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HIGH PRODUCTION OF CORN IN 2020

The Brazilian corn market set the highest record production and the highest prices in 2020. In the first two months of 2020, the lower corn stocks and the lean first harvest set corn prices to increase. According to data from Cepea, from March to June, the expectations for record production in the second crop and the advance of the covid-19 pandemic in Brazil rose domestic prices. With the measures to control the pandemic, agents feared a reduction in demand from national exporters and consumers. However, exports have increased, as well as the resumption of sales in the domestic market from April to December. The climate favored Brazilian corn production to set a record in the second 2020 harvest. The strong appreciation of US dollar, the rising international prices and the strong external demand have also supported exports parity and the prices in the domestic market, starting in July. In October, prices reached record levels. In December, the weakening of the US dollar pressured prices in port regions and rural areas.

Source: *Agrolink*

SOYBEAN CROP TO REACH 127.57 MILLION TONS IN 2020/21, SAYS APROSOJA

Brazilian producers are expected to produce 127.57 million tons of soybeans in the 2020/2021 harvest. The numbers are from 16 Brazilian states, representing an increase of 2.2% over the 124.4 million tons of the previous harvest, a new record in soy production. Aprosoja had projected 134.5 million tons in the previous forecast. However, according to the president of Aprosoja Brasil, Bartolomeu Braz, the numbers have changed due to losses in productivity and to the La Niña phenomenon. "The reduction of estimates is due to problems related to the lack of rain in some regions, such as Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and again Rio Grande do Sul for the second consecutive year. The delay in planting and the irregular rains have also influenced new figures", he said. Aprosoja Brasil's new estimate surpasses the historical series of the National Supply Company (Conab) and sets Brazil at the forefront of world oilseed production and exports, followed by the United States and Argentina.

Source: *Canal Rural*

BRAZIL'S FERTILIZER SECTOR CONTINUE GROWING IN 2021, SAYS MOSAIC

The new coronavirus pandemic did not stop Brazilian agriculture, and the production chain keeps growing. Several factors made fertilizer companies end this year with a 6% growth in sales. The sector was expected to close 2020 with 38.5 million tons of product traded, which represents a growth of more than 6% compared to last year. Mosaic Fertilizantes' commercial vice president, Eduardo Monteiro, says that the increase in sales was due to a combination of factors, such as, rising prices of grain, strong international demand, record levels for future sales and excellent exchange ratio between fertilizers and commodities. According to Monteiro, Brazilian agriculture has shown to be one of the most advanced in the world.

Source: *Global Fert*

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY UNIFIES RULES ON EXPORT QUOTAS

The Foreign Trade Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy (SECEX / ME) unified regulations on allocating and controlling the use of export quotas granted by other countries to Brazil. These instruments make it possible for certain quantities or amounts established for the sale of Brazilian products abroad to receive tariff benefits when entering the

export destination markets. The measure is expressed in Ordinance No. 72 published on December 21st in the Federal Register. SECEX's ordinance includes the regulation of eight export quotas: beef (Hilton Quota), chicken meat, and sugar to the European Union; vehicles for Colombia, Argentina, and Paraguay; and quotas administered under the Mercosur-Israel and Mercosur-Colombia agreements. According to Foreign Trade Secretary, Lucas Ferraz, Brazilian exporters now have rules that are more accessible, transparent, and capable of transmitting greater legal security in their operations. SECEX data shows that export quotas enabled Brazilian foreign sales of over US\$ 753 million in 2020.

Source: *Datamar News*

RICE HARVESTED AREA EXTENTS TO MORE THAN 85%

According to a bulletin released on Monday (21) by the National Supply Company (Conab), the 2020/21 rice harvest in Brazil surpassed 85% of the planted area, considering six producing states (Tocantins, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Goiás, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul), reaching 85.8%, which is 3.1% higher than the previous week, but below the same period in 2019 (88.7%). Six rice-producing states correspond to 87% of the cultivated area in Brazil. Conab's latest estimates show that the 2020/21 rice harvest may well reach 1.72 million hectares between rainfed (394 thousand ha) and irrigated (1.32 million ha), compared to 1,66 million ha in the previous season. The production of rice should reach 10.94 million tons, of which 9.99 million tons are from irrigated area and 950.1 thousand tons from rainfed, compared to 11.18 million tons in 2019/20.

