

Highlights:

- Algeria bought 150,000 optional origin milling wheat for May & June shipment.
- Rain showers sweep across North Dakota this and next week as they work their way towards Minnesota.
- 2008 9-month loan entries were reported at 43.279 million bushels, a decrease of 2.240 million bushels for week ending April 14th.

Minneapolis: Spring wheat closed modestly higher for the second day in a row in Minneapolis. Prices saw both sides in a choppy day of trading where most of the markets failed to ever get much momentum after the open. The spread again moved very little today, closing at a 12 cent inverse. The open interest in Minneapolis has been flat the last two days, and that has coincided with little movement in the May/July. Most of the Dakotas will remain too wet for planting this weekend so Monday's report could show another goose egg for North Dakota. It is still early, but may start to support the futures more in the coming weeks.

Kansas City: HRW settled slightly lower today as prices fizzled into the close. Locals were largely inactive today, opting for the relative safety of spread positions instead of flat-price trade. Bearish weather patterns and overall uncertainty about wheat conditions grappled with strong soybean prices for market direction as a slightly higher open was met with local selling. Lackluster market news has kept many participants at bay although wheat has met with moderate hedge pressure at these price levels. Spread premiums held steady for much of the session with prices narrowing slightly on the close.

Chicago: Soft wheat traded lower on a bout of profit taking. The jury is still out as to whether or not the HRW crop suffered damage from the recent freeze or will benefit from rain events passing through the area. Argentine wheat areas are looking a bit dry. SRW premiums are steady to weaker. SWW bids are weaker.

Basis: **Mpls:** The spot floor was steady to up a nickel on 13's and 14's today.

KC: Spot and gulf bids remain unchanged.

Spreads: **Mpls:** K/N: 11 3/4-12 1/2; N/U: 3 1/2-2 1/2; U/Z: 10 1/2-10.

KC: K/N: 10 1/2-10, N/U: 10 3/4-10 1/2, U/Z: 16-15 1/2, N/Z: 26 1/2-26 1/4.

OUTLOOK: Mixed as beneficial moisture and lack of demand weighs on KC and Chicago, while wet soils and lack of planting supports Mpls.

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