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A weekly Cornbelt digest of marketing, economic, agronomic, and management information.

Commodity market price drivers—

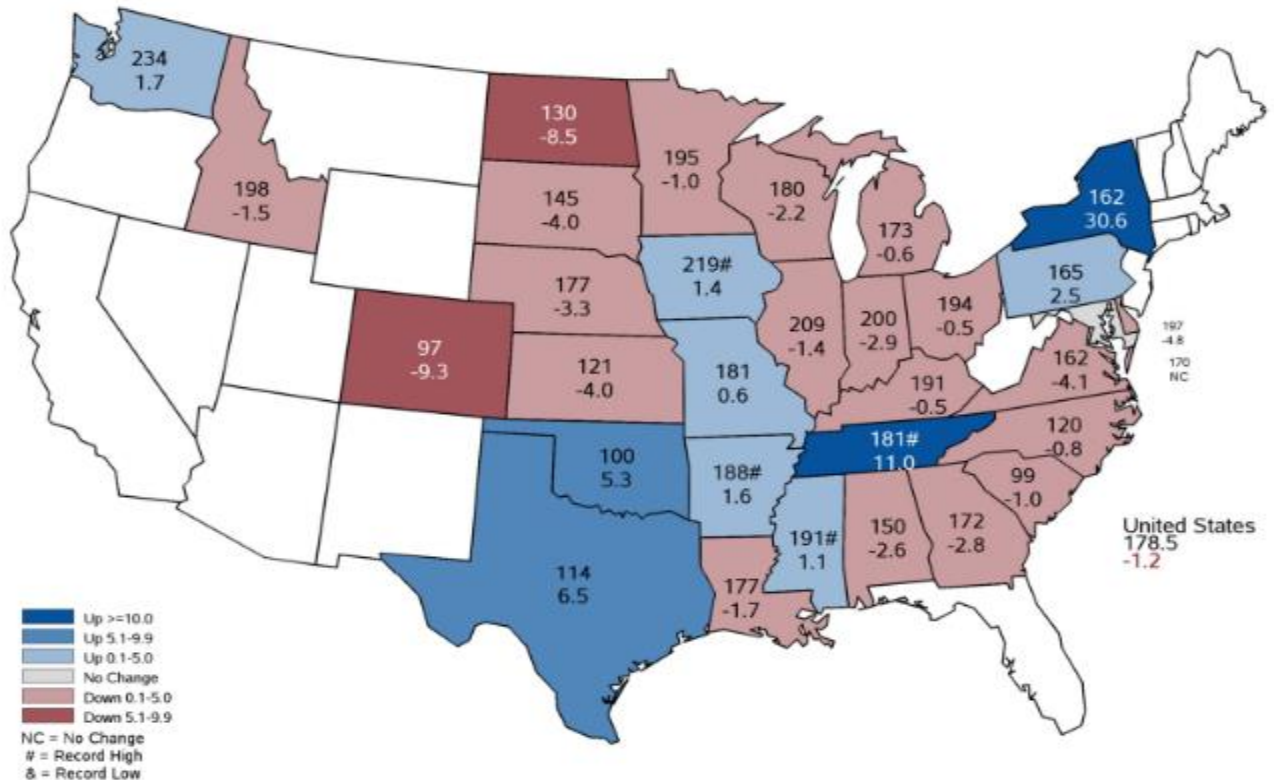
- **The September WASDE** [focused heavily on yield projections and production figures](#).
American Farm Bureau Economist Bernt Nelson says, "Did USDA confirm expectations in corn? Answer to that is yes. USDA reduced the national corn yield from 180.7 to 178.5 bu. per acre. That drop in yield wasn't as low as the Pro Farmer expectations of 173 bu. per acre, but it did validate expectations that August conditions had dropped yields." Production is now estimated at 15.8 bil. bu., down 213 mil. bu. from last month. USDA projected the national corn yield down 2.2 bu. from its August forecast. Projected 2026-27 corn ending stocks fell to 1.567 bil. bu., while the average farm price increased 30¢ to \$4.80 per bu. Markets reacted swiftly to the report, and not necessarily as analysts had expected. Rhett Montgomery, the Lead Commodities Analyst with DTN, "I must say, I didn't think the data was in of itself bearish, but looking at the markets here, certainly taking it hard, with soybeans being down 35¢ and corn being dragged lower as a result of that, down about 6¢. I'm not ruling out further cuts down the road, but at least for today, maybe some frustration there that the situation is not being printed as bullishly as it could be by the time it's all said and done." USDA reported 56% of the nation's corn crop was rated good or excellent as of Sept. 6, down from 57% a week earlier and 68% at the same point last year. Successful Farming reported corn harvest had reached 5% across 7 states, ahead of the 5-year average of 3%. About 25% of the crop had reached maturity, compared with the 5-year average of 23%. The bottom line to all of this is that USDA validated trade expectations." He says the WASDE wasn't a major game changer, but it did help explain the unusual rally heading into harvest. Traders and farmers are looking for evidence that late-season weather reduced yield potential after USDA projected a large crop earlier this summer. Harvest will expand rapidly across the Cornbelt during the coming weeks.

