



News this week...

- 2 – Corn conditions strong as pollination ramps up.
- 3 – Perspective on USDA's latest disaster aid.
- 4 – Breakdown of USDA's July Supply & Demand Report.

Corn, beans pressured by weather, trade uncertainty – December corn futures plunged to a contract low and appear headed for a test of the psychological \$4.00 mark – a level breached by September corn last week. November soybeans broke below the June lows and appear likely to test the psychological \$10.00 mark. Barring an unexpected reversal in the weather pattern or bullish news on the trade front, traders will have little reason to actively cover short positions. Slowed shipments out of Russia (see [News page 2](#)) helped wheat futures shake off harvest pressure. Live cattle and feeders surged to contract highs amid steep discounts to the cash market and the re-closing of the border to Mexican cattle (see [News page 3](#)). Hog futures paused their pullback from the June highs as the slide in the cash index halted.

Active, favorable weather pattern

Temps will trend cooler than normal across the central U.S. over the next week, while rains are expected to continue. World Weather Inc. says there are chances for warmer, drier weather during the last two weeks of July into early August, though there will be no blocking ridge, allowing some rainfall across the Corn Belt and Plains.

The U.S. Climate Prediction Center puts nearly 90% odds of ENSO-neutral conditions lasting through August and 56% chances they will persist until October. That suggests there won't be any prolonged periods of adverse weather for U.S. crops during the second half of the growing season.

Wheat crop bigger than expected

USDA's first all-wheat production estimate at 1.929 billion bu. increased 8 million bu. from the June projection. USDA estimates the all-wheat yield at 52.6 bu. per acre, up 1 bu. from last month's projection and 1.4 bu. above last year. The winter wheat crop is estimated at 1.345 billion bu., with HRW at 755 million bu., SRW at 337 million bu. and white wheat 254 million bushels.

USDA's initial other spring wheat crop estimate at 504 million bu. was 29 million bu. higher than traders expected. Durum production is estimated at 80 million bushels.

'No amnesty' for migrant ag workers

Trump administration officials said mass deportations of undocumented farm laborers would continue but in a "strategic and intentional way" to avoid jeopardizing the nation's food supply. The administration is committed to ensuring a transition toward a 100% American workforce in agriculture, noting some of the 34 million able-bodied adults enrolled in Medicaid could help fill the labor gap created by the deportations.

Trump has mentioned the possibility of a new "temporary permit" program for migrant workers in ag and hospitality, but no formal policy has been announced. Conflicting messages from the administration are causing confusion and short-term labor shortages, along with mounting frustration among farmers and the ag industry.

Trump ramps up trade/tariff actions

President Donald Trump extended the effective date on reciprocal tariffs announced April 2 to Aug. 1. They were previously slated to begin July 9. Tariff rate actions:

- 20%: Philippines.
- 25%: Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Tunisia, Brunei, Moldova.
- 30%: South Africa, Bosnia, Iraq, Algeria, Sri Lanka, Libya.
- 32%-36%: Indonesia, Serbia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Cambodia.
- 40%: Myanmar, Laos.
- Trump will impose a 35% tariff on imports from Canada, effective Aug. 1. An exclusion for goods covered by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement was expected to stay in place and 10% tariffs on energy and fertilizer were also expected to remain at that level.
- Trump will impose a 50% tariff on all Brazilian goods starting Aug. 1 unless President Lula da Silva halts a "witch hunt" trial against former president Jair Bolsonaro. Lula threatened reciprocal measures. Brazil currently only has a 10% minimum rate; no "reciprocal" rate.
- Steel and aluminum tariffs of 50% will remain in place but will not stack on top of the new rates.
- A 50% duty on copper imports will begin Aug. 1.
- Pharmaceuticals will have "about a year, a year and a half" to relocate production before facing tariffs as high as 200%.

High odds of Trump, Xi meeting

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year is highly likely following "very constructive and positive" talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit. Both sides highlighted potential areas for cooperation, despite ongoing major differences.

Rubio also met officials from Japan and South Korea. Rubio's first trip to Asia signals a renewed focus on the Indo-Pacific region amid mounting frustrations with Washington from those countries. Without calling out the U.S., ASEAN ministers expressed concern over rising global trade tensions and uncertainties.

Corn conditions start July above avg.

USDA rated the corn crop as 74% “good” to “excellent” as of July 6, up one percentage point from the previous week. That was the highest good/excellent rating for corn on this date since 2018 and 11.7% above the historical average since 1986. The “poor” to “very poor” rating held at 5%.

