News this week...

- 2 StoneX cuts corn yield amid unfavorable finish.
- **3** World wheat fundamentals see shift.
- 4 Purdue survey sees optimism across agriculture.

Cattle soar to record highs — December corn futures saw a breakdown from the recent sideways trading range late in the week, but volatility across products continues to be suppressed amid the ongoing lack of data out of the federal government. Soybeans struggled to hold onto gains seen early in the week as traders are awaiting hard data that China is entering the U.S. market rather than just social media posts out of the White House. Wheat futures hit fresh lows as prices continue to push lower despite a friendly world balance sheet that continues to tighten. Live cattle futures broke out of the sideways range and pushed higher, led by feeder cattle, which surged to contract highs. Lean hog futures broke to six-week lows as seasonally waning cash fundamentals undercut futures.

No USDA S&D, Production Reports

Newswires opted to poll for last week's Crop Production and World Agricultural Supply and Demand (WASDE) reports knowing the reports would likely not happen due to the ongoing government shutdown. A *Bloomberg* poll of analysts showed expectations of the national average corn yield falling to 185.0 bu. per acre, with even the highest estimate coming below USDA's September yield. Ending stocks for the 2025-26 marketing year were seen as rising to 2.236 billion bu., up from 2.110 billion in September as higher carry-in, detailed in the Sept. 30 Grain Stocks Report, offset lower production.

The poll showed the soybean yield as falling to 53.2 bu. per acre, down from 53.5 bu. in USDA's September report. Ending stocks for 2025-26 were seen as rising to 318 million bu. despite stocks coming in below expectations for 2024-25 in the Stocks report two weeks ago. That reflects analysts' bearish bias on exports for the marketing year as China remains absent from the U.S. market.

Trump speaks on China buying beans

President Donald Trump on Thursday predicted China would resume purchases of U.S. soybeans after meeting President Xi Jinping later this month. Trump said the pressure he would bring on the Chinese president during their planned sit-down later this month would end Beijing's months-long moratorium on U.S. soybean buys.

"What happens with soybeans is we're going to see more and more, I think, opening up," Trump told reporters.

No detailed farmer aid, yet

The Trump administration has pushed back its plans to roll out economic aid for farmers last week due to the government shutdown. The Office of Management and Budget has readied between \$12 billion and \$13 billion to be allocated from an internal USDA account, some of which could be used to fund the support payments for farmers hurt by Trump's tariffs and other economic headwinds. The comments from Bessent late last week appeared to be out of place and the Treasury Secretary appeared to get ahead of himself, especially considering the ongoing shutdown.

Cash and spread markets speaking

Widespread talk has circulated mainstream and social media over the past week regarding the dire situation around the lack of soybean demand and storage capacity around the Corn Belt. While there are some localized issues (there always are), basis has been improving across much of the Midwest. When paired with bullish spread action, as was seen over the past week, the market is trying to source bushels in the near-term. That is a bullish sign and some market-watchers ponder if savvy importers are booking U.S. supplies amid the ongoing shutdown, similar to what was seen in early 2019.

China levies fees on U.S. ships

China will start levying special fees on U.S. ships docking at its ports, starting Oct. 14, in retaliation to a U.S. plan to charge port fees on Chinese ships. China's fees on U.S. vessels will be 400 Chinese yuan (\$56) per MT, increasing each year to reach 1,120 yuan by April 2028, according to a Ministry of Transport release and reported by *Bloomberg*. China's move is in response to the U.S. plan to start charging port fees on Chinese-built, operated or -owned ships, which Beijing says seriously violated the principles of international trade and the U.S. and China Maritime Agreement. The escalation comes at a critical time as progress was seemingly being made on the U.S./ China trade front.

Negotiations stalling on shutdown

Deliberations are at a standstill on the government shutdown, which is predicted to be at least the second longest on record. Talks are expected to pick up next week as the ramifications of an unpaid workforce are taking hold, including flight delays, around 800,000 employees being unpaid and tourism disruptions amid the lack of funding. The Senate rejected dueling GOP and Democratic bills for the seventh time last week with healthcare being a major hiccup in the negotiations.

While the government is still shut down, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is still seeking to put out the Consumer Price Index (CPI) next week.