U.S. Corn Supply and Demand

Item	2025/2026		2026/2027		
	Estimate	Change from August 12	Forecast	Change from August 12	Change from 2025/2026
Planted area (million acres)	98.8	--	96.8	**	-2.0
Harvested area (million acres)	91.3	--	88.5	-0.1	-2.8
Yield (bushels per acre)	186.5	--	178.5	-2.2	-8.0
----- Million bushels -----					
Beginning stocks	1,551	--	1,922	-23	371
Production	17,021	--	15,800	-213	-1,221
Imports	30	2	25	--	-5
Total supply	18,602	2	17,747	-236	-855
Feed and residual	6,350	--	5,950	-150	-400
Food, seed, and industrial	6,905	--	6,955	--	50
Ethanol	5,550	--	5,600	--	50
Domestic use	13,255	--	12,905	-150	-350
Exports	3,425	25	3,275	--	-150
Total use	16,680	25	16,180	-150	-500
Ending stocks	1,922	-23	1,567	-86	-355
----- Percent -----					
Stocks to use ratio	11.5	-0.2	9.7	-0.4	-1.8
----- Dollars per bushel -----					
Average market price	4.15	--	4.80	0.30	0.65

September 2026 Corn Yield

Bushels and Percent Change from Previous Month



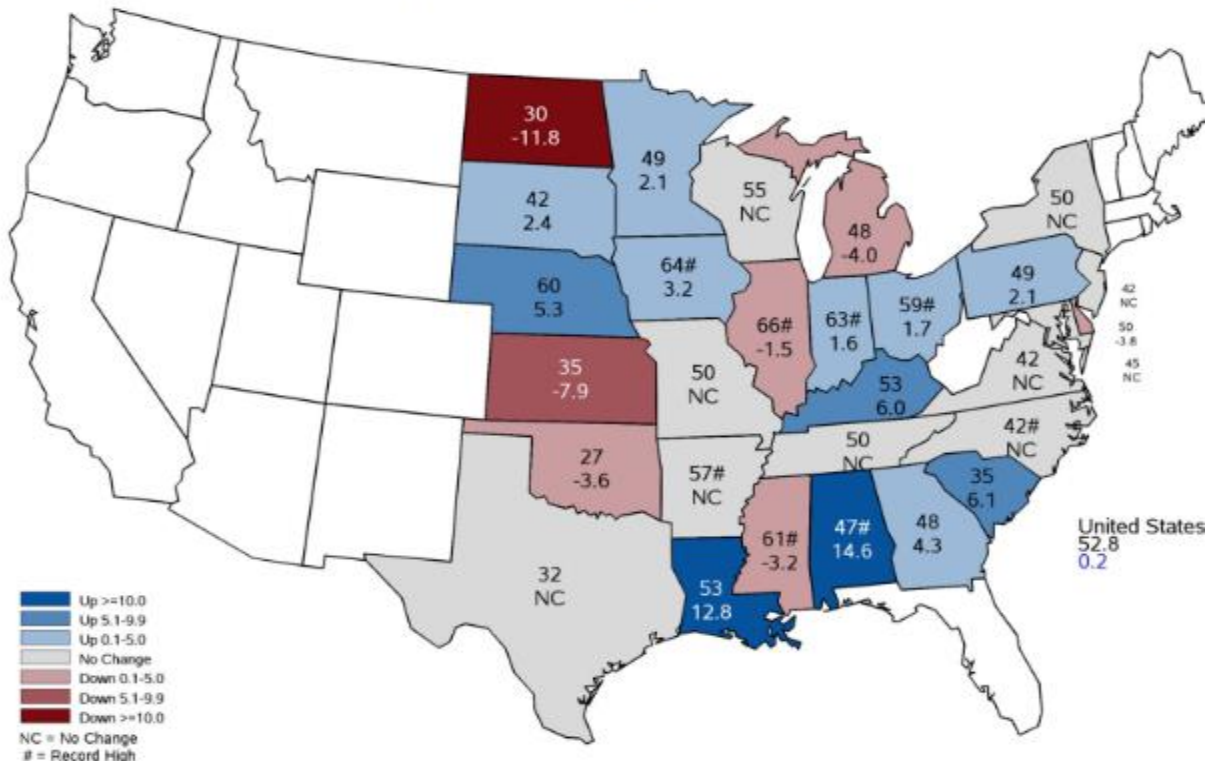
- Farm Bureau economist Berent Nelson** explains what changed for soybeans, "Soybeans were more supportive on the demand side. USDA increased yields very slightly, just 0.1 bu. per acre. Now that boosted production a little bit, but the bigger picture here is that they reduced ending stocks from 320 mil. down to 310 mil. bu." Soybean production was raised to a record 4.535 bil. bu. Soybean conditions were steadier, with 58% rated good or excellent. About 26% of soybeans were dropping leaves, ahead of the 5-year average of 20%. The national yield increased slightly to 52.8 bu. per acre. Soybean ending stocks were reduced to 310 mil. bu., while the projected farm price was increased by 60 to \$12 per bu. The crush forecast was unchanged while the soybean export forecast was raised 25 mil. bu. to 1.69 bil. Ending stocks are projected down 10 mil. from Aug.