On the weighted *Pro Farmer* Crop Condition Index (CCI; 0 to 500-point scale, with 500 representing perfect), the corn crop inched up 0.6 point to 382.0, 6.7 points (1.8%) above year-ago.

The 2025 corn crop began July — the most critical month weather wise — with well above-average conditions and strong yield potential. The most recent three years when corn had similar good/excellent ratings at the beginning of July, yields ended at record (2014 and 2016) or near-record (2018) levels. Our weighted CCI and analysis of similar years would suggest a corn yield of 182.5 bu. to 182.9 bu. per acre, though it could slip to 178.2 bu. per acre.

Only three of the years (1997, 1999 and 2003) where good/excellent ratings were above 70% saw extended rallies in December corn futures after July 1. All three of those years saw notably adverse weather and declining crop conditions in late July and August that countered the strong first half of the growing season. Barring a significant shift in weather to hot and dry over a wide swath of corn production areas after pollination, a sustained price rally seems unlikely. With that in mind, you must be prepared to use any short-term rallies that push prices above your cost of production to increase sales.

Soybean conditions unchanged

USDA rated the soybean crop as 66% “good” to “excellent,” unchanged from the previous week. The “poor” to “very poor” rating held at 7%.

On our weighted CCI, and the soybean crop improved 1.9 points to 363.7, still 1.7 points (0.5%) below year-ago.

Cordonnier's yields unchanged

Crop consultant Dr. Michael Cordonnier kept his U.S. corn yield forecast at 180 bu. per acre, though he noted if weather remains favorable it could move higher. However, he has a lower bias toward harvested area compared to USDA's June estimate of 86.774 million acres.

For soybeans, Cordonnier kept his yield forecast at 51.5 bu. per acre. While he has a neutral bias at this time, yield could move higher if weather remains favorable into August when the crop is setting and filling pods.

Spring wheat conditions decline

USDA rated the spring wheat crop as 50% “good” to “excellent,” down three points from the previous week. Since 2000, there have only been four years with a lower good/excellent rating at the beginning of July — 2002, 2006, 2021 and 2023.

On our weighted CCI, the spring wheat crop declined 3.8 points to 351.6. That's now 31.9 points (8.3%) below year-ago on this date. Top producer North Dakota's crop is rated slight better than year-ago, though both Montana and Washington are far worse.

Russia orders more ag exports

The Russian government ordered “necessary measures” to boost ag exports after wheat sales to start 2025-26 fell to their lowest since 2008, without providing specific details. Russia cut its wheat export tax to zero for July 9-15 — the first time the tax has been removed since it was introduced in 2021. It is unclear how long the zero-duty period will extend.

SovEcon raises Russian wheat exports

SovEcon raised its forecast for Russia's wheat exports for 2025-26 by 2.1 million metric tons (MMT) to 42.9 MMT, reflecting improved crop prospects and competitive prices. However, the firm noted early-season sales from Russia are expected to be less aggressive than last year due to lower domestic supplies.

Drought barely impacts China's wheat

China's wheat output modestly declined despite severe drought in key growing regions, including Henan and Shaanxi. China's government estimated wheat production at 138.16 MMT, down 60,000 MT (0.1%) from last year.

Brazil raises corn crop, export pegs

Brazil raised its corn production forecast by 3.72 MMT from last month to a record 131.97 MMT, with the safrinha crop now estimated at 104.5 MMT. Conab trimmed the Brazilian soybean production estimate by 110,000 MT to a still-record 169.49 MMT.

The 2024-25 corn export forecast increased 2 MMT to 36 MMT, though still down 2.5 MMT from 2023-24. Soybean exports were trimmed 20,000 MT to 106.22 MMT, though that would still be a record and up 7.42 MMT from last year.

First Argy soymeal headed to China

Bunge will begin loading the first Argentine soymeal shipment to China around mid-July. This 30,000-metric ton shipment is seen as more political than market-driven, with major headwinds to active meal trade between the countries. China is a small buyer of soymeal, instead importing large volumes of soybeans and crushing them domestically.



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USDA expedites SDRP aid

USDA announced that farmers who suffered eligible crop losses in 2023 and 2024 can now apply for \$16 billion in disaster assistance through the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will roll out payments in two stages.

- Stage 1 applications opened July 10 for producers who received crop insurance or NAP disaster assistance for 2023-2024 losses. Prefilled forms are being mailed to eligible producers.
- Stage 2 targeting shallow or uncovered losses will launch in early fall.

Neiffer sizes up SDRP Stage 1

Paul Neiffer of *Farm CPA Report* offers an early analysis and practical guidance on SDRP stage 1.

