

Soybeans Margin Watch: November



Nearby soybean futures finished the first half of November largely unchanged while deferred contracts fell marginally amidst a soaring U.S. dollar and a coming change in the U.S. administration. USDA on November 8 released its latest WASDE report. For soybeans, the domestic 2024/25 balance sheet called for lower production, exports, crush, and ending stocks. Soybean production was lowered by 121 million bushels to 4.5 billion. Yields were reduced to 51.7 bushels per acre, with large reductions in Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota. This was below the average pre-report estimate of 52.8 bushels per acre and below the lower end of the range of estimates (52.0 to 53.8 range). Exports were lowered on the slow pace of sales to date while crush was lowered by 15 million bushels. Soybean ending stocks were lowered 80 million bushels to 470 million bushels. This was also below the average pre-report estimate of 535 million bushels and below the lower end of the range of estimates (480 to 602 million range). The global soybean balance sheet called for lower production and lower ending stocks. Production was lowered mostly on reduction in the U.S. and India. Export forecasts were increased for Brazil and Canada. Global soybean ending stocks were reduced by 2.9 million metric tons to 131.7 million on lower stocks in the U.S., Brazil, and Argentina. This was below the average pre-report estimate of 134.0 million metric tons and near the lower end of the range of estimates (131.5 to 135.0 million). Domestic demand remains robust. NOPA indicated its members crushed 199.959 million bushels of soybeans in October. This marked an all-time high and was 5.4 percent higher than a year ago. Soyoil stocks were below the average trade analysts' estimate and near 10-year lows. Market attention will remain focused on South American production potential and international trade relations. Our customers were active increasing delta on the short rally in the first week of the month. They are patiently evaluating adjustments to reopen upside opportunity should the market continue to pull back.



The estimated yield for the Jan 2025 crop is 67 bushels per acre and the non-land operating cost is \$513 per acre. Land cost for Jan 2025 is estimated at \$275 per acre¹. Basis for the Jan 2025 crop is estimated at \$-0.3 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 \$-0.43 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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