



Below are excerpts from my weekly Market Watch radio spots.
Market Watch is broadcast across radio stations throughout Western Canada.

**“Where there’s confusion, there’s profit.”
-Rob, my plumber**

Weather Outlook – May 6, 2024

Seeding has begun across the Prairies, so here are a couple of weather sources I've followed over the years.

One of them is Drew Lerner at World Weather Inc. Recently he said that in the US, “June & July could be the hottest months in the Corn Belt, exactly when most corn crops there will be pollinating.”

Specific to Canada, Lerner says “Manitoba and southeast Saskatchewan could be the driest regions this growing season, whereas areas north of the Trans-Canada highway in western Saskatchewan and Alberta could get adequate rainfall.”

Another good source is the Farmer's Almanac. Their outlook starts off by saying “summer is coming early this year, and it may bring the hottest temperatures in recorded history.” Expect a “warm, hot, and muggy summer for most of the US.” Meanwhile the Canadian Prairies “will experience sizzling hot temperatures, with the heat occasionally tempered by a shower or gusty thunderstorm.”



Bottom line, no one can predict exactly what the weather will be like in the future, just like the financial markets. But, flexible commodity options & futures hedging strategies can help you manage the unpredictable. To find out how, connect with me at 204-982-0011 or commodity-options.ca.

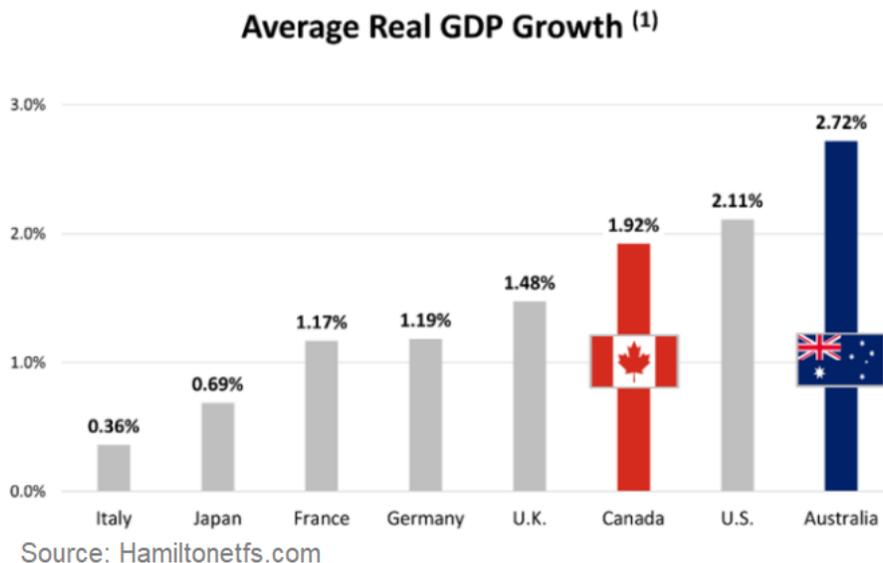
Banking Down Under – May 13, 2024

When it comes to investing in bank stocks, usually only five names come to mind. But there are another five we should be thinking about as well.

While the five big banks dominate the investing landscape in our own backyard, there are also opportunities down under.

There are plenty of similarities between Canada and Australia such as natural resource-based economies, commodity driven currencies as well as a heavily regulated, well capitalized & oligopolistic banking industry dominated by five large banks.

There are also some positive differences that make Australian banks a good addition to an investment portfolio. For instance, Australia has stronger economic numbers than Canada including: 1) higher GDP growth; 2) meaningfully higher GDP/capita; and 3) a much lower debt to GDP (roughly half that of Canada), based on International Monetary Fund figures. This has resulted in Aussie banks outperforming Canadian banks over the past two years, in addition to providing some valuable portfolio diversification benefits.



Bottom line, while there are many ways to invest in Canadian banks, there are very few efficient outlets available for us to buy Australian banks. Interested in learning more about unique ways to diversify and enhance your investment portfolio, connect with me at 204-982-0011 or commodity-options.ca.

Wide World of Wheat Part 1 – May 20, 2024

Wheat prices are pointing higher after being in a downtrend trend for the past nine months. Chicago soft red winter wheat futures are 30% higher from their recent lows two months ago, Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures are up 30% and Minneapolis hard red spring wheat futures have increased 20%.

But rising wheat futures prices are not just happening in North America. Across the ocean in Europe, London feed wheat futures have risen over 25% and French milling wheat is up over 30% from recent lows.