Neiffer notes that "signup will be very similar to the old 2020-21 ERP program," with FSA preparing the applications and estimating the damages for each producer. Initial payments in this round are likely to be just 35% of the calculated damages, with any potential "top-up" to follow at a later date. Calculations appear straight forward, but this time, fees and crop insurance premiums are deducted from the indemnity.

He also noted: "We don't see any details on how FSA will calculate de minimis acres that could be excluded from the crop insurance requirement in order for you to still get a 90% payment instead of the 70% payment that was an issue with ERP." The law indicates these acres could be excluded, but implementation specifics are still unclear.

Neiffer flagged an important wrinkle regarding equipment gains: "Even though the One Big Beautiful Bill Act specifies that equipment gains is now considered farm income, USDA is asserting that you are still subject to the old 66.66% rule on equipment gains... At least, this is the current position of FSA." That means, for 2023 and 2024 crops, some may not qualify as a "farmer" under these rules, though changes are expected for future years.

USDA's farm, food security plan

USDA unveiled an aggressive new strategy to protect the U.S. farm and food system. It includes:

- Securing farmland by increasing transparency and tightening controls on foreign land ownership.
- Enhancing supply chains for critical ag inputs, such as fertilizers, chemicals and minerals.
- Fighting SNAP (food stamp) fraud.
- Securing ag research from foreign influence, intellectual property theft, forced technology transfers and agro-terrorism threats.
- Safeguarding plant and animal health to detect, mitigate and respond to threats like invasive pests and animal diseases.
- Boosting cyber-defense for ag businesses.

USDA again restricts Mexican cattle

On July 9, USDA ordered an immediate shutdown of livestock trade through all southern border ports following the detection of a new case of New World Screwworm (NWS) in Veracruz, Mexico. Concerns about the effectiveness of Mexico's containment efforts forced USDA to at least temporarily abandon a phased port reopening plan that was scheduled to run from July 7 through mid-September. USDA will continue to monitor conditions in Mexico and only consider reopening trade when it is confident the NWS threat is contained.

Mexico to open sterile fly plant

Mexico's government said it has started building a \$51 million facility in the southern part of the country in an effort to combat screwworm. The plant, a joint project with the U.S., will produce 100 million sterile screwworm flies per week once completed in the first half of 2026. The U.S. is paying \$21 million of the cost and Mexico is spending \$30 million.

Beef, pork exports remain weak

The U.S. exported 228.9 million lbs. of beef during May, down 8.3 million lbs. from the previous month and 28.7 million lbs. (11.1%) less than May 2024. That was the smallest May beef shipments since 2020. Through the first five months of the year, beef shipments totaled 1.179 billion lbs., down 71.4 million lbs. (5.7%) from the same period last year. Of the top five destinations for U.S. beef, exports increased only to South Korea for January through May.

U.S. pork exports totaled 564.6 million lbs. in May, down 18.3 million lbs. from the previous month and 21.5 million lbs. (3.7%) less than last year. That was the smallest monthly pork shipments since September 2024. Through the first five months of this year, pork exports totaled 2.931 billion lbs., down 114.0 million lbs. (3.7%) from the same period last year. Of the top six export destinations for U.S. pork, shipments increased only to Colombia through May.

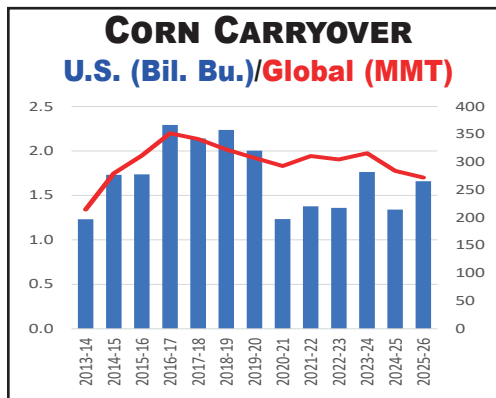
Ag trade deficit continues to widen

The U.S. exported \$13.75 billion of ag goods in May, while imports totaled \$18.64 billion. This produced a May deficit of \$4.88 billion — pushing the cumulative fiscal year (FY) 2025 shortfall to \$29.7 billion, nearly matching the full-year deficit for FY 2024 (\$31.8 billion) with four months still to go.

So far in FY 2025, ag exports have reached \$122.4 billion against \$152.1 billion in imports. USDA forecasts the full-year export total at \$170.5 billion versus a record \$220 billion in imports, projecting a record \$49.5 billion deficit. To meet these forecasts, monthly exports would need to average \$12.0 billion and imports \$17.0 billion for the rest of the year. If recent trends continue, both exports and imports could exceed USDA's current outlook, which will be updated in August.

