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Corrective buying boosts grains – *Funds covered short positions in the corn and soybean markets last week, with both scoring big weekly gains. December corn futures extended the rebound off Monday's contract low, with bulls eyeing the July 7 chart gap. November soybean futures surged above the 20-, 40-, 50-, 100- and 200-day moving averages and moved into the July 7 chart gap. Wheat futures were choppy, but worked sharply higher on Friday. To extend gains, grain markets will need support from weather or positive trade developments. Cattle futures posted contract highs amid support from strengthening cash prices. Lean hog futures rebounded from the mid-July low as both the lean hog index and pork cutout showed signs of stabilizing after a three-week slide in prices.*

Heat to invoke some crop stress

Hot temperatures are likely over the Central and Southern Plains, Delta, lower Midwest and interior southeastern states this week, with heat indices of 95 to 115 likely. A westward shift in the heat and dryness is expected in the last days of July, allowing some cooling and rainfall back into the lower Midwest and southeastern states. Conditions in northern and eastern Corn Belt will remain mostly favorable for crop development the next two weeks.

Likely warm end to growing season

The 90-day forecast from the National Weather Service shows increased chances of above-normal temps across the entire country for August through October. The extended forecast calls for an area of below-normal precip for most of the western Corn Belt and Northern Plains. The central Corn Belt is expected to see "equal chances" of above-, below- and normal precip during the period. The far eastern Corn Belt, Delta and Southeast are likely to see above-normal rainfall through October.

Overly tight tassel wrap in some corn

Weather through mid-July has been near ideal in many areas, but some are finding pollination issues in what *Farm Journal* Field Agronomist Ken Ferrie describes as an overly tight tassel wrap. "There's kind of a panic when they find out they got moderate to poor pollination on some of their best genetics out there," Ferrie said on *AgriTalk*. So far, there have been reports of the issue in parts of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana. Additional insight.

U.S., Indonesia reach trade deal

The U.S. and Indonesia reached a trade deal in principle, though specifics are still being worked out. Indonesia's economic minister noted that pork would no longer benefit from a zero-tariff status, though he did not specify what new tariff levels would apply. U.S. cotton may face a quota, but would remain tariff-free. A key aspect of the agreement entails Indonesia's commitment to boost its annual purchases of U.S. wheat.

Farm bill faces major divisions

House Ag Committee Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Pa.) is aiming to revive work on the unfinished sections of the farm bill with a markup planned for September. House Ag Ranking Member Rep. Angie Craig (D-Minn.) has voiced sharp doubts that enough Democrats will support a new farm bill this fall, given the deep spending cuts Republicans have made to nutrition programs as part of the budget reconciliation. With deep divisions remaining and only a handful of Democrats expressing even conditional support, odds of a new farm bill before the current legislation expires in September appear low.

CPI reflects tariff impacts

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 2.7% annually in June, the highest level since February. Core inflation, minus food and energy costs, increased 2.9% annually. According to *Sevens Report*, "There was enough in this report to keep alive concerns that tariffs will stoke inflation." Markets reflect a continued pause by the Fed until at least September.

Farewell, Pro Farmer Members

Writing comes easy for me. Formulating words with purpose, meaning and perspective is what I've done during my long career at Pro Farmer. Writing this wasn't easy.

As the sayings go, "all good things must come to an end"... and "change is inevitable." After 29-plus years at Pro Farmer, it was time for me to move on to the next chapter of my professional career. This is my last issue as Pro Farmer Editor. I leave behind many fond memories, friendships and acquaintances I've developed over the years — too many to count or fully recall. I've been blessed.

Saying goodbye to people and a company that have enriched my life and made me a better person isn't easy. Instead of goodbye, I'd rather this be... until we meet again, as we'll hopefully cross paths in the future. I hope in at least some small way I've had a positive influence on you and/or your farming operation.

Brian Grete

Mid-July crop ratings at 9-year high

USDA rated the corn crop as 74% "good" to "excellent" as of July 13, unchanged from the previous week. The "poor" to "very poor" rating held at 5%.

USDA rated the soybean crop as 70% "good" to "excellent," up four percentage points. The "poor" to "very poor" rating declined three points to 5%.

The good/excellent ratings for both crops were the highest for mid-July since 2016.

On the weighted *Pro Farmer* Crop Condition Index (CCI; 0 to 500-point scale, with 500 representing perfect), the corn crop improved 1.4 points to 383.4, now 10 points (2.7%) above last year at this time. The soybean crop improved 3.5 points to 367.2 and is now 2.3 points (0.6%) above year-ago.

