

News this week...

- 2** – Brazilian soybean plantings off to a slow start.
- 3** – SRE exemptions could harm U.S. biofuel use.
- 4** – Breakdown of USDA's September S&D Report.

Even more corn acres – USDA unexpectedly increased both corn and soybean planted and harvested acres in Friday's Crop Production Report, reflecting additional certified acres out of FSA. That did little to dampen corn bulls who closed prices at the highest level since July. Soybeans posted impressive gains late last week as well, negating much of the late August selloff. Wheat found direction from the corn and soybean markets most of the week and saw strength in with corn on Friday. Cattle futures saw a volatile week of trade with heavy selling pressure early in the week, creating hefty discounts to the cash market. Hogs saw relative strength, building on gains in the cash market, but succumbed to selling late in the week amid spillover weakness from cattle.

Corn crop: 16.814 billion bu.

USDA raised its corn crop estimate 72 million bu. from August. Yield decreased 2.1 bu. to 186.7 bu. per acre. Harvested acres increased 1.3 million acres, with revisions from I kn.

PERSPECTIVE: USDA continues to anticipate a record yield, even with ear counts steady with year-ago. Steady ear counts coupled with a higher yield implies USDA believes ear weights will top last year's record by an impressive 4.1%. Assuming ear counts hold steady with September and year-ago figures, it implies a yield of 179.4 bu. per acre, which would just top last year's record.

Soybean crop: 4.301 billion bu.

USDA raised its soybean production estimate 8.5 million bu. Yield declined 0.1 bu. to 53.5 bu. per acres. Harvested acres grew 209,000 acres to 80.313 million acres amid a 210,000-acre increase in planted acres (81.135 million acres).

PERSPECTIVE: USDA's objective yield plots generated a higher pod count than last year (a 10.1% increase in the 11 major bean-growing states to support the 2.8 bu. year-to-year increase in the national average bean yield).

Cotton crop: 13.224 million bales

USDA increased cotton production by 10,000 bales from last month despite a 1-lb. cut in yield to 861 lb. per acre. However, harvested area increased 13,000 acres to 7.369 million acres amid a 20,000-acre increase in planted acres.

U.S., China to hold trade talks

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will meet with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Madrid, Spain next week to discuss trade, economic and national security. The discussions will also cover TikTok's status and efforts to combat money laundering, according to a schedule released by the Treasury Department. Next week's economic talks come as Washington and Beijing have engaged in communications this week, smoothing the path for a potential summit meeting between Chinese Premier Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump.

Of note: China was listed as a destination for a shipment of soybeans for the week ended Sept. 4, marking their first purchase and shipment of U.S. origin soybeans since mid-May.

Conab increases Brazilian estimates

Brazil's farmers harvested a record 171.47 million metric tons (MMT) of soybeans and a record 139.67 million MT of corn in the 2024-25 season, Brazilian crop agency Conab said in its final grain production report covering the period. That reflects a 1.82 MMT increase in soybean production and a 2.67 MMT rise in total corn production compared to Conab's August forecast. Conab also raised Brazil's soybean export forecast for the 2024-25 season, saying the country will ship 400,000 MT more than it expected last month, or 106.65 MMT. Brazil sells most of its soybeans to China and continues to book sales due to stalled trade talks between the U.S. and China halfway through the prime of the U.S. soybean marketing season.

Conab revised soybean area and yields for all seasons between 2020-21 and 2024-25, resulting in a cumulative increase of 13.12 MMT in estimated production during the period. Conab was well behind the ball in adjusting production levels for prior marketing years, so this revision was no surprise and is more in line with USDA.

Inflation data sending mixed signals

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released a slew of inflation data this week. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.9% in August. That marks the highest rate since January and is up from 2.7% in July. Price increases were led by increases in food, used vehicles and new vehicles. Core CPI, which does not include food and energy prices, steadied at 3.1%, the same as July and February's peak. Meanwhile U.S. producer prices, as measured by Producer Price Inflation (PPI) unexpectedly fell 0.1% month-over-month in August, following a downwardly revised 0.7% rise in July. That marked the first decline in PPI in four months. On the year, PPI rose 2.6%, below 3.1% in July.

The Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this week. Ahead of inflation data, a 50 basis point cut was on the table but persistent consumer inflation has diminished those odds.

Corn, bean conditions tick lower

USDA rated the corn crop as 68% good to excellent, down one point, and 9% poor to very poor. USDA rated the soybean crop 64% good to excellent, also down one point, and 10% poor to very poor. Good- to excellent ratings for both corn and soybeans came in slightly higher than the average analyst expectations. On the weighted *Pro Farmer* Crop Condition Index (CCI; 0 to 500-point scale, with 500 representing perfect), the corn crop declined 3.5 points to 373.7. The soybean crop decreased 2.5 points. Notably, the soybean crop is now rated lower than it was at this time last year. Last weekend saw portions of the upper Midwest receive frosts and light freezes, although not enough of the crop was likely impacted to cause a large decrease in conditions nationally.

Dry conditions limit Brazilian seeding

Crop consultant Michael Cordonnier noted the initial 2025-26 soybean planting is off to a slow start in Brazil due to inadequate soil moisture. Precipitation is not expected to pick up until the end of September and early October, which is likely to limit early planted beans.

