

Economic Indicators

	Quote at 12h00 previous day	Current quote	Change	% Change
Rand/Dollar	11.91	11.90	-0.01	-0.08
Euro/Dollar	1.2378	1.2310	-0.0068	-0.55
Gold	1324.94	1318.24	-6.70	-0.51
Platinum	947.1	951.2	4.10	0.43
Brent Crude	64.2	63.72	-0.48	-0.75
JSE Top 40	52005	52057	52.00	0.10
Dow Jones Indus Avg	24801	24895	94.00	0.38

The changes in the table above is from previous Safex close (12h00)

- The rand is mostly flat compared to the levels seen at Safex close yesterday and is quoted at R11.90/\$ this morning. South African equities ended mostly flat yesterday with the JSE Top40 ending 0.10% higher.
- In the US the dollar posted some gains overnight and is trading around 1.2310 to the euro this morning. US equities did gain some ground with the Dow ending 0.38% higher in the daytime session and this morning the Dow futures are mostly flat. Key data for the US market will be the non-farm payrolls due later today. President Trump did impose import tariffs on steel and aluminum but excluded Canada and Mexico and other countries could also apply for exemptions.
- Commodity prices are mixed this morning with gold prices 0.51% lower as a result of the stronger dollar while platinum prices are 0.43% higher this morning. Crude oil prices are 0.75% lower than the levels seen at Safex close. Rising crude oil production out of the US and rising inventories are weighing on prices.

US Dollar/South African Rand

^USDZAR - U.S. Dollar/South African Rand - Daily Candlestick Chart



Key data releases:

- Bank of Japan interest rate decision
- US change in non-farm payrolls
- US unemployment rate
- European Union employment stats
- US Fed members speaks

International Market

	Quote at 12h00 previous day	Current quote	Change	% Change
CME May maize	386.5	392	5.50	1.42
CME Jul maize	393.5	399	5.50	1.40
CME May wheat	497.25	493.75	-3.50	-0.70
KCBT May wheat	534	529.75	-4.25	-0.80
KCBT Jul wheat	550.5	545.5	-5.00	-0.91
Matif May wheat (Euro/ton)	163.75	164.5	0.75	0.46
CME Jul soybeans	1070	1064.75	-5.25	-0.49
May CME maize R/ton	1812	1836	24.24	1.34
Jul CME maize R/ton	1845	1869	24.22	1.31
May CME wheat R/ton	2176	2159	-17.13	-0.79
May KCBT wheat R/ton	2337	2316	-20.55	-0.88
Jul KCBT wheat R/ton	2409	2385	-23.89	-0.99
Jul CME soybeans R/ton	4683	4656	-26.89	-0.57

The changes in the table above is from Safex close (12h00)

Corn

- US maize prices posted some gains with the market trading to a 7-month high with the smaller than expected US maize ending stocks supporting the market. This morning electronic maize prices are slightly lower.
- The USDA in their report estimated the 17/18 US maize ending stocks at 2.127 billion bushels which was lower than the market expectation seen at 2.312 billion bushels.
- The Argentine maize crop was lowered to 36 million tons from the February estimate seen at 39 million tons while the Brazilian maize crop was pegged at 94.5 million tons which is down from the 95 million tons estimated last month.
- The weekly US export sales figures of maize released yesterday was reported at 1.928 million tons which was higher than the market expectations. The USDA also announced a sale of 110 000 tons of maize that was sold to Japan.

