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HEAVY CONGESTION CONTINUES IN THE SUEZ CANAL

A few days after the Ever Given was refloated, after having been grounded since March 23, vessels began moving again through the Suez Canal but progress has been slow. On April 1, about 250 vessels were waiting to pass. Roughly 10% of the world's maritime trade and 25% of all cargo ships on the planet pass through the Suez Canal. According to Andrew Lorimer, CEO of Datamar, it should take about a month to resolve the problems generated by the blocked channel. He states that for Brazil, the main route affected is travel to the Middle East and the Far East. As a result, the most affected commodity was Brazilian meat exported to the countries of the Middle East. According to the president of the Suez Canal Authority, Osama Rabie, it is estimated that global daily losses of about US\$ 14 -15 million per day have been recorded as a result of the blocked canal. Given these numbers, another problem will be the insurance claims. According to Lloyd's List, 90% of marine cargo is not insured in the event of a delay. Sources: O Globo, UOL, and BBC/Datamar News

BRAZIL HAS GONE UP A PLACE IN RANK, BUT ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN CAUSED BY PANDEMIC MAY AFFECT EXPORTS

Brazil went up in the ranking of world exporters in 2020, but the scenario may be affected by the impact of the pandemic in Brazil's major trading partner countries for exports, says the World Trade Organization (WTO). "Brazil's position has been weakened by its main trading partners" said the economist Robert Koopman. "Agricultural exports increased worldwide last year, but other products exports have declined, despite signs of recovery". For this year, the WTO expects exports of goods from South and Central America to grow no more than 3.2% when compared to the previous projection of 5.4%, which was already lower than the global average. Last year, Brazil managed to do better than expected, climbing to 26th in the ranking position among the largest exporters in the world. The country sold \$ 210 billion, a drop of 7% when compared to 2010, but maintained its share of 1.2% of global exports.

Source: Valor (*Translated by la Niani)

BRAZILIAN TRADE BALANCE REGISTERS US\$ 1.482 BI SURPLUS IN MARCH

The Brazilian trade balance registered the lowest result for the month of March in six years due to its imports of oil platforms. Brazil exported US\$ 1.482 billion more than it imported in March, 63% less than in March 2020 according to the daily average criterion, and the lowest balance for the month since 2015. With the March results, the YTD trade balance reaches a surplus of US\$ 1.648 billion for the first quarter of 2021, the smallest balance for the period since 2015. In that year, the balance had registered a deficit of US \$ 5.577 billion in the first three months. In March, exports totaled US\$ 24.505 billion, an increase of 27.8% by the daily average in relation to the same month last year. Due to the purchase of oil platforms, imports reached US\$ 23.023 billion, an increase of 51.7% since the same month last year. The Ministry of Economy's Foreign Trade Secretariat revised its projections and increased the trade surplus forecast for 2021 to US\$ 89.4 billion, which would set a new record. The previous estimate, released in January, was \$ 53 billion. According to the Ministry of Economy, the sharp rise in the price of commodities recorded in recent months will contribute to the improvement of the trade balance.

Source: Agência Brasil/Datamar News

STONEX EXPECTS SMALLER GLOBAL SUGAR SUPPLY DEFICIT FOR 2020/21

Global sugar supply deficit in the 2020/21 season (October-September) likely narrowed as larger than expected and now it is expected to reach 3.2 million tons, StoneX said. The projected deficit is the result of a smaller crop in Brazil, United Kingdom, Thailand and Russia, despite an increase in the Indian crop. Brazil's center-south 2020/21 (Oct-Sept) is estimated by StoneX at 36 million tons, over 37 million tons in 2019/20. Total sugar production in the 2020/21 harvest is estimated at 183.7 million tons, up 0.3% over the previous season. The total demand for the sweetener is expected to reach 186.9 million tons, an increase of about 0.7% compared to the previous season, despite coronavirus pandemic. "Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the demand for sugar has proved to be resilient and will remain sustained," said StoneX.