Cordonnier left his South American production estimates unchanged at 173 MMT for Brazilian beans and 140 MMT for Brazilian corn. He pegs the Argentine crops at 49 MMT and 54 MMT for corn and soybeans, respectively.

Cordonnier continues to leave his U.S. corn and soybean yield estimates unchanged and above trend. He forecasts the corn crop at 184 bu. per acre with a neutral bias and the soybean crop at 53 bu. per acre with a neutral bias. He has some concern for the soybean crop due to increased disease pressure and the recent increase in drought pressure for some of the crop.

Grassley speaks on trade war

China has purchased a record amount of soybeans this marketing year, but none from the U.S. It's a problem Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley says the White House must address.

"I think we're finding a tougher position, and I think we have a president that's reluctant to challenge China in the same way he did in 2019 on agricultural things. And until we get tougher and we have some leverage, I don't see a good future," Grassley says.

He says the president's on-again-off-again tariffs has painted the administration into a corner. Grassley says agriculture needs urgent help and a reimagined ag policy.

Producer crop comments...

Please send crop comments to editors@profarmer.com

Parke Co. (western) Indiana:

"We've been shelling corn for a few days. Yields are 20% off last year across the board."

Whiteside Co. (western) Illinois:

"We've had a really dry August. The end of July we had the potential for the biggest crop in history. Test weight and yield in corn is much less than a year ago."

Northeast Iowa:

"We have had too much rain all along. We have southern rust and northern rust. We put fungicide down and things still look pretty good. Probably still a month out from harvest."

Central Nebraska:

"Getting reports of lower yields than last year. Closest so far is 13 bu. per acre below last year. Farthest is 53 bu. per acre less than last year."

Bowman Co. (southwest) North Dakota:

"It's safe to say it was a killing frost. SW N.D. didn't have enough heat units the last 30 days to get corn far enough along..... should still be decent bushels; test weight will be the main concern."

Southeast Iowa:

"Corn crop is a little better than last year so far."

West Central Indiana:

"First field cut this year making 70 bu. per acre with 2.2 maturity beans. Same beans on the farm next door made 80 bu. per acre last year. I was hoping for 75 or so but I am still pleased."

Western Illinois:

"I've not heard anything great out of early reports. It's not terrible, but kernel weights are lower than normal bringing down yields we've been used to the last couple of years."

U.S. ag trade deficit widens

The U.S. agricultural trade deficit widened further in July, with agricultural exports lagging imports by \$4.97 billion, according to USDA data. The ag sector's deficit reached a record \$33.6 billion for the first seven months of the year, 9% wider than a year earlier. The U.S. imported more than \$132 billion in agricultural goods in the first seven months of 2025, while the sector's exports slid 1.3% to \$98.8 billion.

China approves Brazilian sorghum

The move comes as a blow to the U.S. milo market as historically much of U.S. production is shipped. As China has been absent from the U.S. sorghum market though, use for ethanol has picked up, as well as domestic feed.



Follow us on X (formerly Twitter):

[@ProFarmer](#) [@ChipFlory](#) [@DavisMichaelsen](#)
[@HillariMason](#) [@iwatchcorn](#)

SRE exemptions could hurt biofuel

A *Reuters* report notes the White House is considering a plan that would require large oil refineries to cover around half or less of the biofuel blending requirements recently waived from smaller facilities. The proposal, submitted by the EPA, could cut roughly 550 million gallons of demand for renewable fuels, increasing the supply of renewable fuel credits. The proposal is disappointing as biofuel producers look for full restoration of the lost demand caused by the small refinery exemptions (SREs) granted by EPA. The plan remains under review with full details likely available in the weeks ahead.

Brazil expands ethanol feedstocks

Historically, Brazil has used sugarcane as its main feedstock for ethanol production. Brazilian ethanol producer Inpasa looks to buck that trend by using corn. Brazil's government anticipates corn based ethanol to grow by more than 60% by 2035 to 16.3 billion liters. That increase will leave less corn to be exported from Brazil, but will also compete for U.S. ethanol on the world market.

Brazilian soy prices rise

China remains absent from the U.S. soybean market. That has led to rather unprecedented demand for Brazilian supplies at this point in the marketing year. While U.S. soy is attractively priced, China continues to drive Brazilian prices higher. If the geopolitical climate shifts, it could quickly drive Chinese crushers to the U.S. as they are currently operating at negative margins.

China imports record soybeans

China imported a record volume of soybeans for August to build a buffer against possible trade war shortages, Bloomberg reports. China purchased 12.28 MMT in August, the highest ever recorded for the month, shoring up local availability before U.S. supplies begin to dominate the global market. China's stockpiles of imported soybeans totaled about 6.8 million tons as of last Friday, near the highest since March, *Bloomberg* says.

China exports continue to slow

China's export growth slowed to the weakest in six months as a slump in shipments to the U.S. deepened again, although a surge in sales to other markets kept China on track for a record trade surplus of over \$1.2 trillion this year. Overall, Chinese sales abroad rose 4.4% in August from a year earlier to \$322 billion, according to a statement from the General Administration of Customs.