Source: *Notícias Agrícolas*

BRAZIL'S CENTER-SOUTH CRUSHED 2.048 MILLION TONS OF SUGARCANE IN 1ST HALF DEC, SAYS UNICA

Data from the Union of the Sugarcane Industry (Unica) showed that sugarcane mills in the Center-South of Brazil crushed 2.048 million tons in the first half of December, down 20.49% compared to the same period in 2019, when 2.576 million tons were crushed. Ethanol production reached 70.49%, and ground cane for sugar production reached 29.51%. The production of sugar remains high in comparison with the same period in 2019 (85 thousand tons compared to 50 thousand tons), an increase of 70.28%. Mills have increased sugar production to take advantage of Brazilian Real exchange rates in the recent months. Ethanol production, in turn, reached 235 million liters in the first half of December, 5.76% less than the 249 million liters of the same period in the 2019/20 cycle.

Source: *Dinheiro Rural Magazine*

PORTS OF PARANÁ SET A HOST OF NEW RECORDS

Ports of Parana ended 2020 with fifteen new records, as the port of Paranaguá and the port of Antonina stood out in the national sector, with 55 million tons of cargo handled. Also setting a record with the largest number of trucks at the Pátio da Triagem, and the largest ship of grain. "Despite the global health crisis, the ports of Paraná advanced. The State of Parana had a remarkable soybean harvest, and the price of the product in the international market favored exports. In addition, sugar, frozen chicken, and vegetable oil recorded outstanding results", said the CEO of Portos do Paraná, Luiz Fernando Garcia. In his opinion, outcomes are due to actively engaged work: "The stevedores, the companies, the truck drivers, the railroad workers made the ports exceed all the goals". In November 30,, the ports of Paraná reached the best result in history, with 55,382,000 tons of cargo handled in 11 months, surpassing the annual record achieved in 2019.

Sources: *Portos do Paraná / DATAGRO*

PORT OF ANTONINA EXPECTS TO GROW 50% IN 2021

The Port of Antonina on the coast of Paraná forecasts a 50% growth in cargo handling in 2021, especially for the movement of non-transgenic soybean meal, fertilizers, wood, chips, organic grains and project cargo. The expectation is due to a favorable environment influenced by the appreciation of US dollar, as well as the rising price of commodities and the growing global demand for food. In 2020, Ponta do Félix Port Terminals (TPPF), the company responsible for the concession of the Port of Antonina, handled almost one million tons, even in an atypical pandemic year. The total of 950,626 tons of products handled in 2020 (including bulk, fertilizer, soybean meal, general cargo and sugar) represents an increase of 5% compared to 2019, when cargo handling reached 908 thousand tons. TPPF's CEO, Gilberto Birkhan, said the economic environment should be favorable to Brazilian agribusiness in 2021, as well as the advance in investments for maritime structure. There are some advantages in exporting and importing through the Port of Antonina, such as its capacity of working with different cargo, short waiting time for vessels lineup, allowing service of ships with managerial priorities according to the need of the customer. Also the customs terminal with customs warehouse increased the amount of fertilizers stored by 47%.

