

### Weather

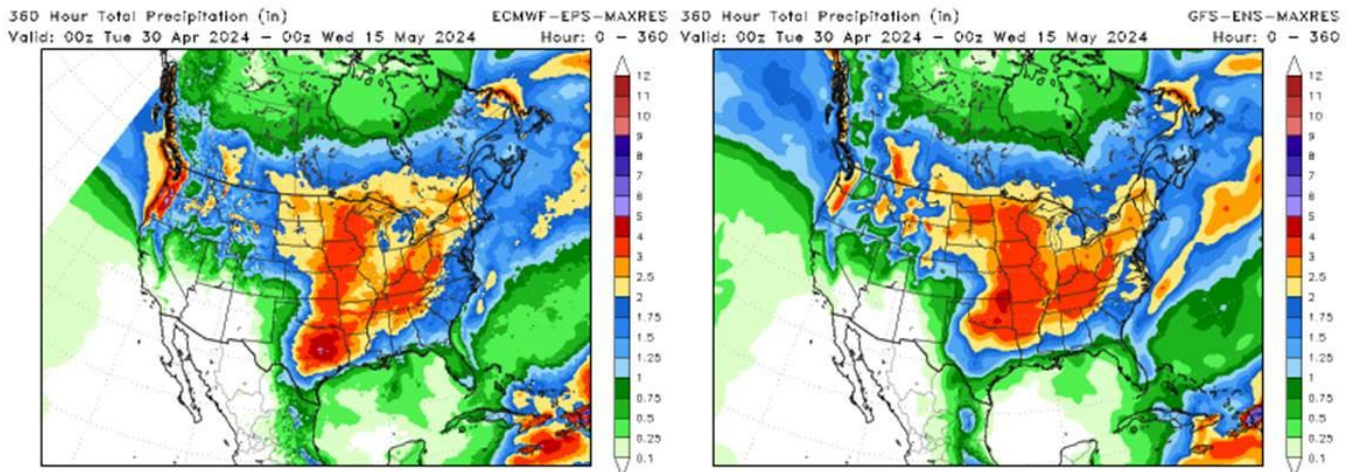
Strong / severe thunderstorms in the western / northwestern Corn Belt will mark the starting point of the next round of very active / stormy weather for the middle of the country. There may still be as many as four weather systems for the opening week of May (counting the one of the next 24 hours), and conditions looks to stay “active” for several days beyond the opening week of May as well. The below weather maps show that the Corn Belt and nearby areas have a good chance of recording at least two inches of rain over the next 15 days but large areas also are forecast to receive 4+ inches. National corn and soybean planting progress figures yesterday showed the planting pace so far is above both last year and the 5-year average; we will probably drop below those numbers for next Monday’s report with a slow pace obviously suggested for the week ending May 12 as well.

Winter wheat areas of southwestern Kansas and areas to the west and south will continue to be short-changed on rainfall over the next 15 days, but the rest of the HRW wheat belt will see fairly good rains coming up (with a threat in those areas already tomorrow).

Safrinha corn areas of Brazil are mostly dry / hot over the next 15 days while very heavy rains continue to impact the final stages of the soybean harvest in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