Bigger Russian crop expected

Grain consultancy firm SovEcon raised its forecast for the 2025 Russian wheat crop to 87.2 MMT, up from 86.1 MMT. Russia's IKAR consultancy raised their crop estimate to 87.0 MMT, up from 86.0 MMT. Yields are approaching record levels in parts of the country. USDA pegs the Russian crop at 83.5 MMT. Russia will likely export any surplus, which will keep pressure on world wheat prices.

Ukraine to boost seedings

Ukrainian farmers plan to increase the 2026 winter grain sowing area to 5.43 million hectares from 5.24 million in 2025, according to the Economy Ministry. The ministry says the area planted with winter wheat could rise to 4.78 million hectares from 4.5 million in 2025. Winter wheat accounts for more than 95% of the total wheat harvest in Ukraine, a major global supplier of the grain. However, deep soil moisture remains critically low across much of the steppe zone and dry forecasts and above-average temperatures weigh on winter grain sowing and rapeseed emergence.

EU oilseed imports down

European Union soybean imports for the 2025-26 season that began in July had reached 2.44 million metric tons by Sept. 7, down 6% from last year, European Commission data shows. EU rapeseed imports totaled 491,282 million tons, down 52% year on year. Soymeal imports were up 2%, at 3.63 million tons. EU palm oil imports were at 461,172 million tons, down 29% from a year ago. Brazil was the main supplier for both soybeans and soymeal. With China having zero bookings for U.S. soy in 2025-26, traders look for the EU to bump imports.

EU wheat exports slow

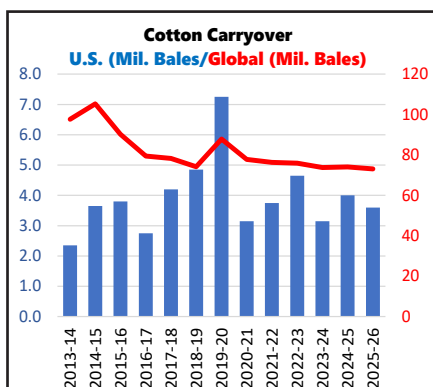
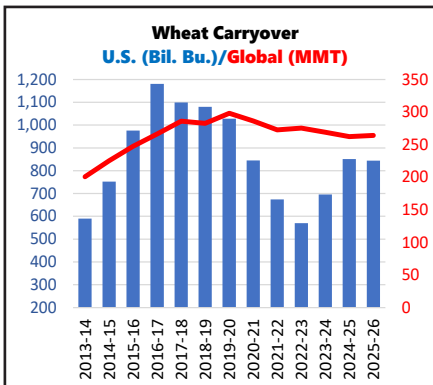
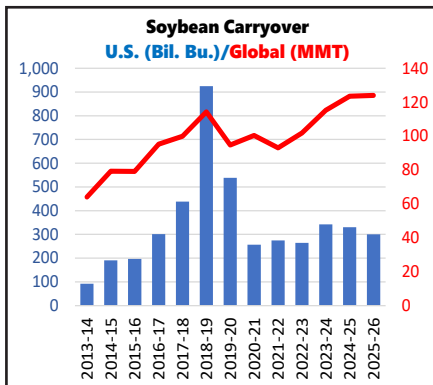
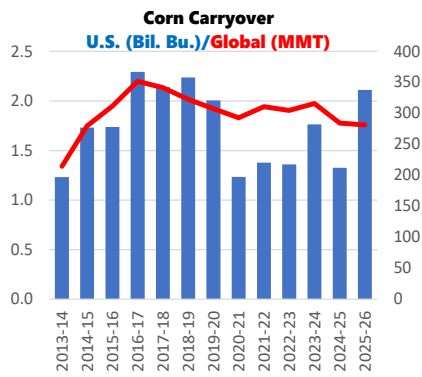
EU soft wheat exports, since July, reached 3.2 million metric tons by Sept. 7, up from 2.57 million ton the previous week and down 37% from a year earlier, European Commission data shows.

Canadian wheat, canola stocks down

Canadian stocks of wheat and canola were down at the end of July compared to the same date in 2024, due to increased export demand, according to a farm survey by Statistics Canada. StatCan's lower-than-expected canola stocks of 1.6 million metric tons come despite China imports. StatCan's estimated total wheat stocks of 4.1 million tons, down 22% from last year and lower than trade expectations for 4.4 million. Canada is a big competitor of U.S. origin wheat on the world export market.

USDA makes unexpected revisions to acreage data

By Pro Farmer Editors



CORN — USDA increased old-crop corn carryover 20 million bu. from last month. USDA cut total supplies 5 million bu. with a 5-million-bu. cut to estimated imports (to 20 million bu.). USDA cut corn food, seed and industrial use 35 million bu. (from corn-for-ethanol use) and increased estimated old-crop corn exports 10 million bushels. Total new-crop demand is up 100 million bu. from last month due to estimated corn exports (to 2.975 billion bushels). New-crop corn feed & residual use and FSI (including corn-for-ethanol) were unchanged from last month.

Our ending stocks forecast is 2.050 billion bu., we assume lower production than USDA and modestly lower use.

- USDA 2024-25 price: \$4.30, unchanged from August; 2025-26 price: \$3.90, unchanged

Global carryover: 284.2 MMT for 2024-25, up 1.07 MMT from August; 281.4 MMT for 2025-26, down 1.14 MMT.