Source: Notícias Agrícolas (*Translated by la Niani)

BRAZIL: FERTILIZER IMPORTS GROW BY 50%

Brazil's consumption trend for fertilizers this year is expected to repeat last year's pace, with producers anticipating purchases. The National Supply Company (Conab) released a bulletin estimating that a significant portion of rural producer's needs have already been negotiated. Producers have gained economic benefits due to the rise in grain prices, the exchange ratio, and earlier sales. Brazil imported a percentage 50.5% higher in January and February 2021 when compared to the same period last year, reaching a total of 5.7 million tons. The state of Mato Grosso was responsible for the largest share, representing approximately 25% of the national total. Brazil's Center-West region has been following the same trend of the other regions. The government has shown concern with national dependence on the international fertilizer market by creating the National Fertilizer Plan. However, possible future changes on taxes on Consumption of Goods and Services (ICMS) for fertilizers should increase prices and make it difficult to encourage domestic production.

Sources: Agrolink / Global Fert (*Translated by la Niani)

MARCH SOY EXPORTS SET NEW RECORD

Data released by the Economy Ministry indicates that Brazilian soy exports grew 24.59% in March in comparison with March 2020, reaching 13.49 million tons, the highest volume ever recorded for the month of March. In 2021, the month of March had 23 working days, one more than in 2020 when shipments totaled 10.85 million tons. March was also the first month of the current harvest with greater exports than the previous harvest. The crop harvest was delayed, postponing exports. Export revenue reached US\$ 5.35 billion in March, compared to US\$ 3.74 billion in March 2020. The average price per ton increased by 15.15%, to US\$ 397.1 per ton.

Sources: Valor Economico/Datamar News

DATAGRO SETS BRAZIL'S SOYBEAN CROP AT A RECORD 135.47 MILLION TONS AND REDUCES CORN PROJECTION

The 6th survey by DATAGRO Consultancy for Brazil's soybean crop estimates few adjustments. Soybean crop is projected at 135.47 million tons, compared to 135.68mt projected in February. If projections are confirmed, this volume would be 6% higher than the 128.19mt projected last crop. "Brazil is up ahead a great harvest and a new production record", says Flávio Roberto de França Junior, Grain coordinator at DATAGRO. DATAGRO sees the first corn crop at 24.24 million tons, a drop of 8% compared to the last projection. The second crop potential production can reach 85.06mt, up 6% over the last projection. Of this total, the Center-South region would account for 79.68 million tons, and the North and Northeast regions, for 6.38 million tons.

Source: DATAGRO (*Translated by la Niani)



BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL PROTEIN (ABPA) DEMANDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT A NEW TAX EXEMPTION ON CORN IMPORTS

The benefit on tax exemption for importing corn outside Mercosur ended on Wednesday 31. As a result, the Brazilian Association of Animal Protein (ABPA) wants to extend the move, demanding from the government a new tax exemption. The National Supply Company (Conab), the ABPA, and Brazil's Minister of Agriculture have already talked on the subject. According to ABPA, the authorities have confirmed there is enough supply of corn in Brazil for domestic consumption and exports. "At the same time, it is important to rely on the alternative of external supply, expanding access to other sources of grain, and reducing the disparities between exporting and importing inputs in Brazil". The supply of corn in Brazil is well balanced and has led cereal prices to break records on the animal protein sector. In addition, for the delay in crop planting, entities fear that production may suffer losses due to climate changes.

Source: Canal Rural (*Translated by la Niani)

LOW SUPPLY CAN SUSTAIN PRICE OF CORN ETHANOL, BUT LOW DEMAND AND EXPENSIVE CORN HAVE BEEN CHALLENGES

The scenario is uncertain for Brazilian corn ethanol producers in the coming months. On the one hand, the delay in the sugarcane crop planting and the high volume of previously-sold sugar show that biofuel supply will be limited. On the other hand, the restrictive measures to contain the transmission of the new coronavirus in recent weeks indicate a reduction in the demand for fuels. "Last year, just when the harvest (of sugarcane) had started (in April), we ran out of demand. And I think we may be seeing the same move this year", says the sugar and ethanol specialist at Rabobank Brasil, Andy Duff. "But we don't know what population's reaction will be and to what extent mobility will be reduced, or how long it will last", he says. The president of the National Corn Ethanol Union (Unem), Guilherme Nolasco, believes that, despite lockdown and the scenario of the coronavirus pandemic, the year can be positive, and production may increase. "In 2020, even with the covid-19 pandemic raging, we grew 60% due to new plants" he says.