At this point in 2016, CCI ratings stood at 388.4 for corn and 372.2 for soybeans. Yields in 2016 ended at a then-record 174.6 bu. per acre for corn (since bested five times in eight years) and a still-record 51.9 bu. per acre for soybeans.

There's a lot of growing season left, but corn and soybeans made it through roughly the first half of the growing season with strong to record yield potential, based on USDA's condition ratings.

Spring wheat crop ratings improve

USDA rated the spring wheat crop as 54% "good" to "excellent," up four points. The "poor" to "very poor" rating declined two points to 13%.

The spring wheat CCI rating increased 6.2 points to 357.7, though that's still 26.3 points below year-ago. Top producer North Dakota's rating was 4.7 points (2.3%) above last year at this time; Montana, Idaho and Washington were well below.

How USDA evaluates crop conditions

USDA's weekly crop condition ratings are subjective and meant to give a general overview of the crop that is expected to be harvested.

USDA's crop condition assessment ratings

Very poor: Extreme loss to yield potential. Complete/near crop failure.

Poor: Heavy loss to yield potential.

Fair: Less-than-normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility but extent is unknown.

Good: Yield prospects are normal or above normal. Moisture levels are adequate with only light disease and/or insect pressure.

Excellent: Yield prospects are above normal and crops are experiencing little or no stress.

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Cordonnier raises corn, bean yields

Weather conditions through the first half of July were "nearly ideal" and the corn crop is "on its way to a record yield." Therefore, crop consultant Dr. Michael Cordonnier raised his corn yield 2 bu. to 182 bu. per acre, increasing his corn production forecast to 15.79 billion bushels.

While soybean conditions aren't quite as high and key August weather lies ahead, Cordonnier raised his soybean yield 1 bu. to 52.5 bu. per acre, increasing his production forecast to 4.33 billion bushels.

Cordonnier raises Brazil corn crop

Record safrinha corn yields are being reported in top producer Mato Grosso and other areas of central Brazil, while results are better than expected in Parana and Mato Grosso do Sul. Therefore, Cordonnier raised his Brazilian corn production forecast 2 MMT (million metric tons) to 134 MMT, while maintaining a slightly higher bias.

NOPA soy crush sets June record

Members of the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) crushed 185.7 million bu. of soybeans during June. While that was down 7.1 million bu. (3.7%) from May, it was up 10.1 million bu. (5.8%) from last year's previous high for the month.

NOPA implies the full June crush of 197.3 million bushels. At that level, crush would stand at 2.042 billion bu. through the first 10 months of 2024-25, leaving 378 million bu. to reach USDA's forecast of 2.420 billion bu., up 4.7% from the final two months of last year. Our crush forecast is 2.425 billion bushels.

Possible Coke switch to sugar

President Donald Trump said Coca-Cola agreed to use cane sugar in its namesake soda, moving away from sweeteners such as high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS). Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has called HFCS bad for Americans' health, and "a formula for making you obese and diabetic." But he has also criticized sugar.

The company declined to say whether it would transition all of its U.S. beverages to cane sugar, adding that it will provide further detail when it reports earnings on July 22.

The Corn Refiners Association said, "Replacing high fructose corn syrup with cane sugar doesn't make sense. President Trump stands for American manufacturing jobs, American farmers, and reducing the trade deficit. Replacing high fructose corn syrup with cane sugar would cost thousands of American food manufacturing jobs, depress farm income, and boost imports of foreign sugar, all with no nutritional benefit."

Any shift in sweeteners by Coca-Cola and others would have demand implications for the corn and sugar industries.

China's soy imports hit June record

China imported 12.26 MMT of soybeans in June. While that was down 1.66 MMT (11.9%) from the all-time high in May, it was a record for the month and up 1.15 MMT (10.4%) from last year. According to shipping data firm Kpler, China imported 9.73 MMT of soybeans from Brazil in June, while shipments from the U.S. totalled 724,000 metric tons. Official data on origin of June shipments will be released by China's customs authority on July 20.

Through the first half of 2025, China imported 49.37 MMT of soybeans, up 1.8% from the same period last year.

China's meat imports rise in June

China imported 533,000 MT of meat in June, up 3.9% from May and 3.5% from year-ago. Through the first half of this year, China imported 3.2 MMT of meat, down 2.7% from the same period last year.