No Crop Progress Report

USDA did not publish their weekly Crop Progress Report, but *Reuters* and *Bloomberg* conducted their weekly polling for analysts expectations. The *Bloomberg* poll showed expectations for corn conditions tick lower, down a point to 65% good to excellent. Analysts saw harvest as 31% completed, slightly above average. Soybean conditions were expected to be 62% good to excellent, with harvest progressing to 38% complete, behind last year but still ahead of the five-year average. There will likely not be a Crop Progress Report this week either.

Cordonnier cuts corn yield again

Crop consultant Michael Cordonnier lowered his 2025 U.S. corn yield by 1 bu. to 181.0 bu. per acre, with a neutral-to-lower bias.

"Corn yields continue to be variable, depending on how much the corn was impacted by southern rust. We will not know the final corn yield until the harvest is complete, but the story line of the 2025 U.S. corn crop is going to be the impact from southern rust," he says.

His 2025 U.S. soybean yield forecast was left unchanged this week at 52.0 bu. per acre, with a neutral-to-lower bias.

"It is probably too dry in some areas, resulting in soybean seed moisture below 10%. When soybeans are extra dry at harvest, there can be a higher level of harvest loss due to increased shattering and splitting of soybeans that are subsequently blown out the back of the combine," he says.

River levels run shallow

For the fourth year, the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers will soon be critically low, forcing shippers to light-load grain barges. Higher barge rates are also making their way down to the farm level. Gary Williams, director of the Upper Mississippi River Water Association, told *Agri-Pulse* it's causing corn and soybean growers to stash their commodities in every nook and cranny they can find.

StoneX survey sees lower corn yield

StoneX estimates 2025 U.S. corn yields at 185.9 bu. per acre in their October customer survey, down a bushel from September, with production totaling 16.737 billion bu., down 77 million bu. from USDA's September figure. The firm raised their soybean yield 0.7 bu. to 53.9 bu. per acre, bringing production to 4.326 billion bu., up 69 million bu. from USDA in September. StoneX used USDA acreage data for their production estimates for both crops.



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Producer crop comments...

Please send crop comments to editors@profarmer.com

Eastern North Dakota:

"Some above APH yields but also some not so good yields. Overall, it has been variable."

LaMoure Co. (southeastern) North Dakota:

"Top-end yield of this soybean crop is just not there. 10 to 15 bushels under what it normally is in good ground regardless of variety."

Dawson Co. (south central) Nebraska:

"Way too early to call it but first bean yields are rolling in. Averaging 51 bu./ac on dryland and 80 bu./ac on irrigated."

Southeast Indiana:

"We were really wet this spring and got planted late. We are just now getting started on harvest. It's not a bumper crop by any means, but it's not a terrible crop either."

Southeast Illinois:

"There's a lot of beans coming out. I would say beans are very average and, in some cases, disappointing. It was just hot and dry when they were filling."

DeKalb Co. (northern) Illinois:

"Corn and soybeans are being harvested as we have hit maturity. Most soybean fields are ready to harvest, with noticeable green stem in some of the fields I have scouted. Soybean pods are filled with good-sized seeds, and harvest should go quickly, with bean moisture dropping too low being a limiting factor. Corn fields are a little behind and, depending on variety and planting date, are at maturity and being harvested. With near-record highs projected into the weekend, corn ears should continue to dry down rapidly and drop from the corn stalks."

Central Kansas:

"We had one of the top five wettest Septembers on record, which helped the double crop beans. We are ready to go full bore on harvesting, but rain has slowed us down a bit. The corn looks really good so far, 30% to 40% above APH."

Northeastern Illinois:

"Working on finishing up our bean harvest, majority of them look around 55 to 70 bu./ac, which is well above the last couple of years. Lots of pods out there. Still a lot of unknowns on corn this year, not sure how much disease impacted yields."

Boone Co. (central) Iowa:

"Beans — we have a lot of fields that are the best ever.
From mid-60s to mid-80s bu. per acre, which is really good for this area. Corn, though, has been disappointing compared to what the beans were — real disappointing. By June 15, we really thought we'd have the best year ever. Then Southern Rust hit. We also got about 30" of rain from July 1 through about Aug. 10. The disease was the big kicker."

EU sees trade demand hindering deal

European Union officials see new U.S. demands for trade concessions, namely corporate compliance and climate related regulations, according to a *Bloomberg* report. The EU is the biggest importer of U.S. origin goods and stands to be the biggest importer of U.S. soybeans with China currently absent from the market.

