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Commodity market price drivers—

The USDA released its June Planted Acreage Report with some caveats on Friday. U.S. farmers still have an estimated 3.36 mil. acres of corn and 12.8 mil. soybean acres to plant. "These estimates are based on data provided by respondents who were contacted between May 30 and June 16." June unplanted acreage has ranged from 8-16 mil. in recent years.

Corn and Soybean Area Left to be Planted - States and United States: 2023 and 2024

Crop	Acres Left to be Planted			
Сюр	2023	2024		
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)		
Com	2,491	3,356		
Soybeans	8,221	12,767		

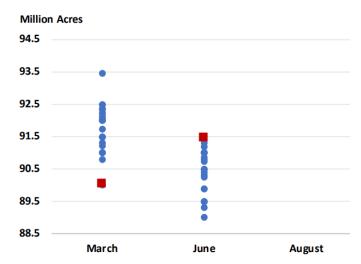
Corn planted area for all purposes is currently estimated at 91.5 mil. acres, down 3%, or 3 mil. acres, from last year. This fooled the grain trade, which was also fooled in the March Planting intentions report. In the March report, the trade estimates were all above the USDA's estimate, and it was just the opposite on Friday with the trade underestimating USDA acreage.

2024 Corn **Planted & Harvested Acreage**

	Planted (1,000 Acres)		Harvested (1,000 Acres)		
United States	91,47	5	83,438		
% Change from Previous Estimate	1.	6	N/A		
% Change from Previous Season	↓ 3.	3	↓ 3.6		

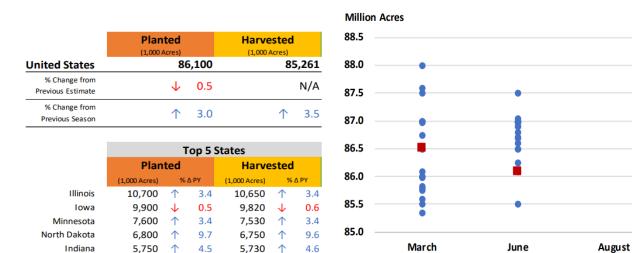
	Top 5 States					
	Planted			Harve	sted	1
	(1,000 Acres)	% Δ PY		(1,000 Acres)	%	ΔΡΥ
Iowa	13,100		NC	12,550		NC
Illinois	10,900	\downarrow	2.7	10,750	\downarrow	2.7
Nebraska	10,100	\uparrow	1.5	9,700	\uparrow	2.1
Minnesota	8,100	\downarrow	5.8	7,550	\downarrow	7.7
Kansas	6,300	\uparrow	9.6	5,800	\uparrow	12.6

Industry Expectations vs NASS



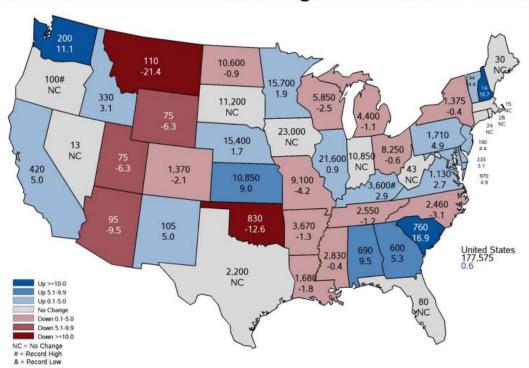
Soybean planted area for 2024 is estimated at 86.1 mil. acres, up 3% from 2023. **Planted & Harvested Acreage**

Industry Expectations vs NASS



2024 Corn and Soybean Planted Acreage

Thousand Acres and Percent Change from Previous Estimate



The all-wheat planted area for 2024 is estimated at 47.2 mil. acres, down 5% from last year. The 2024 winter wheat planted area, at 33.8 mil. acres, is down 8% from last year and 1% from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 24.1 mil. acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.14 mil. acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.59 mil. acres are white winter wheat.