China's Q2 pork production increases

China's pork production in the second quarter rose 1.4% from last year to 14.18 MMT. Pork production increased 1.3% in the first half of this year to 30.2 MMT. China's pig herd rose to 424.47 million head at the end of the second quarter, up from 417.31 million in the first quarter.

China's exporters rush to beat tariffs

China's exports rose 5.8% from year-ago to $325.2 billion in June, accelerating from 4.8% growth in May as exporters pushed shipments out ahead of the Aug. 12 U.S. tariff deadline. Imports rose 1.1% to $210.4 billion, rebounding from a 3.4% decline in May and the first monthly increase this year.

China's trade surplus widened to $114.77 billion from $103.22 billion in May. China's trade surplus with the U.S. expanded to $26.57 billion in June, up from $18.00 billion in May, even as both exports and imports with the U.S. declined, falling 16.1% and 15.5%, respectively.

China's economy slows in Q2

China's economy grew 5.2% annually in the second quarter, slowing from 5.4% GDP in the first quarter and the weakest pace since the third quarter of last year. During the first half of this year, China's economy grew 5.3%. Growth is projected to weaken during the second half of the year amid trade tensions, deflationary pressures and a prolonged property downturn.

China's new loans surge in June

Chinese banks extended 2.24 trillion yuan ($312 billion) in new loans in June, more than triple May's total. Annual growth of outstanding total social financing, a broad measure of credit and liquidity in the economy, rose to 8.9% last month, the largest increase since February 2024.

U.S. opens tariff probe into Brazil

The Trump administration launched a formal Section 301 investigation into Brazil's trade practices. It will examine a wide array of Brazilian measures, including: digital trade restrictions, ethanol market access, intellectual property enforcement, judicial interference, tariff and non-tariff barriers and environmental policies. Ethanol tariffs and deforestation are leading to increased output of soybeans and beef that compete against U.S. supplies will be focal points.

Brazil rethinks beef exports to U.S.

Brazilian meatpackers are weighing whether to make new shipments of beef products to the U.S. after President Donald Trump announced he will add 50% tariffs on Brazilian exports as of Aug. 1, the president of Brazilian beef lobby ABIEC, said. Since Trump's announcement, meatpackers have been scrambling to reschedule and redirect shipments and production, with some companies already deciding to temporarily halt production destined for the United States.

The U.S. is Brazil's second-largest beef market after China, accounting for roughly 23% of Brazilian beef exports. Brazil shipped nearly as much beef to the U.S. in the first five months of this year as it did during all of 2024. If tariffs are enacted, it would likely halt most beef shipments to the U.S.

Duties on Mexican tomatoes restart

The Commerce Department said the U.S. was withdrawing from a 2019 agreement with Mexico that suspended an antidumping duty investigation on Mexican tomatoes. Commerce stated the previous agreement failed to protect domestic growers from unfairly priced imports, prompting the reinstatement of the antidumping duty. Most fresh tomato imports from Mexico will now face a 17.09% tariff.

Mexican officials argue the U.S. market cannot easily replace Mexican tomatoes, and the tariff will likely disrupt both economies. Mexico supplies 61% of the U.S. fresh tomato market, nearly double the domestic production capacity. U.S. tomato production is seasonal, with Florida and California covering different months, while Mexico offers year-round supply. The new tariff is projected to raise the price of Mexican tomatoes for U.S. consumers by about 10%.

USDA halts extra sugar imports

USDA announced it will authorize no additional imports of specialty sugars beyond what is required by international agreements, marking a notable shift under the "Farmers First" policy agenda. While current sugar policy aims to protect domestic growers from subsidized foreign competition, the sector is not immune to broader industry challenges. USDA said the global trade landscape "favored foreign competitors over America's farmers."

Is negative U.S. ag trade balance cause for concern?

By Pro Farmer editors

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The United States' growing agricultural trade deficit has triggered political alarms — especially with a projected record shortfall of $49.5 billion in fiscal year 2025. *But should the agricultural trade deficit be a reason for concern?* Former USDA Chief Economist and now a non-resident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute Dr. Joe Glauber offered his perspective on the issue.

Apples vs. oranges

Glauber argues "comparing agricultural imports and exports is an exercise in comparing apples with oranges. The agricultural products the U.S. imports are mostly different from the commodities it produces and exports. The trade deficit largely reflects fundamental differences in price movements in the markets for U.S. agricultural imports and exports."

