



hp Schmid in brief

October 2005

News from the Markets



Sesame Seed India is still the main factor. And at present we still have a weather market.

It rains in the sesame producing area and prices go up. The sun shines and prices go down. The last few days they had rains in Bombay but not in Gujarat. Prices have been drifting down again. If the Indian harvest comes off reasonable well (the first small new crop deliveries are beginning to trickle into the regional markets) we could see lower prices because of harvest pressure and competition among the numerous processors. However, we do not expect drastic price drops because the overall worldwide demand for Indian sesame.

The Central American crop will be harvested in December. Because of low prices during the last season, there has been no incentive to increase acreage. So we expect "normal" crops. No new crop prices have been established yet but they could be slightly higher than the current levels. We are also still in the hurricane season. One hurricane in the wrong place could change everything. Recent heavy rains are of some concern.

Black Sesame - last season saw high prices. Expect some relief from new crop but black sesame in India is harvested later than white sesame and does not ship until November. We are also looking at alternative sources like China to keep prices down. Overall we should see lower spot prices starting December

Poppy Seed Prices dropped during European harvest season. The Czechs had a good crop. U.K. also wanted to move some tonnage. UK quality is considered a little inferior so sells at a slight discount. Europe has been actively buying at current levels. U.S. demand has been moderate Australian 2006 acreage will be down. We do not think the trade is fully aware of this.



Cinnamon - has been very low for a long time. Cassia prices in Indonesia have been creeping up gradually. Should translate into slightly higher cinnamon prices. On the other hand, Vietnam is offering at very competitive prices.

Flax harvest in Canada and North Dakota is almost finished. For a change we will enjoy good quality and lower prices.

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Whole Grain Facts

Whole grains, or foods made from them, contain all the essential parts and naturally-occurring nutrients of the entire grain seed (nutrients as niacin, thiamin, magnesium, iron, zinc, fiber, vitamin E, phosphorus and protein)

If the grain has been processed the food produce should deliver approximately the same rich balance of nutrients that are found in the original grain seed.

Examples of generally accepted whole grain foods and flours are:

Amaranth, barley (lightly pearled), brown and colored rice, buckwheat, bulgur, corn and whole cornmeal, emmer, farro, grano (lightly pearled wheat), Kamut grain, millet, oatmeal and whole oats, popcorn, quinoa, sorghum, spelt, teff, triticale, whole rye, whole or cracked wheat, wheat berries, and wild rice. For additional info on whole grains visit www.wholegrainscouncil.org

For sales call:

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U.S. Sunflowers are waiting for a killing frost to commence harvest. Early indications are for mostly good quality and good yields - and lower prices when new crop starts shipping.



Almonds Harvest is under way for the Nonpareils and sizes are very large comparing to a normal year. The sizes available this year would be 16/18, 18/20 or 20/22.

Oregon Hazelnuts The estimated yield was scheduled to be 35,000 tons whereas the actual is now at 28,000 tons pricing is up 20pct. Higher on in shell as well as kernels with limited supplies for the export market. We also understand Turkish are not having a large crop, which causes prices from Oregon to take a sharp increase.

Walnuts We have learned that the normal jumbo size on the Hartley variety will only be 64pct. Being very low percentage. On the shelling stock-there will be more combo (light and light amber) this year than normal. Pricing is approx. 15pct from the beginning of last years inventory.

Prunes Harvest has shown there are more large dried plums, and the smallest sizes will be very limited supplies. Pricing this season is up 15pct. From last year.

Raisins The bluish black (Select Natural Thompson) pricing is approx. the same pricing as last season whereas the Jumbo and Fancy Golden pricing is up to 10pct. As the hydrators are bringing limited supplies for sulphurizing.

Pistachios with the harvest underway-California is having resistance against the Iranian crop with large inventories and their low pricing in Europe and far east buying their product versus California.

Pecans we have been advised by the largest brokers that control the Pecan market in U S A that pricing on In-shell as well as kernels should yield a larger crop and expecting to have a lower price that last year 04, This is some good news, however with the harvest in late October / early November the actual tonnage will tell the story with better accuracy, than advised.



Remember that we can supply many specialty grains such as Quinoa, Amaranth, Kamut, Millet, Buckwheat.

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Flash Alert

Hurricane "Stan" causes some damage in Central America

Early snow in Canada and northern parts of North Dakota may spoil an almost picture-perfect Sunflower crop.

Special Requirements

50 lbs bags too big? Need special pack sizes? Please discuss your requirements with us. We can accommodate you with a wide range to pack sizes (5 lbs, 10 lbs, 25 lbs).

Upcoming Trade Show

We will be represented at these upcoming trade shows:

Anuga - The most important trade fair for the world of food & beverages, held in Cologne, Germany- October 8 - 12, 2005

Please visit our website at www.hpschmid.com and www.organic-planet.com for product descriptions, specifications, nutritional and more.