

Target Keyword: Integrating Grain Accounting With Real-Time Ag Market Data

Page Title: See How Easily You Can Integrate Grain Accounting With Real-Time Ag Market Data

The price of grain is volatile, changing quickly and frequently based on a whole host of external factors. This volatility poses a challenge for grain elevators, as the value of their product can fluctuate while it's in storage.

But when you sell grain futures at a fixed price, you need to know the market value of your product at any given time, so you know if you're taking a profit or loss. That's what grain accounting is for--keeping track of the fair market value of your grain through the various price fluctuations. It's not an easy task. You need to have the most up to date market prices available. That's why integrating grain accounting with real-time ag market data is so important for grain elevators.

API Integration

Fortunately, integrating grain accounting with real-time ag market data is easy to do and to keep track of. One way is with an application programming interface (API). An API allows multiple programs or databases to interact with one another. For instance, you can integrate real-time data into a grain accounting spreadsheet or other database to provide you with up to date insights into your grain inventory and futures.

You can also use an API as a web service, which makes it useful for dealing with data in real time. A web API facilitates the sharing of information across two or more different web applications. It's most commonly used for sharing the same files or information across multiple networks at the same time, as well as for embedding information from one source onto another source.

You most likely have an app that keeps track of grain prices in real-time, as well as a number of other factors that can have an effect on the grain market. An API lets you take all of that data and integrate it seamlessly into your web-based grain accounting software application. You can embed a real-time price tracking application into your grain accounting application as well.

Once you've done that, you can use your grain accounting software to analyze the data and crunch the numbers. That way, you can factor all of those different figures into any calculations you make, to produce a more accurate result.

Integrating grain accounting with real-time ag market data is essential for determining the real value of your inventory and seeing how it compares to grain futures contracts that you've had throughout the season, or that are still open.

You need to be able to tell if you're taking a profit or a loss, as well as understand the current trends for any new deals you have on the horizon.

Real-time ag market data integration keeps you up to date, seamlessly providing all the information you need with your grain accounting application. Real-time integration lets you organize and analyze a variety of market factors as they're happening and compare them to your own grain accounting data. That way, you can stay on top of the market and get the most from your grain.

Target Keyword: Big Data and the Future of Agribusiness

Page Title: How Will Big Data Affect the Future of Agribusiness?

At the recent National Conference for Agribusiness at Purdue University, big data and the future of agribusiness were discussed in depth. One speaker posited that "big data" by its technical definition, exceeds the capabilities of current systems, and is a step ahead of where agribusiness is at the moment. But it's catching up, and quickly.

Data monitoring

From seed supply to crop production to crop sales and distribution, and more, there are a number of different facets of agribusiness. And to be successful in any one of those facets, you need a basic understanding of what's currently going on at every other level. In order to understand how much of a particular crop you can or should grow, you need to know what the seed supply is like and how well that crop is selling lately.

And you need not just basic data about the other links on the agribusiness chain. You need data on the individual factors that affect each one of those links. There's environmental data, genetics data, management data, supply and demand data, and so on.

In theory, the more data you have available, the better. If you can check on a variety of different factors before deciding what course of action to take, you'll be better informed, have a better understanding of what's going on, and ultimately be able to make a better decision. However, in practice, simply having the data at your fingertips is only the first step.

Analytics

Collecting massive amounts of important data is easy in this day and age. The Internet allows you to get updates on any subject in seconds. You can stream real time data on a variety of agricultural factors to any device you care to use, any time you want it. But once you have it, then what do you do with it?

Streaming the data to your computer isn't enough. There's so much data available, from grain prices to soybean futures to cattle crush margins and more, that it's virtually impossible to keep track of it all yourself. When it comes to big data and the future of agribusiness, what you need is a high quality analytics program.

Good analytics allows you to take all of that raw data and organize it and categorize it in a way that's easy to keep track of. It then provides analysis of all of the different factors, turning that raw data into real, usable information. It allows you to see what each of those factors means in relation to one another and, more importantly, what they mean for you. This allows you to make better decisions and do better business.

Big data and the future of agribusiness can seem a bit daunting. The number of factors to keep track of to make an informed decision just keeps growing, and with it, so does the amount of data. But with the right software platform to help you make sense of it, that data can become an asset, rather than a stumbling block.

Target Keyword: Tracking Prices and Data in agribusiness
Page Title: Energy Ties to Agribusiness: Tracking Prices and Fundamental Data

Energy commodities and agricultural commodities are generally considered as separate entities. After all, what do grain prices and cattle futures have to do with the oil or gas markets? But as it turns out, they are all connected. What's going on in energy has a significant impact on what's going on in agriculture. As a result, tracking prices and data in agribusiness means keeping an eye on the energy markets as well.