	Planted (1,000 Acres)	Harvested (1,000 Acres)	Yield (Bushels/Acre)	Production (1,000 Bushels)
United States	86,865	85,881	52.8	4,534,981
% Change from Previous Estimate	↑ 0.1	↑ 0.1	↑ 0.2	↑ 0.4
% Change from Previous Season	↑ 7.0	↑ 6.8	↓ 0.4	↑ 6.4

Top 5 States - By Production												
Planted				Harvested			Yield			Production		
(1,000 Acres)				(1,000 Acres)			(Bushels/Acre)			(1,000 Bushels)		
		% Δ PY			% Δ PY		% Δ PY		% Δ PY		% Δ PY	
Illinois	10,500	↑	1.9	10,430	↑	2.0	66.0	↑	5.6	688,380	↑	7.7
Iowa	9,800	↑	3.7	9,730	↑	3.7	64.0	↑	0.8	622,720	↑	4.5
Minnesota	7,400	↑	3.5	7,330	↑	3.7	49.0	↓	6.7	359,170	↓	3.2
Indiana	5,650	↑	3.7	5,630	↑	3.7	63.0	↑	5.9	354,690	↑	9.8
Nebraska	5,350	↑	10.3	5,290	↑	10.4	60.0	↓	8.4	317,400	↑	1.2

September 2026 Soybean Yield

Bushels and Percent Change from Previous Month



U.S. Soybeans Supply and Demand

Item	2025/2026		2026/2027		
	Estimate	Change from August 12	Forecast	Change from August 12	Change from 2025/2026
Planted area (million acres)	81.2	--	86.9	0.1	5.6
Harvested area (million acres)	80.4	--	85.9	0.1	5.4
Yield (bushels per acre)	53.0	--	52.8	0.1	-0.2
<i>----- Million bushels -----</i>					
Beginning stocks	325	--	325	**	**
Production	4,262	--	4,535	16	273
Imports	25	--	25	--	--
Total supply	4,612	--	4,885	16	273
Crush	2,655	--	2,780	--	125
Seed and Residual	112	**	110	1	-2
Domestic use	2,767	**	2,890	1	123
Exports	1,520	--	1,685	25	165
Total use	4,287	**	4,575	26	288
Ending stocks	325	**	310	-10	-15
<i>----- Percent -----</i>					
Stocks to use ratio	7.6	**	6.8	-0.3	-0.8
<i>----- Dollars per bushel -----</i>					
Average market price	10.50	0.10	12.00	0.60	1.50

- **Nelson says wheat was quiet on the domestic side**, "It's more of a global story there. The U.S. numbers were pretty well steady, but a larger crop from some of the key export areas, looking at Australia, Canada, Ukraine, these kind of pushed global ending stocks for wheat higher. The bottom line to all of this is that USDA validated trade expectations." He says the WASDE wasn't a major game changer, but it did help explain the unusual rally heading into harvest. Find more report analysis at fb.org/intel. (American Farm Bureau)