Glauber contends the recent ag trade deficits reflect structural changes in agricultural markets — particularly price divergence between bulk exports and consumer-oriented imports — not a loss of competitiveness.

Glauber warns, "Efforts to reduce the deficit by applying tariffs will only hurt consumers," he writes, "and run the risk of hurting producers if other countries impose counter-retaliatory tariffs."

Key factors driving the ag trade deficit

• Falling bulk commodity prices since 2022 have dragged down export values for crops like soybeans, corn, wheat and rice.

• Consumer-oriented imports, such as fresh fruits and packaged foods, have risen in value due to global inflation in processing, labor and shipping.

• Biodiesel mandates have spurred more domestic soy use, diverting soybeans away from export, shrinking U.S. outbound trade volumes.

• A definitional change in 2021 to conform with the World Trade Organization's classification of agricultural products added distilled spirits and other products to USDA's ag trade totals, pushing the deficit higher.

The complementary nature of U.S. ag trade

Glauber said, "Imports are largely consumer-oriented products such as fresh fruits and vegetables; wine, beer, and distilled spirits; and baked goods, cereals, pastas and other processed food products. By contrast, bulk product imports such as unroasted coffee, cocoa beans, raw beet and cane sugar, and grains and oilseeds account for just 8% of total imports in 2024. Intermediate products account for 22% of total imports and include refined sugar and sweeteners, vegetable oils, essential oils, live animals, and other products used in further food processing by U.S. food manufacturers.

"Almost half of U.S. agricultural exports were consumer-oriented products, led by beef, pork and poultry products; dairy products; tree nuts; and food preparations. Bulk commodities accounted for almost one-third of total agricultural exports in 2024, led by soybeans (over $24 billion), corn, wheat, cotton and rice. Intermediate products such as soybean meal, ethanol, distillers grains and other feeds and meals accounted for 19% of total U.S. agricultural exports.

"In general, imports compete less directly with U.S. production, but they offer U.S. consumers year-round availability for many food products that 30 or 40 years ago would have been available only on a limited seasonal basis."

Qualifying how price changes impact the deficit

Glauber contends if 2022 price levels had held, exports would have been $20.1 billion higher and imports $12.7 lower in 2024, effectively halving the trade deficit. He said, "Not surprisingly, most of the decline in import values occurs in consumer-oriented products; intermediate product values would have increased. Bulk commodity exports would have been over $18 billion higher, and intermediate product exports would have been $4 billion higher if 2022 prices had prevailed."

He concludes, "The exercise's main conclusion is not that the current trade deficit is due to abnormally high or low prices but that most of the change in the deficit since 2022 can be attributed to the effects of price changes rather than quantity increases or decreases."

Trade policy impact on ag trade

President Donald Trump's proposed 10% to 35% tariffs on agricultural imports "may reduce imports and will certainly impose costs on U.S. consumers," Glauber said. But retaliatory actions from key trading partners — such as Canada, China and the EU — could hit U.S. exporters hard. "The clear losers in the short run will be U.S. producers and consumers," he warns.

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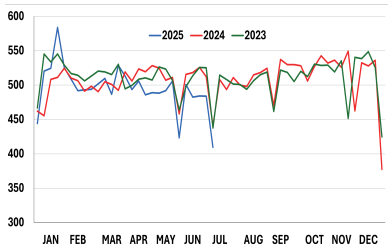
CATTLE - Fundamental Analysis

While notable profit-taking transpired in early-week trade, it certainly didn't trigger aggressive long liquidation. A textbook bull-flag pattern ultimately formed, with fresh record highs forged by midweek. Supply fundamentals continue to prove friendly for feedlots in cash negotiations as packers compete to meet slaughter needs, albeit at weak margins amid declining wholesale prices. Additional uncertainties entered the picture as President Donald Trump announced a 50% tariff on Brazil last week, with Brazilian meatpackers debating whether to make new beef shipments to the U.S. (see *News page 3*).

Position Monitor

Game Plan:		Feds	Feeders
Summer live cattle futures remain at huge discounts to the cash market. Any hedging should be done by buying put options.	III'25	0%	0%
	IV'25	0%	0%
	I'26	0%	0%
	II'26	0%	0%

BEEF PRODUCTION (MIL. LBS.)