Argentine wheat production to jump

Argentina's 2025-26 wheat harvest could reach a record-tying 23 MMT, according to the Rosario grain exchange. The firm notes high yields from abundant soil moisture is expected to drive production higher as harvest begins in the next couple weeks. USDA's most recent estimate came in at 19.5 MMT.

Russian wheat acres to drop

The world's largest wheat exporter is expected to cut its spring and winter wheat acres by over 6% in order to plant more oilseeds, the Russian Deputy Agriculture Minister says. Low prices has made wheat production less profitable, encouraging producers to make the switch.

Russian wheat exports slow

Low global grain prices have stalled wheat exports out of Russia for several months, the country's Deputy Prime Minister says. Exports fell 30% year-over-year in August and 10% in September, according to SovEcon. U.S. wheat exports, meanwhile, have had the best start to the marketing year since 2017.

Indonesia boosts biofuel use

Indonesia will implement a mandatory 50% biodiesel blend rate in the second half of 2026, according to the Indonesian mining minister. Indonesia is the largest exporter of palm oil, and a higher blend rate will limit how much they can export, which could draw demand to U.S. soybeans and soyoil.

StoneX boosts Brazilian soy outlook

The world's largest producer of soybeans is expected to produce another record crop in 2025-26 according to StoneX. The firm estimates production at 178.6 MMT, up 0.3% from their previous estimate. An analyst with the firm notes planting is just getting started, but so far weather has been favorable for fieldwork and crop development.

Brazilian planting at quick pace

Brazilian soy planting for the 2025-26 season has reached 9% of the expected area, according to South American firm AgRural. That is up 3% from the previous week and 4% from this time last year. Corn planting is 40% completed, up from 37% last year at this time.

Brazilian soy exports surge

Brazil exported a record 7.34 MMT (270 million bu.) of soybeans in September, up 20% from September 2024. For 2025, exports are up about 5% from last year, totaling 93.9 MMT (3.45 billion bu.). China remains absent from the U.S. export market, marking a sharp slowdown in U.S. export inspections from a year-ago, which historically ramp up this time of year from shipments to China.

FOMC minutes signal more rate cuts

The release of the minutes of the last Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting in September showed FOMC members had a willingness to lower interest rates further this year, but many expressed caution due to concerns over inflation. Most members reckoned it likely would be appropriate to ease monetary policy further over the remainder of this year, with new projections showing officials expected two additional quarter-point cuts by year's end.

Used equipment values stay strong

Greg "Machinery Pete" Peterson is seeing value stabilization come into play after the used tractor class weathered a major drop in auction pricing last fall. It's a boomerang effect on the heels of an aggressive push of used late-model tractors to auction by equipment dealers at the end of 2024. By proactively managing inventories last year, Pete says dealers are in a better position and used tractor prices are bouncing back.

Bond market signals volatile trade

While there are presently no indications the U.S. government shutdown is close to ending, U.S. Treasury traders believe the marketplace will see increased volatility when it does. The pent-up U.S. data includes reports on employment and inflation.

"The delay may complicate the collection of economic figures, making it harder for the Federal Reserve to decide whether to ease again, and options activity shows demand for hedges against a range of Fed scenarios," according to a Bloomberg report.

Israel, Hamas close to ending war

Israel and Hamas have reached a deal for the release of all hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, a major step toward ending their two-year war. The agreement was reached after several days of indirect negotiations between the warring sides in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, brokered by the U.S., Egypt, Qatar and Turkey. As part of the deal, Israel is to release jailed Palestinians and allow a ramp-up of aid supplies to Gaza, while Israeli forces will withdraw in steps until they reach a buffer zone just within Gaza's border.

Optimism creeping back into agriculture

By Pro Farmer Editors



Those are words you won't hear very often right now. Instead, news networks are finding farmers from across the country to tell the world how "desperate," "panicked" or "threatened" farming and farmers are in this country. And there is reason for concern, but not panic or desperation. Challenged? Yes, but not threatened.

Sentiment up in Ag Monthly Monitor

Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture's monthly Ag Economy Barometer for September showed sentiment in ag was generally steady with month-earlier. The overall index at 126 was just one point higher than August. But farmers in the mid-September survey needed to look down the road for stability. Their read on current conditions fell seven points to 122. The Index of Future Expectations rose five points to 128.

