

Corn futures fell throughout the first half of July as timely rains moved into the Corn Belt. USDA indicated 68 percent of the crop was rated good/excellent through the week ending July 14. This was 6 points ahead of the 5-year average and even with the previous week. USDA on July 12 released its monthly WASDE report. For corn, the domestic 2024/25 balance sheet called for larger supplies, greater use, and slightly lower ending stocks. Beginning stocks were lowered 145 million bushels from last month on a large increase in old crop use. Old crop corn exports were lifted following abnormally large late spring/early summer demand. New crop production was increased higher by 240 million bushels on greater planted and harvested area. Pegged at 15.1 billion bushels, this was nearly identical to the average analysts' pre-report estimate of 15.060 billion bushels. Total use was increased by 100 million bushels due to both feed and residual use as well as exports. Ending stocks were lowered by 5 million bushels to 2.097 billion bushels. This was lower than the average pre-report estimate and below the range of estimates (2.124 to 2.498 billion). The new crop global balance sheet called for reduced production and higher ending stocks. Production was lowered for the EU, Canada, and Russia. Global corn stocks, pegged at 311.6 million metric tons was nearly identical to the average pre-report estimate of 312 million metric tons. Rapid drought development is forecast in key corn areas in Eastern Europe, but market attention will be primarily focused on yield estimates coming out of the fields across the central U.S. in the coming weeks. Our clients have leaned on flexible positions throughout the spring and summer. They are maintaining protection to lower prices but freshening up coverage to position themselves to benefit should a hot and dry late July and August lead to a market rebound.



The estimated yield for the Dec 2024 crop is 216 bushels per acre and the non-land operating cost is \$788 per acre. Land cost for Dec 2024 is estimated at \$275 per acre<sup>1</sup>. Basis for the Dec 2024 crop is estimated at \$-0.34 per bushel.



The estimated yield for the Dec 2025 crop is 216 bushels per acre and the estimated operating cost is \$788 per acre. Land cost for Dec 2025 is estimated at \$300 per acre<sup>1</sup>. Basis for the Dec 2025 crop is estimated at \$-0.3 per bushel.

<sup>1</sup> The Corn Margin Watch yield, land and non-land operating cost values are based upon central Illinois low productivity farmland crop estimates in the "Historic Corn, Soybean, Wheat, and Double-crop Soybeans" report published by the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois.

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