DAILY AUGUST LIVE CATTLE

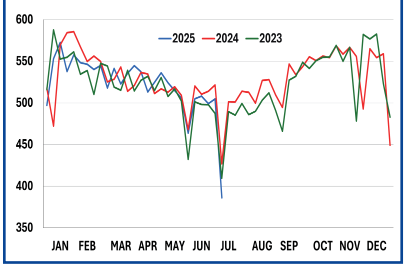
HOGS - Fundamental Analysis

The cash hog index has paused its pullback from the June seasonal peak. Pork cutout has also rebounded from its recent decline, though there continues to be volatility within specific cuts. With cash fundamentals showing signs of stabilizing, futures halted their recent price pullback. The technical playing field appears to be rather neutral at present, with traders focused on trade discussions, especially as slaughter starts to increase seasonally and the end of the grilling season lurks on the distant horizon. Cash fundamental strength is needed to restart the uptrend.

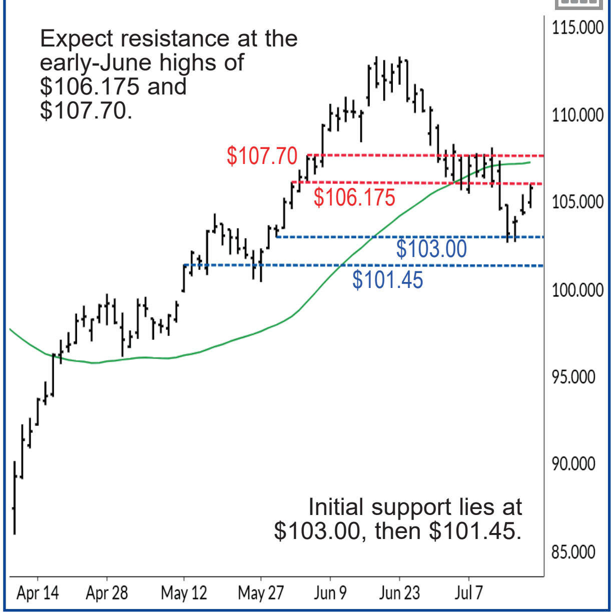
Position Monitor

Game Plan:		Lean Hogs
Carry all risk in the cash market. Summer hog futures have erased premiums to the cash index, so hedging in a "hole" isn't currently attractive.	III'25	0%
	IV'25	0%
	I'26	0%
	II'26	0%

PORK PRODUCTION (MIL. LBS.)



DAILY AUGUST LEAN HOGS



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 for 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, along with half of your needs for August, September, October, November and December.

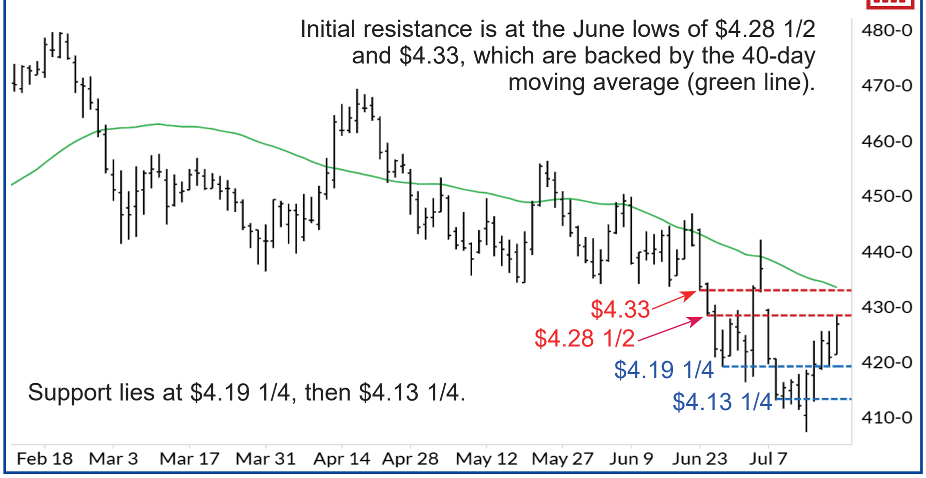
DAILY AUGUST SOYBEAN MEAL

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 may remain suppressed with funds not afraid of maintaining an aggressive short position.

