

U.S. grain futures soar after nuclear accident

Speculation that radiation from the Soviet nuclear accident has damaged Russian farms in grain, soybean and livestock has caused U.S. futures to soar.

However, a senior U.S. government meteorologist, Norton D. Brown, said the wind since the accident on Saturday has been blowing into the north, away from the major winter wheat area.

Cook, an Agriculture Department economist, said the radioactive material from the accident mainly over Byelorussia and the Baltic area, he said, grows mainly spring barley for animal feed and spring wheat for animal forage.

Brown and Cook said not much is known about the duration of nuclear fallout or its intensity in the farmland or its animals dangerously contaminated and

what that might mean for U.S. exports.

Another potential problem comes from possible contamination of water to the south and southwest of the accident site.

While little is known about the details of the accident, traders at the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange advanced prices on many contracts by the limit allowed for daily trading.

Wheat advanced the 20-cent-a-bushel limit allowed for daily trading and corn reached its 10-cent-a-bushel limit.

Prices broke off those highs, however, when farmers began selling their grain because of the sharp run-up caused by the Russian scare, Lespinasse said.

Wheat settled 11 cents to 13.25 cents higher with the contract for delivery in May at \$3.08 a bushel; corn was 1 cent to 6.75 cents higher with May at \$2.31 a bushel; oats were 2.25 cents to 5.5 cents higher with May at 99 cents a bushel; and

soybeans were 6 cents to 12.5 cents higher with May at \$5.335 a bushel.

Most deliveries of live cattle, feeder cattle and live hogs at the Chicago Mercantile were higher by the 1.5-cent-a-pound limit. Frozen pork bellies were up by their 2-cent-a-pound limit.

Petroleum futures prices were mostly lower on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Crude oil settled 21 cents lower to 15 cents higher with the contract for delivery in June at \$13.51 a barrel; heating oil was .67 cent to 1.03 cents lower with May at 44.06 cents a gallon; and leaded gasoline was .54 cent to 1.25 cents lower with May at 52.85 cents a gallon.

Precious metals were higher on the Commodity Exchange in New York.

Gold settled 90 cents to \$1.10 higher with the contract for delivery in May at \$345.00 a troy ounce; silver was 3.6 cents to 4.2 cents higher with May at 506.1 cents a troy ounce.

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What's up

Wednesday

MEDICAL SCIENCES LIBRARY will be closed to all but medical and veterinary medical students from 6 p.m. to closing beginning Sunday through May 15.

ARLAND AGGIE MOMS: will hold a benefit dance for the Joe Swinney Memorial Scholarship Fund. The benefit will be Saturday in Richardson at the St. Joseph's Parish Center and will start at 8:30 p.m. For more information call Tracy Tomac, 696-7904.

TEXAS AGGIE BAR ASSOCIATION: will award two \$500 scholarships to Texas A&M students entering law school in 1986. Applications are available to any TAMU student who is a Texas resident, completed at least 90 hours of coursework at TAMU and has at least a 3.5 overall grade point ratio. Applications can be picked up in 101 Academic. Deadline is today.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT: will sponsor the mini writing-course, "Pronouns: Who Did What To Whom?," at 6:30 p.m. in 120 Blocker. For more information call 845-3452 or stop by 227 Blocker.

WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.: will hold officer elections at 5:30 p.m. in 219 Reed McDonald. Members are encouraged to attend!

COLLEGE STATION PARKS AND RECREATION: will sponsor a pentathlon at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Bee Creek Park. Entry deadline is Wednesday. Entry fee is \$10. For more information call 764-3773.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE: will sponsor an exhibit of models and drawings of tall buildings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gallery of Langford Architecture Center.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: will hold an "Aggie Supper" at 6 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church. Cost is \$1.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT: will show "Hearts and Minds" at 7 p.m. in 105 Harrington.

MSC AGGIE CINEMA: will show "A Night of Looney Tunes" at 8:45 p.m. at The Grove.

RESTLING CLUB: will have an organizational meeting at 6 p.m. at Luther's Barbecue for current and prospective members.

MSC AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 140 MSC.

Thursday

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

TAMU MACINTOSH USERS' GROUP: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 101 Soil and Crop Sciences.

NEAD TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR/DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING: will present Elliot Schrier, president of Manalytics Inc., discussing maritime transportation at 2 p.m. in 503 Blocker.

EPHEID VARIABLE: will show "Dr. Strangelove" at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Admission is \$1.50.

TARI USER GROUP: will meet and discuss a newsletter at 7:30 p.m. in 102 Teague.

STUDENT BOOK EXCHANGE: will be Friday through May 15. Go by 221 Pavilion and register the books you want to sell from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A list of all books will be made available free of charge. For more information call 845-3051.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Prison board plans to end ban on mail

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A federal judge will be asked to approve a proposal that would lift a mail ban against Texas prison inmates suspected of gang involvement, the state prison board has decided.

On Monday, the board also awarded a \$67.1 million contract to Daniel International, a Dallas construction firm, to build a new prison near Palestine.

The prison mail dispute arose when the Texas Department of Corrections won court approval for a temporary ban of mail to about 1,200 suspected gang members last year.

The prison system is authorized to examine prisoner mail, but officials asked for the temporary ban after unprecedented violence last year.

Officials said mail was being used to transmit secret messages and arrange murders, assaults and drug deals. Deliveries of mail to all inmates was halted for 30 days in fall 1985 after an outbreak of violence.

No inmate murders have been recorded since September 1985 and department officials credit the mail ban for helping quell violence.

TDC spokesman Phil Guthrie said, "Our violent episodes have (been) reduced dramatically. We believe (the mail ban) did work. We believe the idea is sound."

The department had filed a petition with U.S. District Judge John V. Singleton, asking for an extension on the mail ban, but prisoners challenged the ban as unconstitutional.

Assistant Attorney General F. Scott McGown, who negotiated the agreement, said prison regulations prohibit inmates from sending coded letters, transmitting gang information or setting up attacks.

TDC officials can restrict mail privileges if an inmate breaks prison rules, McGown said.

According to the proposed settlement, "whenever TDC determines that an inmate violates any of the rules, they (the department) can restrict the inmate's mail privileges."

Daniel International won a contract to build a 2,250-inmate, maximum-security prison near Palestine to relieve a severe housing crunch and upgrade prison living conditions.

The proposal includes a \$6 million charge for financing the project until 1987 when the Legislature will decide to pay for the prison with an appropriation or to lease it from the builder, said TDC board member Jim Parsons.

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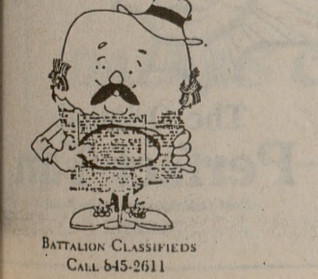
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