U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand

Item	2025/2026 estimate	2026/2027 forecast	Change from August 12	Change from 2025/2026
Planted area (million acres)	45.3	42.7	--	-2.7
Harvested area (million acres)	37.2	32.1	--	-5.2
Yield (bushels per acre)	53.3	47.8	--	-5.5
<i>----- Million bushels -----</i>				
Beginning stocks	855	920	--	65
Production	1,985	1,531	--	-454
Imports	125	140	--	15
Total supply	2,964	2,591	--	-373
Food use	959	960	--	1
Seed	58	59	--	1
Feed and residual	119	80	--	-39
Domestic use	1,136	1,099	--	-37
Exports	908	775	--	-133
Total use	2,044	1,874	--	-170
Ending stocks	920	717	--	-203
<i>----- Percent -----</i>				
Stocks to use ratio	45.0	38.2	--	-6.8
<i>----- Dollars per bushel -----</i>				
Average market price	5.06	6.40	0.20	1.34

- **After the USDA's WASDE report Friday**, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission released its Consensus of Traders report, reflecting the relationship between traders who were long and bullish versus those who were short and bearish. Private commodity advisor Gary Ellis circulated the report with the comment, "Note that Soybeans and Soybean Meal are at new records longs, while corn has pulled back slightly after last week's record."

	Total Open Interest			Managed Money Net Position			Managed Money Historical Range		
	Current	Prior wk	Weekly chg	Current	Prior wk	Weekly chg	Record short	Record long	% of range
Grains									
Corn	2,596,892	2,594,329	2,563	425,171	431,062	-5,891	-353,983	431,062	99%
Soybeans	1,378,220	1,325,813	52,407	266,031	241,183	24,848	-185,750	253,889	104.8%
Soybean Oil	699,232	723,386	-24,154	101,768	109,912	-8,144	-109,950	169,142	60%
Soybean Meal	751,919	730,588	21,331	159,558	158,741	817	-133,592	158,741	100.5%
Chicago Wheat	606,100	596,572	9,528	4,262	14,654	-10,392	-162,327	80,827	5%
KC Wheat	342,872	344,551	-1,679	51,248	50,284	964	-80,799	73,111	70%
Rough Rice	13,583	13,539	44	1,799	1,320	479	-7,192	5,805	31%

- **"December soybean meal futures closed at \$354, [even as soybeans themselves eased slightly on the day](#).** 3 forces are behind the move: renewed buying interest from China and other importers, a new EPA biofuels waiver seen as bullish for the soy complex, and hot, dry conditions across the southern and western Midwest as crops mature. This is a good reminder: meal and soybean prices don't always move together on any given day."
- **Corn harvest reports from Greg Johnson**, Total Grain Marketing in Champaign, are showing wide variations in yields, but some were better than expected:
 - ✓ Champaign County, 47 acres, 227 bpa, Moisture was 21%.
 - ✓ Champaign County, 20 acres of downed corn. Moisture was 27.5%. Yield about 165 bpa.
 - ✓ Champaign County, 269 bpa, vs 284 bpa in 2024.
 - ✓ Douglas County, 110-day corn mid-April, 215 bpa, testing 16%.
 - ✓ Jersey County, 110 acres of 109-day corn made 225 bpa.
 - ✓ Jersey County, wind damaged corn, 18.5%, 225 bpa, light dirt.
 - ✓ Macoupin County, Guys picking instead of silage: yields: 207, 211, 230, 4th est. at 237.
 - ✓ McLean County, 220 bpa, averaged 240 bpa last year.
 - ✓ Montgomery County, 3 fields with crown root rot issues. 210, 217 and 220 bpa.
 - ✓ Montgomery County, 40 acres crown root rot, 217 bpa. Moisture 19%. 260 in 2025.
 - ✓ Morgan County, First field 246 bpa. Better than farmer expected. In line with last year.
 - ✓ Morgan County, 110-day corn 244 bpa. Moisture was 15%. Other corn testing 16%.
 - ✓ Morgan County, 30 acres of corn on corn 205 bpa, vs. APH of 235 bpa.
 - ✓ Pike County, Corn averaging 230 bpa corn on corn. 15-16% moisture.
 - ✓ Shelby County - 80 acres of April 25th planted 110-day corn averaged 244 bpa. 15.9%.
 - ✓ Pike County, 74 acres of beans 79 bpa. Expecting 70 at best. 12 inches of rain in June.

