



### News this week...

- 2 – Our analysis of initial FSA certified acres.
- 3 – Record NOPA soybean crush in July.
- 4 – Crop Tour will provide first-hand look at crops.

**Beans lead rebound** – Soybean futures strengthened last week on support from forecasts calling for at least a week of well above-normal temps and dryness across the central United States. Corn faced early week price pressure but rebounded along with soybeans. Wheat futures extended their recent price decline, though mounting tensions in the Black Sea triggered some corrective buying ahead of the weekend. Focus this week will be on weather and results from the Pro Farmer Crop Tour as we scout fields across seven Corn Belt states Aug. 21-24. Check [www.profarmer.com](http://www.profarmer.com) daily for observations and nightly results. Cattle futures faced pressure from a decline in cash prices, despite their big discounts. Lean hog futures extended their seasonal pullback early last week but then rebounded amid corrective buying.

## Extreme heat during Crop Tour

A high pressure ridge will produce extreme heat and dryness over the central United States. Temps will be hottest in the Plains and western Corn Belt, though the eastern Corn Belt and Mid-South will also be hot. Temps are expected to return to more seasonal levels by late this week, which could also bring better rainfall chances for the Corn Belt Aug. 27-31.

## Black Sea tensions remain elevated

Russia and Ukraine have increased attacks on the other's grain infrastructure at ports. The U.S. reportedly is considering various options to help Ukraine export grain, including safeguarding ships into and out of its Danube ports.

## U.S. advances GM corn dispute

The U.S. established a dispute settlement panel under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement regarding Mexico's ban on genetically modified corn. The U.S. contends Mexico's ban on GM corn is not based on science.

## India facing record-low Aug. rains

Through the first 17 days of August, India received just 90.7 mm (3.6 inches) of rain, nearly 40% below normal. India is on pace for the lowest August rainfall total on record back to 1901.

## China's economic woes mount

One of China's major real estate developers is approaching default and another filed for bankruptcy. There are concerns stress in China's property sector could amplify strains in the financial system, impacting credit expansion and economic growth. Amid the mounting economic concerns, China's central bank unexpectedly cut key policy rates for the second time in three months. It also took extraordinary measures to support the yuan. Firms are cutting China's economic growth forecasts and Beijing's official target of around 5% appears optimistic.

## Changes for Argentine ag/trade policy?

The front-runner in Argentina's presidential election, libertarian Javier Milei, says he would unify foreign exchange rates, scrap ag export taxes and quotas and other government interventions. See "General Outlook" on [Analysis](#) page 4 for more.

## New WOTUS definition coming soon

The White House has concluded its review of EPA's proposed amendments to the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS). Focus will be on changes EPA intends in response to an earlier Supreme Court decision. One Washington insider told us, "EPA is going to flaunt the law. It will trigger another round of litigation and a high court rebuke."

## Time to hit the fields on Crop Tour. Scout your fields, too!

While we're scouting fields across the Corn Belt Aug. 21-24 on the Pro Farmer Crop Tour, you can scout your own fields. That will allow you to compare your results to those we find in other areas of the Corn Belt.

### ***In each corn field, get past the end rows and then take 35 paces into the field.***

- At the 35th pace, lay out a 30-foot plot and count all the ears that will make grain on two 30-foot rows.
- From one of those two rows, pull the 5th, 8th and 11th ears. This gives us a consistently random process to select sample ears.
- Measure the length of grain (in inches, rounded to the nearest one-quarter inch) on each ear.
- Count the number of kernel rows around each ear.
- Record the row width in the field.
- To calculate the estimated yield, take the average number of ears in the two 30-foot rows TIMES the average length of grain per ear TIMES the average number of kernel rows around; DIVIDE the total by row width.

**EXAMPLE:** (50 ears X 6.5 inches X 16.7 kernel rows) / 30-inch rows = 180.9. This example gives you an estimated yield at that spot in the field of 180.9 bu. per acre.

### ***In each soybean field, pick a 'representative spot' in the field.***

- Measure three-foot of row and count all the plants in that plot. Randomly select three plants. Count all the pods on those three plants and calculate the average number of pods per plant.
- Multiply the average number of pods per plant by the number of plants in the three-foot plot. Multiply that number by 36, and divide by row width.

**EXAMPLE:** (14 plants X 32 pods/plant X 36) / 15-inch rows = 1,075.2 pods in a 3'X3' square. Compare your results to what we find on Tour.

## Our analysis of FSA certified acres

FSA released certified acres as of Aug. 9. For corn, FSA reported planted/failed acres of 93.031 million, with 1.421 million acres of prevent-plant (PP). Our analysis of past data suggests corn plantings would increase as high as 95.0 million acres from the 94.1 million estimated by NASS in June. Because the data was as of Aug. 9 instead of the typical Aug. 1, we expect plantings to increase 650,000 acres to 94.750 million acres. That would result in harvested area of 86.975 million acres.

For soybeans, FSA reported planted/failed acres of 82.615 million, with 458,915 acres of PP. Our analysis would suggest a 100,000-acre increase from the June NASS estimate of 83.505 million acres. Due to the later reporting date, we opted to keep plantings and harvested area unchanged at 83.505 million and 82.696 million acres, respectively.

The FSA data implies lots of abandoned Plains wheat acres went into corn. However, fewer corn acres were planted in Iowa and Illinois. The FSA data implies large increases to soybean acres in Iowa, Illinois and North Dakota versus fewer acres in Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio and Oklahoma.

## Corn, bean crop conditions improve

As of Aug. 13, USDA rated 59% of the corn crop as “good” to “excellent,” a two-percentage-point increase from the previous week. The “poor” to “very poor” rating declined one point to 13%.