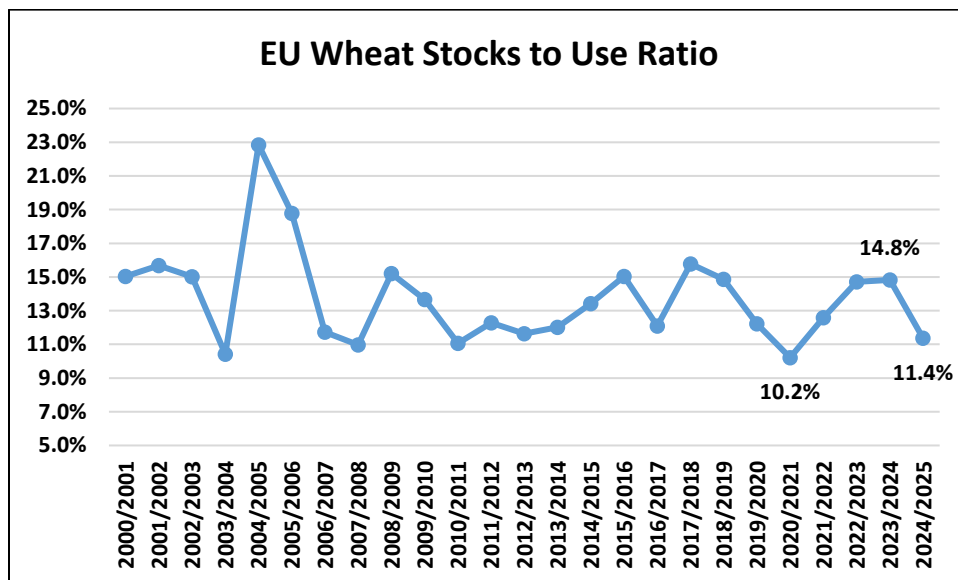
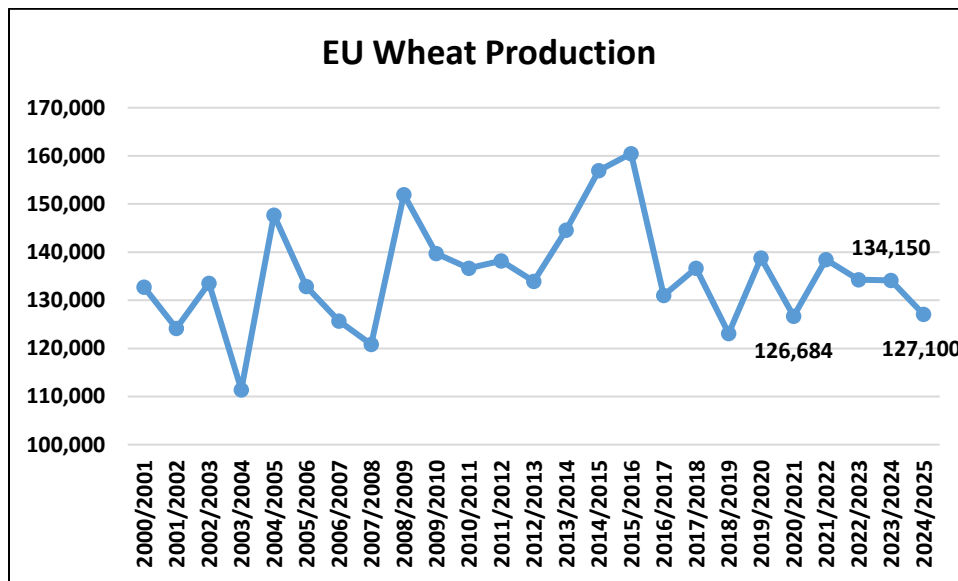
### European

### GFS



### Grains

The European Commission reduced their 24/25 wheat production estimate from 127.5mmt to 127.1mmt last week. EU wheat production is down ~7mmt YoY due to reduced acreage from excessive rain this fall. Crop conditions in some parts of the EU have been poor with specifically French soft wheat rated at 64% good + very good, the lowest rating since 2020 when the wheat crop was also affected by heavy rains during planting. The European Commission also projected 24/25 EU exports to be down ~2.5mmt while ending stocks were forecast to be 12.6mmt. Stocks to use ratio is projected to be 11% which is also the lowest since 20/21.

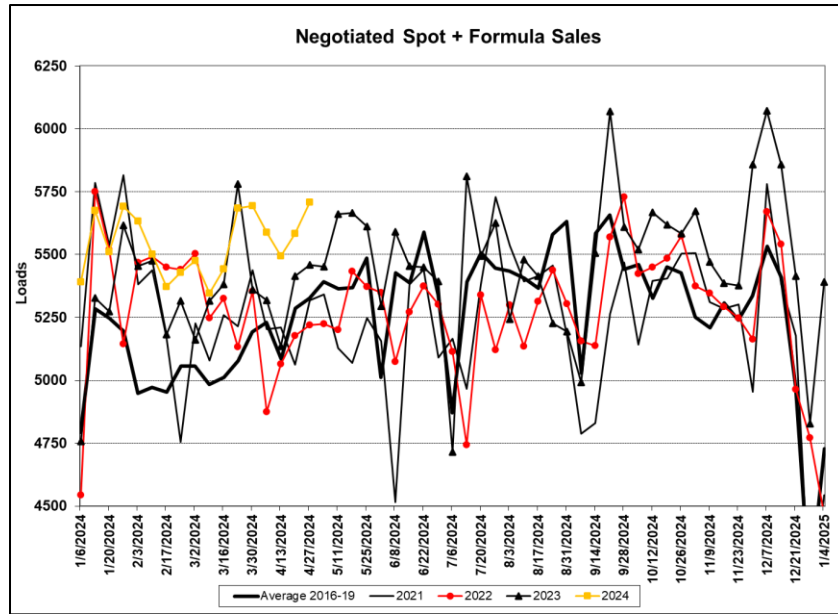


The world wheat market is tightening with 24/25 Ukraine wheat production forecast to be at its lowest levels since 12/13. India's wheat ending stocks are also at their lowest levels since 07/08 at a mere 6.9mmt. The world will rely even more so on Russian wheat production in 24/25 and concerns over nationalizing their export business could potentially be problematic for importers. A basing pattern will likely emerge until new crop supplies are known.