Source: *Portos e Navios*

PORTOS DO PARANAGUÁ PREPARES EXPORT CORRIDOR TO HANDLE 2021 SOY DEMAND

The company Portos do Paraná started the maintenance of the structure and the operating system of the export corridor of the Port of Paranaguá (Correx). In this period when the new soybean crop is still growing in the field, the other end makes the necessary adjustments and improvements to meet the demand for runoff, which should intensify as of the end of February 2021, when the harvests begin. According to the Director of Operations for Portos do Paraná, Luiz Teixeira da Silva Júnior, maintenance has been prepared throughout the year because it involves hiring third-party companies, purchasing material, and other factors that require prior planning. The actions are coordinated by the Engineering and Maintenance (DIENGE) and Operations (DIOPORT) departments in partnership with AOCEP (the association of Paranaguá export corridor terminals) and ATEXP (the association of port operators of the Paranaguá Port export corridor). From January to November, around 19.46 million tons of grains and bran, mainly soybeans (13.34 million tons), were exported through the complex.

Source: *Datamar News*

ITAJAÍ AND NAVEGANTES PORT COMPLEX SETS A NEW HANDLING RECORD IN NOVEMBER

In November 2020, the Itajaí and Navegantes Port Complex recorded the largest handling figures in its history. 139,451 TEU and 1,665,893 tons were handled. Compared to November 2019, when 100,207 TEU and 1,134,189 tons were handled, these numbers represent a 39% increase in container handling and 47% in tonnage. During this period, 96 vessels moored at the Complex, highlighting a 26% increase over November 2019, when 76 moored vessels were registered. 62% of the container cargo passing through the complex was for exports. In the Port of Itajaí (public berths and APM Terminals) there was a 12% increase in tonnage and 3% increase in TEU. In November 2020, 47,814 TEU and 570,700 tons were handled, compared with 46,352 TEU and 509,727 tons in the same period of 2019. "This month was difficult for the public port, we had an exponential number of workers and temporary port workers who were laid off due to COVID and due to equipment breakdowns; this impacted our handling figures and generated negative impacts on society. However, despite this, we have

remained faithful to the purpose of keeping this activity running and generating wealth for our city", says Marcelo Werner Salles, Superintendent of the Port of Itajaí.

Source: *Datamar News*

SANTOS PORT AUTHORITY RECEIVES FIRST BIDS FOR TRANSITIONAL CONTRACTS

Santos Port Authority (SPA) received the first offers to enter into transitional contracts in areas with recently expired contracts – two in the Saboó region and one in Paquetá. Interested companies are Reliance, MSC, Master, and Conport. The offers were published on December 21st on the SPA website and beginning on the 22nd, interested parties may submit proposals for the next 10 working days, until 8 January. On January 11, SPA will publish the list of offers received and those who are competing will have 1 day to present final bids. The winning bid will be that which offers the highest value resulting from the sum of the fixed (per square meter) and variable (per movement) values. There is no restriction on the type of cargo to be handled. The contracts will have a term of 180 days or until the respective bidding processes are concluded for the execution of a long-term contract, whichever comes first.

Source: *Datamar News*

ANTAQ BEGINS PRIVATIZATION PROCESS FOR PORTS OF VITÓRIA AND BARRA DO RIACHO (ES)

On December 28th, ANTAQ (the national waterway transport agency), opened a public consultation for the concession process of the Ports of Vitória and Barra do Riacho, under the current management of Companhia Docas do Espírito Santo (CODESA). The project will be a pioneer in the transfer of activities performed by a dock company to private partners and is part of the company's privatization process – the first of its kind in Brazil. In the concession proposal, the object of the contract will mainly cover the performance of the port administration functions and the indirect operation of the port facilities. In order to preserve competition within the ports, the concessionaire will not be able to act directly on cargo handling. The concession model, developed by the BNDES, provides for mandatory investments of at least R\$ 1.6 billion over its term, including R\$ 63 million in infrastructure recovery, R\$ 530 million in operation and maintenance, R\$ 772 million in maintenance dredging at the ports of Vitória and Barra do Riacho, and R\$ 290 million in improvements in land access to the port. Other investments may be made in partnership with those interested in exploring areas available for cargo handling and terminal implantation. The project foresees a 35-year concession of the organized ports.

Source: *Datamar News*

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