DAILY DECEMBER CORN

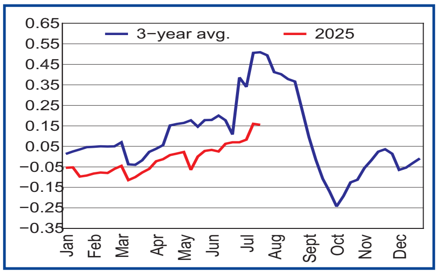


DAILY SEPTEMBER CORN

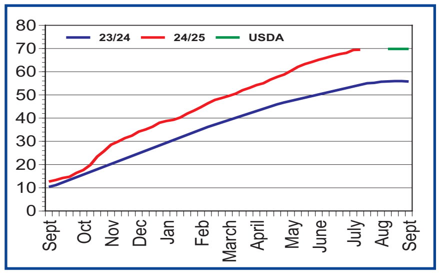
CORN - Fundamental Analysis

A promising string of gains were forged last week, though each rally since the February high has been negated by fund selling, despite friendly fundamentals. Recent talk of whopping yields amid stout condition ratings have been called to the carpet because of pollination issues in areas of the Corn Belt. However, the extent and scope will likely remain an unknown into harvest and potentially beyond. While rain does make grain, it also initiates nitrogen loss and disease pressure. Current prices are likely stirring hesitation among producers around additional fertilizer/chemical applications, exacerbating yield uncertainties.

AVERAGE CORN BASIS (SEPT.)



CORN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



Position Monitor

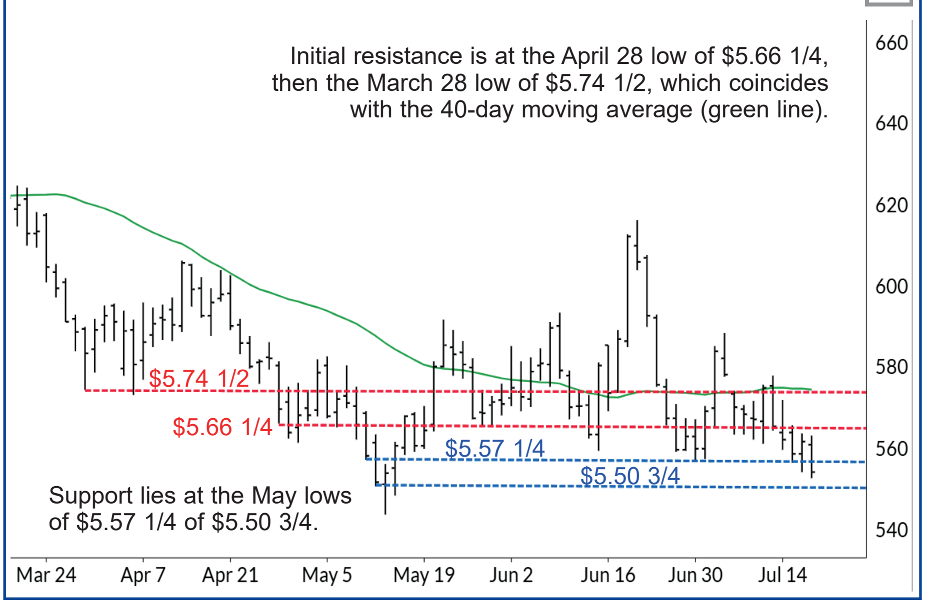
	’25 crop	’26 crop
Cash-only:	30%	10%
Hedgers (cash sales):	30%	10%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

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 — A short-covering bounce from technically oversold territory ensued in late-week trade, though technical hurdles may hinder extended gains. However, as harvest winds down, hedge pressure should ease. Export demand has proven steady, with confirmed trade deals improving overall sentiment.