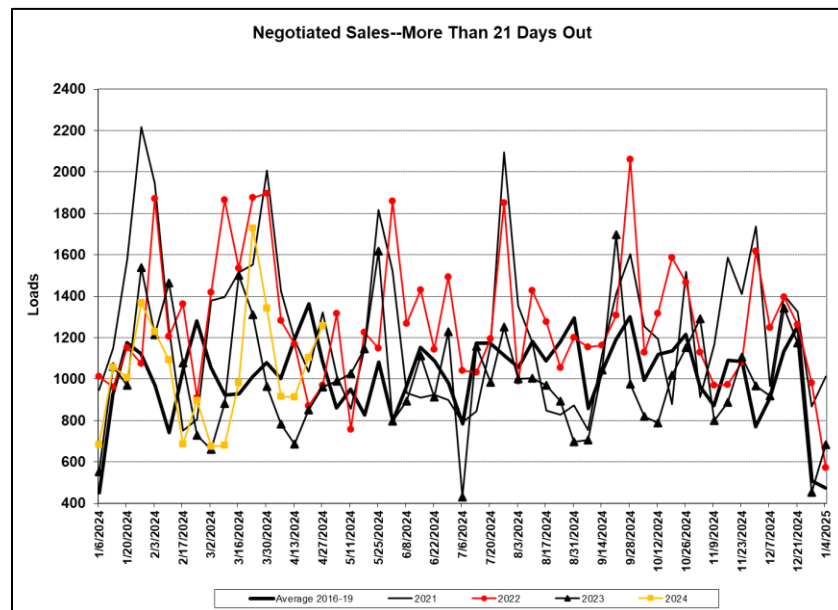
#### Livestock

Combined spot and formula beef sales have escalated in recent weeks and are well above last year and historical volumes for much of the past month. But, as market-friendly as that appears at first glance, the large spot sales have become a near-necessity, since limited out-front volumes were booked earlier for early spring delivery.

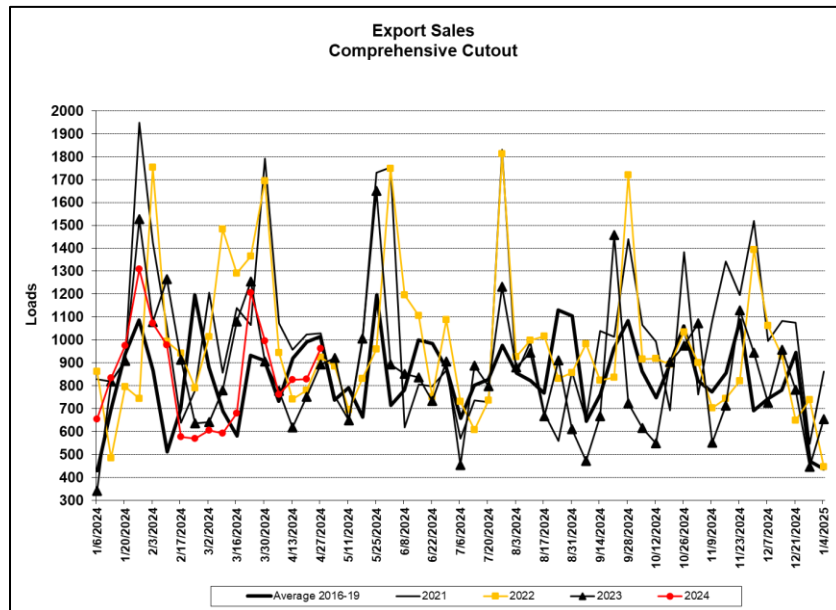
While those spot sales do keep packer inventories manageable, they are not very helpful in spurring more aggressive retail or food service feature and promotion activity, which in turn, has hampered the typical seasonal strength in cutout values—particularly for the middle meat items.



However, the lackluster out-front sales which were particularly depressed during the first half of April, posted a modest rebound at the end of the month. While those elevated out-front sales are almost “too late” to facilitate aggressive merchandising programs ahead of Memorial Day, further sales gains in the weeks ahead could extend the seasonal advance in beef cutout values deeper into late spring and early summer.



Although data for the first quarter is not yet complete, but preliminary estimates put JFM beef exports about 5% below last year, which slipped 8% below the 2022 record. Weekly shipments in recent weeks have remained below a year earlier, but sales volumes have ticked marginally higher and further sales gains could boost shipments in late spring and early summer.



### Today's Calendar (all times Central)

- Employment Cost Index (Q1) – 7:30am
- S&P/CS HPI Composite – 8:00am
- Chicago PMI – 8:45 am
- CB Consumer Confidence – 9:00am

Thanks for reading.

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