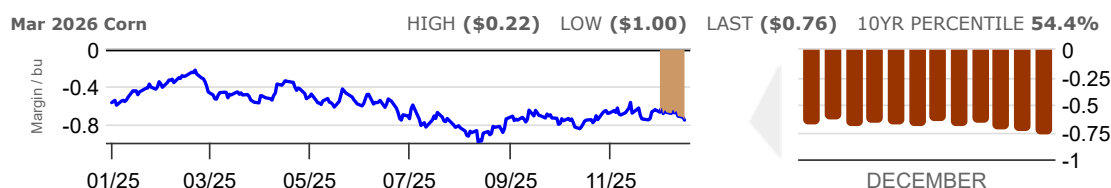
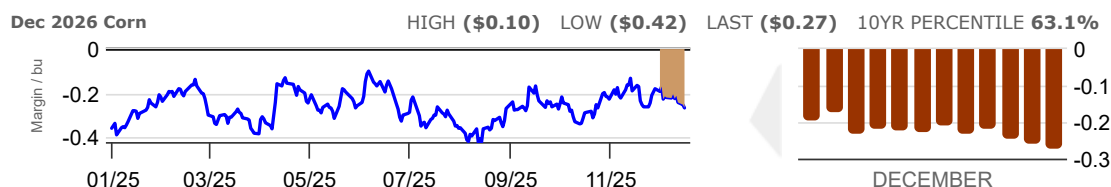


Corn futures traded steadily to weaker through the first half of December as favorable South American weather for Brazilian and Argentine Crops is expected. The US Secretary of Agriculture announced \$11B in aid for US row crop farmers, a one-time payment by February 28th. USDA released its monthly WASDE report on Dec 10th. For corn, the domestic 2025/26 balance sheet called for higher exports and lower ending stocks. Exports rose 125M bushels to 3.2B bushels, reflecting shipments to date. Mexico, Japan and the South Korea are noted to be above their 5-year high for total corn commitments. USDA noted export inspection data showed robust foreign demand during November, implying that total shipments during the Sep-Nov quarter (Q1 of marketing year) will likely exceed 800M bushels and surpass the prior high set in 2007. With no other changes noted to the domestic balance sheet, ending stocks were forecast to decline 125M bushels to 2.029B and below the range of pre-report estimates. On the world balance sheet, global corn production was lowered as a 3 MMT drop in Ukraine's output more than offset a 1 MMT increase projected for the EU. USDA noted that corn production in Ukraine is sharply lower due to reductions in both area and yield based on government reported data to date, where harvest has been slow due to wet conditions in key growing areas. Global corn ending stocks were lowered to 279.2 MMT from 281.3 in November. This was below analysts' average pre-report estimate of 281.3 MMT and on the bottom end of the range of estimates. The first season corn crop in Brazil is 77% planted, 2% above the 5-year pace. USDA projects Brazil corn production at 131 MMT and Argentina's corn production at 53 MMT. Market attention will focus on weather and production in South America and US export shipments. Our clients are looking toward scaling into coverage for new-crop 2026 corn with flexible strategies should the market move seasonally higher between now and next spring.



The estimated yield for the Mar 2026 crop is 216 bushels per acre and the non-land operating cost is \$788 per acre. Land cost for Mar 2026 is estimated at \$275 per acre¹. Basis for the Mar 2026 crop is estimated at \$-0.2 per bushel.



The estimated yield for the Dec 2026 crop is 222 bushels per acre and the estimated operating cost is \$749 per acre. Land cost for Dec 2026 is estimated at \$275 per acre¹. Basis for the Dec 2026 crop is estimated at \$-0.25 per bushel.

¹ 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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