SOYBEANS — USDA held old-crop soybean carryover unchanged from last month. Estimated old-crop bean crush and exports were unchanged from last month. Total supplies are up 9 million bu. from last month due to a slight increase in the size of the 2025 bean crop. On the demand side, USDA increased estimated bean crush 15 million bu. from last month (to 2.555 billion bu.) but cut estimated exports 20 million bu. (to 1.685 billion bu.). Residual use also adjusted up 3 million bu. to 37 million.

Our ending stocks forecast is 334 million bu. for 2024-25 and 280 million bu. for 2025-26. We anticipate lower production than USDA.

- USDA 2025-26 price: \$10.00, steady from August; 2025-26 price: \$10.00, down 10¢

Global carryover: 123.6 MMT for 2024-25, down 1.6 MMT from August; 124 MMT for 2025-26, down 0.91 MMT.

WHEAT — USDA made no changes on the supply-side of the 2025-26 balance sheet. On the demand side, USDA added 25 million bu. to estimated exports (to 900 million bu.) to account for the cut to carryover.

Our 2025-26 ending stocks forecast is 836 million bu., we anticipate higher use than USDA.

- USDA 2024-25 price: \$5.52, steady from August; 2025-26 price: \$5.10, down 20¢ from August.

Global carryover: 262.4 MMT for 2024-25, down 280,000 MT from August; 264.1 MMT for 2025-26, down 4.0 MMT.

COTTON — USDA made minor adjustments on the supply side of the balance sheet and made a slight upside adjustment to “unaccounted” use to hold carryover steady with last month.

Our ending stocks forecast is 3.8 million bales for 2025-26, we anticipate higher production and lower exports than USDA.

- USDA 2025-26 price: 64¢, steady from August.

Global carryover: 74.4 million bales for 2024-25, down 990,000 bales from August; 73.14 million bales for 2025-26, down 770,000 bales.

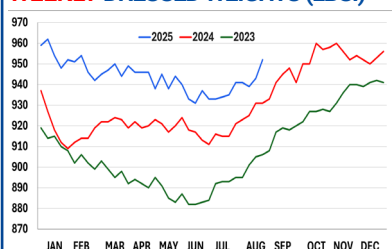
CATTLE - Fundamental Analysis

High cattle prices have garnered broad attention in recent months, with resilience in futures, product and cash markets raising question as to when market tops will be carved. However, last week's price action indicated bulls are becoming exhausted. Revised job data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics may have been the needed catalyst to prompt fund liquidation, as it suggested a weaker U.S. economy and sapped consumer confidence when it comes to demand for high-priced beef. Supply fundamentals should continue to limit a stronger correction, though recent price action may inspire greater efforts among producers to rebuild cattle herds.

Position Monitor

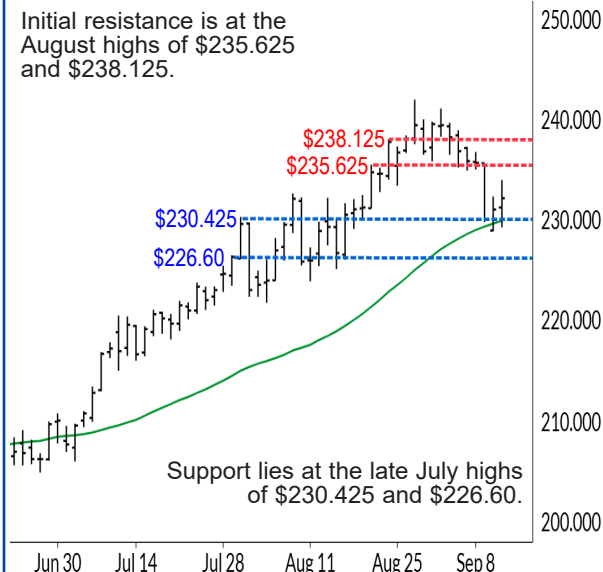
| Game Plan: | Feds Feeders | |
|--|--------------|----|
| Nearby live | III'25 | 0% |
| cattle fu- | IV'25 | 0% |
| tures are | I'26 | 0% |
| | II'26 | 0% |
| now at discounts to the cash market. Be prepared to purchase puts for downside protection. | | |

WEEKLY DRESSED WEIGHTS (LBS.)



DAILY OCTOBER LIVE CATTLE

Initial resistance is at the August highs of \$235.625 and \$238.125.



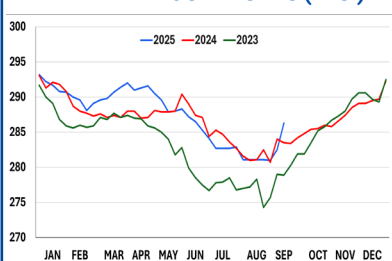
HOGS - Fundamental Analysis

Hog futures were the apparent beneficiary of last week's pause in cattle futures, as both fund managers and consumers continue to find pork a value buy, evidenced by a push to new contract highs. Additionally, pork cutout values were stable, hovering well above levels notched at this time in both 2023 and 2024, as grocers look to snatch up pork products to fill meat counters with a more affordable source of protein. However, while nearby futures maintain a solid technical posture, a more robust correction in cattle could stir technical selling in hogs.