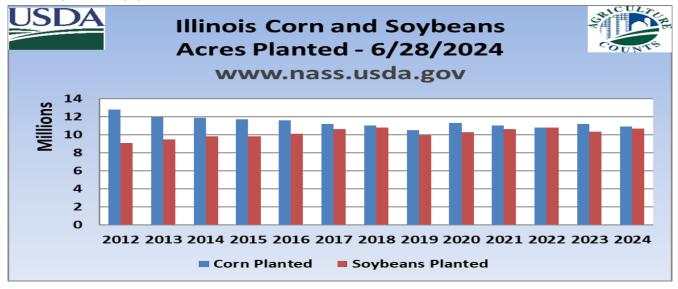
• **As for IL**, Chief Statistician Mark Schleusener reported corn acres down 3% at 10.9 mil. and bean acres up 3% at 10.7 mil. for the 2024 crop. 700,000 wheat acres will be cut, down 10%.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested - Illinois: 2023 and 2024

0	Area p	lanted	Area harvested		
Crop	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	
Corn for grain 1	11,200	10,900	11,050	10,750	
Soybeans	10,350	10,700	10,300	10,650	
Winter Wheat	840	770	780	700	
Oats	55	55	17	14	
Hay, all	(NA)	(NA)	410	480	
Alfalfa	(NA)	(NA)	180	220	
All other	(NA)	(NA)	230	260	

(NA) Not available.

1 Area planted for all purposes.



debate about a considerable reduction in 2024 total planted acreage of major crops. But IL Farmdoc ag economist Scott Irwin says, "Total principal crop acreage did increase from the March Prospective Planting report. March= 313.311 June=315.177 mil. acres. So, USDA principal crop acreage edged up 1.9 mil. acres in today's Acreage report. Interesting to compare the increase in combined corn and soybean acreage between the two reports to the increase in principal crop acreage. Combine corn and soybean acreage:

March=176.546, June=177.575 mil. acres, or an increase right at 1 mil. acres. So, net increase in corn and soybean planted acreage (1 mil. acres) accounts for a little over half of total increase in principal crop acres (1.9 mil. acres) between the March and June reports.

	Planted (1,000 Acres)				
Inited States		315,177			
% Change from Previous Estimate		\uparrow	0.6		
% Change from Previous Season		\downarrow	1.4		
	Top 5 States				
	Plan	ted			
	(1,000 Acres)	% Δ PY			
Kansas	24,428	\downarrow	2.4		
Iowa	24,250		NC		
		100	0.8		
North Dakota	23,892	\downarrow	0.0		

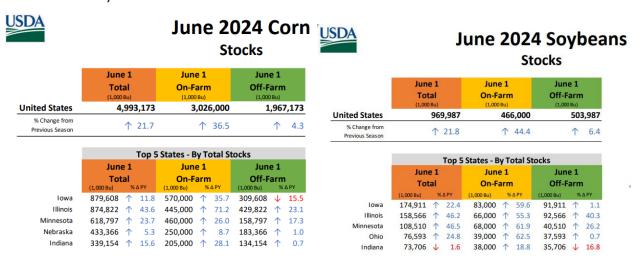
Texas

21,752 🗸

1.7

• **Strong acreage and stocks** were the death knell for the corn market after the release of USDA's acreage and stocks reports last week. Rick Brock, author of the Brock Report, says he could sense that coming. He talks about that in this short video.

• **US farmers just have not been ready to give up** on the old crop, based on what USDA counted for grain stocks at the end of June. <u>USDA's June Grain Stocks Report</u> shows corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 2024, totaled 4.99 bil. bu, up 22% from June 1, 2023. Of the total stocks, 3.03 bil. bu. is stored on farms, 37% higher than last year. Off-farm stocks hit 1.97 bil. bu., 4% higher than in 2023. Soybeans in all positions on June 1 totaled 970 mil. bu., up 22% from June 1, 2023. On-farm stocks were up 44% from last year at 466 mil. bu. Off-farm stocks, at 504 mil., are up 6% from last year. Old crop all wheat stored in all positions totaled 702 mil. bu., up 23% over 2023. On-farm stocks are estimated at 139 mil. bu., up 12% from last year.