- **Could IL have a more bullish corn market than usual?** That is a possibility says Mid-Co Commodities, based on comparisons of crops tours this year and in 2025.

Overall, these Illinois crop tours listed below showed a **4% decrease** in yield year on year.

MID-CO COMMODITIES, INC. Illinois Crop Tour Results					
Corn Yield	2026	2025	% Change YoY	2024	Notes
River Valley Coop - IL	199.0	218.0	-8.72%	220.5	
River Valley Coop - Iowa	200.0	217.8	-8.17%	223.4	
Tremont Coop	180.8	190.8	-4.56%	202.1	*90k Kernel
Premier Coop (Champaign)	231.0	232.0	-0.52%	249.0	*80k Kernel
Top Flight	186.3	193.0	-2.90%	194.0	*90k Kernel
Gateway FS (Christian)	215.0	211.0	1.72%	215.0	
Legacy Coop	204.7	208.3	-1.91%	212.9	*90k Kernel
Menard County FB	228.1	229.5	-0.66%	230.4	
Montgomery County FB	209.4	206.6	1.33%	192.0	*85k Kernel
Logan County FB	218.0	227.0	-4.32%	225.0	*75k Kernel
Coles County FB	218.1	226.9	-3.85%	217.9	*80k Kernel
Edgar County FB	191.0	212.0	-10.16%	218.0	*85k Kernel
First Mid - McLean	212.4	233.9	-9.37%	227.1	

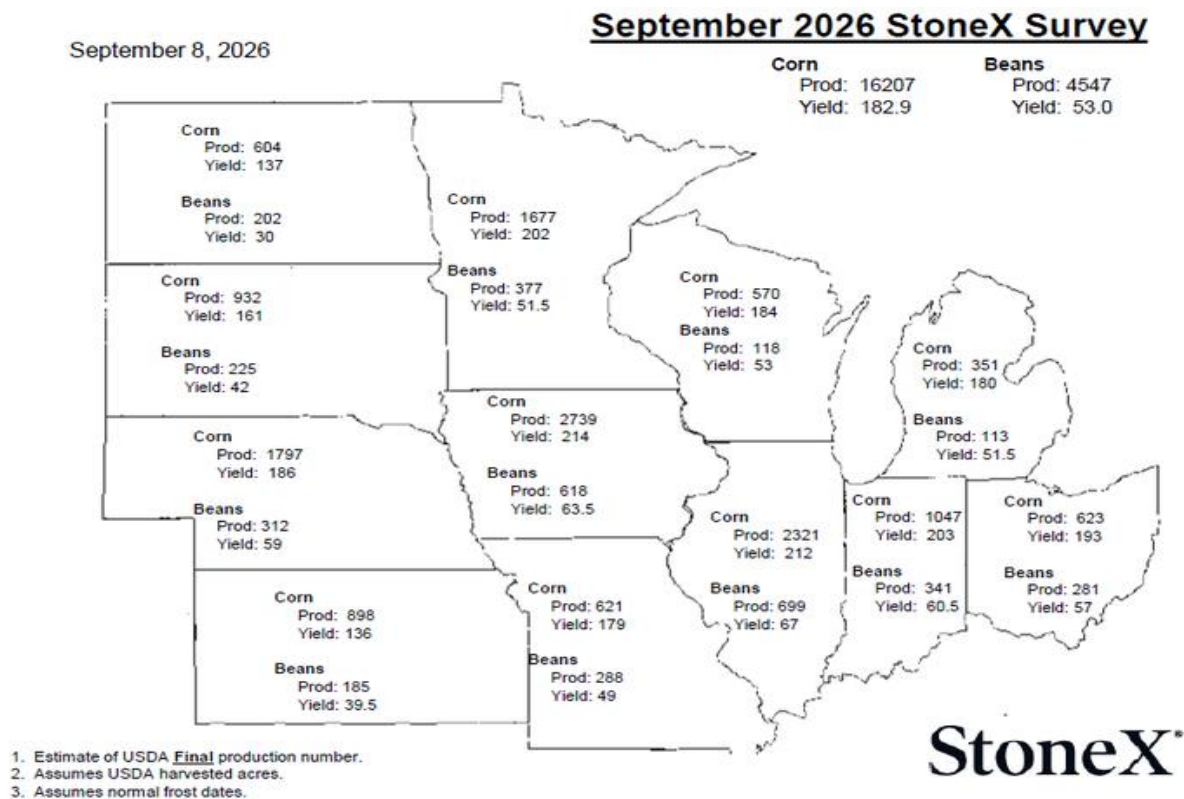
MID-CO
COMMODITIES, INC.