USDA rated 59% of the soybean crop as “good” to “excellent,” up five points from last week, led by a 12-point increase in Illinois — a record weekly jump for mid-August. The portion of crop rated “poor” to “very poor” dropped two points to 12%.

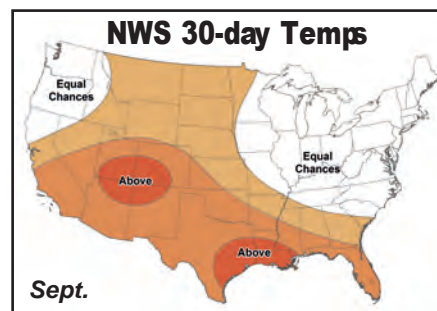
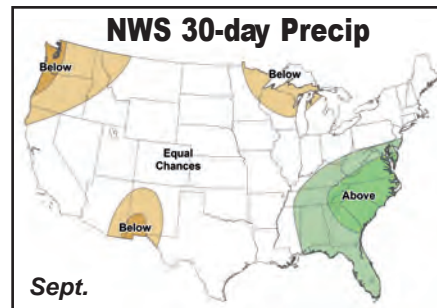
On the weighted *Pro Farmer* Crop Condition Index (CCI; 0 to 500-point scale, with 500 representing perfect), the corn crop improved 3.9 points to 352.5 and is now 3.7 points (1.1%) above last year at this time. The soybean crop jumped 9.2 points to 349.2, which is 0.1 point better than last year.

## Consultant raises corn, bean crop pegs

Citing recent favorable weather, crop consultant Dr. Michael Cordonnier increased his corn and soybean yield estimates. He raised his corn yield 1 bu. to 175 bu. per acre, increasing his production estimate to 15.10 billion bushels. Cordonnier raised his soybean yield 0.5 bu. to 51 bu. per acre and he now forecasts the crop at 4.21 billion bushels. He has a neutral to slightly higher bias toward both crops, noting yields and acreage could increase a little for both crops.

## Mostly ‘equal chances’ for Sept. rains

The extended weather forecast from the National Weather Service calls for “equal chances” for normal, above-normal and below-normal rainfall across the central U.S. during September. Above-normal rainfall is expected in the Southeast. There are also equal chances for temps



while western areas of the region, the Plains, Mid-South, Delta and Southeast have increased chances of above-normal temps.

Unless there are timely rains during September, it could be a less-than-favorable finish to the growing season in the areas expected to see above-normal temps.

The 90-day forecast through November is similar, suggesting it should be a relatively open harvest window across the Corn Belt.

The Seasonal Drought Outlook calls for drought to persist across most areas of the southern, western and northern Corn Belt through November.

## Spring wheat conditions inch up

USDA rated 42% of the U.S. spring wheat crop as “good” to “excellent,” up one point from the previous week. The portion of crop rated “poor” to “very poor” held at 20%.

On our weighted CCI, the spring wheat crop slipped 0.9 point to 320.7, down 47.7 points (12.9%) from last year.

## Texas cotton crop conditions plunge

USDA rated 36% of the cotton crop as “good” to “excellent,” down five points from the previous week. The portion of crop rated “poor” to “very poor” jumped nine points to 43%. A record 66% of the Texas crop was rated “poor” to “very poor,” with only 14% in the top two categories.

On our weighted CCI, the cotton crop plunged 13.1 points, driven by a 7.8-point plummet for Texas.

FSA reported planted/failed acres of 9.918 million for upland cotton and 134,046 acres for ELS, with 464,901 acres of PP for upland and 110,512 acres of PP for ELS. Based on the August FSA data, we expect cotton plantings to decline to 10.3 million acres from 11.1 million in June.

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## Producer Crop Comments...

Please send crop comments to [editors@profarmer.com](mailto:editors@profarmer.com).

### **Wright Co. (north-central) Iowa:**

*"Did 10 Pro Farmer style yield checks. Range was 165 bu. to 253 bu. per acre. Most of the checks were in the 200 bu. to 215 bu. range. Hopefully kernel depth will add bushels."*

### **Henry, Lee Cos. (southeast) Iowa:**

*"Pro Farmer method is showing corn yields of 195 bu. to 225 bu. per acre. Based on ear weights, some of the areas that caught rains will be 250 bu.-plus."*

### **Washington Co. (southeast) Iowa:**

*"Poorer ground is pretty well done on corn. Good ground is still very green but seeing some tipback. Beans still have potential but need rain to finish."*

### **McLean Co. (central) Illinois:**

*"We had 6-plus inches of rain in 10 days (as of Aug. 12) and heavy dew every night with nighttime temps in the low 60s. Corn is starting to dent."*

### **Macon Co. (central) Illinois:**

*"Early maturity corn should be ready to harvest by mid-September with the forecast heat."*

### **Franklin Co. (south-central) Nebraska:**

*"Dryland corn is mature and blowing flat in the middle of August. I can't recall ever seeing such an occurrence. Irrigated corn will be below trendline yields. Nice ear girth, but the length isn't there. Doesn't matter if it's early corn or late corn. Not tipped back... just short ears. Plus, hail damage and most fields lost stands to brittle snap."*

### **Sherburne Co. (central) Minnesota:**

*"My corn yield checks showed incredible variability – field to field and even within the same field. Soybeans are going to love the two inches of rain we received Aug. 14."*

### **Southern Indiana:**

*"After traveling across Indiana and Illinois recently, the best word to describe crops is 'variable.' The northern half of Indiana looks better than the southern half, while central and northern Illinois appear to have endured heavier early season stress. In Illinois, variability is prevalent from county to county."*