USDA tightens old-, new-crop corn ending stocks

by Pro Farmer editors



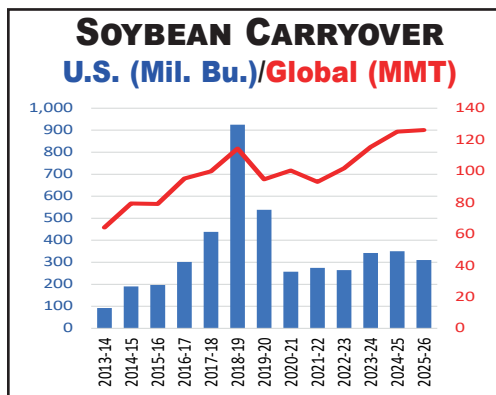
CORN — USDA cut old-crop ending stocks 25 million bu. from last month to 1.340 billion bushels. USDA cut feed & residual use 75 million bu. and raised estimated exports 100 million bushels.

For 2025-26, USDA lowered projected ending stock 90 million bu. to 1.660 billion bushels. Total supplies declined 140 million bu. from last month with beginning stocks down 25 million bu. and the crop projection 115 million bu. lower due to the lower harvested acreage estimate in the June Acreage Report. USDA lowered feed & residual use 50 million bu. from last month.

Our corn ending stocks forecasts are 1.290 billion bu. for 2024-25 and 1.760 billion bu. for 2025-26.

- **USDA 2024-25 price:** \$4.30, down a nickel from June; \$4.20 for 2025-26, unchanged.

Global carryover: 284.2 million metric tons (MMT) for 2024-25, down 860,000 metric tons (MT) from last month; 272.1 MMT for 2025-26, down 3.2 MMT from June.



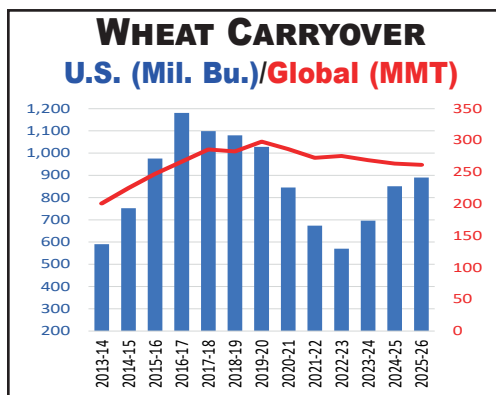
SOYBEANS — USDA left old-crop ending stocks unchanged at 350 million bushels. USDA increased estimated exports 15 million bu. and offset that with a like cut to residual use.

For 2025-26, USDA raised projected ending stocks 15 million bu. to 310 million bushels. Total supply declined 5 million bu. due to a slight downside adjustment in harvested bean acres from the June Acreage Report. USDA increased new-crop crush 50 million bu. and cut exports 70 million bushels.

Our soybean ending stocks forecasts are 355 million bu. for 2024-25 and 300 million bu. for 2025-26.

- **USDA 2024-25 price:** \$10.00, up a nickel from June; \$10.10 for 2025-26, down 15¢.

Global carryover: 125.1 MMT for 2024-25, up 920,000 MT from last month; 126.1 MMT for 2025-26, up 770,000 MT from June.



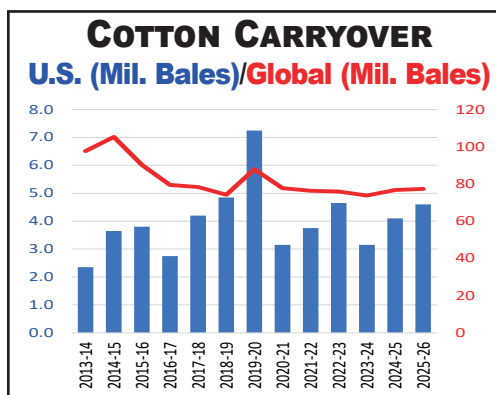
WHEAT — Old-crop carryover was set at 851 million bu. by the June 1 stocks.

For 2025-26, USDA cut ending stocks 8 million bu. to 890 million bushels. Total supplies increased 17 million bu. due to bigger beginning stocks and the slight increase in the crop estimate. USDA also raised exports 25 million bushels.

Our wheat ending stocks forecast is 870 million bu. for 2025-26.

- **USDA 2024-25 price:** \$5.52, up 2¢ from June; \$5.40 for 2025-26, unchanged.

Global carryover: 263.6 MMT for 2024-25, down 390,000 MT from last month; 261.5 MMT for 2025-26, down 1.2 MMT from June.