Sources: Agência Estado / Nova Cana (*Translated by la Niani)

PORT SECTOR CLOSES 2020 WITH 239 AUTHORIZED PORT INSTALLATIONS

The national port sector ended 2020 with 239 authorized port installations, of which 195 Private Use Terminals (TUPs), 40 Cargo Transshipment Stations (ETCs) and 04 Port Tourism Facilities (IPTur). Over and above these figures, there are currently 116 existing lease agreements and 37 transitional. This is what Antaq points out. Antaq's director, Eduardo Nery emphasized the importance of this reliable legal instrument, so as port installations can contribute to the sector and to national logistics. "The national port sector has been growing every year, also infrastructure is essential to reduce impasses and to increase cargo handling, producing wealth and jobs for the country. Antaq will continue to carefully analyzing all the documentation. The Agency prioritizes legal certainty, healthy competition and, above all, the provision of an adequate service", said Nery.

Source: Portos e Navios (*Translated by la Niani)

CABEDELLO CARRIES OUT PIONEERING PETROLEUM COKE EXPORT OPERATION

On March 28, the Port of Cabedelo began a pioneering petroleum coke export operation in partnership with the lessee Oxbow Brasil Energia. In this first operation, the port will export 20,000 tons of the product. The partnership will continue for two years, a period during which at least 350,000 tons of petroleum coke must be exported through the port. The product originates from the Abreu e Lima refinery in Pernambuco and is destined for the United States. According to Companhia Docas da Paraíba, there are 280,000 tons of petroleum

coke export operations already scheduled for 2021. The solid bulk tonnage will therefore surpass the 600,000 tons mark annually, consolidating this type of cargo handling at the Port of Cabedelo. The bulk carrier Global Effort is responsible for this first export by the Oxbow company in the Port of Cabedelo. The Global Effort was manufactured in 2014 and is 178 meters long, 28.60 meters wide, and 44.80 meters high.

Source: Datamar News

IMBITUBA DEMOLISHES FORMER CARGO TERMINAL TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW INVESTMENTS

In March, demolition began on the old Refrigerated Cargo Terminal (TERFRIO) at the Port of Imbituba. The facilities were in Area 2 – A2, next to Pier 1, a space that could soon be used for new investments. The revamp of about 8000 m² is expected to be completed in the first half of the year, leaving the site fully suitable for those interested. "This area is in the heart of the port, practically next to the ships, so there are countless possibilities for qualifying new businesses since it has a multi-purpose and rentable character, which is why we are studying the best destination," says SCPAR's CEO Port of Imbituba, Fábio Riera. The A2 requalification process began in 2020, with the auction of some goods from the old terminal, such as the road scales, boiler scrap, tiles, and general buildings. The reception buildings, cafeteria, warehouse, cold room, and water tank had their materials removed. On March 25, engineers from SCPAR Port of Imbituba and Ferrovia Tereza Cristina (FTC) met to deal with the next phase of expansion of the railroad present at the site. The teams visited the places planned to receive the construction of two lines parallel to the existing route, each containing about 300 meters of tracks. The works should start in the first half of 2021. The new structure aims to facilitate transport operations, making it possible to carry out more maneuvers within the port area.

Source: Datamar News

CDRJ RELEASES 3-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

The new Business Plan for the 2021-2023 triennium for the Ports of Rio de Janeiro, Itaguaí, Niterói and Angra dos Reis has just been released by Companhia Docas do Rio de Janeiro (CDRJ). It details the forecast of new leases and assignments, a divestment plan for non-operating assets, the main commercial strategies, socio-environmental development activity improvements, and the updating of port operation technologies and processes. In addition, the document provides forecasts of investments and revenues from 2021 to 2023. To achieve a planned and organized growth of the company, the Business Plan also foresees investments of R\$ 2.1 billion for activities related to port administration, current leases, and new leases. The estimated total revenue of R\$ 742 million for the year 2021 is based on the expected trend with the current leasing contracts, plus foreseen increments with the new way of charging waterway tariffs, new leases, and onerous assignments, in addition to moving forward with the Divestment Plan for non-operating assets.

Source: Datamar News

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