### **Gibson Co. (southwest) Indiana:**

*"What a difference two weeks make! Last of July, dryness was about to start taking yield off in a serious way. After 7.2 inches in the first 15 days of August, now rain seems to be reducing yield. Looking at average yields in our area."*

### **Madison Co. (central) Ohio:**

*"Received a much-needed rain. Corn looks really good and has strong yield potential, though we're seeing some Sudden Death Syndrome in some soybean fields. Just need another rain or two for crops to finish strong."*

### **Putnam Co. (northwest) Ohio:**

*"If sweet corn translates to field corn yield, watch out. Tallest sweet corn ever (seven to eight feet tall) and absolutely massive ears. Can't remember a sweet corn yield like these in a long, long time."*

## Record NOPA July soy crush

Members of the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) crushed 173.3 million bu. of soybeans during July, a record for the month. The crush pace increased 8.3 million bu. (5.0%) from June and was 3.1 million bu. (1.8%) above last year.

NOPA data implies the full July crush of about 185 million bushels. At that level, crush through the first 11 months of 2022-23 would be 2.043 billion bushels. To reach USDA's forecast of 2.220 billion bu., crush during August would need to total 177 million bu., 2 million bu. (1.1%) above last year.

Soyoil stocks fell to a 10-month low of 1.527 billion lbs. and 157 million lbs. (9.3%) below last year, despite the stronger crush pace. That implies strong use.

## Democrats want eRINs for EVs

Congressional Democrats are calling on EPA to promptly establish new tradable credits linked to electric vehicle (EV) charging and adjust renewable fuel quotas accordingly. They assert there is no reason for EPA not to finalize the requisite rules and permit the generation of eRIN credits by 2024. Failing to do so, they say, could introduce unnecessary risk and endanger the potential for billions of dollars in investments aimed at accelerating the adoption of EVs and promoting low-carbon electricity production.

## ACE tells Biden to intervene on E15

The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is urging President Joe Biden to expedite the finalization of EPA's proposed regulation that would allow year-round sales of E15 gasoline. EPA has delayed a decision on its final rule on year-round E15 sales two years to April 28, 2024.

## EPA denies calls for CAFOs changes

EPA denied two petitions from environmental groups that sought revisions to regulations under clean water laws, specifically the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) program. Instead of granting the petitions, EPA has decided to conduct a thorough assessment of the program. EPA acknowledged the regulatory actions to revise the rules "raises complex legal issues," indicating the agency fully expects that if there are any regulatory changes pursued, they will likely be challenged in court.

## Colorado River water restrictions ease

Lake Mead and the Lower Colorado River will operate under Tier 1 water shortage conditions in 2024. This will ease water restrictions in Arizona, Nevada and Mexico, allowing them to retain billions of gallons of Colorado River water and build up their water reserves instead of relying heavily on other regions. Lake Mead's water level has increased approximately 20 feet from August 2022.

# A first-hand, objective look at the 2023 corn, soybean crops

by Pro Farmer editors



Trusted Analysis. Professional Insight.

This marks the 31st year of the *Pro Farmer* Crop Tour. Because USDA no longer collects objective yield samples in August, this will be the industry's first broad look at field data from across the Corn Belt. The objective of Crop Tour is to find a representative sample of yield potential across the seven Corn Belt states from the more than 1,600 samples each of corn and soybeans.

## How to receive up-to-date information from Crop Tour

There will be exclusive daily route reports from Tour leaders on [www.profarmer.com](http://www.profarmer.com). Also, don't forget the in-person and virtual Crop Tour meetings each evening where you will get daily Tour results. The in-person nightly meetings will also feature route observations and comments from Tour participants.

Tour leaders and consultants will provide daily commentary in "From the Rows" on [www.profarmer.com](http://www.profarmer.com). Also, tune in to AgriTalk each day at 10:06 a.m. and 2:06 p.m. CT on [www.agweb.com/agritalk](http://www.agweb.com/agritalk) or the AgriTalk app, or your favorite farm radio station to hear a Crop Tour update.

Search #PFTour23 on X (formerly Twitter) to get Tour-related tweets and photos. Follow @BGrete, @ChipFlory, @brent8320r and @MNWeedWizard for tweets from the field each day. Follow @profarmer for daily Tour results.

## Compare with last year; apply the historical difference!

The best analysis of this year's data will be to compare state-by-state results to past Tour data, with close attention to the percentage changes. Also, apply the historical difference for each state. We know the yield calculated during Crop Tour will be different than USDA's final yield for each state. Fortunately, we know by how much on average.