And IL grain bins are as full as any in the country according to the IL Ag Statistics Service.
 Compared to June of 2023, current corn stocks are up 44%, Soybean stocks are up 46%, and wheat stocks are up 24%.

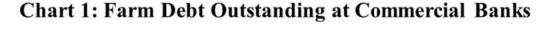
	2023			2024		
Date	On farms	Off farms ¹	Total all positions	On farms	Off farms ¹	Total all positions
	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn						
March 1	620,000	716,475	1,336,475	780,000	703,158	1,483,158
June 1	260,000	349,253	609,253	445,000	429,822	874,822
September 1	56,000	90,778	146,778			
December 1	1,100,000	877,732	1,977,732			
Soybeans						
March 1	125,000	145,576	270,576	170,000	162,514	332,514
June 1	42,500	65,960	108,460	66,000	92,566	158,566
September 1	7,200	23,696	30,896			
December 1	245,000	304,186	549,186			
All Wheat						
March 1	1,250	18,110	19,360	2,500	28,237	30,737
June 1	360	10,850	11,210	1,300	12,558	13,858
September 1	13,500	35,037	48,537			
December 1	5,000	35,261	40,261			

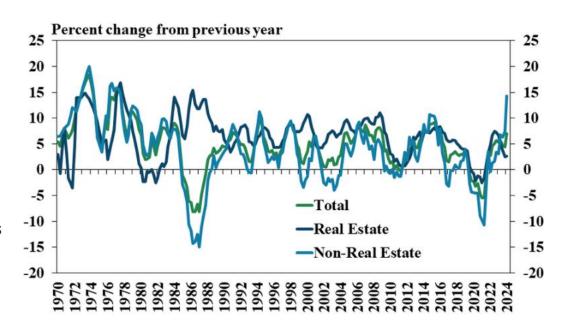
• **Now the real question is** - what does it take to move those bushels? ... Because \$4 futures are definitely not going to do the trick, says Commodity analyst Susan Stroud. "Bushels remain in tight farmer hands that are undoubtedly getting tighter as old crop futures took a nosedive into the \$3s (briefly) to finish out the week. Shhh.... if you listen closely, you can hear farmers signing basis contracts vs some insanely deferred futures month in an attempt to kick the can down the road a bit longer."

Farm Economics and Lending—

Rising farm debt is being reflected on bank balance sheets, according to ag economists at the

Kansas City Federal Reserve. "Farm debt at commercial banks continued to grow at a steady pace from the year prior boosted by a substantial increase in farm operating debt. The growth in real estate debt remained robust but down from the peaks observed in early 2023. Overall, agricultural banks remained financially





stable despite a slight increase in farm loan delinquency rates. The strong growth in farm operating debt in the first quarter reflects an increase in farmers' financing needs, which had been subdued since 2021. The uptick in demand, along with higher benchmark interest rates, resulted in a substantial increase in yields for these loans and higher interest earnings for agricultural banks. However, margins for agricultural banks increased only modestly as the growth in interest income was partly offset by higher interest expenses. Substantial growth in agricultural production loans boosted farm debt balances. Non-real estate farm loans at commercial banks ended the first quarter nearly 15% higher than a year ago, the largest increase since the late 1970s (Chart 1). The rapid increase in operating debt boosted total agricultural debt even as farm real estate debt increased only modestly. The growth in agricultural debt was concentrated among small and mid-sized farm lenders. Three quarters of the \$15 billion increase in farm debt was attributed to banks with agricultural loan portfolios less than \$500 million. The largest lenders with portfolios over \$1 billion accounted for about 10% of the growth. Alongside strong loan demand and higher benchmark interest rates, yields on farm operating loans have grown considerably at agricultural banks. Yields on farm operational loans increased by more than 1 percentage point from the previous year, surpassing the growth in yields for other assets. Agricultural banks continued to expand their loan portfolio, replacing lower-yielding assets on their balance sheet."