According to survey authors Michael Langemeier and James Mintert: "This month's survey was conducted the week following USDA's release of the September Crop Production and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates reports. USDA reports confirmed expectations for record-high corn and soybean yields and, correspondingly, weak prices for both crops, which contributed to farmers' weaker perceptions of current conditions. Expectations for the future were buttressed by producers' perception that U.S. policy is headed in the right direction and by rising expectations that a program similar to 2019's Market Facilitation Program (MFP) will provide payments to farmers in compensation for lower commodity prices. The September barometer survey took place from Sept. 15-19, 2025."

And with the government shutdown disrupting the flow of crop production and supply and demand reports, those September estimates are still the estimates directing trading activity for some of the biggest-dollar trading accounts. These systems notice harvest reports from farmers and others, but trading decisions are driven by "official" estimates from USDA. Right, wrong or indifferent — that's the way they operate.

"AgriTalk" host Chip Flory last week asked Mintert: "A drop in the current-condition index against an increase in future expectations — is that just survey respondents saying, 'It can't get any worse than it is right now?'"

Mintert explained: "It's more of a bounce back from the fact that the future index dropped 16 points in August. But

with the future expectations index above the current conditions index, there is a little bit of optimism about the future, but not much."

Headed in the right direction

The survey showed 71% of respondents said they believe "things in the U.S. today are headed in the right direction." That's similar to results in the July and August survey. Support for the tariff strategy, however, is weakening.

The Barometer summary says: "When asked specifically about whether they expect the increased use of tariffs to strengthen or weaken the U.S. agricultural economy, just over half (51%) said they expected tariffs to strengthen the agricultural economy in the long run. That's down from 63% of June's survey respondents and 70% of respondents in both the April and May surveys who said they expect the use of tariffs to have a long-run positive impact."

In September, 30% of respondents said they think the U.S. tariff policy will weaken the ag economy, up from 22% that felt that way in April and May.

Aid package on the way

When the government restarts, one of the first actions will be to announce details of an aid package for farmers. At an Oct. 9 Trump administration Cabinet meeting, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins said, "Gotta get the government reopened so we can move on that."

That Cabinet meeting happened as the Senate again failed to pass a Continuing Resolution to restart the government. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer from New York claimed: "Each day our case gets stronger." If that's the consensus of Democrat leadership, the stand off could easily last until mid-month.

When will aid be delivered?

We asked that question of Farm CPA Paul Neiffer. He reminds us USDA was given 90 days to complete Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) payments, "and they used all 90 days." Neiffer warns any aid package probably won't deliver funds to fill the cash-flow hole many are dealing with until at least December, and potentially January. Some farmers would rather wait until January to receive "trade aid" payments to defer income.

As soon as the government opens, we expect details of the aid package.



CATTLE - Fundamental Analysis

The beef complex held a decidedly firmer tone last week as support stemmed from a halt in recent wholesale pressure. An increase in movement of boxed beef indicates the pullback spurred retail demand as consumers continue to choose and prefer beef as high-protein diets have gained in popularity. Meanwhile, cash trade extended the recent trend lower, though packer margins remain solidly in the red despite a recent improvement. Beef production reports will be limited as long as the government remains shut down, though slaughter volumes will likely continue to fade into year end due to limited supplies.

Position Monitor				
Game P	lan:		Feds	Feeders
Nearby	live	III'25	0%	0%
		I IV'25	0%	0%
cattle	fu-	ľ26	0%	0%
tures	are			0%

now at premiums to the cash market. Be prepared to purchase puts for downside protection.



DAILY DECEMBER LIVE CATTLE 245.000 Initial resistance is at the August highs of \$237.00 and \$240.175. 240.000 235.000 230.000 225.000 220.000 215.000 210.000 205.000 Support lies at the Aug. 7 high of \$234.125, then 200.000 at the July 30 high of \$230.425. 195.000 Jul 14 Jul 28 Aug 11 Aug 25 Sep 22 Oct 6

HOGS - Fundamental Analysis

Futures edged to a six-week low last week amid technical selling, though a reach into technically oversold territory and support from a rebound in cattle futures paused a more earnest downside push. But, eroding cash and wholesale fundamentals and a technically bearish broadening pattern may mean bears are gearing up for another leg lower in the wake of last week's sideways consolidation. A lingering government shutdown certainly adds fuel to the fire as the marketplace continues to trade, but with limited direction amid a departure from normal reporting efforts.

