Ag Equipment Intelligence's

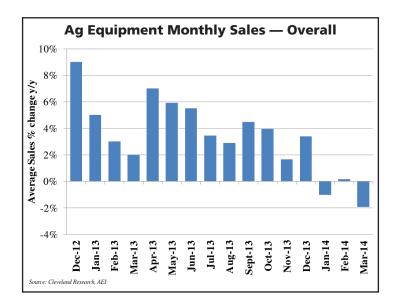
# Dealer Sentiment & Business Conditions Update

From the editors of Farm Equipment & analysts of Cleveland Research Co.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### Industry Sales Down 2% in March, Incoming Orders Decline 4%

- ✓ Ag equipment dealers reported sales were down 2% year-over-year on average in March.
- ✓ Kubota and "Other" dealers reported the best results with 1% growth for the month. Case IH dealers reported the worst results with average sales down 6%.
- ✓ A net 5% of dealers reported worse than expected results for March, similar to February in which a net 4% of dealers' sales were below plan.
- ✓ A net 15% of dealers categorize their new equipment inventory as "too high" (28% too high; 59% about right; 13% too low), compared to the 9% of dealers last month who categorized their new equipment inventory as "too high." This marks the 8th consecutive month that new equipment inventories are "too high."
- ✓ <u>A net 44% of dealers reported used combines inventories were "too high"</u> (48% too high, 47% comfortable, 5% too low), down slightly from last month.
- ✓ <u>Incoming orders declined 4%</u> on average in March. Orders have been running down low-single-digits since November, with March being the largest year-over-year decline to date.



	Results vs. Expectations																							
	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sept-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Better than expected	24%	22%	23%	21%	30%	25%	26%	35%	38%	23%	18%	27%	25%	23%	19%	38%	33%	27%	32%	24%	39%	25%	20%	21%
In line with expected	63%	52%	51%	44%	41%	56%	54%	48%	49%	59%	60%	55%	52%	57%	58%	48%	47%	54%	51%	56%	45%	51%	55%	54%
Worse than expected	14%	25%	26%	35%	29%	19%	20%	17%	13%	18%	22%	18%	24%	20%	23%	14%	20%	19%	17%	20%	16%	24%	25%	26%
Net %	10%	-3%	-3%	-14%	1%	6%	5%	18%	25%	5%	-4%	9%	1%	3%	-4%	23%	13%	8%	16%	4%	23%	1%	-4%	-5%

#### 2014 Dealer Outlook Down Slightly

- ✓ For 2014, dealers are expecting a 3% sales decline, vs. the 2% decline forecast last month.
- ✓ "Other" dealers were the most optimistic regarding 2014 growth, projecting sales to be up 7% year-over-year. Case IH dealers were the least optimistic, projecting 2014 sales to be down 5% year-over-year.

Dealer Outlook																													
(% chg y/y)	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	0ct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sept-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14								
	2012 Outl	ook						2	013 Outloo	k							2	014 Outloo	k										
Overall	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%	4%	3%	5%	5%	3%	3%	3%	0%	1%	-1%	-4%	-4%	-2%	-3								
By Brand	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	0ct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sept-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14								
AGCO	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%	6%	6%	2%	3%	-4%	2%	-1%	-3%	-2%	0%	-2%	-1%	2%								
John Deere	7%	8%	4%	2%	6%	3%	4%	4%	3%	5%	8%	4%	6%	1%	2%	2%	0%	-3%	-2%	-1%	-3%								
New Holland	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	-1%	1%	0%	2%	4%	1%	6%	0%	-3%	2%	1%	-2%	-2%	-5%	0%	-1%								
Case IH	-1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	-1%	3%	4%	1%	5%	0%	0%	3%	-5%	-3%	0%	-1%	-7%	-5%	-5%	-5%								
Kubota	-1%	4%	3%	2%	0%	0%	4%	4%	3%	7%	4%	8%	-3%	3%	-1%	-1%	-3%	-2%	-3%	-1%	-2%								
Shortlines	2%	3%	5%	0%	2%	0%	4%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	12%	5%	4%	6%	-3%	0%	-4%	-3%	-4%								
Other	2%	4%	3%	3%	-2%	2%	1%	5%	NA	1%	3%	1%	4%	1%	2%	2%	NA	0%	3%	3%	7%								

#### **Dealer Optimism Improves in March**

Our Dealer Optimism Index, which measures sentiment among dealers compared to the prior month, improved significantly in March. A net 3% of dealers reported a more optimistic outlook for the year (26% more optimistic, 51% the same, 23% less optimistic). This is compared to a net 1% of dealers who reported a less optimistic outlook in February. This is the first time since July 2013 that dealers have been more optimistic.