IL Crop Tour Yields				
	2026	2025	% Change YoY	2024
Average	207.21	215.91	-4.03%	217.48

USDA vs Crop Tour			
Illinois	2026	2025	2024
USDA Yield	212.0	214.0	217.0
Crop Tour*	207.2	215.9	217.5
Difference	-4.79	1.91	0.48

If Illinois does see a yield of 207 bpa (average yield from these tours), while keeping harvested acres unchanged, this would result in 87,350,000 less bushels produced in Illinois compared to last year. This could create a bullish basis landscape later in the year if we see this reduction in yield.

- StoneX has released its estimate** of the size of the U.S. corn and soybean crops. The numbers are based on a survey of the company's customers and carried out by the Des Moines office, says researcher Mike Castle. "I think it is worth pointing out—I know it is not necessarily what folks want to hear—but it is pretty solid historically speaking. Last year was a good example of that. At that first print of 188, everyone got upset and freaked out, and then the USDA came in above that at 188.8. It ended up at 186.0, and then the USDA's final was 186.5. So, it does have a good track record." This year StoneX put the corn yield at 184.8 in August. Its September estimate has dropped that number to 182.9, which is still 2 bu. above than USDA's current estimate. The company has the IL corn crop at 212 bu. to the acre, IN 203, and IA at 214.



- Another analysis of the StoneX survey says,** "The entire yield cut is western/northern. IL ([212](#)), IN ([203](#)) and WI (184) unchanged. ND -6, NE -4, [IA -4](#), MN -4, SD -2, KS -2. OH +6, MI +4. NE is the biggest single mover at -113 mil. bu., but gains in OH (+45), WI (+36) and MO (+19) nearly offset it, leaving the 12 states net -8 mil. bu. The +47 mil. bu. national increase came from acres and from outside the map, not from the survey. Records still included, but much smaller: IA 214 is +3 over the 211 record, MN 202 is +1. August was +7 and +5. The disagreement with USDA flipped east to west — StoneX is +10 bu on SD, +10 on KS, +5 MN, but *below* USDA in IN, IA and OH. SD and KS alone are ~124 mil. bu., nearly 2/3 of the gap. Beans unchanged at 53.0 for a second month, but IL carried it: +4.5 bu to 67, a record by 2 bpa, offsetting cuts in SD (-3.7), KS (-3.5), NE and MN (-2.5) each).

Fertilizer Costs, Supply, and Dynamics—

- **FL lawmakers are urging the Trump administration** to address sharply higher sulfur prices that could threaten domestic phosphate fertilizer production and increase costs for U.S. farmers. FL Rep. Scott Franklin and 7 other members of the FL congressional



delegation sent a letter Wednesday to President Donald Trump and Commerce Secretary Lutnick seeking additional federal action. According to Franklin's office, Tampa sulfur prices previously averaged about \$172 per long ton but have exceeded \$1,100 per metric ton since May. Sulfur is a critical input in producing phosphate fertilizer,

and geopolitical and shipping disruptions have tightened global supplies. Franklin's office said some domestic phosphate producers have reduced operating rates or idle facilities because of higher sulfur costs and supply constraints. Lawmakers suggested working with domestic refiners and sulfur marketers, addressing transportation bottlenecks and seeking supplies from U.S. allies. They warned that continued shortages could increase fertilizer costs and make the US more dependent on foreign fertilizer supplies.

- **There is not much news about the Chinese fertilizer industry, but it is going gangbusters.** "According to the China Nitrogen Fertilizer Industry Association, China produced 39.67 mil. tons of urea in the first half of 2026, up 11.3% year on year. Synthetic ammonia output reached 41.19 mil. tons, up 6.8%, while nitrogen fertilizer production reached 28.53 mil. tons on a nutrient-content basis, up 9.4%. Demand expanded alongside supply. Apparent nitrogen fertilizer consumption increased 9.9% year on year, while apparent urea consumption rose 10.1%. Ammonium sulfate exports reached 10.17 mil. tons, up 15.1%. Urea exports increased 552.1% year on year after spring agricultural supply assurance was completed, allowing overseas shipments to resume in an orderly manner. The domestic average urea price was broadly stable. Capacity is becoming a bigger issue. New nitrogen fertilizer projects are expected to be completed and commissioned in the second half of 2026, pushing China's total urea production capacity above 75 mil. tonnes per year. Full-year output is expected to reach another record high, with further capacity scheduled for 2027. For the global urea market, this capacity trajectory matters. More supply will increase pressure on demand, margins and exports. If capacity growth outpaces sustainable demand, competition could intensify and overseas markets could become more important for additional tonnes." (Will Xi try to sell fertilizer to Trump later this month?)