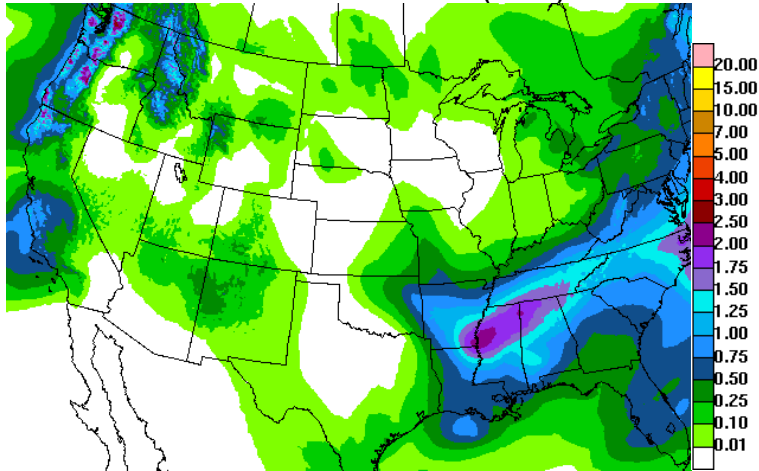
Soybeans

- US soybean contracts ended mixed with the old crop contracts under pressure as a result of the larger than expected USDA ending stocks estimate while the new crop contracts posted some gains. This morning the electronic soybean prices are lower.
- The USDA in their report estimated the 2017/18 US soybean ending stocks at 555 million bushels which was higher than the market expectation seen at 530 million bushels.
- The Argentine soybean crop was estimated at 47 million tons which down from the February estimate seen at 54 million tons and lower than the market expectation. The Brazilian soybean crop was estimated at 113 million tons which is 1 million tons higher than the February estimate.
- The weekly US export sales figures of soybeans released yesterday was reported at 2.653 million tons which was well above the market expectations.

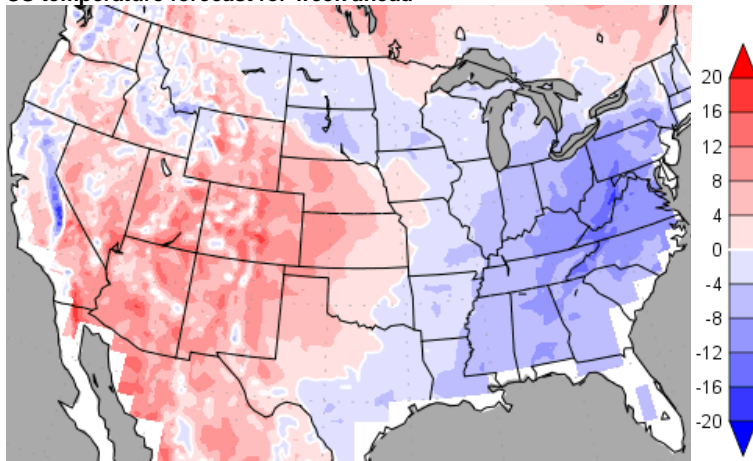
Wheat

- US wheat prices ended higher in the daytime session yesterday with the spillover gains from the higher US maize prices adding some support. The larger than expected US wheat ending stocks limited some of the gains. This morning the electronic wheat prices are lower.
- The USDA in their report estimated the 2017/18 US wheat ending stocks at 1.034 billion bushels which was higher than the market expectation seen at 1.015 billion bushels and higher than the February estimate seen at 1.009 billion bushels.
- The weekly US export sales figures of wheat was reported at 428 400 tons which was in line with the market expectations.

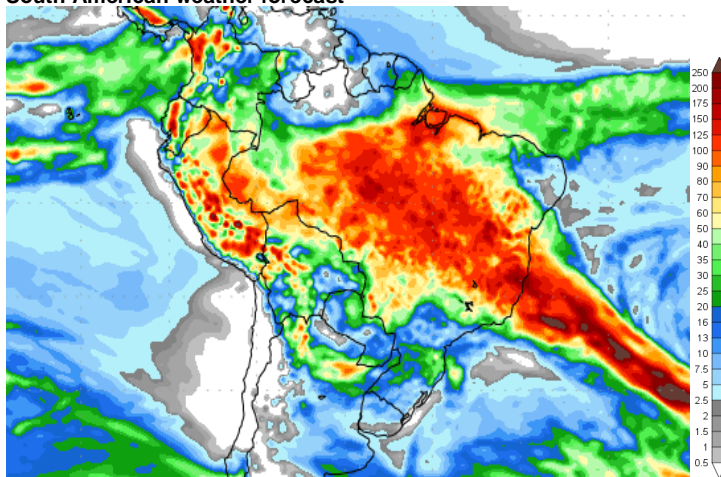
US cumulative rainfall forecast for week ahead (inches)



US temperature forecast for week ahead



South American weather forecast



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South African Market – 08 March 2018

White Maize				
	MTM	Change	High	Low
Mar-2018	1896.00	12.00	1899.00	1876.00
May-2018	1954.00	5.00	1960.00	1941.00
Jul-2018	2001.00	10.00	2004.60	1972.00
Yellow Maize				
Mar-2018	1980.00	31.00	1981.80	1948.00
May-2018	2031.00	19.00	2032.00	2018.80
Jul-2018	2067.00	17.00	2073.80	2040.00
Wheat				
Mar-2018	3643.00	-2.00	3650.00	3630.00
May-2018	3708.00	-2.00	3715.00	3705.00
Jul-2018	3756.00	1.00	3760.00	3746.00
Sunflower				
Mar-2018	4820.00	14.00	4820.00	4785.00
May-2018	4756.00	-11.00	4781.00	4730.00
Soybeans				
Mar-2018	4653.00	-20.00	4645.20	4641.80
May-2018	4740.00	-19.00	4761.20	4715.00
CME Corn				
May-2018	1820.00	0.00	1810.00	1810.00
Jul-2018	1879.00	5.00	1882.80	1865.00