The Business of Farming—

- Your new crop is growing, and you are coaxing it in every possible way. But next fall, will it cover the cost? IL Farmdoc ag economists have taken another look at production costs and have revised their budget projections. The bottom line is: "We have revised corn and soybean prices down, while cost adjustments were mixed. Farmer return projections for corn are improved across regions, while soybean return expectations are improved for southern Illinois but similar or lower for other regions. However, farmer return projections remain negative for both corn and soybeans across regions assuming average cash rent levels." Specifically:
 - ✓ The bottom line is that farmers on highly productive soils in central Illinois are likely to lose about \$164 an acre for corn raised on their cash rented land last year and \$22 an acre for soybean. This year the budgets currently project a \$57 per acre loss on cash rented soybean acres. That's almost triple last year. However, the corn losses actually tick back a bit from that \$164 to \$110.
 - ✓ A downward revision to the 2024 soybean price from \$11.50 to \$11.30.
 - ✓ Changes to various cost categories, generally leading to slightly lower costs across regions, which are based on observed costs for the 2023 crop and updated projections for 2024.
 - ✓ Improvements in corn returns across regions. Lower soybean returns in northern and central IL, and improved soybean returns in southern IL. Farmer return projections, which account for regional average cash rents, remain negative for corn and soybeans.
 - ✓ We continue to assume trend yields across regions, which are 227 bu. per acre for corn and 72 bu. per acre for soybeans in central IL.
 - ✓ The most significant cost adjustments for corn are reductions for pesticides and crop insurance premiums in the direct cost category and in fuel and oil under power costs. Lower crop insurance premiums reflect the lower projected prices, relative to the past few years, which were established in February. Overhead cost projections are increased due mainly to higher interest costs. Farmer return projections for central IL improve relative to January but remain negative. The break-even corn price to cover non-land costs is now estimated at \$3.40 per bu., while the break-even to cover all costs, assuming an average cash rent level, is \$4.98 per bu.
 - ✓ Insurance premiums for soybeans are reduced down while interest charges are increased. Soybean returns remain fairly similar to January projections. The break-even soybean price to cover non-land costs is estimated at \$7.11 per bu. The break-even soybean price estimate increases to \$12.10 per bu. to cover all costs.
 - ✓ Relative to January, projections for pesticides, crop insurance premiums, and some power costs have been reduced for corn. Lower direct cost projections for soybeans are mainly due to insurance premium reductions while power cost projections remain similar to or higher than January projections. Higher interest charges have increased overhead costs projections for both corn and soybeans in most regions.

