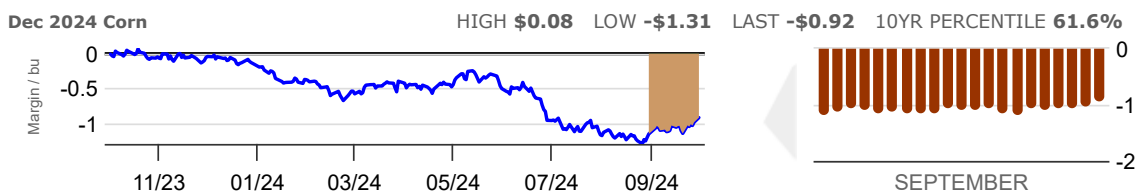


Corn futures traded higher in the second half of September as harvest continues to ramp up across the country and a government report offered an old crop bullish surprise. USDA on September 30 released its quarterly Grain Stocks report. September 1 old crop corn stocks were pegged at 1.747 billion bushels, about 100 million bushels below the average trade estimate. The June-August indicated disappearance was 3.24 billion bushels, up from 2.74 billion during the same period last year. USDA indicated 21 percent of the U.S. corn crop was harvested through the week ending September 29. This was 7 points ahead of the previous week and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Ethanol production fell in the week ending September 20 to its lowest weekly output since May 3. While output typically falls during this time of year, production was 1.5 percent below a year ago. Ethanol stocks also fell slightly from the previous week but remain at 10-year highs and 6.7 percent above a year ago. Corn export shipments hit a marketing year high last week and are on pace to meet USDA's annual forecast. Outstanding export sales fell last week, however, and are about 40 million bushels behind the 10-year average for this point in the marketing year. Sales to Mexico are historically high while China has yet to secure any new crop U.S. corn purchases. Much attention is being paid to dryness across major growing areas of Brazil, but rain appears to be in the long term forecast. Market attention will remain focused on harvest progress, the October WASDE report, and South American weather. Our clients have leaned on flexible positions throughout the growing season. They are looking to roll up their floors closer to the market. This will continue to provide protection to lower prices but maintain the opportunity to participate in price movements higher, should they occur.



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 acre¹. Basis for the Dec 2024 crop is estimated at \$-0.25 per bushel.



The estimated yield for the Dec 2025 crop is 224 bushels per acre and the estimated operating cost is \$749 per acre. Land cost for Dec 2025 is estimated at \$300 per acre¹. Basis for the Dec 2025 crop is estimated at \$-0.3 per bushel.

¹ 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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