Maize

South African maize prices started the day lower with the lower parity prices and rainfall in parts of the country adding some pressure at the start of the session. July white maize opened the day at R1975 and traded to a low of R1972 before some strong buying was seen. The market traded to an intraday high of R2004 and ended the day close to the session higher. The break above R2000/ton and the strong close that was seen yesterday could be supportive for our market in the sessions ahead.

This morning the US maize prices are well above the levels seen at Safex close yesterday and the rand is mostly flat which is supporting parity prices. We did see some late buying in our market yesterday which together with the higher parity prices should be supportive for local maize in the session today.

Wheat

South African opened the day mostly flat the market remaining in a narrow trading range after the opening. May-18 wheat contracts opened the day at R3710 and the market traded to a low of R3705 but managed to pull off the lows. The market traded to an intraday high of R3715 but failed to sustain a break above the 40-dat average and the market ended the day around the opening levels. Resistance is seen at R3710 and around R3720/ton. On the technical chart the short term averages and indicators are pulling higher which could continue to support our market.

This morning the US CME and KCBT wheat prices are lower than the levels seen at Safex close yesterday and the rand is mostly flat compared to the levels seen yesterday which is resulting in lower parity prices this morning. Our wheat market remained in a very narrow trading range yesterday and the lower parity prices could put some pressure on our market in the session today.

Oilseeds

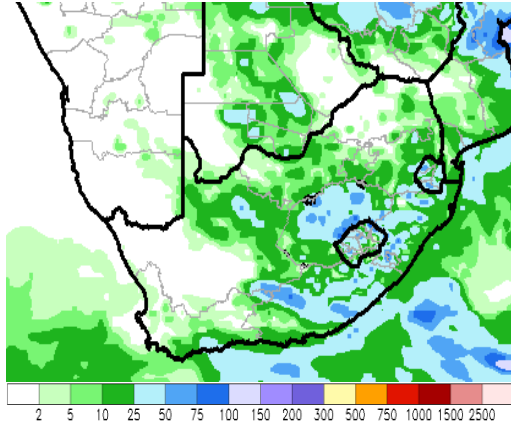
South African soybean contracts opened the day unchanged to slightly lower with some more selling interest that was seen after that. May-18 soybean contracts opened the day at R4750 and briefly traded to a high of R4761 before some more selling was seen. The market traded to an intraday low of R4715 but the market managed to end the day well off the session lows. On the technical chart we see that some of the indicators have started to pull lower with the RSI recovering from the overbought territory.

South African sunflower seed contracts opened the day lower but some buying was once again seen after the opening. May-18 sunflower seed contracts opened the day at R4732 which was very close to the intraday lows with our market gaining some ground after that. The market traded to an intraday high of R4781 but the market ended the day off the session highs. Support is seen in the R4700-R4691 area and resistance is seen around R4780-R4800.

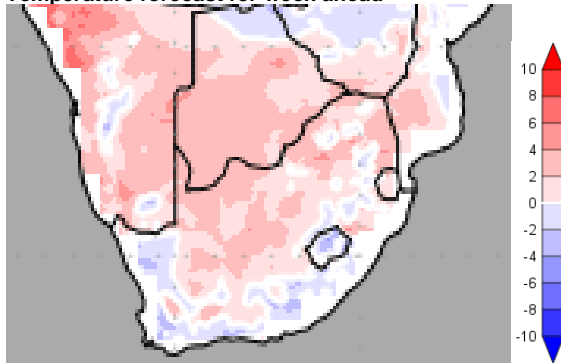
This morning the US soybean contracts are lower than the levels seen at Safex close and the rand is still trading around R11.90/\$ this morning which is pointing to lower parity prices. The lower parity prices could put some more pressure on local soybean contracts in the session today. There is some buying interest in local sunflower seed contracts.

Weather conditions

Rainfall forecast for week ahead



Temperature forecast for week ahead



Technical Graphs

- Safex July WM prices
- CME July corn prices



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