Energy Ties to Agribusiness

To understand the link between energy and agribusiness, it's first necessary to look at the various facets of agriculture not as commodities, but as processes. Crops need to be planted, grown, harvested, processed, and shipped. Feeder calves need to be fed and nurtured to become live cattle, and ultimately beef. Each of these processes requires energy at every step.

Oil is needed to make fertilizer for the crops. It powers the farming equipment. It powers the trucks that ship the crops to factories and manufacturing plants, as well as the equipment in the plants, and the trucks that ultimately ship to stores and other retail locations. Similar threads can be traced for other agricultural commodities as well. The result is that energy prices are inextricably linked to agriculture prices. So tracking prices and data in agribusiness also means tracking the prices and data in energy.

Tracking Prices

Tracking prices and data in agribusiness and energy effectively requires you to have a real time feed for all of that data. It needs to include a large number of different data streams for each of the different factors involved. Oil prices affect grain prices. Grain prices affect feeder cattle prices. Feeder cattle prices affect live cattle prices. And so on.

Price data isn't the only data that factors into agribusiness. Everything from weather conditions to production issues to supply and demand needs to be accounted for, to help you predict commodities prices, gauge futures, and project profits and losses. And each of these factors needs to be tracked and monitored in real time, in order to provide you with a current and accurate account of what's happening with your commodities.

It's important to have a software program that can stream these real time datasets directly to you. But more than that, you need something to help you organize and interpret each of these data streams. Otherwise, it's just a jumble of meaningless figures. As we've seen, all of these different factors aren't just separate pieces of information. They all interact with one another and depend on one another. So you need to be able to analyze these streams of raw data to see exactly how each individual factor fits into the big picture.

Everything is connected. Prices and other factors affect one another in a myriad of different ways that you couldn't even begin to track effectively on your own. But with the right tools and the right data, you can put together a clear, complete picture of both energy and agriculture, and greatly improve your agribusiness.

Target Keyword: Enhancing Data Collection and Analysis in Physical Commodity Markets

Page Title: Enhancing Data Collection, Analysis and Dissemination Transparency in Physical Commodity Markets

For a commodities trader, access to proper data is essential. You not only need to stay up to date on the prices of the commodities you're trading, but on a plethora of other factors that can influence those prices, requiring you to take action at the drop of a hat.

Data Complexity

Obtaining data on commodities isn't difficult. Today, you can get all the data you need at the touch of a button. The problem is the form it takes. It's complex and multifaceted. All those different factors each have their own data streams, which must be looked at and interpreted together in order to get an accurate picture of the price of a single commodity. For a trader to view and interpret this data continually in real time is virtually impossible to do with any degree of accuracy. The result is that the picture on which you base your trades is often missing key pieces.

To complicate matters further, traders who do business with incomplete or inaccurate information still have an impact on the market as a whole. This only increases the disconnect between trade prices and the data at hand. The result is that trades become even more difficult for those who are trying to track and analyze data properly. In order to continue to make smart trades in this increasingly volatile market, enhancing data collection and analysis in physical commodity markets is an essential part of the process.

Data Enhancement

Unfortunately, there's not a lot you can do about other traders who influence the market based on their own perceptions rather than accurate data. But you can take steps to improve your own data, ensuring that it's as accurate and useful as possible. Enhancing data collection and analysis in physical commodity markets means enhancing the tools you use to make your decisions.

What you need is a software platform that can track commodities prices, as well as all the other factors that affect those prices. You might need weather conditions or the prices of other, related commodities. Whatever you need, it's important to be able to plug them all into the same platform and track them all at once. The more data streams you're able to track, the more complete a picture you'll be able to put together.

A market software solution can deliver this data to you in real time, to give you the most up to date picture available and allow you to make trade decisions based on what's happening right now. And, most importantly, it provides real time analysis of this information, so that you not only have access to separate data streams, but can understand the implications of that particular combination of factors and what it means for your investments.

Enhancing data collection and analysis in physical commodity markets leads can improve your trades dramatically. It helps you turn your barrage of raw data into real, usable information. And that information in turn allows you to make better decisions and more intelligent trades.

