USA Grass and Legume Seed Data: 2012/2013 Exports

Overview:

American grass and legume seed exports continue to rise, in both quantity and value of exports. Grass and legume seed exports for the July 2012 to June 2013 crop year saw total grass and legume seed exports reach 458 million lbs., up minimal compared to the previous year, but still the highest amount ever. Despite the quantity of seed exported rising only by 4 million lbs. from 2011/2012, a 1.5% increase, the value of the seed exported increased by over 9%. The total value of US grass and legume seed exports reached close to \$410 million. Of the total lbs. of grass and legume seed exported, "grass seeds" consisted of 388,000,000 lbs (84.8%), with "other forage seeds" making up the other 69,500,000 lbs.

USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports (Quantity: lbs.)										
Quantity (lbs)	Grass Seeds	Other Forage Seeds	Total: Grass & Other	Total Value (\$ 1000's)						
2000-2001	108,498,614	64,124,225	172,622,838	134,502						
2001-2002	179,607,927	56,156,302	235,764,229	145,402						
2002-2003	185,392,083	61,556,581	246,948,664	182,216						
2003-2004	256,629,914	74,264,402	330,894,316	204,478						
2004-2005	219,595,619	70,024,272	289,619,891	199,131						
2005-2006	183,558,192	59,336,204	242,894,396	178,275						
2006-2007	197,066,947	66,824,467	263,891,414	202,870						
2007-2008	258,898,265	70,110,087	329,008,352	278,913						
2008-2009	258,650,252	95,515,464	354,165,715	282,911						
2009-2010	289,427,128	71,158,030	360,585,158	252,738						
2010-2011	306,578,803	77,107,580	383,686,382	297,841						
2011-2012	372,387,433	81,623,279	454,010,712	375,931						
2012-2013	388,638,257	69,545,334	458,183,591	409,078						
10 Yr. Avg	252,818,463	72,752,037	325,570,500	245,530						

Destination

When broken out by world geographic regions, a large portion of US exports are destined to East Asia, with the majority of this seed being annual ryegrass, tall fescue and grass seed mixtures. The EU 28 and Mexico/Canada (North America) regions follow with over 90 million lbs of seed being exported here. After these 3 world regions, exports fall off dramatically.

	USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports by World Region (lbs.)										
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13		
East Asia	77,648,646	83,148,961	87,101,726	77,367,534	98,862,350	119,453,859	121,999,080	133,663,134	133,684,520		
European Union-28	55,673,846	25,183,226	31,225,039	73,045,024	63,350,959	45,235,220	72,343,016	108,649,898	90,838,421		
North America	59,085,333	54,795,012	61,023,352	61,421,980	75,998,795	69,675,869	74,363,715	78,949,258	90,385,776		
Middle East	19,990,040	15,184,017	21,260,886	34,092,602	27,282,195	26,516,689	23,416,299	35,904,066	39,022,314		
Southeast Asia	190,715	21,944,815	21,984,722	21,917,255	21,902,704	21,950,327	21,902,704	22,293,615	21,902,704		
Oceania	8,049,504	6,108,839	17,102,413	20,011,426	11,464,519	14,361,626	14,196,266	9,772,556	10,544,897		
North Africa	1,107,030	780,279	845,320	1,657,128	1,330,156	1,063,375	2,722,267	3,109,429	5,885,714		
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,740,249	1,943,972	1,409,308	2,110,214	1,527,044	2,072,732	1,984,100	4,195,514	5,441,667		
South America	19,814,097	4,112,834	4,112,834	4,112,834	4,112,834	4,112,834	4,112,834	4,112,834	4,112,834		
Former Soviet Union-12	471,607	225,772	203,283	1,217,270	1,156,197	497,403	7,186,546	1,852,914	1,427,167		
Caribbean	1,213,522	1,287,824	1,008,916	1,489,563	986,648	2,017,392	1,083,880	426,629	598,824		
Central America	407,447	497,844	253,552	257,741	508,647	538,192	410,975	160,950	250,906		
Other Europe	142,430	519,010	661	51,151	333,586	21,607	46,521	59,530	208,795		