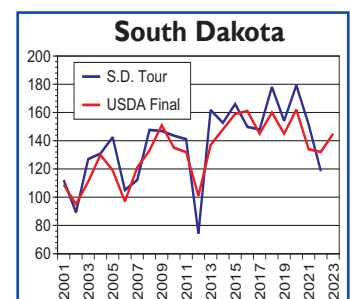
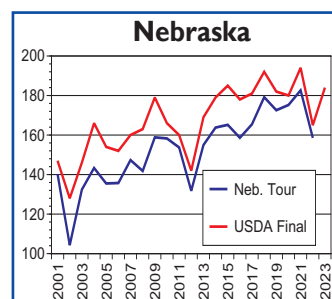
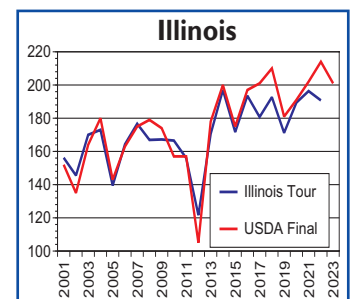
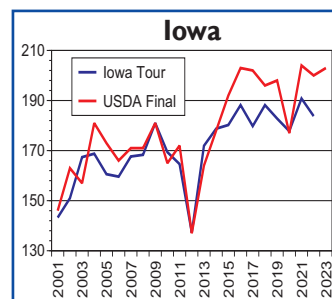
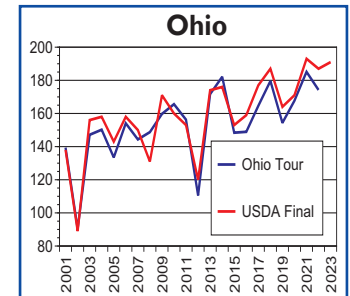
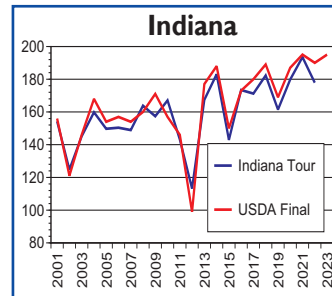
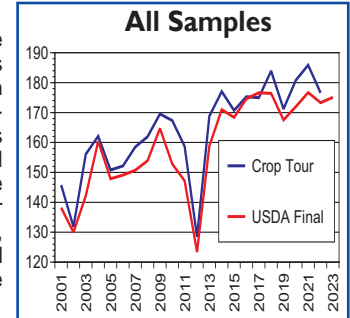
The historical difference is the result of where the Tour travels. Examples: In Nebraska, about 60% of the corn crop is irrigated, but slightly less than half of the Crop Tour corn samples in the state are from irrigated fields. In Minnesota, we cover only the highest yielding southern districts. There are reasons for the differences and understanding them makes Tour yields valuable.

## On soybeans... no yield, but lots of data!

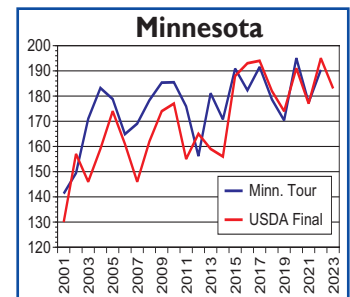
The number of soybean pods it takes to make a bushel is different in each state. Instead of yield, we calculate the number of pods in a 3X3-foot square. Compare pod counts to past Tour data to get an idea about the size of this year's yield "factory."

### The best piece of data —

The most reliable set of data is the average yield of all corn samples from the seven Tour states. On average since 2001, the yield calculated from all corn samples has been 6.3 bu. above USDA's final national average corn yield. (The average yield from the seven Tour states — Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska — should pull up the national average yield!)



Historical Difference — Tour Yield Vs. USDA Final (avg. since 2001)		
Ohio	ADD	4.2 bu.
Indiana	ADD	3.4 bu.
Illinois	ADD	3.5 bu.
Iowa	ADD	6.2 bu.
Nebraska	ADD	14.1 bu.
Minnesota	SUB	7.0 bu.
S. Dakota	SUB	5.3 bu.
7-State	SUB	6.2 bu.



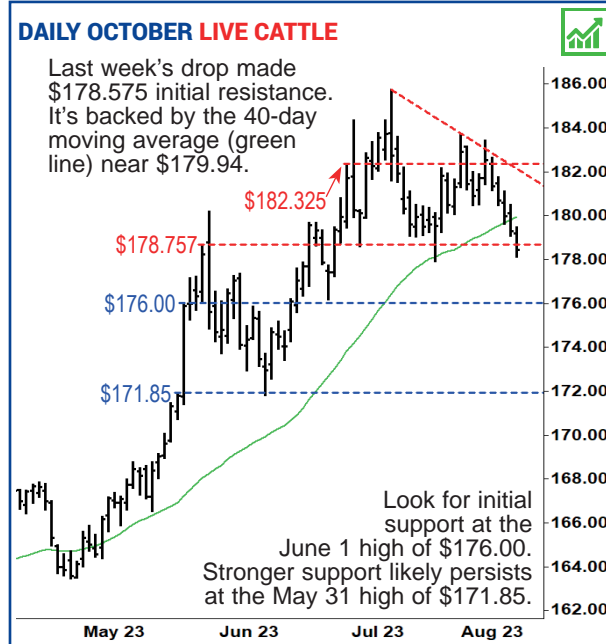
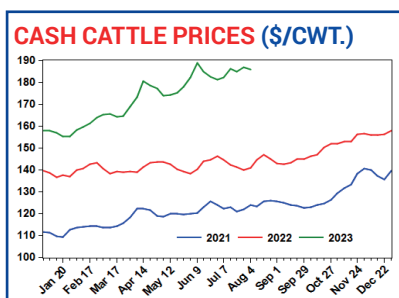
On each of the charts above, USDA's 2023 yield is the Aug. 1 yield estimate. For all other years, USDA's yield is the final yield.

**CATTLE - Fundamental Analysis**

Beef packers are still curbing slaughter activity. Conversely, grocer buying for planned Labor Day features appeared to improve last week, with the combination triggering a jump in beef cutout values. The cash chart reflects the northern markets, whereas futures are trading based upon those in the south, due to a likely surge in August futures deliveries if the contract were to reach a significant premium over the southern markets. The wide spread between Choice- and Select-grade beef prices points to the shortage of high-quality product and feedlot currentness. Prices should remain strong in the short run.

