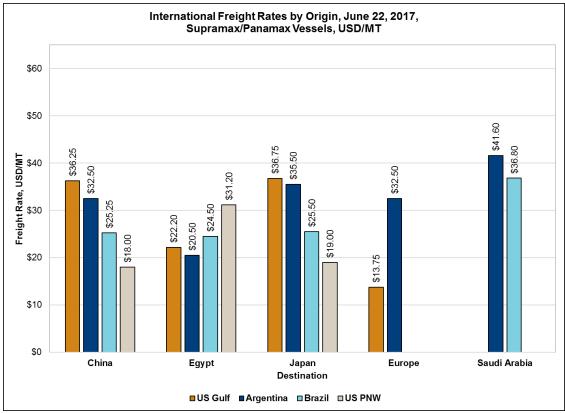
The charts below represent YTD 2017 versus 2016 annual totals for container shipments to South Korea.



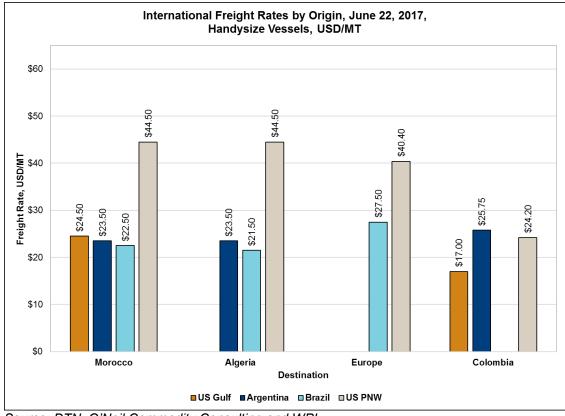
Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting



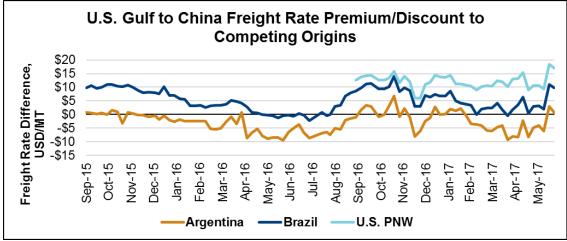
Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting



Source: DTN, O'Neil Commodity Consulting and WPI



Source: DTN, O'Neil Commodity Consulting and WPI



Source: DTN, O'Neil Commodity Consulting and WPI

INTEREST RATES

Interest Rates (%): June 22, 2017					
	Current Week	Last Week	Last Month		
U.S. Prime	4.25	4.00	4.00		
LIBOR (6 month)	1.44	1.42	1.41		
LIBOR (1 year)	1.74	1.74	1.72		

Source: www.bankrate.com