USA Exports by Species

In terms of volume, annual ryegrass continues to be the number one exported grass seed out of the USA. 2012/13 saw over 117 million lbs. exported world worldwide, well above the 10 year average of 59.7 million lbs. No other species comes close to this export number as the next most exported species, perennial ryegrass "only" saw exports reach 41 million lbs. Alfalfa seed and tall fescue seed exports were at 40 and 37.6 million lbs. respectively. However, in terms of value, the "queen of the legumes", alfalfa, continues to lead the way, with total export value at \$114 million. Total annual ryegrass export value, despite such huge quantities being exported, only came in at \$45.6 million. The value of the exported perennial ryegrass and tall fescue came in at \$32.8 and \$29 million respectively. However, the exports of grass seed mixtures accounted for 44.5 million lbs. of exports, with a value of \$49.0 million. What grasses are in these mixtures is not broken out. Of interest to our Canadian growers is the amount of creeping red fescue and red clover exports, which were at 12.5 million and 4.2 million lbs. respectively.

US Grass and Le	gume S	eed Exp	orts b	y Crop \	ear &	Quanti	ty (Mill	ions of It	os.)					
	Total Exports	Ryegrass Annual		Ryegrass Perennial	Alfalfa	Fescue, Tall		Bluegrass, Kentucky		Fescue, Creeping Red	Bermuda Grass Total	Orchard grass	Clover, Red	Other
2000-2001	172.62	14.89	11.34	15.38	28.54	9.68	5.55	15.77	30.79	0.89	6.54	2.48	2.30	14.79
2001-2002	235.76	14.03	13.00	18.32	23.99	14.18	8.93	14.28	29.46	1.70	5.80	2.67	1.25	12.10
2002-2003	246.95	36.56	17.36	23.33	24.63	14.92	14.25	14.57	32.73	1.39	6.23	2.46	1.55	17.42
2003-2004	330.89	60.60	24.78	16.56	36.26	22.45	10.63	14.77	31.35	1.17	5.04	2.27	2.11	30.02
2004-2005	289.62	48.99	24.70	17.21	34.37	27.12	13.52	13.30	31.27	1.40	6.13	1.74	1.58	19.27
2005-2006	242.89	28.98	28.55	13.23	27.04	18.55	12.29	12.49	29.10	0.67	6.39	1.74	1.43	21.76
2006-2007	263.89	37.48	30.96	16.77	26.34	20.41	13.68	18.78	37.34	1.03	8.28	1.90	0.73	19.89
2007-2008	329.01	56.01	46.82	30.55	38.23	25.39	17.49	23.54	28.22	2.23	6.41	2.60	1.04	10.79
2008-2009	354.17	81.75	33.41	20.77	39.65	24.87	14.94	20.45	53.08	1.16	5.41	2.39	0.41	10.64
2009-2010	360.59	72.94	40.50	25.25	29.99	40.54	15.00	21.75	33.56	1.29	7.20	2.47	3.53	9.81
2010-2011	383.69	79.18	39.22	40.02	37.14	38.64	17.80	23.64	31.37	8.44	6.43	2.60	3.35	14.73
2011-2012	454.01	94.44	51.64	47.44	53.02	47.95	18.11	24.93	21.29	11.21	8.59	4.00	3.13	12.27
2012-2013	458.18	117.29	44.59	41.11	40.00	37.67	35.36	21.66	21.36	12.53	8.96	4.85	4.35	10.76
10 Year Avg 02/03 - 11/12	325.57	59.69	33.79	25.11	34.67	28.09	14.77	18.82	32.93	3.00	6.61	2.42	1.89	13.20
% of total Exports	100.0%	25.6%	9.7%	9.0%	8.7%	8.2%	7.7%	4.7%	4.7%	2.7%	2.0%	1.1%	1.0%	2.3%
% of previous year	100.9%	124.2%	86.3%	86.7%	75.4%	78.6%	195.3%	86.9%	100.3%	111.8%	104.3%	121.1%	293.9%	84.4%

% of total exports is compared to the current year (2012/13)

Alfalfa =certified + common, Red clover = double cut red + red, Bermuda grass = husked + otther

"Grass, other" and "Forage, other" are seed lot mixtures of two or more species, and with predominately more grass or legume seed or includes species no longer with their own trade code (eg: timothy seed)

other includes: "fescue, other", "bentgrass", "clover, crimson", clover, white and ladino", "clover, other", "wheatgrasses", "birdsfoot trefoil", "fescue, meadow", and "timothy" (note: timothy category removed from trade data after 2007-08, and is now included in "Forage, other")

Who's Buying?