Position Monitor	
Game Plan: Carry	Lean Hogs
all risk in the cash	III'25 0%
market. Nearby	IV'25 0% I'26 0%
ř	II'26 0%
hog futures remain	11 20 0 70

at a discount to the cash index, which makes it difficult to layoff risk in futures. Stay patient for now.





FEED

Feed Monitor			
Corn			
III'25 IV'25 I'26 II'26	100% 33% 0% 0%		
Meal			
III'25 IV'25 I'26 II'26	100% 100% 0% 0%		

Corn Game Plan: You should have all corn-for-feed needs covered through October. Be prepared to make additional purchases.

Meal Game Plan: You should have all your meal needs covered in the cash market through December. Be prepared to make additional purchases as futures sit at multiyear lows.



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

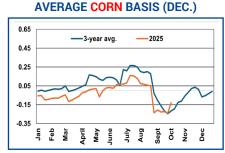
Game Plan: You should have 20% of your 2025 crop sold. With a push to lows in mid-August, we're willing to wait for a more profound move before making additional new-crop sales. We are targeting \$4.40 in December futures, but be prepared to pull the trigger on any rally. Sales for the 2026 crop will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

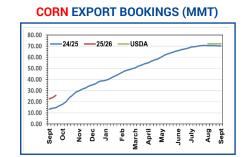




CORN - Fundamental Analysis

A sideways range has persisted across corn futures since the Oct. 1 government shutdown, as market participants hold a diminished risk appetite due to elevated unknowns. Under normal circumstances, last week would have included USDA's October Production and WASDE Reports, with an extended impasse certainly bringing question around when the next update will be released. Meanwhile, weather continues to bode well for harvest efforts across the Corn Belt, though lackluster yields have many producers socking grain away into on-farm storage, which has led to firmer basis levels and narrowing spreads amid solid demand (see From the Bullpen on Analysis page 4.).



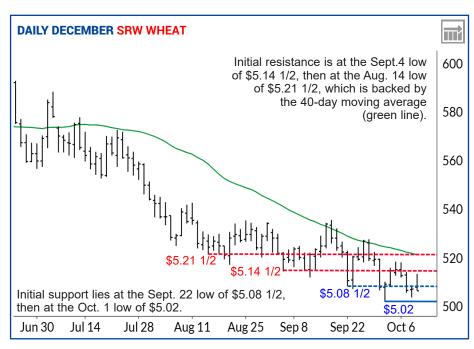


Position Monitor			
	'25 crop	'26 crop	
Cash-only:	30%	10%	
Hedgers (cash sales Futures/Options	30% 0%	10% 0%	

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

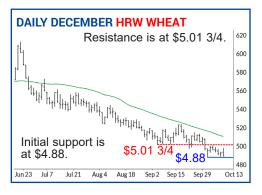
SRW – U.S. dollar strength pressured wheat futures last week, but technically oversold conditions kept downside efforts limited. Meanwhile, producers across the U.S. continue to advance planting efforts, though locally heavy rains may further crimp interest to sow.



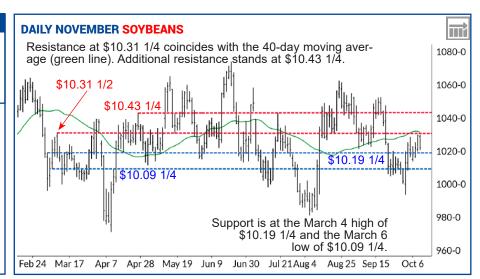
Position Monitor			l
	'25 crop	'26 crop	
Cash-only:	20%	0%	
Hedgers (cash sales)	: 20%	0%	
Futures/Options	0%	0%	

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 \$10.70 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.





HRW – Futures edged to a new contract and multi-year low last week, which marked a \$1.26 selloff in less than four months. A general risk-off tone across the marketplace amid the ongoing government shutdown has certainly crowned pressure from a rebound in the dollar. Look for sideways to lower trade until a resolution is reached.



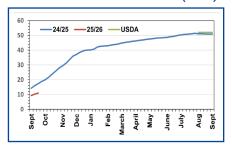
SOYBEANS - Fundamental Analysis

Contrary to corn, soybean and bean meal futures have notched short-covering gains in the wake of the government shutdown. However, technical challenges loom, which makes a push higher a seemingly difficult endeavor at this juncture. But, reports of varying yields and low interior basis levels have kept movement minimal in early harvest, and has pushed domestic crushers to bid up in search of soybeans to meet daily capacity. While firmer basis may be short-lived, it is certainly notable as harvest enters into full swing. Meanwhile, a deal with China continues to lurk in the shadows, though traders and producers alike are getting tired of waiting.