COTTON — USDA lowered old-crop ending stocks 300,000 bales to 4.1 million bales amid an increase to exports.

For 2025-26, USDA raised ending stocks 300,000 bales to 4.6 million bales. USDA increased production due to higher harvested acres in the June Acreage Report.

Our cotton ending stocks forecasts are 4.1 million bales for 2024-25 and 4.5 million bales for 2025-26.

- **USDA 2024-25 price:** 63¢, unchanged from June; 62¢ for 2025-26, unchanged.

Global carryover: 76.8 million bales for 2024-25, down 510,000 bales from last month; 77.3 million bales for 2025-26, up 520,000 bales from June.

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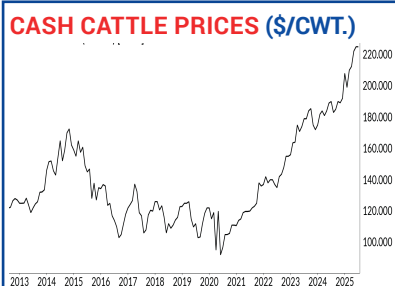
CATTLE - Fundamental Analysis

Fresh highs were forged in both fats and feeders last week, as supply-driven fundamentals continue to pare sellers. Futures remained at steep discounts to cash, which ultimately emboldened bulls to take out the June high. Improved packer margins and robust buying in futures suggest cash trade will likely remain steady at worst after declines the past three weeks. Wholesale values remain firm amid persistent retailer demand, giving packers incentive to produce enough beef to keep up with near-term needs. Slaughter volumes remain light but may need to ramp up from recent levels.

Position Monitor

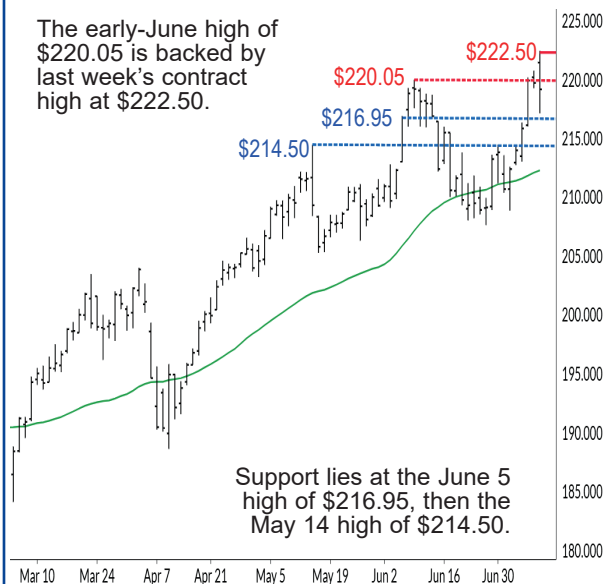
Game Plan:	Feds	Feeders
Summer live	III'25 0%	0%
cattle fu-	IV'25 0%	0%
tures are at	I'26 0%	0%
	II'26 0%	0%

huge discounts to the cash market. Any hedging should be done by buying put options.



DAILY AUGUST LIVE CATTLE

The early-June high of \$220.05 is backed by last week's contract high at \$222.50.

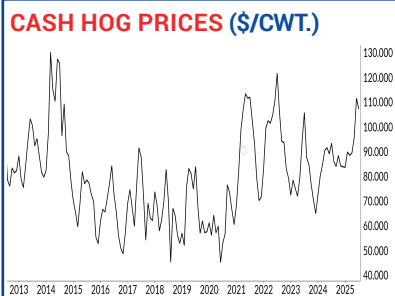


HOGS - Fundamental Analysis

Futures held a fairly tight range last week in consolidation trade as recent cash weakness and technical pressure kept buyers on the sidelines. Meanwhile, cutout showed signs of at least temporarily stabilizing on seasonal BLT and grilling season demand, though packer margins have dipped into the red. Both cash and product markets will likely face headwinds as supplies start to build as slaughter begins its seasonal ascent. However, continued cattle strength and discounts to cash in summer-month futures should help limit near-term selling pressure.