Position Monitor

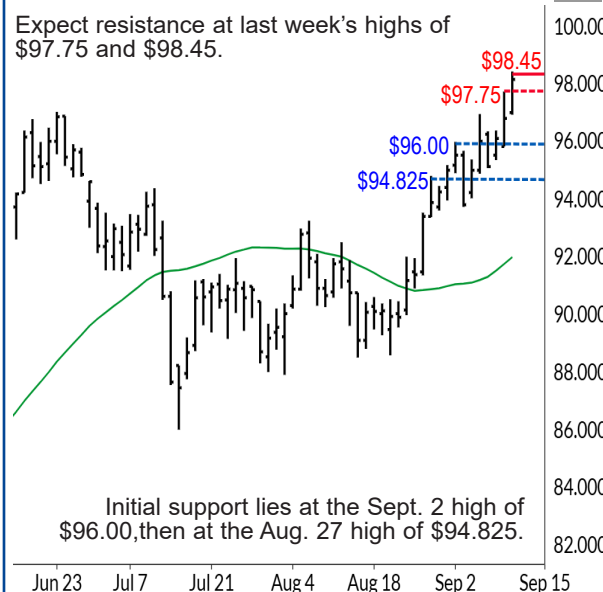
| Game Plan: | Lean Hogs | |
|---|-----------|----|
| all risk in the cash | III'25 | 0% |
| market. Nearby | IV'25 | 0% |
| hog futures re- | I'26 | 0% |
| main at a discount to the cash index, which makes it difficult to layoff risk in futures. Stay patient for now. | II'26 | 0% |

WEEKLY LIVE HOG WEIGHTS (LBS.)



DAILY OCTOBER LEAN HOGS

Expect resistance at last week's highs of \$97.75 and \$98.45.



FEED

Feed Monitor

Corn

| | |
|--------|------|
| III'25 | 100% |
| IV'25 | 33% |
| I'26 | 0% |
| II'26 | 0% |

Corn Game Plan: You should have all corn-for-feed needs covered through October. Be prepared to make additional purchases amid evidence of a confirmed low.

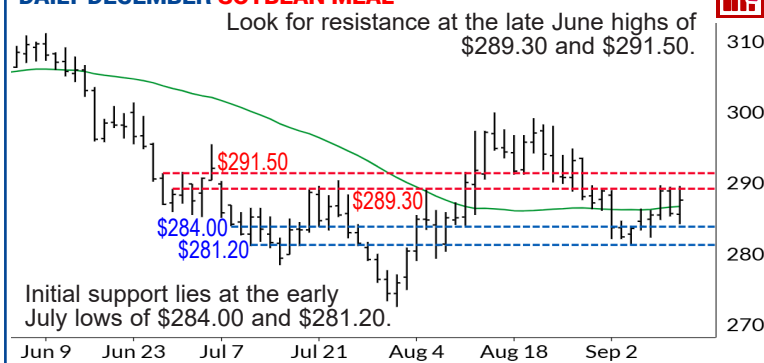
Meal

| | |
|--------|------|
| III'25 | 100% |
| IV'25 | 50% |
| I'26 | 0% |
| II'26 | 0% |

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

DAILY DECEMBER SOYBEAN MEAL

Look for resistance at the late June highs of \$289.30 and \$291.50.

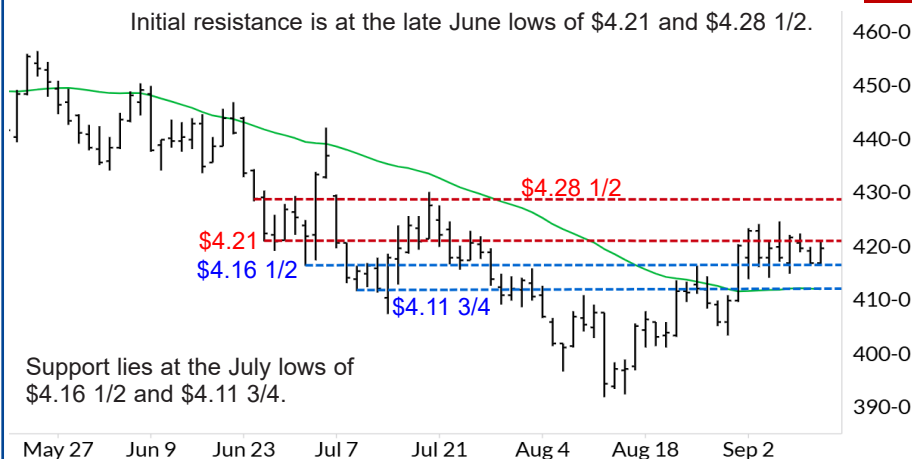


Position Monitor

| | '25 crop | '26 crop |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Cash-only: | 20% | 0% |
| Hedgers (cash sales): | 20% | 0% |
| Futures/Options | 0% | 0% |

Game Plan: You should have 20% of your 2025 crop sold. With a push to lows in mid-August, we're willing to wait for a more profound move before making any more new-crop sales. We are targeting \$4.40 for additional sales, but be prepared to pull the trigger on a rally. Sales for the 2026 crop will also be assessed given the next opportunity.