Position Monitor		
Game Plan:	Feds	Feeders
Live cattle	III'23 0%	0%
futures	IV'23 0%	0%
continue to	I'24 0%	0%
	II'24 0%	0%

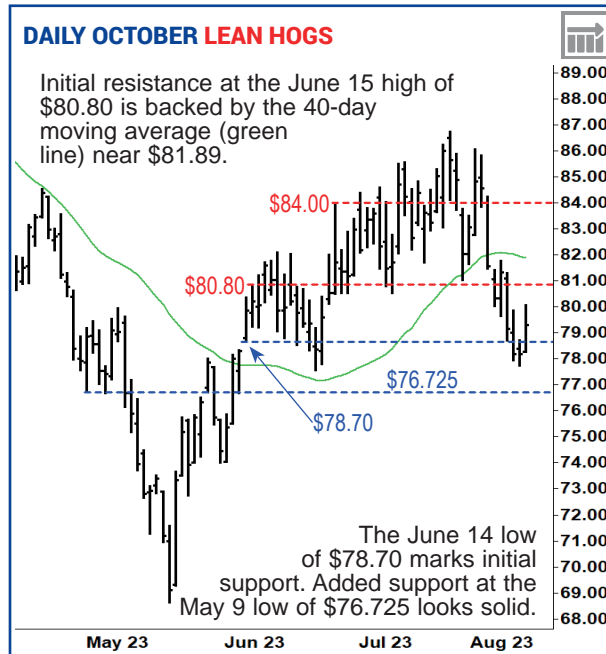
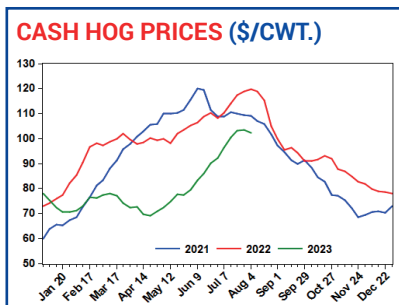
trade well below the cash market.  
Any hedges should be done by purchasing put options.



**HOGS - Fundamental Analysis**

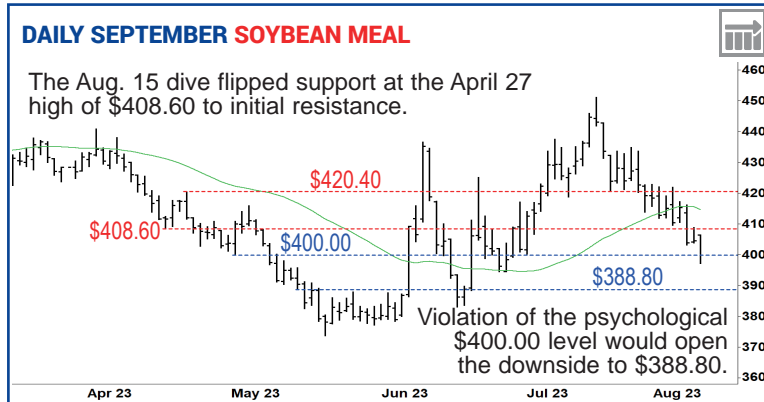
Grocer buying of pork for the BLT and grilling seasons is winding down, whereas slaughter rates are starting to accelerate seasonally. Continued buying and storage of hams for the year-end holiday season will likely continue through September, but the combination of weak demand and rising output is set to depress cash hog and pork prices. Still, having grocers shift their sales focus away from beef implies a comparative improvement in demand for pork. If slaughter rates do not rise substantially above indicated USDA numbers, the downside for futures seems likely to be limited.

Position Monitor		
Game Plan:	A	Lean Hogs
seasonal top is in place. But hedges are risky given steep discounts in fall- and winter-month contracts. Buy put options if you want downside coverage.		III'23 0%
		IV'23 0%
		I'24 0%
		II'24 0%



**FEED**

Feed Monitor		
<b>Corn</b>		
III'23	50%	<b>Corn Game Plan:</b> Cash corn-for-feed coverage expired in mid-August. Go hand-to-mouth on corn needs until the market signals a low that would warrant extended coverage.
IV'23	0%	
I'24	0%	
II'24	0%	
<b>Meal</b>		
III'23	50%	<b>Meal Game Plan:</b> Cash soymeal coverage expired in mid-August. Wait on the market to signal the corrective pullback is complete before extending coverage.
IV'22	0%	
I'24	0%	
II'24	0%	



### Position Monitor

	'22 crop	'23 crop
Cash-only:	100%	35%
Hedgers (cash sales):	100%	50%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

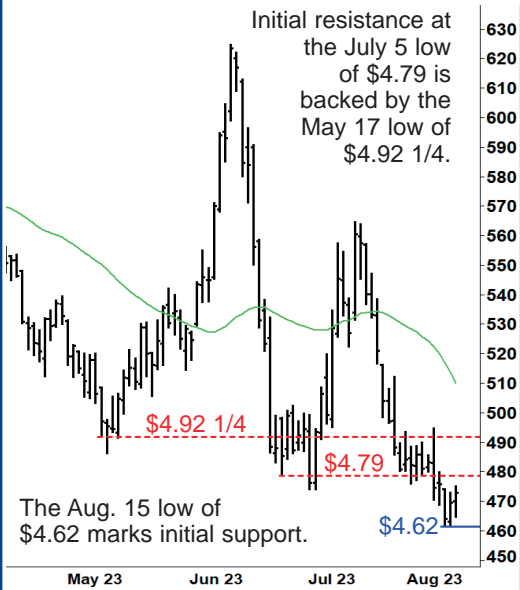
**Game Plan:** On Aug. 15, we advised selling the final 10% of 2022-crop inventories. Get current with that advice. While there could be near-term price pressure into harvest barring a weather scare or another bullish catalyst, we are willing to wait on an extended correction to increase 2023-crop sales. Unless something drastically changes, rallies should be viewed as selling opportunities.