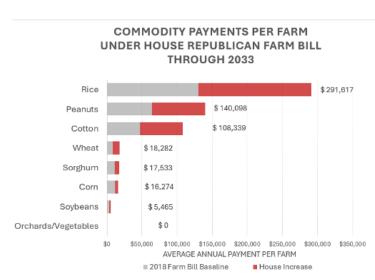
Environment, Conservation, and Carbon—

- The IA Utilities Board granted approval for a proposed carbon pipeline project to begin in the state. That clears the way for Summit Carbon to build that segment of the pipeline that covers 688 miles in 29 IA counties. The board hasn't yet granted a permit that would allow construction to begin. However, Summit can now use eminent domain to acquire the land they need to complete the project. The board issued a final 507-page decision and order. "After weighing a number of factors for and against Summit's petition, the board found that the service provided by Summit Carbon will promote the public convenience and necessity," the board wrote in the decision. Summit will be required to submit "numerous revised exhibits" before the board issues a permit and before construction begins. "The momentum will continue when we file our SD permit application in early July," says Summit CEO Lee Blank. The order indicates that Summit cannot commence construction on any segment of CO-2 pipe in IA until it has obtained approval for a route and sequestration site in ND and an agency approval of a route in SD. It also needs agency approval in NE & MN for those routes. →
- Summit contended that it has voluntary agreements with 75% of landowners who own property in the pipeline's scheduled path. But that leaves more than 850 property owners who don't have signed agreements where eminent domain could be involved. A group of 30 IA Republican legislators, an attorney for some of the landowners, and the IA chapter of the Sierra Club all pledge to work to stop the project, despite the IA Utilities Board's approval. The Sierra Club and impacted landowners said that they plan to sue to stop the company from forcing access onto their property. And the legislators are looking at ways to take away a company's ability to use eminent domain for a private project like a pipeline. "The IUB (IA Utilities Board) ruled against Iowans, landowners, our environment and our communities," said Jess Mazour of the Sierra Club IA in a statement. "This is far from over. We will appeal this decision and make our arguments in front of a fair decision maker." The IA Utilities Board said that Summit can't begin construction of its pipeline through the state until it gets the necessary agreements with the other states that are part of the project. →
- With the IA decision, all eyes will turn to the Dakotas. Biofuels legal specialist Corey Lavinsky says, "Summit will reapply for a permit in SD. Meanwhile, South Dakotans will likely get a chance to vote on the pro-pipeline bill recently signed into law." "South Dakota voters might decide on Nov. 5 whether to reject a new state law regulating carbon dioxide pipelines. The ballot measure committee known as the South Dakota Property Rights and Local Control Alliance submitted an estimated 28,000 petition signatures to the Secretary of State's Office. The group aims to refer Senate Bill 201, which the Legislature and Gov. Kristi Noem approved last winter. Supporters said the legislation will implement new protections for local governments and landowners while providing a path forward for pipeline projects. Opponents view it as a capitulation to pipeline companies.

- **Boom!** (and the shot was heard 'round the State of IL). While many outside the IL State Capitol are unfamiliar with Capitolfax, it may be the most accurate and widely read publication about IL state government. Politicians love it, hate it, use it, and abuse it, but everyone in Springfield has a subscription to it, and Publisher Rich Miller may be one of the most sough-after journalists in the State of IL by folks who want to be heard. That is why he received a note from Michael Woods, exec. dir. of the Association of IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It was published last week in Capitolfax under the headline: "State budget cuts to Soil and Water Conservation Districts will have consequences." Woods used the tactic to get attention to the fact legislators left town in May with a gaping financial hole in the budget for IL Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Their statefunded budget was cut from \$8.5 mil. to \$4.5 mil. instead of being raised to \$10.5 mil. as they had asked. Woods outlines the impact and cited several other news reports about the potential results from the loss of funding such as impacts on efforts to reduce nutrient loss, a goal aggravated by a reduction in staff at all county-level SWCD offices.
- The Prairie Rivers Network issued some scathing statements about IL farmers and their agronomic practices in regard to the growing problem of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia zone. "The Gulf of Mexico "Dead Zone" is growing, and IL is a major culprit. NOAA forecasts an above average "dead zone" this year. About 5,827 square miles—an area larger than Connecticut—that may not have enough oxygen for fish and marine life to survive. The dead zone is not believed to have existed before the 1970s. Its primary cause? Fertilizer runoff from farmland, with IL being a major contributor. Farm chemical pollution triggers algae blooms, degrades drinking water, destroys aquatic habitats, and ruins recreational waters. IL set ambitious goals to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen pollution by 45%. However, the state has only INCREASED the amount of fertilizer running into our rivers since the implementation of the plan almost 10 years ago. Why? The state relies on a failing "voluntary" approach, spending public tax dollars to encourage farmers to adopt conservation practices, rather than mandating pollution reductions. "Illinois' current strategy to reduce agriculture pollution is failing. Officials refuse to regulate ag pollution like other industries. Instead, they waste public money on ineffective voluntary programs while our water crisis worsens..."It's time for a policy that we know works; we need to hold polluters accountable," says @rfhirschfeld, our director of water policy."
- Wheat growers in the STAR program will be eligible for acreage payments when delivery is made to Seimer Milling. STAR is Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources, and participating farmers can gain 1-5 stars depending on agronomic practices. Seimer's sponsorship of the program results in a \$10 acreage payment for 2 stars, \$15 acreage payments for 3 stars, a \$20 acreage payment for a field with 4 stars, and a \$25 acreage payment if the wheat was grown on a field with 5 stars. To be eligible, a grower has to both submit a Grower Agreement with Siemer Milling Company AND enroll fields with STAR. STAR growers will receive a payment for Achieving and maintaining a 5-STAR Rating (the highest rating) OR Demonstrating improvement in their initial STAR rating over a 2-year period. Wheat growers must sign up by August 31 for the 2025 program.