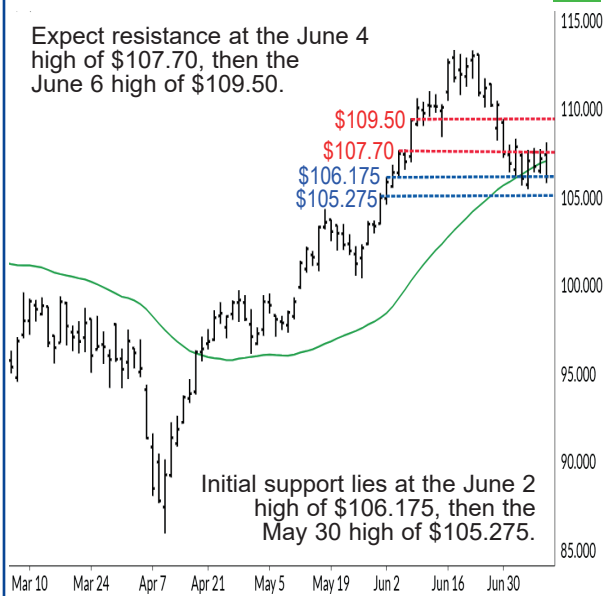
Position Monitor

Game Plan:	Lean Hogs
Carry all risk in the cash market. Summer hog futures have built premiums to the cash index, but they aren't excessive and hedges aren't warranted at this time.	III'25 0%
	IV'25 0%
	I'26 0%
	II'26 0%



DAILY AUGUST LEAN HOGS

Expect resistance at the June 4 high of \$107.70, then the June 6 high of \$109.50.



FEED

Feed Monitor

Corn

III'25	83%
IV'25	17%
I'26	0%
II'26	0%

Corn Game Plan: You should have all corn-for-feed needs covered through August in the cash market, along with half of your needs for September and October.

Meal

III'25	66%
IV'25	50%
I'26	0%
II'26	0%

Meal Game Plan: You have all of your soymeal needs through July covered in the cash market, with half of your needs for August, September, October, November and December covered in cash.

DAILY AUGUST SOYBEAN MEAL

Look for resistance at the July 1 low of \$272.60, then the June 26 low of \$275.00



Position Monitor

	'24 crop	'25 crop
Cash-only:	70%	20%
Hedgers (cash sales):	70%	20%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

Game Plan: Wait on a price rebound to extend sales. We don't believe current prices reflect ending stocks levels for 2024-25 or 2025-26, but given the trade uncertainty and favorable weather conditions, the upside will remain limited unless there's a bullish catalyst. In the current environment, futures will remain suppressed with funds not afraid of maintaining an aggressive short position.

DAILY DECEMBER CORN



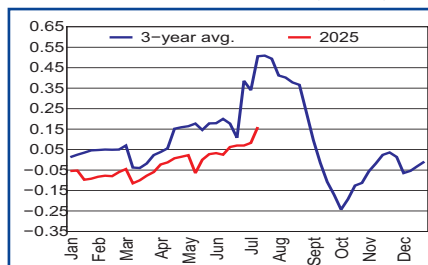
DAILY SEPTEMBER CORN



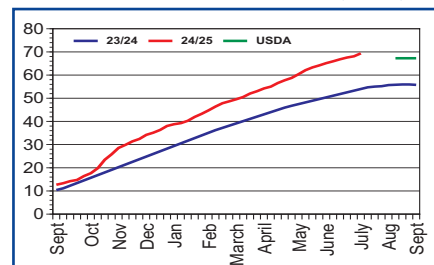
CORN - Fundamental Analysis

New contract lows were carved last week amid continued fund selling. Meanwhile, as July advances through the key pollination period, concerns are seemingly null as traders focus on strong crop ratings, which are the sturdiest for early July since 2018. Strong export demand continued to surface amid the current price structure, with weekly export sales pace exceeding USDA's tally by a notable margin. Corn sales rocketed to the highest level since May and were an all-time high for early July, according to the government's weekly sales data. However, trade uncertainties continue to crimp buying interest as long-term demand remains questionable.

AVERAGE CORN BASIS (SEPT.)



CORN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



Position Monitor

	'25 crop	'26 crop
Cash-only:	30%	10%
Hedgers (cash sales):	30%	10%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

Game Plan: You should have 30% of your 2025-crop sold in the cash market and 10% of the 2026-crop sold for harvest delivery. Be prepared to make additional sales on an extended upside move.

WHEAT - Fundamental Analysis

SRW — Selling in SRW futures was comparatively modest, with each session ending in mid- to high-range closes. The gap that was formed to commence last week's trade was ultimately filled ahead of USDA's supply/demand and first all-wheat crop estimate on Friday.