### DAILY DECEMBER CORN

A move back above initial resistance at the May 17 low of \$4.94, would face psychological resistance at \$5.00 (not marked), then at the May 3 low of \$5.12 1/2.



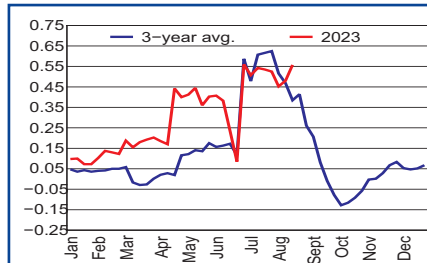
### DAILY SEPTEMBER 2023 CORN



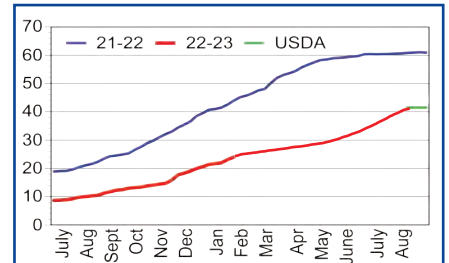
### CORN - Fundamental Analysis

The supply outlook has been pointing corn prices lower. Contra-seasonal improvements in crop conditions suggest increased yields in several areas. And, as discussed on *News* page 2, certified FSA acreage suggests the domestic corn planting and harvested areas will be revised upward by over 600,000 acres. Still, futures found support and rebounded late last week. This likely reflected short-term forecasts for returning heat and dryness over the Corn Belt. The rise may also reflect renewed optimism about the export outlook with prices under \$5.00, the Black Sea situation heating up once again and El Niño reducing India's August rainfall to a record low.

#### AVERAGE CORN BASIS (SEPT.)



#### CORN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



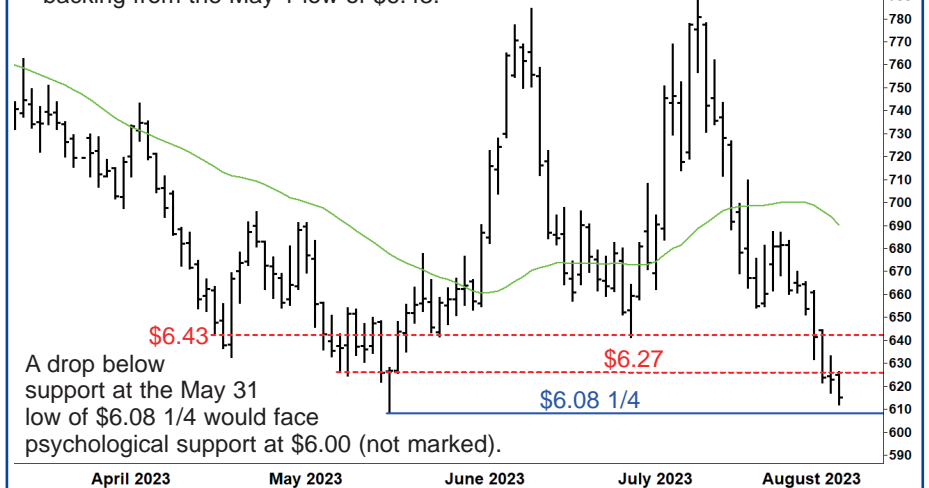
### Position Monitor

	'23 crop	'24 crop
Cash-only:	50%	0%
Hedgers (cash sales):	50%	0%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

**Game Plan:** Wait on an extended rally to increase 2023-crop sales and make initial 2024-crop forward sales. While seasonals are fairly neutral for wheat into fall, wheat would need help to embark on an extended rally.

### DAILY DECEMBER SRW WHEAT

Initial resistance stems from the May 22 low of \$6.27, with stiff backing from the May 1 low of \$6.43.



### WHEAT - Fundamental Analysis

**SRW** – Tit-for-tat Ukrainian and Russian attacks have marked the Black Sea area lately. But those did little to halt the price slide caused by plentiful global wheat supplies and dubious demand prospects. Corn likely needs to lead the way if wheat is going to rebound.

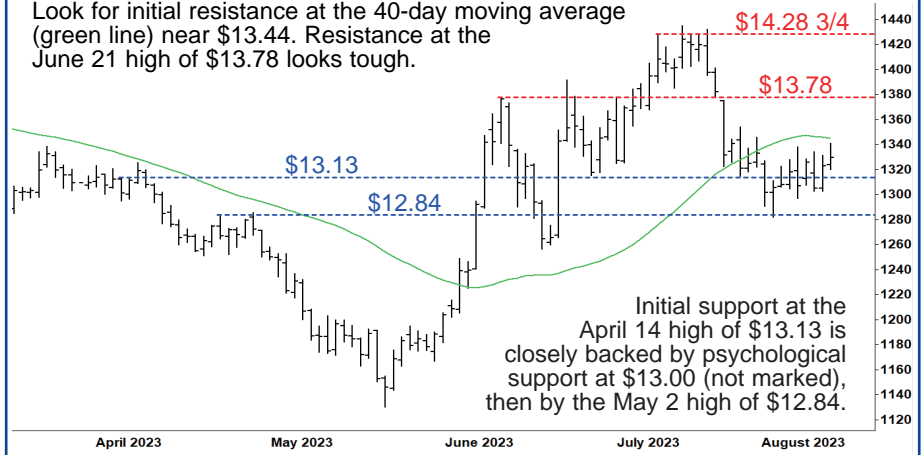
### Position Monitor

	'22 crop	'23 crop
Cash-only:	100%	40%
Hedgers (cash sales):	100%	45%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

**Game Plan:** You should be finished with old-crop sales. We'll wait on an extended price rally to advance new-crop sales, though futures could face near-term pressure unless the hot, dry weather pattern extends into early September. While there isn't a lot of cushion on new-crop supplies, we still believe extended price rallies should be viewed as selling opportunities.