- **How can I save money on my phosphate bill?** Univ. of IL fertility specialist Andrew Margenot offers multiple ideas, [many of which might be what the doctor ordered](#).
 - ✓ Know what your soil test is and get recommendations from a fertilizer dealer and then begin to strategize where savings can be made without harming yield.
 - ✓ The recommended 25 ppm is based on yield, not on economic return. Balance the 2.
 - ✓ High pH levels will tie up phosphate, so keep pH in the 6.0 to 6.8 range.
 - ✓ Low pH levels indicate lime is needed for other nutrients to work successfully.
 - ✓ If soil test results are within about 10% to 20% of the recommendation, Margenot said there's often not an economic reason to apply phosphate at a full rate.
 - ✓ With high costs of phosphate, begin to consider it as an economic input, more than a nutrient necessity.
 - ✓ Some recommendations are based on removal rates, by calculating how much phosphate was removed in a 200 bu. corn yield. However, removal rates may be hard to calculate, and that can push an application higher, when it is not necessary. Labs that perform foliar tests can also perform grain tests for nutrients.
 - ✓ A spring phosphorus application is a way to reduce overall spending, but not hurt the yield potential of the new crop.
 - ✓ Knowing the variable needs of the field allows a variable rate application and cuts cost.

The Business of Farming—

- **University of IL Farmdoc ag economists** have created a new series of [“financial tools”](#) to help Cornbelt farmers in their decision-making for 2027.
 
 - ✓ **A crop insurance decision tool** calculates premiums, evaluates insurance payments, and provides historical data useful when making crop insurance decisions for multiple crops. Estimates are for crops in Midwest and southeast states. Learn more on the [farmdoc Daily crop insurance archive](#). [Download here](#).
 - ✓ **A Farm Projection Tool** calculates per-acre budgets for different crops and a whole farm budget and includes break-evens. Projected financial statements and return sensitivities are available. The effects of farm level crop insurance and hedging can be analyzed. [Download](#).
 - ✓ **A Farm Rent Evaluator** compares the risks and returns of different leases. [Download](#).
 - ✓ **A Planting Decision Model** allows the user to 1) estimate the costs of planting corn and soybeans by planting date, 2) estimate the net returns from replanting, 3) prevented planting payments, and 4) compare crop rotations. [Download here](#).

USDA/FSA—

- **On September 1, 2026, USDA [announced](#) USDA's Data Modernization Plan.**

According to USDA, this plan will overhaul its collection and storage of agricultural data to reduce producer burdens and improve the “timeliness, accuracy, and usefulness” of its data. The department plans to make greater use of information already collected by its agencies, while expanding mobile and prefilled surveys to reduce duplicative reporting. A pilot will test whether administrative records, satellite imagery, geospatial observations and crop models can improve acreage and yield estimates while retaining producer-reported information. For a full overview of the plan, click [here](#).

- **“More than likely,** we handed farmers a paper map and a pencil, and we said, ‘Okay, start writing down the crop in each field and write the plant date, and we’ve been doing that for a long time,” says, USDA Farm Production Undersecretary Richard Fordyce, (right) after a 12-county pilot showed digital reporting using geospatial maps works. “So now, every county in the country has the ability to do that. They will be converting their acreage reporting to the new system. So, we are reporting acres, we are doing our risk management, we’re doing our conservation.” Fordyce says the modernized acreage reporting platform will be available for crops planted this fall. And, looking ahead, “We’re going to have the ability to receive precision ag data that will help populate those acreage reporting maps. And, ultimately, we’re going to have the ability for farmers to be able to do their acreage reporting, or to check on their acreage report, via a digital device.” It will be engaging with an interactive map to adjust field boundaries, planting dates and other data, saving farmers and FSA staff time versus the old system. (Berns Bureau Washington)
- **The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) [announced](#) updates** to its direct and guaranteed farm loan programs. FSA administers direct and guaranteed farm loans to farmers and ranchers who cannot receive financial support from traditional lenders. FSA has permanently established the Application Fast Track process, which uses financial benchmarks and repayment history to expedite underwriting for direct loan applicants considered unlikely to default. FSA states that about 23% of direct-loan customers qualified since the start of the AFT pilot, reducing the average processing time by approximately eight days. The rule allows experienced lenders in FSA’s Preferred Lender Program to certify that applicants meet federal creditworthiness, financial-feasibility, and collateral requirements without a more detailed agency review. USDA plans to introduce electronic applications and document submission for guaranteed loans in early 2027, although lenders may continue using paper forms.