Target Keyword: Crude Oil Prices vs. Food Prices Index

Page Title: A Study of Relativity in Crude Oil Price vs. Food Price Index

Food prices are continually fluctuating. At a glance, this seems odd. Short of some natural disaster wiping out a particular crop, food production usually remains fairly steady, so it stands to reason that the prices would as well. Some people believe the issue is all the corn that's being used for ethanol instead of consumption. But the truth is a bit more complicated.

Crude Oil Prices vs. Food Prices Index

[Studies and reports](#) are continually being released that the price of food is inextricably linked to the price of crude oil. As oil prices go up, they contribute to food prices going up as well. There are a number of implications for this crude oil prices vs. food prices index.

For one thing, this puts an entirely new perspective on the regulation of food prices. Even with food in more abundance, prices continue to rise as oil does.

Why is that? Because oil is integral to food production. It's used to produce fertilizer that helps the food grow. It's used to power tractors and other farm equipment necessary for tending crops. It's essential for transporting harvested crops all across the country via trains, trucks, etc. to factories and ultimately to stores.

Planning Ahead

Each of these factors is essential in the cost of production. Ergo, when the price of oil goes up, so do food prices. This makes food commodities a much more volatile market than the untrained eye would expect.

However, there are ways of planning ahead in a volatile market to turn it into a more stable investment. The most important way is keeping track of factors like this. Knowledge is power. If you understand what outside factors can affect prices, and why, and keep track of those factors to make smarter decisions, it puts you a step ahead of your competitors.

It also helps to have the right tools at your disposal: tools that can help you monitor prices and organize and analyze information. With energy and commodities trading software at your disposal, you could easily plug oil prices into the equation for analyzing food prices. You can also keep track of a host of other factors to help you maintain your margin and stay on top of the market.

Tracking the crude oil prices vs. food prices index is just one way to help you make smarter food commodities investments. There are a number of other factors that can affect food prices, from weather conditions to fluctuations in general demand. It's important to have a constant stream of real time data, in order to keep an eye on things as they're happening.

It's also important to be able to analyze that information properly, so you know what it means for your investment and what you should do going forward. With a good understanding of the factors that affect your investment and the right software tools to keep those factors organized, you can stay on top of an otherwise volatile market and increase your chances of success.



Target Keyword: Shale Gas Expansion for Energy Traders

Page Title: Shale Gas Expansion: "X" Facts Energy Traders Must Know for 2014

Shale gas can be a very controversial topic. Many experts assert that it's the future of energy production and will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Others condemn the process of fracking, by which shale is obtained, saying that it's detrimental to the environment and must be limited. But what does this all mean for you as an energy trader? Well, first of all, the shale gas market has been steadily expanding. This brave new world of shale gas provides some new trading opportunities. Here are 4 facts for energy traders about shale gas expansion in the coming year.

1. New Shale Opportunities in South Africa. One of the most important facts about shale gas expansion for energy traders is where shale is going to be important. In 2014, one of the places to watch will be [South Africa](#). During the first quarter, licensing permits will be issued to explore their shale reserves. In the past, there was a ban in South Africa on hydraulic fracturing, but it has now been lifted, with certain regulations being applied.

2. Shale Extraction Problems in Poland. While South Africa stands poised to be the next big thing in shale gas, Poland, which in recent years was thought to be an important source for shale, is [proving less forthcoming than expected](#). Regulation delays and unexpected difficulties with the geology are causing several of the most important names in energy to give up on Poland altogether. While more wells have been drilled in Poland than anywhere else in Europe, they have all reportedly greatly underperformed.

3. Alternatives to Hydraulic Fracturing. New developments are constantly expanding the possibilities for shale extraction in places where it was previously limited. For instance, horizontal or directional drilling has been around for decades, but it's generally considered impractical due to its expense compared to downward drilling. However, as time goes on, the process is becoming less costly and allows for an increasing amount of effective drilling.

4. Waterless Hydraulic Fracturing. Another new technological development with a direct impact on shale gas is [waterless fracking](#). In Texas and other places where shale is available but water is sometimes scarce, hydraulic fracturing is being performed with propane and other alternative liquids. The process is still in its early stages, and it carries with it a higher cost than regular fracking. But it provides for an increase in shale extraction. In the future, fracking may even be possible using nitrogen or carbon dioxide. As regulations are discussed to address and possibly curtail the large quantity of water used in fracking, the waterless approach may soon pick up steam.

The future of shale gas expansion for energy traders in the coming year looks good -- as long as you know where to look. There are all sorts of factors that can affect the energy trade, either positively or negatively. These are just a few of them. Do your homework. With a little research and planning, you can reap the benefits of shale gas all year long.