

Nearby corn futures finished the first half of November marginally higher as export and ethanol demand remains robust. USDA on November 8 released its latest WASDE report. For corn, the domestic 2024/25 balance sheet called for lower production and ending stocks. Corn production was lowered slightly to 15.1 billion bushels on a 0.7 bushel yield reduction. Pegged at 183.1 bushels per acre, the yield estimate was slightly below the average analysts' pre-report estimate of 183.7 bushels per acre but within the range of estimates (182.5 to 185.0 range). Total use was unchanged from last month despite strong export and ethanol grind figures. Current outstanding export sales are well ahead of the historical pace needed to meet USDA's annual forecast. A soaring U.S. dollar could impact the trajectory of future sales. Likewise, weekly ethanol production has been at 10-year highs for each of the past two weeks for this point in the year. Corn ending stocks were lowered to 1.9 billion bushels, nearly identical to the average analysts' pre-report estimate of 1.921 billion bushels. Global corn production was increased while ending stocks were lowered. Global corn ending stocks were lowered by 2.4 million metric tons to 304.1 million. This was below the average pre-report estimate of 305.9 million and near the lower end of the range of estimates (304.0 to 308.5 million). Production prospects in South America continue to improve, although new crop corn will be unavailable on the global market until April at the earliest. Market attention will continue to focus on the pace of export sales, any major shifts in U.S. trade policy, and South American yield estimates. Our clients were active strengthening delta on the rally in the first week of the month. They are patiently evaluating adjustments to maintain protection to lower prices.



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 \$-0.2 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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