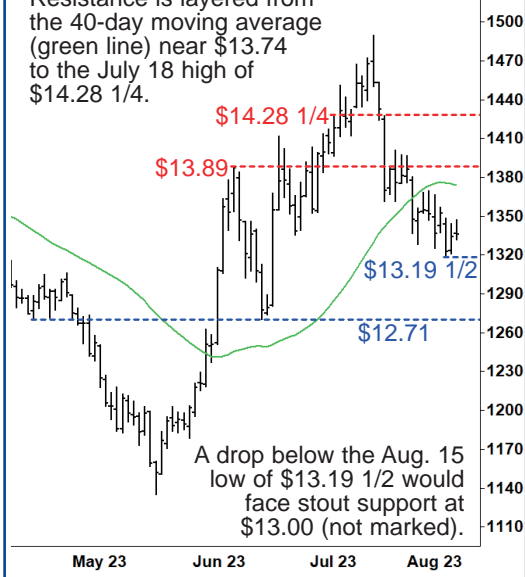
### DAILY NOVEMBER SOYBEANS

Look for initial resistance at the 40-day moving average (green line) near \$13.44. Resistance at the June 21 high of \$13.78 looks tough.



### DAILY SEPTEMBER 2023 SOYBEANS

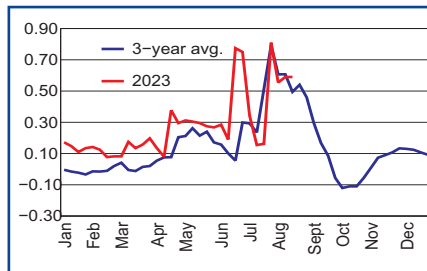
Resistance is layered from the 40-day moving average (green line) near \$13.74 to the July 18 high of \$14.28 1/4.



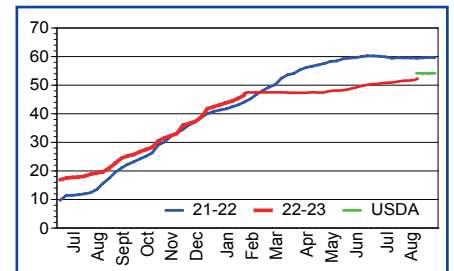
### SOYBEANS - Fundamental Analysis

The FSA acreage data implied a much smaller rise for soybeans than it did for corn, which helps explain the comparative firmness exhibited by soybean futures last week, especially give the hot, dry forecast. The active soy crush and concurrent drop in soyoil stockpiles also point to robust demand, although the slumping meal market has not been encouraging. The Argentine currency situation probably isn't a concern at this point, due to the 2023 crop failure, but holds negative implications for product exports if/when their crop improves. The looming onset of the fall harvest may bring fresh seasonal pressure, but China's wobbling economy may be the real wild card for the outlook.

#### AVERAGE SOYBEAN BASIS (NOV.)



#### SOYBEAN EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



### DAILY DECEMBER HRW WHEAT

Resistance arises at the May 5 low of \$7.91 1/4.

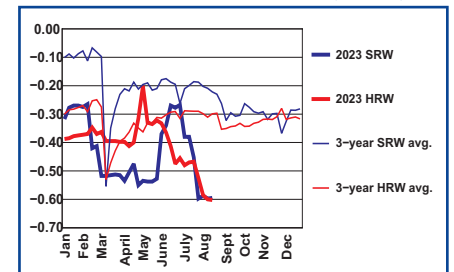


### DAILY SEPTEMBER HRS WHEAT

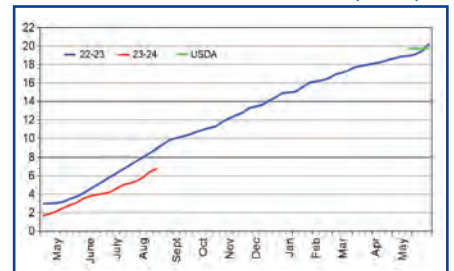
Expect initial psychological resistance at \$8.00 (not marked).



#### AVERAGE WHEAT BASIS (SEPT.)



#### WHEAT EXPORT BOOKINGS (MMT)



**HRW** – With the HRW harvest mostly done and the spring wheat harvest 24% complete as of Aug. 13, traders are looking to fall HRW planting conditions. Those seem favorable, but perennially poor export prospects and weak prices suggest plantings will decline. Conversely, the modest July 2024 discount suggests reduced downside risk.

**HRS** – Short-term forecasts for heat and dryness should favor the U.S. spring wheat harvest. In contrast, rain over the Canadian Prairies may be coming too late to help the crop and could hamper the harvest. But some fundamental change will likely be needed to reverse the downward price trend. July over December implies reduced supplies next year.

### Position Monitor

	'22 crop	'23 crop
Cash-only:	100%	60%
Hedgers (cash sales):	100%	60%
Futures/Options	0%	0%

**Game Plan:** Be patient with additional sales unless there's a major rally. Defensive hedges may be needed if futures break down technically.

