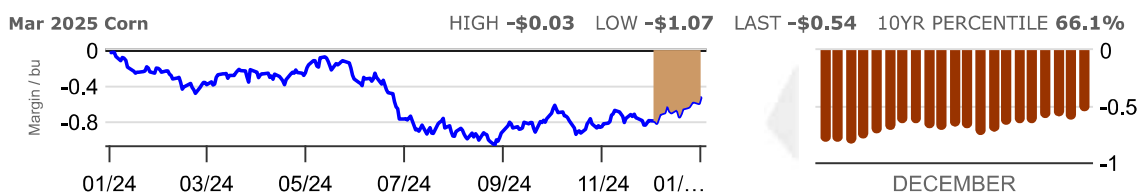


Corn futures finished the year on an uptick, scoring the highest closing price since the end of June. On the domestic front, estimated weekly corn use to produce ethanol continues to meet expectations. Ethanol production runs have met or exceeded 2023 marks consistently each week this year. Impacting the feed side, USDA recently released the Quarterly Hogs & Pigs report indicating a stable supply of pigs year-over-year and implies similar corn demand from the swine sector at least for the near term. YTD cattle slaughter is nearly 4% lower than 2023, but weights are higher, keeping the beef production number from plummeting. Live weights are up 2.5% over last year due to the relatively lower price for corn. Major changes to the corn market prices could have a significant impact on that sector's future demand. The export market continues to build. Outstanding sales to all major destinations have had large increases over the last few weeks, with many wondering if this buying is in anticipation of the new administration and the trade-policy uncertainties that will follow. USDA will publish the Crop Production Annual Summary report along with the monthly WASDE report on January 10 and will finalize production for the recent harvest. Along with this, USDA will also publish the Quarterly Grain Stocks report which indicates available supplies and gives a decent measure of usage pace through the first quarter of the crop year. South American weather forecasts are calling for isolated showers and warming temperatures over the next two weeks, but lasting deterioration is not expected. Our clients are remaining patient on existing coverage and will be looking to scale into additional coverage and increase delta if prices continue to move higher.



The estimated yield for the Mar 2025 crop is 216 bushels per acre and the non-land operating cost is \$788 per acre. Land cost for Mar 2025 is estimated at \$275 per acre<sup>1</sup>. Basis for the Mar 2025 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 acre<sup>1</sup>. Basis for the Dec 2025 crop is estimated at \$-0.25 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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