DAILY DECEMBER SRW WHEAT



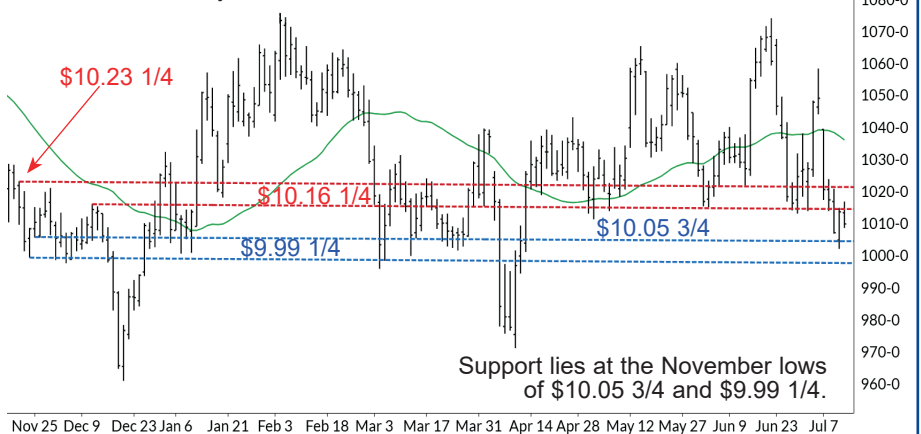
Position Monitor

	'24 crop	'25 crop
Cash-only:	65%	10%
Hedgers (cash sales):	65%	10%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

Game Plan: Wait to get current with advised sales. Additional sales will wait for an extended price recovery, though that may not happen near-term. We would also likely make additional new-crop sales at the same time. Given the trade uncertainty and favorable weather pattern, price rallies should be used to advance sales, especially for old-crop, with less than two months remaining for 2024-25.

DAILY NOVEMBER SOYBEANS

Resistance is layered at \$10.16 1/4 and \$10.23 1/4.



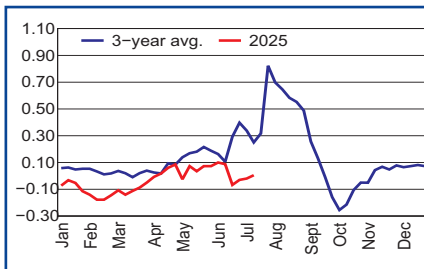
DAILY AUGUST SOYBEANS



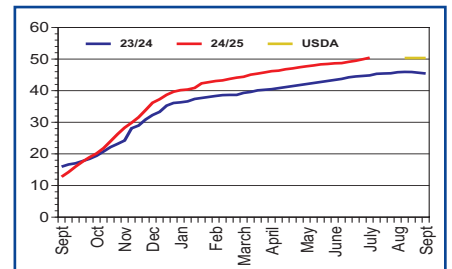
SOYBEANS - Fundamental Analysis

Soybeans kicked last week off with a gap lower, as traders were less than impressed with President Trump's announcement at an Iowa rally, which was originally rumored to include trade details with China. Instead, bears were handed additional leverage amid a lack of confirmed trade deals, even as the July 9 tariff implementation was delayed to Aug. 1. However, a push into technically oversold territory and short-covering in meal futures from a more than nine-year low led to modest strength into USDA's monthly supply and demand update. Meanwhile, weather will become increasingly important as the growing season progresses, though threats appear to be minimal at present.

AVERAGE SOYBEAN BASIS (NOV.)



SOYBEAN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



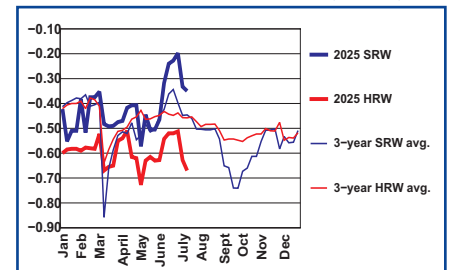
DAILY DECEMBER HRW WHEAT



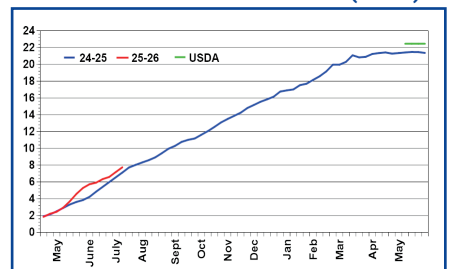
DAILY SEPTEMBER HRS WHEAT



AVERAGE WHEAT BASIS (SEPT.)



WHEAT EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



HRW — Technically oversold conditions curbed sellers last week, though a corrective move in the U.S. dollar, albeit modest, crimped gains. Meanwhile, harvest advanced to more than half finished, though efforts in Texas and Oklahoma continued to lag well behind average. Forecast rains will likely continue to hinder progress and could hurt crop quality.