AVERAGE SOYBEAN BASIS (NOV.)



SOYBEAN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)





HRS — Futures stabilized last week after carving new contract lows, but technical pressure and strength in the dollar kept short-covering efforts limited. While the market structure seems like a correction is overdue, a greater catalyst will be required to propel prices as buyer interest remains limited as trade woes linger.

AVERAGE WHEAT BASIS (DEC.)



WHEAT EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)

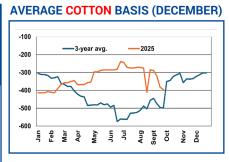


Position Monitor			
	'25 crop	'26 crop	
Cash-only:	0%	0%	
Hedgers (cash sales):	0%	0%	
Futures/Options	0%	0%	

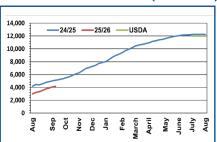
Game Plan: Wait on an extended rally to make 2025 sales. We are targeting 69.00¢ to 70.00¢ in December futures.

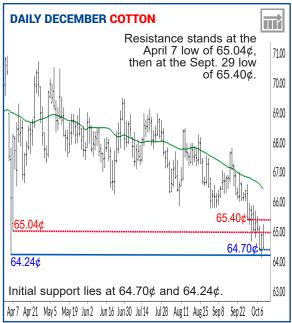
COTTON - Fundamental Analysis

A corrective rebound from a contractlow close ensued at midweek t, though technical hurdles and a firmer U.S. dollar limited short-covering efforts. Meanwhile, quality concerns linger around the Delta and southwestern areas amid tropical moisture.



COTTON EXPORT BOOKINGS ('000 BALES)





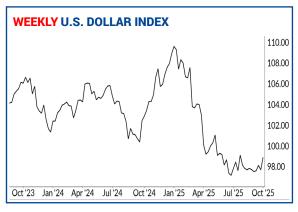
GENERAL OUTLOOK

CURRENCIES: The U.S. dollar index, which is a basket of six major world currencies weighted against the greenback, last week scored a nine-week high.

The USDX has rallied sharply the past three weeks on safe-haven demand due to a wobbly foreign exchange market that is being rattled by a French political crisis as well as political problems in Japan that have weakened the yen.

A falling Argentine peso due to government financial problems has also boosted the USDX while at the same time working to destabilize the secondary foreign exchange market.

The rallying U.S. dollar has been a bearish "outside-market" element for the U.S. ag futures markets, making them more expensive to purchase on world trade markets with non-U.S. currency.



FROM THE BULLPEN By Market Analyst Hillari Mason

Basis levels have been a hot topic since before harvest began, as the industry preprepared for a glut of corn and soybeans across the Midwest. While that isn't unusual, China's absence has spilled a more profound level of uncertainty across the marketplace.

However, as harvest advances and futures hover around dismal levels, producers have largely opted to utilize onfarm storage, which has kept grain from hitting the market in earnest. Yields, demand, barge freight and interest rates are also factors in the equation.

The annual *Pro Farmer* Crop Tour uncovered potential problems across the Corn and Soybean Belt, contrary to USDA's strong condition ratings through-

out the growing season. With harvest upon us, producers are ultimately finding what implications mother nature had on the U.S. crop. Many have concluded that lower yields with low cash prices is certainly not a profitable scenario.

While China hasn't purchased any new crop soybeans from the U.S., domestic crush capacity has grown notably in recent years, which creates different landscape compared to the previous trade war. For corn, export demand remains robust, and ethanol demand is no slouch.

The export situation has caused barge freight to drop, which bodes well for basis. CIF values (Gulf basis) have also propped up corn basis - with the lower Midwest seeing the earlier benefit.

WATCH LIST

1	Columbus Day Markets open.	MON 10/13
2	USDA Crop Progress Wheat plantings, harvest progress.	TUES 10/14 3:00 p.m. CT
3	NOPA Crush Report First monthly data for 2025-26.	WED 10/15 11:00 a.m. CT
4	Consumer Price Index (CPI) September inflation data.	THUR 10/16 7:30 a.m. CT
5	USDA Export Sales Report Soybean, wheat sales in focus.	THUR 10/16 7:30 a.m. CT

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