

Soybean complex futures fell throughout the first half of October on improving South American weather and the quick pace of domestic harvest. USDA indicated 67 percent of the U.S. soybean crop was harvested through the week ending October 13. This was 20 percent ahead of the previous week and 16 points ahead of the 5-year average. USDA on October 11 released its monthly WASDE report. For soybeans, the domestic 2024/25 balance sheet called for offsetting adjustments that kept ending stocks unchanged at 550 million bushels. The acute dryness from mid-August to mid-September had a limited impact on soybean yield and production. National average yields were reduced 0.1 bushels per acre to 53.1 bushels per acre, lowering production by 4 million bushels. Offsetting adjustments were made on the old crop balance sheet (slightly lower supply coupled with slightly lower demand) caused beginning stocks to be 2 million bushels higher. New crop residual use was lowered 2 million bushels. NOPA indicated its members crushed 177.32 million bushels of soybeans in September. This was above all trade estimates, marked a monthly record, and was 7.2 percent higher than a year ago. On the global front, USDA indicated no major changes to the soybean balance sheet. However, a reduction in palm oil production for Indonesia for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 crop years, "guided by domestic estimates and lower-than-expected reported exports to date" was specifically mentioned in the text of the report. China has been active in recent month purchasing soybeans from Brazil and the U.S. amidst the price decline and possibly in anticipation of potential trade issues depending on the outcome of the U.S. election in November. Chinese soybean imports in September totaled 11.4 million metric tons, a record high for the month. Market attention will remain focused on improving South American weather and international demand. Our customers have leaned on flexible positions throughout the growing season. They were active at the end of last month strengthening delta and are patiently evaluating adjustments as the market breaks to reopen upside opportunity.



The estimated yield for the Nov 2024 crop is 67 bushels per acre and the non-land operating cost is \$513 per acre. Land cost for Nov 2024 is estimated at \$275 per acre¹. Basis for the Nov 2024 crop is estimated at \$-0.4 per bushel.



The estimated yield for the Nov 2025 crop is 68 bushels per acre and the estimated operating cost is \$490 per acre. Land cost for Nov 2025 is estimated at \$300 per acre¹. Basis for the Nov 2025 crop is estimated at \$-0.4 per bushel.

¹ The Soybeans 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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