DAILY DECEMBER CORN



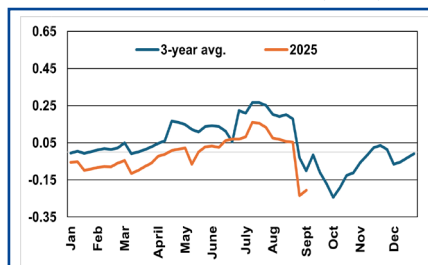
DAILY MARCH CORN



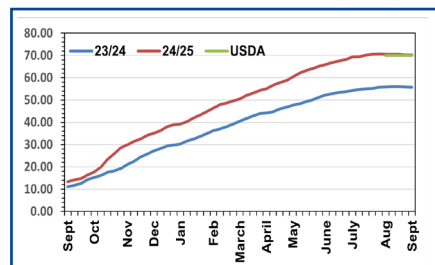
CORN - Fundamental Analysis

December futures were tugged from technically overbought territory ahead of USDA's WASDE and Production Reports on Friday, though solid support continued to curb earnest seller interest. Fund managers have actively covered shorts (see From the Bullpen on Analysis page 4), which persisted last week as traders have taken a more bullish stance as harvest approaches. All eyes will undoubtedly turn to yield reports as producers reap their crops across the Corn Belt, with market participants eager to gain greater insight into the U.S. crop following USDA's strong condition ratings. Meanwhile, a greater focus will also turn to South America as first crop corn plantings progress.

AVERAGE CORN BASIS (DEC.)



CORN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)

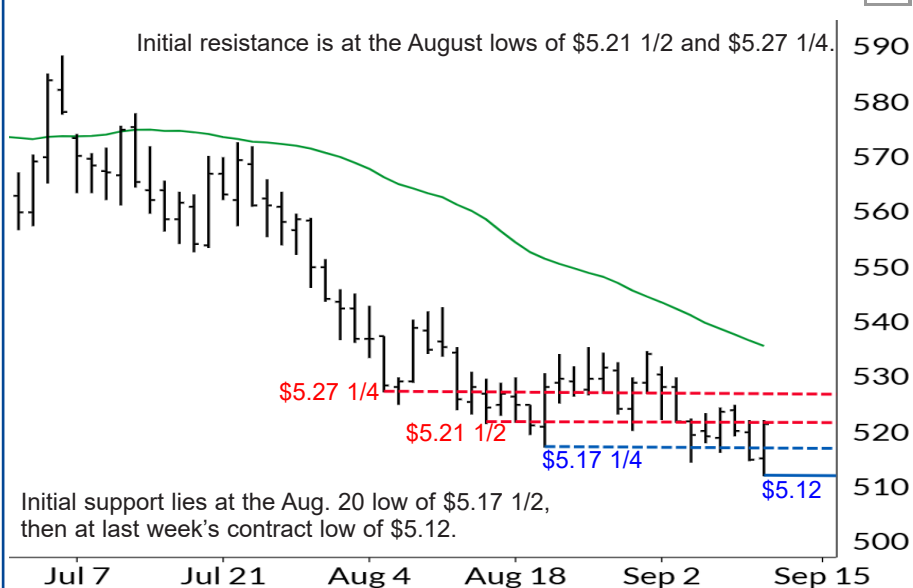


Position Monitor

| | '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.

DAILY DECEMBER SRW WHEAT



WHEAT - Fundamental Analysis

SRW — New contract lows were forged last week, as bulls continued to struggle to build momentum amid improved global production prospects. However, geopolitical tensions between Russia/Ukraine persist while U.S. producers mull over whether SRW plantings are a worthwhile venture.

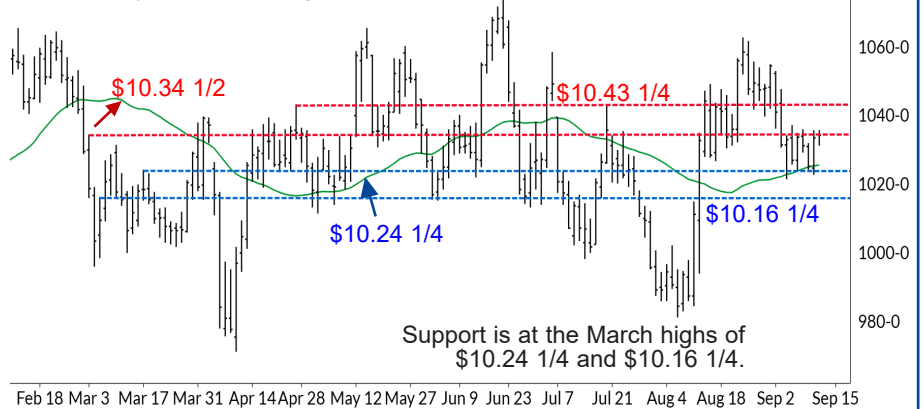
Position Monitor

| | '25 crop | '26 crop |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Cash-only: | 20% | 0% |
| Hedgers (cash sales): | 20% | 0% |
| Futures/Options | 0% | 0% |

Game Plan: You should be 20% sold for the 2025 crop. Rallies may be limited in the near term, but be prepared to advance new crop sales on an extended short-covering rally. We are targeting \$10.62 basis November futures, but may advise sales if a pullback seems imminent. Sales for the 2026 crop will be assessed when the next opportunity arrives.

