

Border Valley News

March 07, 2008

Ocean Freight:

On February 27th, members of the WTSA, Westbound Transpacific Stabilization Agreement, announced a fuel bunker surcharge of \$300 per 40 foot container effective April 1st through June 30th.



This represents an increase of \$200 per container compared to January 1st. Since this announcement, non-WTSA members have also announced a similar bunker surcharge. The increase in the bunker surcharge is an attempt to recover losses due to higher fuel prices. For more information about the WTSA, you can visit their website, www.wtsacarriers.org.

Vessel Space:

Over the past several months the demand for US exports has increased at a substantial rate. With the US dollar continuing to weaken, the demand for US exports continues to be very strong.

As a result we are seeing westbound vessels being fully loaded, and booking space is getting harder to get. We continue to work with steam ship lines to assure we have space to meet the needs of our customers, but we have to make bookings sooner. Many times we have to arrange bookings 4 to 6 weeks before the vessel departure date.








Imperial Valley:

Harvest of 1st cutting alfalfa has started in the Imperial Valley. Demand from the domestic market is very strong as many dairies are running low on alfalfa inventory. Prices being paid to farmers are currently at a record high, and many in the industry think the alfalfa price may actually increase.








Farmers have started to plant sudan in the Imperial Valley. With the very high price for wheat, most farmers have planted wheat and early planted acres of sudan will be sharply lower compared to previous years. We do expect farmers to increase sudan plantings after the wheat harvest.

Imperial Valley Weather

MAR 07	MAR 08	MAR 09	MAR 10	MAR 11
				
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny
High: 29° Low: 7°	High: 29° Low: 9°	High: 27° Low: 8°	High: 28° Low: 10°	High: 29° Low: 11°

Monthly Averages & Records					
Month	Average Low	Average High	Average Rain	Record Low	Record High
January	5°	21°	1.3 cm	-8° (1949)	32° (1971)
February	7°	24°	0.91 cm	-4° (1965)	34° (1986)
March	9°	26°	0.79 cm	-2° (1971)	38° (1966)
April	12°	30°	0.13 cm	1° (1951)	43° (1949)
May	16°	34°	0.08 cm	2° (1959)	47° (1973)
June	20°	40°	0.03 cm	8° (1952)	49° (1950)
July	24°	42°	0.15 cm	11° (1952)	50° (1995)
August	25°	41°	0.81 cm	12° (1957)	49° (1972)
September	21°	38°	0.91 cm	9° (1978)	49° (1950)
October	15°	33°	0.89 cm	1° (1961)	44° (1980)
November	8°	26°	0.43 cm	-4° (1956)	37° (1980)
December	5°	21°	1.09 cm	-6° (1990)	35° (1966)

Modesto Weather

MAR 07	MAR 08	MAR 09	MAR 10	MAR 11
				
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
High: 26° Low: 8°	High: 22° Low: 8°	High: 23° Low: 8°	High: 23° Low: 8°	High: 21° Low: 7°