### COTTON - Fundamental Analysis

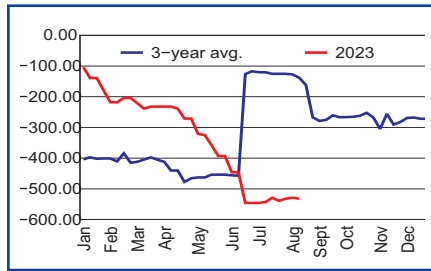
Cotton futures proved unable to sustain the bullish reaction to the Aug. 11 production cut. That reflected growing concerns about China's economic outlook, as well as active daily sales of Chinese government-held stocks since July 28. Export prospects are weakening.

### GENERAL OUTLOOK

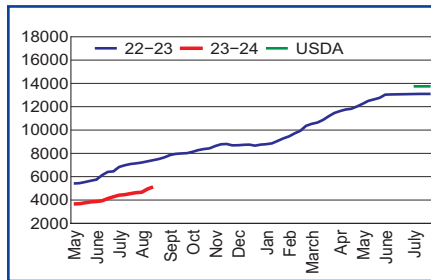
**CURRENCIES:** Argentina's financial markets were roiled after a shock primary election that showed congressman Javier Milei, a far-right libertarian, got the largest share of the vote. Argentina devalued its currency, the peso, by nearly 18%, while its main interest rate was raised by 21% to 118%.

The official exchange rate will be fixed at 350 pesos per U.S. dollar until the October elections. The latest "agro-dollar"

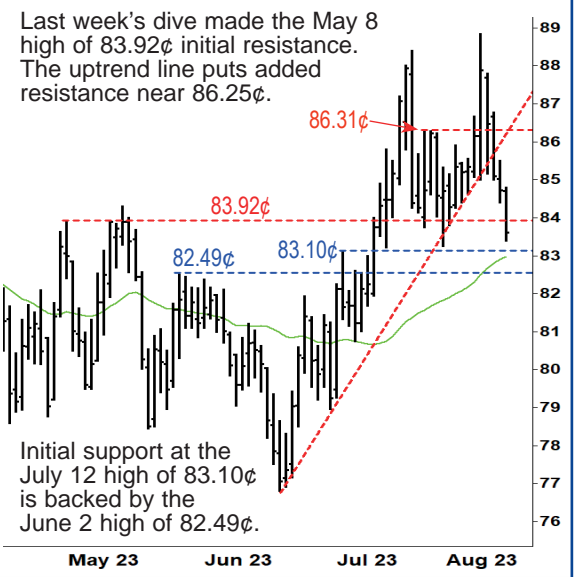
### AVERAGE COTTON BASIS (OCT.)



### COTTON EXPORT BOOKINGS ('000 BALES)



### DAILY DECEMBER COTTON

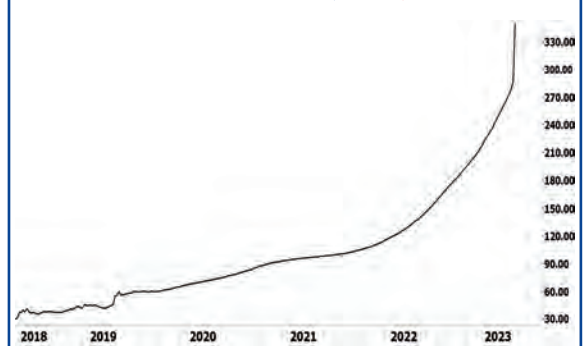


exchange rate is 340 pesos per dollar.

"For sure, this situation is not favorable for farmers," said a *Pro Farmer* source in Argentina. "In my humble opinion, (Argentine) farmers will hold their crops as much they can before the early corn planting."

Tight-fisted holding of Argentine producers' grain stocks, as a hedge against a wobbly financial situation, would continue to limit exports.

### WEEKLY ARGENTINE PESO (PER \$)



### FROM THE BULLPEN By Economic Consultant Dan Vaught

The Aug. 11 USDA Crop Production Report has significant implications for some of the minor crops.

U.S. rice production is estimated to rise 27% annually to 203.64 million cwt. However, FSA acreage data implies USDA will boost planted and harvested acres by more than 100,000 acres in September. The average yield is seen rising 4.3% (to 7,699 lbs. per acre), which will amplify the impact of acreage increase on the production total.

FSA data also points to sorghum acreage larger than the 5.94 million-acre forecast maintained in the report; that is already up 30% from 2022. When combined with projected yields at 66.2 bu. per acre, we see the crop topping the expect-

ed 109% leap to 393 million bushels.

Barley production is expected to rise 3% annually to 180 million bu., reflecting a 5% downward revision to harvested acres (to 2.4 million). Harvested acreage is down 1.5% from last year despite an 8% rise in plantings. The estimated national yield at 75.1 bu. would be up 3.4% from year-ago.

Harvested oat acreage was revised upward 1% (to 804,000) from June, but fell 10% below last year. When combined with the yield forecast of 61.5 bu. per acre, down 5.1% annually, this puts the crop estimate at 49.5 million bu. (down 14%).

Harvested acreage of other hay is unchanged from the June projection at 36.3 million acres, up 5% annually, with total production rising 8% to 69.9 million tons.

### WATCH LIST

- Pro Farmer Crop Tour** **Aug. 21-24**  
Field samples across the Corn Belt.
- USDA Crop Progress Report** **MON 8/21**  
*Will crop ratings keep improving?* 3:00 p.m. CT
- USDA Cold Storage Report** **WED 8/23**  
Meat stocks at the end of July. 2:00 p.m. CT
- USDA Export Sales Report** **THUR 8/24**  
Big sales needed for price support. 7:30 a.m. CT
- Pro Farmer Corn, Bean Ests.** **FRI 8/25**  
Our national crop estimates. 1:30 p.m. CT

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