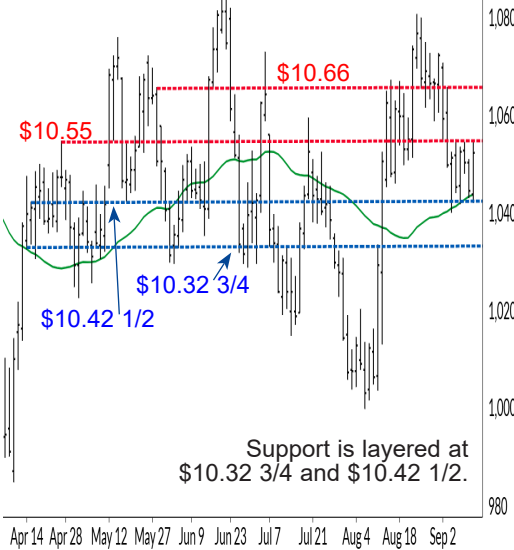
DAILY NOVEMBER SOYBEANS

Resistance stems from the March 3 high of \$10.34 1/2, which is backed by the April 25 high of \$10.43 1/4.



DAILY JANUARY SOYBEANS

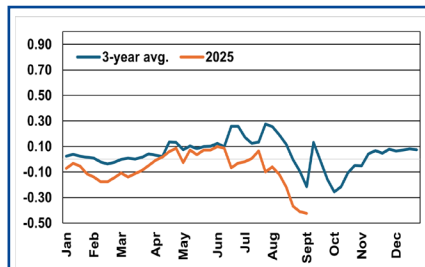
Resistance stands at \$10.55 and \$10.66.



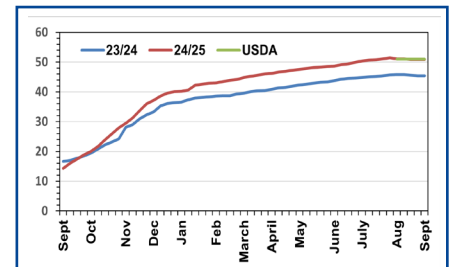
SOYBEANS - Fundamental Analysis

A steadfast tone rung across the soy complex last week, with soybeans seemingly caught in the early-week spreading crossfire that transpired in meal and soyoil. However, traders certainly held a cautious tone into USDA's September Crop Reports on Friday, as they kept short-covering efforts below the 10- and 20-day moving averages across all three markets. China's absence in the U.S. soybean market at a seasonally crucial period continues to garner market attention, though there are growing concerns regarding the size of the U.S. crop. Traders will quickly turn their attention to yields and planting progress in South America, which has advanced slowly thus far amid low soil moisture.

AVERAGE SOYBEAN BASIS (NOV.)

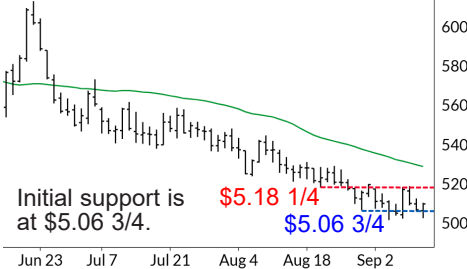


SOYBEAN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



DAILY DECEMBER HRW WHEAT

Resistance is at \$5.18 1/4.

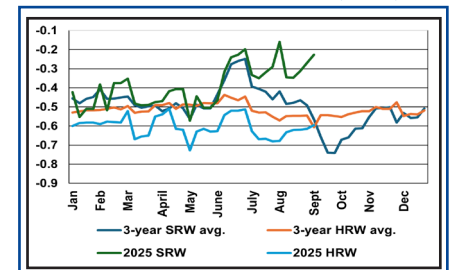


DAILY DECEMBER HRS WHEAT

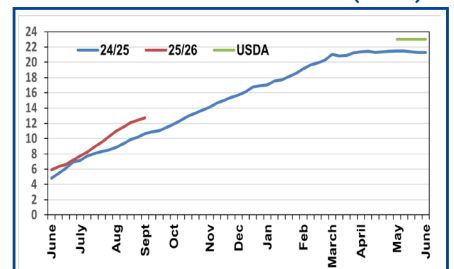
Resistance is at \$5.75.



AVERAGE WHEAT BASIS (DEC.)



WHEAT EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



HRW — Last week commenced on an upbeat note, with HRW futures surging from freshly carved contract lows. But those efforts were quickly met with technical selling and ultimately sideways consolidation. Many HRW producers will likely plant per usual, with intentions to graze if prices remain suppressed.

HRS — Futures stabilized last week, though technical headwinds continued to curb a more earnest correction from recent contract lows. Harvest continues to progress, with 85% complete early last week, according to USDA. A catalyst is a seeming requirement for a rally, and next week's FOMC meeting could provide fodder for a more robust move.

Position Monitor

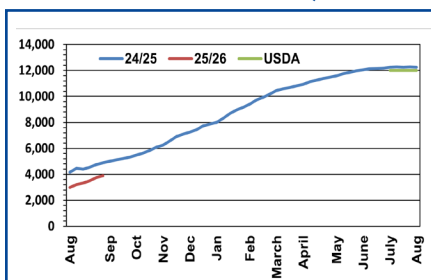
| | '25 crop | '26 crop |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Cash-only: | 0% | 0% |
| Hedgers (cash sales): | 0% | 0% |
| Futures/Options | 0% | 0% |

Game Plan: Wait on an extended rally to make 2025 sales. We are targeting 69.00¢ to 70.00¢ in December futures.