DAILY DECEMBER SRW WHEAT

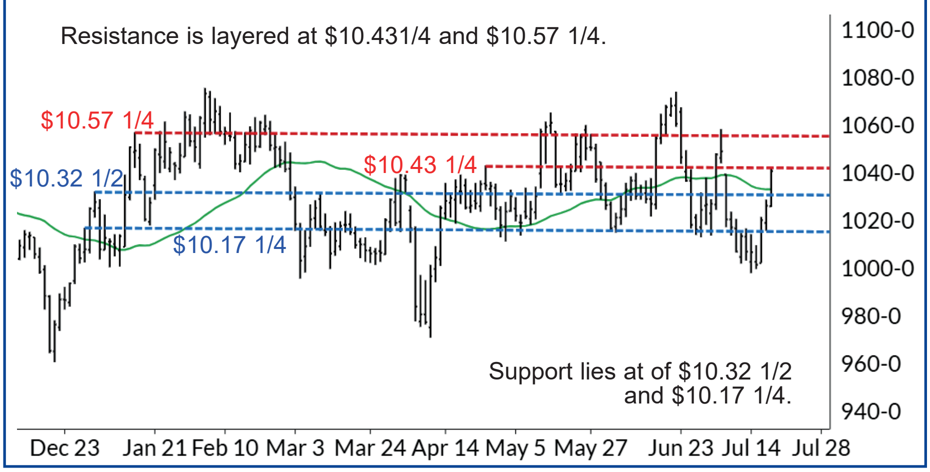


Position Monitor

	'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

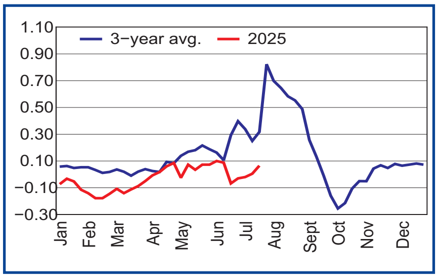


DAILY AUGUST SOYBEANS

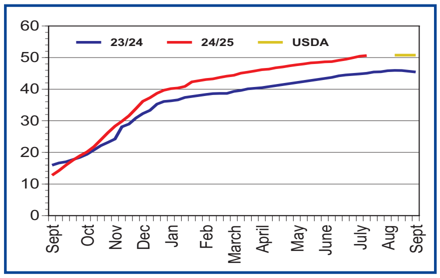
SOYBEANS - Fundamental Analysis

Soyoil's surge to a two-year high inspired short-covering in soybean futures last week, while soymeal edged modestly from multiyear lows, lending some semblance of a potential floor. While technical hurdles exist, fund managers may continue to shirk their short positions in earnest as the crop creeps toward the most critical point of its growth cycle in August. USDA's current crop rating indicates the crop is improving, but as we mentioned on News page 2, these ratings are certainly subjective and could change rather quickly. Forecasts indicate recent favorable conditions may come to an end, with hotter temps and high humidity expected to reduce topsoil moisture in areas of the Midwest into the end of July.

AVERAGE SOYBEAN BASIS (NOV.)



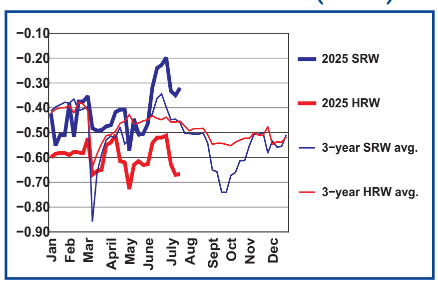
SOYBEAN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



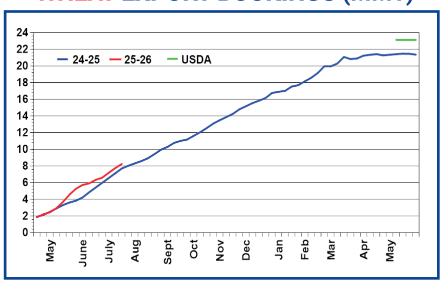
DAILY DECEMBER HRW WHEAT

DAILY SEPTEMBER HRS WHEAT

AVERAGE WHEAT BASIS (SEPT.)



WHEAT EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



HRW — A corrective bounce followed a push to new contract lows late last week, which was certainly welcome after a 75¢ selloff from the June high. While harvest is winding down, progress continues to pace behind the five-year average in several key states. Followthrough this week will be key in determining if a near-term floor has been etched.

HRS — Strong production prospects were reinforced by a notable improvement in USDA's condition ratings last week, especially in North Dakota. Price gains paused due to oversold conditions and noticeable short-covering in winter wheat. Continued pressure is likely, though positive news on the trade front could rustle bargain buyers.

Position Monitor

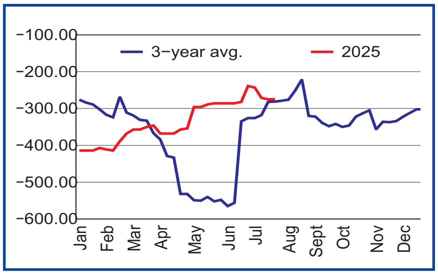
	'24 crop	'25 crop
Cash-only:	75%	0%
Hedgers (cash sales):	75%	0%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

Game Plan: Be prepared to finish old-crop sales before July 31. We are targeting 69.00¢ to 70.00¢ to make sales. New-crop sales will wait for an extended rally.