- USDA Undersecretary Richard Fordyce** recently spent a few days visiting Midwest farms, talking with producers about the challenges facing agriculture. He says one long-term solution to rebuilding the nation's beef herd may be shifting more cattle production into regions with more dependable forage supplies, "I've said for a long time, I think we could find innovative ways to increase beef numbers where we have kind of more predictable forage and certainly help respond to our producers in more of the Western states where they are short of feed. I think it could be a combination of a number of things, but I'm from Northwest MO and we'll certainly have our dry period in the summertime, but we seem to always have leftover hay. We always seem to have plenty of pasture for cows. So, I think it's maybe a rethinking of traditionally how we raise beef cattle in this country, and again, I think it goes back to having more head in areas that have more predictable forage year in and year out." Fordyce says USDA may also have policy tools available to help livestock producers access additional forage, "But I do think USDA, I think there are probably some levers that we can pull. Would there be an opportunity at some point to more heavily utilize CRP, for example, in either grazing systems or maybe even haying part of that on a more regular basis? We do have provisions for emergency haying and grazing. And then we also managed haying and grazing on CRP, but you can't do it all. You can do all of it over the course of 3 years. I think it's just when folks think about doing that, I don't know that it's as palatable as it would be if we were able to kind of figure out a way to make that more available and make it easier to access." As he met with Wisconsin farmers, Fordyce says one issue consistently came up regardless of commodity or farming sector, "At every stop they were talking about cost of production, whether that was on a dairy farm, whether that was on a crop farm, whether that was at Organic Valley. That's not news, but it's certainly something that agriculture is dealing with on a daily basis." (WRDN radio).
- Adverse weather events across IL this past spring** have been verified to the level that the Farm Service agency has authorized loans for physical losses on farms in dozens of IL counties, and many in counties of adjacent states. Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples commonly affected property include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay. The financial assistance program was announced Thursday for 13 disasters recorded from March 10 through May 18 of 2026, in nearly all parts of IL. On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Loan Assistance Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#). Farmers will have until next April to complete paperwork and file their application for reimbursement. If you sustained weather-related damage, [look for your county on this list](#), then contact your local FSA office.

Illinois Agricultural Issues—

- **Across the Midwest**, state fairs remain a summer tradition that showcases agriculture, youth achievement, and rural communities. But as more school districts begin classes earlier in August, many farm families are finding themselves forced to choose between the classroom and the fairgrounds. The issue resurfaced during this year's IL State Fair, where IL Farm Bureau President Philip Nelson (right) was asked whether IL should follow the IA lead and keep schools from starting until after the state fair ends, "I've heard it many times – our son who's showing here, we show Monday, he's in school Tuesday. It is a concern especially when the state fair rolls back, you know, a week, you get into that, whether kids are going off to college or high school, grade school, I do think there's something to that." The debate is not unique to IL. State fairs across the region increasingly overlap with the start of the academic year, creating challenges for 4-H and FFA exhibitors, their families, and fair organizers. Nelson said the concept has been discussed before in IL, including during his time leading the state's agriculture department, "When I was Ag Director, we looked at that. And it's far easier to talk about it than to do it. And it was talked about at one time, something like IA is doing now, but hasn't gotten any further in that discussion." This year, the IL and IA State Fairs ran on the same dates, August 13 through 23. Many IL students returned to class during the fair's opening week, while the state's high school football season also began earlier than in previous years. As school calendars continue to move deeper into August, the conversation about balancing educational schedules with longstanding agricultural traditions is likely to continue. (RFID Radio Network)



Understanding the rapidly changing agricultural industry can be a daunting task. At Heartland Bank, our team of ag specialists will work with you to meet the goals of your farming operation. With over 160 combined years of agricultural service experience, we are focused on providing outstanding service and results throughout Central and Northern Illinois. Whether it's farmland real estate, operating and equipment loans, or farm management expertise, we have the professionals who you can trust to improve your farmland's productivity and asset value. Contact one of our knowledgeable experts today at 309-661-3276 or toll free at 1-833-797-FARM (3276).

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