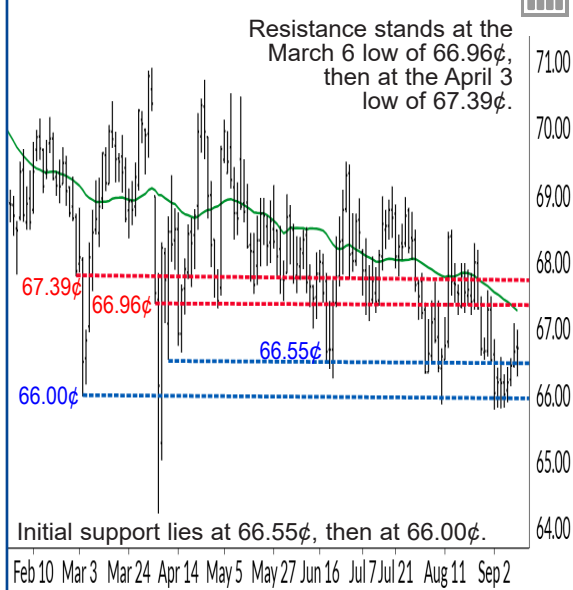
AVERAGE COTTON BASIS (OCTOBER)



COTTON EXPORT BOOKINGS ('000 BALES)



DAILY DECEMBER COTTON



COTTON - Fundamental Analysis

Short-covering efforts were featured in early week trade last week, though technical headwinds and lingering demand woes curbed extended efforts. However, China has shown up of late to make purchases of U.S. cotton, though traders will look for continued evidence of such.

GENERAL OUTLOOK

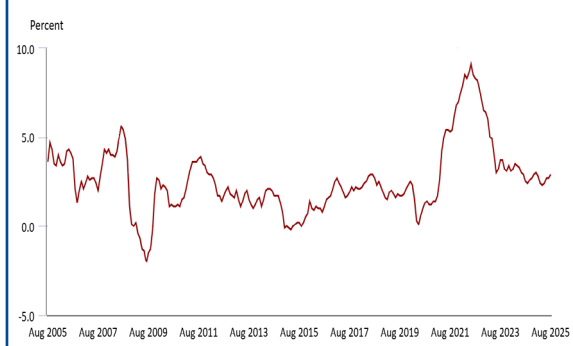
ECONOMY: Last week's U.S. consumer price index and producer price index reports saw CPI come in slightly higher than expected, while the producer price index was significantly lower than forecast.

Last week also saw the government make sharp downward revisions in U.S. jobs growth for the year ended in March, cutting nearly in half the monthly jobs-growth rate for the

12-month period from 147,000 to just over 70,000 a month. Weekly jobless claims last week saw a surprisingly sharp rise in claims.

The takeaway from last week's data is that marketplace odds up-ticked to a near certainty the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates this week — with even a slight chance of a 0.5% rate cut but the majority reckoning a 0.25% cut.

ANNUAL CHANGE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



FROM THE BULLPEN By Market Analyst Hillari Mason

Fund managers actively covered corn shorts throughout August, shucking 82,263 contracts from Aug. 5 to hold a net short of 91,487 contracts by Sept. 2. However, over that period, open interest also declined 10%, which may have been reflective of elevated uncertainty in anticipation of USDA's September Crop Reports. Meanwhile, in early September the put/call open interest ratio for December futures was approximately 0.75, meaning calls outnumbered puts, suggesting a bullish bias.

In looking at 2024, funds liquidated around 66,000 shorts in August to a net short of 176,211 contracts by early September, while open interest fell by around 14% only to rebound to levels not seen since June of 2021 by late October.

From there, open interest bobbled but eventually edged to the third-highest level by mid-February, only trailing levels scored in early February 2021 and mid-June 2019. If history repeats itself, funds will continue to actively cover into a potential net long into the new year.

In soybeans, funds held a net short of 65,930 contracts in early August, which evolved into a net long of 11,964 contracts by Sept. 2. This compares to a net short of 169,016 contracts in early August 2024, which modestly faded to 154,096 contracts short by early September. While meager by comparison, it left the door open for funds to remove shorts to an eventual net long by early January, which coincided with a notable rally.

WATCH LIST

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | NOPA Soy Crush Report August crush data. | MON 9/15 11:00 a.m. CT |
| 2 | USDA Crop Progress Report Will crop ratings continue to slip? | MON 9/15 3:00 p.m. CT |
| 3 | FOMC Meeting Concludes 25 or 50 basis point rate cut? | WED 9/17 1:00 p.m. CT |
| 4 | USDA Export Sales Report A focus on new-crop soybean sales. | THUR 9/18 7:30 a.m. CT |
| 5 | USDA Cattle on Feed Report Placements will be key. | FRI 9/19 2:00 p.m. CT |

Farm Journal TV for Free!

As a *Pro Farmer* Member, you get free access to Farm Journal TV — a \$120 value. Go to farmjournaltv.com, select an annual subscription and use coupon code PROFARMER.