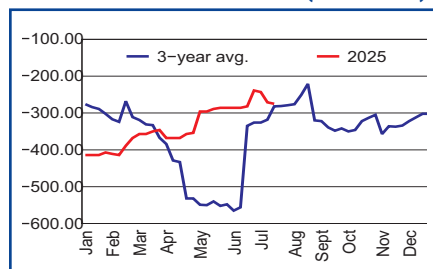
HRS — The 40-day moving average continued to serve up solid support, though a decline in USDA's weekly spring wheat crop condition ratings also brought pause amidst sellers. The "good" to "excellent" rating now sits 25 points behind year-ago as dryness has largely prevailed throughout the Northern Plains.

Position Monitor

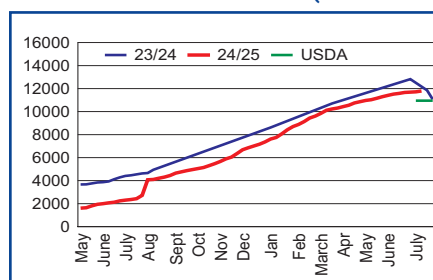
	'24 crop	'25 crop
Cash-only:	75%	0%
Hedgers (cash sales):	75%	0%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

Game Plan: Be prepared to finish old-crop sales by the end of the 2024-25 marketing year on July 31. New-crop sales will wait for an extended rally.

AVERAGE COTTON BASIS (OCTOBER)



COTTON EXPORT BOOKINGS ('000 BALES)



DAILY DECEMBER COTTON

Resistance is at 68.09¢ and 68.69¢.



COTTON - Fundamental Analysis

Cotton kicked last week off with a gap lower but managed to stabilize. However, improving crop condition ratings and technical headwinds pursued buyer interest as traders continue to await confirmed trade deals that include purchases of U.S. cotton.

GENERAL OUTLOOK

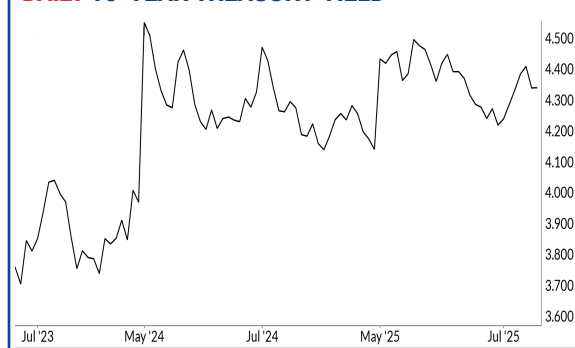
INTEREST RATES: Minutes from the June Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting showed a majority of members believed the Fed would be able to lower interest rates at some point later this year, but probably not this summer. Some members thought the current Federal funds rate range at 4.25% to 4.50% might not be far above neutral – a point that neither boosts nor slows the U.S. economy. But sticky

inflation remains a concern, due in part to tariff uncertainties.

Markets showed little reaction as the minutes contained no surprises and signaled a continued wait-and-see approach.

A growing concern for the marketplace is who President Trump will choose to succeed Fed Chair Powell when his term expires next year, and when.

DAILY 10-YEAR TREASURY YIELD



FROM THE BULLPEN By Editor Brian Grete

The cattle market continues to exhibit great resilience, with buyers continuing to show up on price breaks in futures. Part of that is attributable to long-standing bullish supply fundamentals. The huge discount futures continue to trade relative to the cash market is also a factor.

With futures at contract highs and near record levels, traders are likely to remain comfortable with the big discount structure. Simply, rarified air tends to take away some of traders' willingness to "stick out their necks." They are willing to remain bullish but not to the point of futures trading on par with cash.

The other "limiting" factor is uncertainty on the demand front. Wholesale beef prices are at their second highest

levels behind only the Covid-induced spike in 2020. However, retail beef prices are record-high. That threatens to slow demand during what is historically a weaker period for beef through the hot summer months. There are also export concerns (see *News* page 3) amid all of the tariffs/trade uncertainty.

What does this mean for fed cattle producers? Simply, increased risk.

The good news is the cash market continues to lead the way. However, an unforeseen sharp drop in cash prices or an unknown event could put undue pressure on futures, despite the big discount structure. Any hedges must take the big discounts into consideration, while limiting your risk exposure.

WATCH LIST

- 1 USDA Crop Progress Report** **MON 7/14**
Corn conditions stay strong. 3:00 p.m. CT
- 2 Consumer Price Index** **TUE 7/15**
June inflation readings. 7:30 a.m. CT
- 3 NOPA Soy Crush** **TUE 7/15**
June soybean crush to stay strong. 11:00 a.m. CT
- 4 Weekly Export Sales** **THUR 7/17**
Corn, soybean sales a focus. 7:30 a.m. CT
- 5 U. of Mich. Consumer Survey** **Fri 7/18**
Preliminary sentiment for July. 9:00 a.m. CT

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