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AFTER FALLING OIL, PETROBRAS REDUCES DIESEL PRICES BY 6.5%

Petrobras reduced the price of gasoline by 9.5% and that of diesel S10 and S500 by 6.5% at refineries, the biggest drop of the year. The reduction starts to value as of Friday, 13. The last adjustment had been on February 19, when the company increased the price of gasoline by 3% and kept it that of diesel. The fall in oil prices started after the crisis triggered by Russia and Saudi Arabia, which led the Middle Eastern country to increase production and reduce prices practiced by the state-owned Saudi Aramco after the failure of negotiations between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allied countries for a coordinated reduction in the supply of the commodity. The initiative is related to the economic impact of the coronavirus epidemic, which has shaken markets around the globe and led entities to review projections of the global economy in 2020. Valid prices are the average of those practiced at 37 Petrobras refineries, spread across the regions Southeast, North, Northeast and Midwest. The transfer to distributors depends on several factors, including dealer margins, mix of biofuels and taxes. The readjustment of prices downwards or upwards takes into account the practice of competitive prices, such as international parity price (PPI), margins to remunerate the risks inherent to the operation, level of market share and protection mechanisms via derivatives.

Source: Canal Rural

2020/21 HARVEST SHOULD HAVE MORE SUGAR MIX

The crushing of sugarcane in the 2020/21 harvest in Brazil has the potential to reach 646 million tons, of which 596 million tons in the Center-South and 50 million tons in the North / Northeast. That was what highlighted the president of DATAGRO, Plínio Nastari, at the "Opening of the Sugar Cane, Sugar and Ethanol 2020/21 Santander DATAGRO", which takes place this Wednesday (11), in Ribeirão Preto (SP). National sugar production in the 2020/21 season is expected to reach 35.4 million tons, with domestic consumption estimated at 10.4 million tons and the expected external demand at 25 million tons. According to Nastari, the perspective is that the 2020/21 harvest will have a more sugar-based mix. The main factors for this projection are the expectation of crop failure in India, Thailand and Mexico. According to the president of DATAGRO, the occurrence of the climate phenomenon La Niña is strengthened, which is not positive for the Center-South region in the harvest that is just beginning. Regarding ethanol, Nastari pointed out that consumption hit a record in the domestic market last year and that prices have been registering a downward trend in recent days, especially the hydrated type. With consumption for this year showing signs of deceleration, the positive point is the expectation that Brazil can resume ethanol exports to California.

Source: Universo Agro

NEW MINIMUM PRICE FOR ORANGE GOES INTO EFFECT IN JULY

The new minimum price for oranges, set at R \$ 15.53 per box of 40.8 kg, will take effect as of July, informs the National Supply Company (Conab). According to the agency, even with the increase in exports in the second half, the international fruit juice market is not so advantageous, which is reflected in the domestic market. This situation, points out Conab, demands from the farmer a zeal in future negotiations in order to guarantee the profitability to remain in the productive system, either through advance sale or to meet a conjunctural demand that may happen.

Source: Universo Agro

ETHANOL EXPORTS REACH 1.77 BILLION LITERS BY THE END OF FEBRUARY 2020

The month of February recorded that sales of ethanol by production units in the Center-South region totaled 2.40 billion liters, of which 2.28 billion liters were destined for the domestic market and 120.79 million liters for export. This exported volume represents a 41.40% increase over February 2019 (85.42 million liters), with 99.49 million liters sold in the last half of the month. In the accumulated from April 2019 to February 2020, this increase reaches almost 20%: 1.77 billion liters, against 1.48 billion liters registered in the same period of the previous harvest. In the 2015/2016 crop, the Central-South region exported 1.83 billion liters between April and February, higher than the 1.77 billion liters. The United States remains the main destination for Brazilian biofuel. In the domestic market, the volume of anhydrous ethanol sold reached 737.60 million liters, of which 344.08 million liters were recorded in the last half of the month. As for hydrated ethanol, sales reached 1.54 billion liters (740.85 million liters in the second half of February). In the aggregate since the beginning of the 2019/2020 harvest until March 1, the volume sold increased 8.93% in relation to the previous cycle, totaling 30.96 billion liters. Accumulated sales of the additive to the domestic market reached 8.23 billion liters, against 7.73 billion liters in 2018/2019. Those related to hydrated ethanol reached 20.97 billion liters, a significant increase of 9.13%. Estimates by UNICA indicate that the adhesion by the sugar-energy sector to the Program is wide. Plants already certified or in the process of certification accounted for 85% of domestic sales of biofuel in 2019. According to statistics from the National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP) compiled by UNICA, so far 38 ethanol plants already have the Certificate of Efficient Production of Biofuels issued by the Agency.