Optimism/Sentiment vs. Last Month																									
	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sept-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
More Optimistic	25%	22%	15%	14%	18%	28%	31%	27%	28%	28%	34%	34%	21%	27%	27%	26%	21%	19%	14%	15%	14%	9%	12%	24%	26%
Same	59%	62%	61%	49%	44%	54%	54%	54%	52%	55%	51%	50%	54%	58%	52%	50%	58%	50%	62%	60%	45%	52%	52%	50%	51%
Less Optimistic	17%	17%	24%	37%	38%	18%	15%	20%	20%	18%	15%	16%	26%	15%	21%	24%	21%	31%	23%	25%	41%	39%	36%	26%	23%
Net %	8%	5%	-9%	-23%	-19%	10%	15%	7%	8%	10%	19%	18%	-5%	13%	6%	2%	0%	-12%	-9%	-11%	-27%	-30%	-23%	-1%	3%

# COMMENTARY

#### USDA Forecast Improves to 10% Decline for 2013-14 Cash Receipts

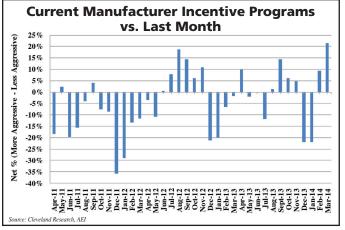
The updated April USDA cash receipts outlook for 2013 is for down 10% over 2012-13, slightly better than the 12% decline expected in the March forecast. The improved outlook vs. March is the result of higher estimates for crop prices, which have taken a step up over the past several months (corn up approximately 20% vs. 3 months ago). The correlation between equipment sales and cash receipts has historically provided a good proxy for next year's equipment demand.

The contents of this report represent our interpretation and analysis of information generally available to the public or released by responsible individuals in the subject companies, but is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness. It does not contain material provided to us in confidence by our clients. Individual companies reported on and analyzed by Lessiter Publications Inc., may be clients of this and other Lessiter Publications Inc. services. This information is not furnished in connection with a sale or offer to sell securities or in connection with the solicitation of an offer to buy securities.

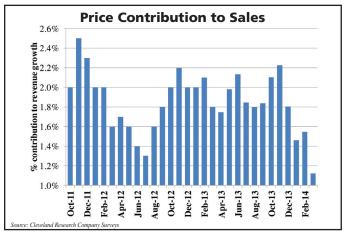
DEALER SENTIMENTS & BUSINESS CONDITIONS UPDATE is a joint project of the editors of *Farm Equipment* and research team at the Cleveland Research Co. DEALER SENTIMENTS & BUSINESS CONDITIONS UPDATE is published monthly and distributed to subscribers of *AG EQUIPMENT INTELLIGENCE* as well as to dealers participating in the survey by Lessiter Publications Inc., 225 Regency Ct., Suite 100, Brookfield, WI 53045. © 2014 by Lessiter Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form of this newsletter content is strictly forbidden without the prior written consent of the publisher.

Please send any address changes as soon as possible to the address shown above. U.S., Canada and Mexico print subscriptions are \$299 per year. International subscriptions are \$399 per year. Send subscription orders to: *Ag Equipment Intelligence*, P.O. Box 624, Brookfield, WI 53008-0624. Fax: 262-786-5564. Phone: 262-782-4480 or 866-839-8455 (U.S. only). E-mail: info@lesspub.com.

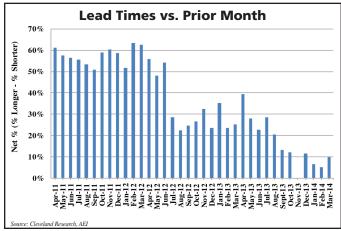
## **NEW EQUIPMENT TRENDS**



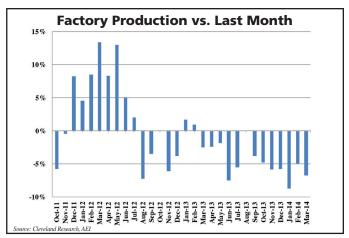
A net 21% of dealers report manufacturers were more aggressive with incentives in March (31% more aggressive; 59% same; 10% less aggressive), up significantly over the past two months (net 22% less aggressive in January, net 9% more aggressive in February).