When looking at individual countries (exception = Middle East), the USA's major trade partners in grass and legume seed trade are listed below. China, followed by Canada, the Middle East, Japan, Italy, and Mexico, all imported over 25 million lbs. of seed from the USA.

USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports by Top Countries: Value and Quantity (lbs.)									
	2009-10		20	10-11	201	11-12	2012-13		
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	
China	42,156	64,083,835	49,199	64,440,351	56,712	66,931,334	57,853	61,618,868	
Canada	35,383	40,602,494	42,973	50,566,868	45,629	51,363,462	55,091	60,707,845	
Middle East	26,796	26,503,680	39,989	23,416,299	60,644	35,664,845	72,652	39,022,314	
Japan	13,521	27,243,170	14,815	28,756,324	17,850	34,022,489	18,673	37,117,367	
Italy	9,570	16,461,257	12,866	22,686,510	20,085	31,922,638	18,380	29,126,510	
Mexico	23,941	27,483,934	23,685	23,537,122	27,321	26,184,866	32,673	26,965,806	
Netherlands	12,211	8,523,536	15,277	18,243,838	24,408	28,256,496	17,667	16,988,425	
Spain	6,700	8,938,259	7,362	10,479,635	9,868	14,086,908	10,451	13,620,813	
France	2,880	3,752,790	4,705	6,047,546	6,903	9,561,997	5,629	8,266,236	
Australia	6,757	13,183,161	7,166	12,927,404	5,484	7,868,270	6,270	8,794,727	
Argentina	9,940	12,515,547	12,739	10,990,487	10,802	7,931,548	10,173	7,309,794	
Germany	2,564	2,435,643	4,101	4,416,876	7,079	8,822,948	6,404	7,040,367	

China

2012/13 USA trade data shows China as the USA's top trade partner, with Canada holding down the second largest destination for USA grass and legume seed exports.

China's 61.6 million lbs. of American grass and legume seed imports was dominated by annual ryegrass (19.4 million lbs.) and tall fescue (11.9 million lbs.). "Grass Seed, other" mixtures ranked 3rd, with 11.7 million lbs. being imported. Annual ryegrass seed imports increased by 7.6 million lbs. from the previous year, but tall fescue imports fell by 6.4 million lbs. Perennial ryegrass imports remained steady, with 6.7 million lbs. imported from the USA in 12/13.



Alfalfa seed imports from the USA are once again rising, with 1.7 million lbs. imported, up 450,000 lbs. from last year. Chinese alfalfa seed imports from the USA was a meager 67,000 lbs only 3 years pervious. However, this year's certified alfalfa imports only accounted for 5% of her total alfalfa seed imports. For the 2nd consecutive year, imports of Kentucky bluegrass seed fell. 2010/11 saw 9.3 million lbs imported, which fell to 7.7 million lbs. in 2011/12, and data

shows imports down to 5.2 million lbs. this past crop year. After a spike to almost 4 million lbs. in 2011/12, Bermuda grass seed imports retreated to just under 3 million lbs. last year. Prior to 2011/12, Bermuda grass seed exports were at 2.7 and 2.6 million lbs. the previous two years.

In total, 2012/13 saw China import \$57.8 million worth of grass and legume seed from the USA. Grass seed mixtures/unspecified trade species made up the largest amount at \$13.6 million. Although it made up the largest imported crop by quantity (annual ryegrass seed), the average export price of the seed was only $35.4 \, \text{¢}$ / lb., much less than the export value of tall fescue ($81.2 \, \text{¢}$ / lb.) or perennial ryegrass seed ($83.8 \, \text{¢}$ / lb.).

USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports to China: Value ('000) and Quantity (lbs.)										
	20	009-10	20	010-11	20	2011-12		12-13		
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty		
Total	42,156	64,083,835	49,199	64,440,351	56,712	66,931,334	57,853	61,618,868		
Ryegrass, annual	5,583	18,853,245	4,553	13,767,212	4,112	11,858,076	6,894	19,483,818		
Fescue, Tall	7,900	16,287,519	8,815	18,248,027	11,675	18,437,640	9,705	11,948,914		
Grass Seed other	12,791	14,903,566	12,572	12,498,791	15,608	16,057,117	13,604	11,775,837		
Ryegrass, Perennial	1,724	3,035,348	3,275	5,387,429	4,489	6,404,944	5,655	6,751,098		
Bluegrass, Kentucky	7,851	6,345,414	11,483	9,325,863	10,138	7,521,234	7,422	5,212,588		
Bermudagrass, total	3,961	2,690,517	4,655	2,578,293	6,704	3,906,244	8,017	2,912,541		
Alfalfa, un-cert	118	66,585	534	326,310	1,466	997,892	3,448	1,681,160		
Alfalfa, Cert.	-	-	274	198,212	487	313,743	381	91,720		
Alfalfa Seed-Total	118	66,585	808	524,522	1,953	1,311,636	3,829	1,772,880		
other species (9)	2,228	1,901,640	3,038	2,110,214	2,033	1,434,443	2,727	1,761,194		

Canada

Exports of grass and legume seed to Canada is dominated by turf grass seed, specifically perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and creeping red fescue. However, this creeping red fescue export number, (11.3 million lbs.) may be misleading, as annual USA creeping red fescue production in only around 8 to 10 million lbs. Therefore, a lot of cross border trade occurs between Canada (one of the worlds' largest creeping red fescue producers) and the USA, with subsequent Canadian "Creeper" exports re-marketed/re-packaged and sold back into Eastern Canada. Another explanation could be off-shore creeping red fescue imported into the USA, then exported into Canada after processing. A third explanation could be mislabelling of other USA grown fescues' as creeping red. The same is probably true for perennial ryegrass seed, as Canada is a net exporter of this grass seed. Therefore, Canada's ranking as the USA's second largest grass and legume seed importer may be misleading.

USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports to Canada: Value ('000) and Quantity (lbs.)									
	20	009-10	20	2010-11		2011-12		12-13	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	
Total	35,383	40,602,494	42,973	50,566,868	45,629	51,363,462	55,091	60,707,845	
Ryegrass, Perennial	7,215	12,703,396	8,486	15,385,756	8,833	12,242,593	10,122	12,769,981	
Bluegrass, Kentucky	10,484	9,455,946	9,662	8,718,000	10,784	10,467,729	13,192	12,183,725	
Fescue, Creeping Red	396	479,324	6,148	7,495,218	7,775	9,122,360	9,021	11,376,768	
Forage Seeds	2,490	4,845,930	2,320	4,124,299	3,285	6,473,513	3,860	7,244,532	
Ryegrass, annual	1,387	3,728,317	1,513	4,206,317	1,748	4,441,129	2,301	5,575,719	
Clover, other Red	2,244	2,189,366	2,001	2,135,569	2,275	1,812,566	3,177	2,845,294	
Fescue, other	2,270	2,660,312	2,415	3,014,844	1,563	1,650,954	2,736	2,664,060	
Alfalfa, Cert.	5,402	2,235,667	6,805	2,958,401	6,027	2,629,665	5,393	2,038,117	
Fescue, Tall	493	631,896	527	735,080	869	1,171,190	1,514	1,873,198	
other species (8)	3,002	1,672,341	3,096	1,793,384	2,470	1,351,763	3,775	2,136,451	

Middle East (Saudi Arabia)

When looking at the Middle East as one region, this would make it the 3rd largest single destination for American grass and legume seed. (39 million lbs.). The primary buyer in the region is Saudi Arabia, who buys over 30 million lbs of this total, consisting primarily of alfalfa seed (13.3 million lbs.) and sudangrass seed (15.8 million lbs.). In this region, Turkey is the only other country of significance, buying over 1 million lbs. each of tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and grass seed mixtures.

USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports to the Middle East, by Country & Species (value and lbs)									
	2009	-10	20)10-11	20)11-12	20	012-13	
	Value	Qty Value		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	
Saudi Arabia	21,046	11,451,070	34,311	17,361,036	53,370	28,200,935	63,134	30,306,299	
Turkey	1,466	1,987,627	3,705	4,324,495	3,768	4,091,227	4,949	4,861,143	
Kuwait	327	197,109	489	292,577	1,190	744,340	1,899	1,445,467	
UAE	2,908	11,857,635	726	627,707	946	1,193,238	909	782,484	
Israel	315	382,092	235	311,538	474	775,428	616	686,354	
Jordan	97	72,979	233	250,906	322	223,126	691	509,088	
Other Countries (5)	644	567,956	294	247,820	681	675,992	453	431,038	
Sudangrass Seed	664	1,808,818	1,739	4,011,193	1,515	4,316,998	5,573	15,918,436	
Alfalfa, cert + com	20,324	9,664,961	33,221	13,882,744	53,532	24,660,468	58,739	15,350,479	
Grass Seed, other	1,586	1,717,760	2,231	2,162,468	1,959	2,034,589	2,482	2,361,561	
Ryegrass, Perennial	410	529,152	1,014	1,422,978	1,553	1,946,618	1,923	2,153,428	
Alfalfa, uncertified	761	637,408	1,637	710,828	2,009	1,323,762	2,432	1,734,737	
Fescue, Tall	2,228	11,197,297	327	594,635	463	640,715	1,059	1,139,220	
Ryegrass, Annual	59	147,722	218	412,298	364	767,491	487	803,429	
Bermuda grass, total	936	709,284	793	534,003	794	479,764	1,971	790,421	
other spcies (11)	595	741,695	446	395,982	572	1,057,422	418	505,120	

Japan

Japanese grass and legume seed imports continue to rise, with annual ryegrass making up the largest grass/legume seed being imported (22.5 million lbs., 60.8%). Grass seed mixtures amounting to over 5 million lbs followed, with Sudan grass holding down 3rd place (3.3 million lbs.) Japanese imports of USA seed continues to grow, up by over 10 million lbs. from 3 years ago. In total, over \$18 million worth of grass/legume seed was imported from the USA.



USA Grass and	('000) and	d Quant	tity (lbs.)					
	20	009-10	20	2010-11		2011-12		12-13
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
Total	13,592	27,315,267	14,878	28,822,909	17,850	34,022,489	18,677	37,119,351
Ryegrass, annual	4,339	12,616,086	4,489	17,003,197	6,235	21,752,998	6,096	22,569,876
Grass Seed other	3,745	4,648,380	4,931	5,173,563	5,605	4,825,646	5,426	5,158,130
Sudangrass	1,868	5,273,441	487	1,287,162	481	1,704,531	949	3,300,145
Ryegrass, Perennial	731	1,001,200	865	1,022,145	1,177	1,500,587	1,521	2,061,488
Orchardgrass	161	152,572	469	573,248	1,198	1,435,104	1,211	1,390,126
Fescue, Tall	470	733,978	784	733,316	394	552,743	592	763,963
Forage Seeds	717	1,727,020	768	1,763,620	382	885,889	371	679,740
Other Species (13)	1,490	1,090,494	2,022	1,200,073	2,378	1,364,992	2,507	1,193,899

Italy

Italy continues to be the EU 28's largest imported of American grass and legume seed. Imports are dominated by annual ryegrass seed (16 million lbs.), followed by Sudangrass seed (4.4 million lbs.). After increasing imports from 09-10 to 2011/12, import amounts have steadied around 30 million lbs. the past two years.

USA Grass and	d Legur	Value ('000) and Quantity (lbs.)						
	20	09-10	20	2010-11		2011-12		012-13
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty
Ryegrass, Annual	2,480	5,959,574	4,433	10,570,032	6,239	14,398,887	7,741	16,030,219
Sudangrass	590	1,645,001	982	2,452,399	991	2,849,704	1,554	4,482,799
Fescue, Tall	886	1,527,044	919	1,673,664	2,294	3,441,472	1,446	1,800,440
Grass Seed other	1,364	1,786,329	1,715	2,414,697	2,152	2,247,794	1,655	1,571,802
Clover, Crimson	337	673,566	272	449,779	814	912,126	1,409	1,505,878
Forage Seeds	786	1,726,799	747	1,570,259	713	1,269,965	435	935,497
Ryegrass, Perennial	786	1,261,807	1,536	2,310,851	3,106	4,281,722	701	836,281
Clover, other Red	-	-	-	-	85	79,593	520	472,268
Bermudagrass, total	609	617,564	299	172,636	457	246,276	757	435,889
other species (9)	1,732	1,263,571	1,963	1,072,194	3,234	2,195,099	2,162	1,055,438
Total	9,570	16,461,257	12,866	22,686,510	20,085	31,922,638	18,380	29,126,510

Mexico

Exports of American grass and legume seed to Mexico continues to be dominated by forage varieties, mainly alfalfa and "grass seed, other" (mixtures). Both show imports by Mexico of over 9 million lbs., consistent with the past few years. The value of seed from the USA continues to grow, with 2012/13 showing over \$32 in imports.



USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports to Mexico: Value ('000) and Quantity (lbs.)									
	20	09-10	20	2010-11		2011-12)12-13	
	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	
Alfalfa, Total	15,258	9,040,341	15,532	9,369,298	18,693	10,997,983	21,162	9,954,452	
Grass Seed other	5,873	12,533,186	5,827	9,204,158	3,446	6,305,728	5,733	9,475,789	
Ryegrass, Annual	876	2,843,751	435	1,248,137	953	2,571,238	890	2,259,038	
Ryegrass, Perennial	216	335,350	329	552,964	1,066	2,745,637	727	1,562,762	
Bermudagrass, total	561	459,701	294	212,322	589	465,213	1,479	1,378,882	
Sudangrass	610	1,854,016	801	2,401,248	523	1,376,236	285	801,004	
Bentgrass	245	53,356	95	28,662	610	203,062	1,294	479,324	
Clover, All	105	88,412	67	61,514	709	430,597	608	369,084	
Total	23,744	27,208,114	23,380	23,078,303	26,589	25,095,695	32,178	26,280,334	

Other Top Importing Nations

4 of the next 6 importers of US grass and legume seed are from the EU. These 4 countries account for over half of the EU's total imports. All 4 countries imported over 1 million lbs. of perennial ryegrass, while 3 of these countries imported over 1.5 million lbs. each of annual ryegrass. Tall fescue also saw at least 1 million lbs. imported into all 4 countries. The Netherlands imported over 5.7 million lbs. of "grass seed, other", while Spain imported 2.4 million lbs. Australia, ranking 10th overall as a destination for US seed, saw its major imported species being annual ryegrass (4.9 million lbs.), accounting for well over 50% of its grass and legume seed imports from the USA. Argentina, with its expanding livestock base, saw imports of alfalfa over 1.7 million lbs.

USA Grass	USA Grass and Legume Seed Exports to other										
Count	ries, 2012	/13, by top species (lbs)								
Country	lbs. (millions)	Species	Lbs. (millions)								
Netherlands	17.0	Grass Seed, other	5.7								
		Tall fescue	3.7								
		Ryegrass, Perennial	2.5								
		Bluegrass, Kentucky	2.3								
		Ryegrass, Annual	1.5								
Spain	14.5	Ryegrass, Annual	5.7								
		Grass Seed, other	2.4								
		Tall fescue	1.6								
		Ryegrass, Perennial	1.5								
Australia	8.7	Ryegrass, Annual	4.9								
		Ryegrass, Perennial	1								
France	8.2	Ryegrass, Annual	2.5								
		Sudangrass	2.5								
		Ryegrass, Perennial	1.2								
		Tall fescue	1.0								
Argentina	7.7	Ryegrass, Annual	2.8								
		Alfalfa	1.7								
		Tall fescue	1.3								
Germany	7.0	Ryegrass, Perennial	3.0								
		Tall fescue	1.3								
		Grass Seed, other	1.0								

Summary:

The world financial crisis which began in 2008 affected all aspects of the worlds' various economic sectors, agriculture included. The USA grass and legume seed market was especially affected, with the housing market, which makes up the majority of USA grass seed consumption, hit hard. However, as the laws of supply demand has shown, this "supply glut" of unused American seed become in demand, once prices move down to reflect the oversupply. American grass and legume seed exports have increased to meet this increase in demand, brought on not only by lower prices, but by the continual increase in world demand as the world comes out of this crisis.

Now, with increased prices for other agricultural commodities resulting in better returns, supply going forward may become tighter in the grass and legume seed sector, as less land becomes dedicated to grass and legume seed production. Lower prices has helped move excess inventories, but with demand now greater, production will have

to ramp up to meet not only the increased USA domestic usage, but overseas demand. The USA remains the world's number one supplier of grass and legume seed.

Note: due to conversions, some numbers may be slightly off. Trade data does not account for secondary processing and possible re-exporting to other countries after original seed amounts have been imported into a particular country, nor does the data account for possible incorrect entries by exporting companies. Trade data obtained from Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), USDA.

David Wong Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Grande Prairie, Alberta Ph: (780) 538-5289

Email: david.k.wong@gov.ab.ca