French Milling Wheat Futures

05/15/2024 Milling Wheat (MLU24) [Euronext] O 251.00 H 257.25 L 248.25 C 25



When you factor in seasonal weather risks & production concerns into the equation, it's not usual for grain prices to increase at this time of year. And prices often continue pushing higher into the end of June or even the beginning of July.

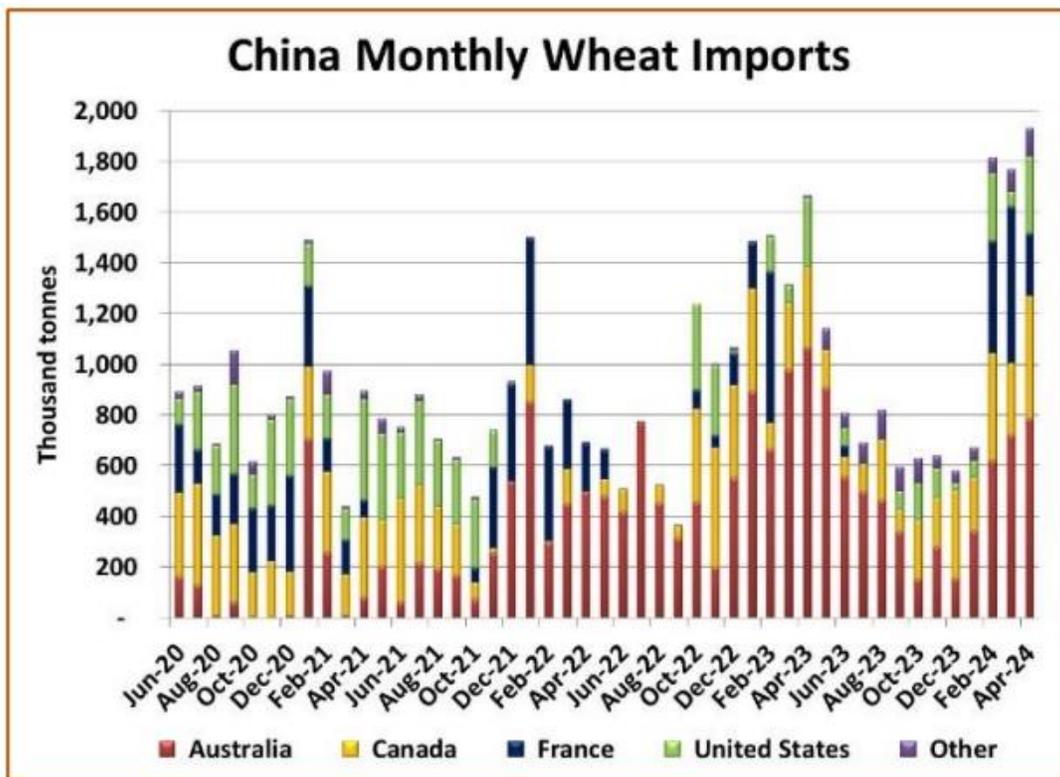
Bottom line, be prepared to take advantage of marketing opportunities over the next several weeks. At this early stage in the new crop year, flexible options are the ideal marketing tool to give you the downside protection you need and the upside potential you want, all without committing any more physical grain to delivery. For specific options & futures hedging strategies for your farm business, connect with me at 204-982-0011 or commodity-options.ca.

Wide World of Wheat Part 2 – May 27, 2024

Last week I talked about rising wheat prices. This week we'll look at a couple more factors pushing them higher.

At the start of the year, large short wheat futures positions held by managed money traders like hedge funds got a lot of attention. More recently, they have been buying back their shorts, bringing their overall wheat position closer to neutral. And in fact for Minneapolis spring wheat, it's slightly positive or bullish, all helping to push wheat prices higher.

Furthermore, just recently I saw an interesting chart from Leftfield Commodity Research showing that Chinese wheat imports have increased dramatically since the start of the year.



Source: [LeftField Commodity Research www.leftfieldcr.com](http://www.leftfieldcr.com)

Both these factors along with seasonal weather risks & production concerns, are setting up wheat prices for some good hedging opportunities as we approach summer.

Bottom line, be prepared to take advantage of marketing opportunities. But as always, the art and science is when. At this early stage in the new crop year, flexible option strategies are the ideal marketing tool to give you the downside protection you need and the upside potential you want, all without committing any more physical grain to delivery. For specific farm marketing recommendations, connect with me at 204-982-0011 or commodity-options.ca.



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