Dealers report price contributed roughly 1.1% to total March revenue growth. This downward trend since November is slightly surprising as new Model Year price increases and Final Tier 4 price increases should be rolling in, but aligns well with the reported increase in manufacturer incentive programs.



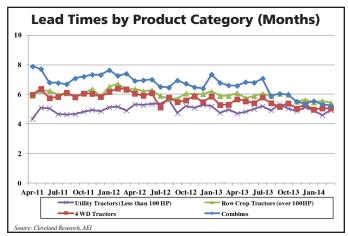
Overall, a net 10% of dealers report longer factory lead times compared to last month (25% longer; 59% same; 15% shorter), above the 5% who reported longer lead times last month.



A net 7% of dealers report factory production was down compared to last month (6% increasing production; 81% no change in production; 13% decreasing production).

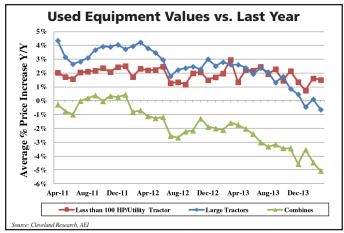


A net 15% of dealers categorize their new inventory as "too high" (28% too high; 59% about right; 13% too low), slightly worse than the net 9% of dealers last month who categorized their new inventory as "too high."

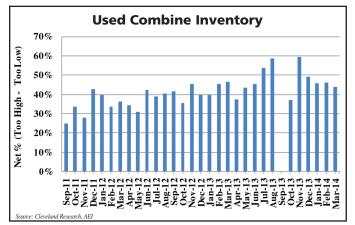


On average, lead times were similar in March compared to last month. Combine lead times are 5.2 months, row-crop tractor lead times are 5.4 months and 4WD tractors are about 5.1 months. Utility tractors were the only standalone category to show an increase in lead times vs. last month.

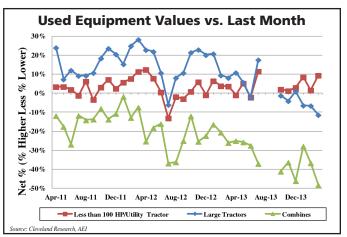
## **USED EQUIPMENT TRENDS**



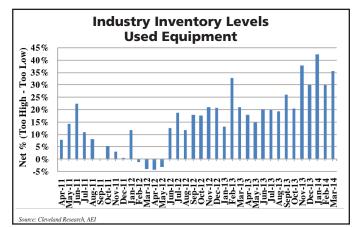
Dealers reported used combine values got worse in March on both year-over-year and sequential basis and are now down over 5% vs. last year. Used high horsepower tractors values also took a step down vs. last year and sequentially vs. February.



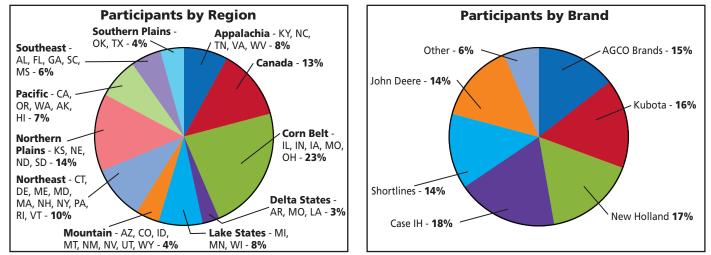
A net 43% of dealers reported used combines inventories were "too high" in March (48% too high, 47% comfortable, 5% too low) vs. a net 46% last month.



A net 48% of dealers reported that used combine values were lower in March compared to February, down from the net 37% who reported used combine values were sequentially lower in February.



A net 36% of dealers reported used equipment inventory as "too high" in March (47% too high; 42% about right; 11% too low), worse than the net 30% of dealers who reported used inventories were "too high" in February.



# **MARCH 2014 SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

The April survey had approximately 163 respondents representing combined annual revenues of roughly \$6.6 billion, covering a broad cross section of geographies and brands.