Source: Universo Agro

IMPROVED SCENARIO FOR RECORD GRAIN HARVEST

According to Conab, production should total 251.9 million tons, 0.3% more than forecast in February and volume 4.1% higher than in 2018/19. The favorable climate for the development of crops in Mato Grosso, Goiás and Paraná led Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab) to raise its estimate for grain production in the country in this 2019/20 harvest, even with losses caused by the drought in Rio Grande do According to a survey released yesterday, the state-owned company started to project the harvest at 251.9 million tons, 0.3% more than forecast in February and a record volume, 4.1% higher than that registered in the 2018/19 cycle.



According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), which also published new projections, the harvest will total 249 million tons, an increase of 3.1%. Conab confirmed that the total planted area, adding summer and winter crops, should reach 64.8 million hectares, and raised its estimate for average plantation productivity to 3,889 kilograms per hectare, an increase of 1,7% compared to last season. This increase in productivity is driven by soybeans, whose harvest was less than expected in 2018/19 due to climate problems. For 2019/20, Conab now projects the yield of the oilseed, the flagship of Brazilian agribusiness, at 3,373 kg per hectare, an increase of 5.2% in relation to the previous cycle. As the planted area also grew - 2.6%, to 36.8 million hectares -, the state company adjusted its forecast for grain production to 124.2 million tons, a new record - 0.8% higher than the in February and 8% higher than the result of 2018/19. Brazil leads the world production and exports of soybeans, as confirmed yesterday a new survey of supply and demand for grains released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). According to the agency, the Brazilian harvest will reach 126 million tons in 2019/20, 9 million more than in 2018/19 and 30% above the American harvest. Brazilian exports, on the other hand, are estimated by the USDA at 77 million tons, 2.4 million more than in the previous cycle and a volume 55% more robust than estimated for the United States.

Source: *Valor Economico*

BRAZILIAN NAVY DETAILS MV STELLAR BANNER DETANGLING OPERATION

The Navy detailed the detachment operation of the ship MV Stellar Banner, which started at 2:10 pm on Wednesday (11). The method for removing approximately 3,500 tons of fuel oil consists of reverse filling procedures with the aid of a receiving vessel. Before stranding, the ship, owned and operated by South Korean shipowner Polaris Shipping, was transporting 294,800 tonnes of Vale's ore to China. After a safety meeting between the teams involved and all the equipment ready, the receiving vessel started the approach and passage procedure for the entire device. Before starting the operation, tests were carried out on the hoses and transfer system. According to the maritime authority, leakage containment kits are available at the hose connection locations on the ship and on the receiving vessel to mitigate the risk of environmental pollution. A vessel will be positioned next to the Stellar Banner, which will be connected to the vessel to receive the oil. After all safety checks, pumping will start for the receiving vessels; The Navy will coordinate vessels that will be outside the area of responsibility of the 'Salvage Master'; The operation will be carried out in compliance with all safety and environmental responsibility standards, aiming at excellence. However, in the event of an incident, there is a response readiness structure, with specialists in oil spills, specialists in environmental contingency and medical staff. A helicopter and an airplane will monitor the operation, with the support of specialists in environmental contingency; A Navy helicopter will accompany the operation. The Navy employed 255 military personnel and provided the ocean support vessel Iguatemi, the hydroceanographic vessel Garnier Sampaio, a UH-15 helicopter and four vessels from the captaincy of the ports of Maranhão (CPMA). Also working at the grounding site: six tugs (three of them equipped with materials to combat

oil pollution); a drone with thermal camera; and four vessels supporting oil spill contingency activities (OSRV and OSV) and one PSV vessel (supply transport). The 15th coordination meeting at the CPMA, held on Wednesday (11), included representatives from Vale, the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama), environmental management of Porto do Itaqui, state secretariat for the environment and shipping agents.

Source: *Portos e Navios*

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