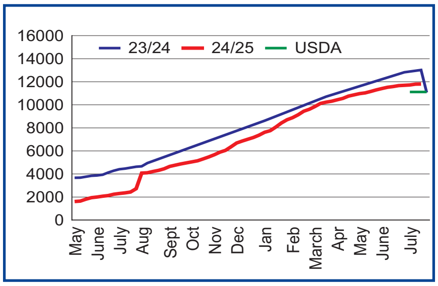
COTTON - Fundamental Analysis

Short-covering gains were etched last week, despite a firming U.S. dollar and lingering trade uncertainties. Futures are edging closer to the June high that halted the last correction. Crop ratings continued to improve, though areas of Texas are in need of additional rainfall.

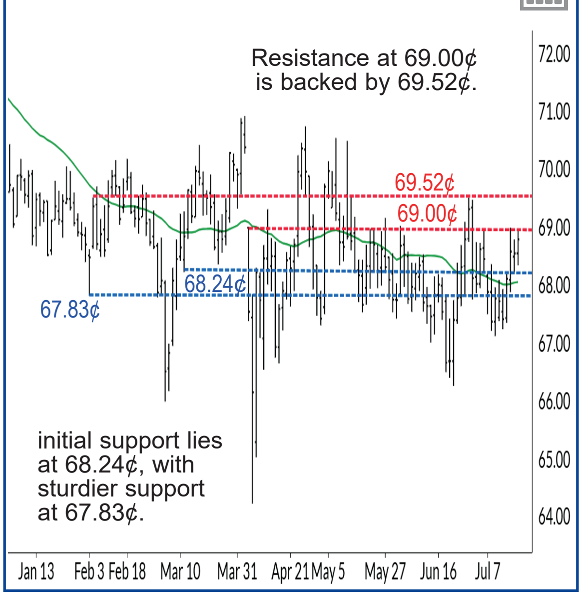
AVERAGE COTTON BASIS (OCTOBER)



COTTON EXPORT BOOKINGS ('000 BALES)



DAILY DECEMBER COTTON



GENERAL OUTLOOK

Metals: Silver futures last week hit a nearly 14-year high of $39.57 an ounce. The technical posture for silver remains bullish, which is going to keep speculators buying price dips.

While geopolitical matters have settled down from what was seen several weeks ago, they remain simmering with the potential to come to a boil rapidly, which would reignite safe-haven demand for silver and gold.

Better economic numbers coming from the U.S. and China augur for better consumer and commercial demand for metals. Recovering crude oil prices are also bullish for the metals markets.

With gold already hitting record highs this year, it appears silver bulls are poised to attempt to do the same. Even at current levels, silver is a relative value to gold. The record high in silver futures is $50.36, set in 1980.

DAILY SEPTEMBER SILVER FUTURES

FROM THE BULLPEN By Pro Farmer Editors

Trump's 'Drill Baby Drill' mantra combined with tariff-driven demand uncertainties has been a recipe for crude oil volatility since early April. As such, sentiments continue to lean toward an eventual oversupply of crude oil, as demand fades amid an unsettled global economy and ramped-up U.S. production.

However, the landscape looks quite different for diesel fuel. Poor refining margins — the difference between crude oil and revenue from refined products — in the fourth quarter of 2024 prompted slower run rates, according to James Noel-Beswick, an analyst at Sparta Commodities. Those production cuts led to inadequate diesel supplies earlier in the year, which were exacerbated by demand from a cold winter.

While U.S. refineries are running near full capacity, diesel stocks have yet to increase and sat at multiyear lows in early July as demand surged. Meanwhile, refining margins have soared and the energy market has heated up, which could lead to a rebuild of stocks at higher prices.

Gail Tverberg writes, "A major hidden issue is that prices never seem to rise high enough, for long enough, to prevent production of fossil fuels and other mineral resources from declining relative to what is needed. We should expect declining production because low prices drive more and more fossil fuel and other mineral producers out of business."

WATCH LIST

1	**USDA Crop Progress Report** Corn conditions stay strong.	**MON 7/21** 3:00 p.m. CT
2	**Weekly Export Sales Report** *Will corn sales rebound?*	**THUR 7/24** 7:30 a.m. CT
3	**USDA Cattle Report** Inventory at multi-decade low.	**FRI 7/25** 2:00 p.m. CT
4	**USDA Cattle on Feed Report** July cattle herd figures.	**FRI 7/25** 2:00 p.m. CT
5	**USDA Cold Storage Report** Frozen pork, beef stocks in June.	**FRI 7/25** 2:00 p.m. CT

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