Farm Bill Action--

• After months of fruitless efforts, Farm Bill talks appear to have reached a stalemate. Neither side is budging in the Senate, and no floor action is scheduled in the House despite a committee-passed Farm Bill ready for action. Bluntly put, the votes aren't there, and neither is the money, "It is virtually impossible to create a robust and resilient farm safety net without significant investment." House Ag Chair Rep. Glenn Thompson's, R-PA, earlier comment foreshadowed the Farm Bill's "headwinds" he warned of political obstacles over repurposing SNAP and Commodity Credit Corp. savings, not to mention overshooting budget estimates. Secretary Vilsack also pointed to the difficulty of boosting the farm safety net with limited resources and the danger of not having a new Farm Bill, "Failure to have a Farm Bill creates uncertainty, and that uncertainty makes it very difficult for producers to make decisions about their operations, to decide whether or not they're going to diversify their crop, or to decide whether or not they're going to take advantage of new crop insurance. By the way, we've had 12 new policies and 50 new modifications to crop insurance just in the last 3 years." Bottom line, Vilsack says "We've got to get it done." But American Farm Bureau's Joe Gilson said this month that AFB was already hearing talk of another "extension,"



"There are still some stark differences between what Sen. John Boozman, R-AR, has put out and what Sen. Ag Chair Debbie Stabenow, D-MI, has released. So, right now, we just need to see a lot of leadership in the Senate." But Stabenow consistently says she won't support a Farm Bill that reduces SNAP benefits, while Boozman and Republicans insist there must be "more farm in the Farm Bill." And more Senators on both sides now say they'd rather wait until after the election to pass a 5-year bill.

• Senate Ag Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow, D-MI, says the only path to passing a bipartisan Farm Bill is holding together the farm and food coalition that's formed the foundation of past Farm Bills. "However, recent attempts to fracture that coalition through misleading statistics and an inaccurate portrayal of how the Farm Bill works have stalled progress on negotiations and risks forcing another 2018 extension," Stabenow (left) says. She also points out that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is designed to respond to fluctuations in the economy. Recent figures show that nutrition spending decreased by 13% since fiscal year 2022. "Year-to-year changes in SNAP spending do not take away from funding for other Farm Bill programs," she says. "Similarly, year-to-year changes in spending for crop insurance and commodity programs during disasters or economic downturns don't take away funding from SNAP." Stabenow also says it's time

to get real and pass a Farm Bill.

Agribusiness—

- All the paperwork has been signed, and the deal is complete as far as GROWMARK and COFCO are concerned. It involves a major trading of ownership of 2 large grain facilities. COFCO will take sole ownership of a facility at Cahokia on the Mississippi River across from St. Louis which had been jointly owned by COFCO and GROWMARK. In return, GROWMARK will have sole ownership of a large grain complex (right) on the Calumet River at Chicago which has access to Great Lakes and Global shipping. Matt Lurkins, Vice President of Grain and Strategic Relationships for GROWMARK says this acquisition will be an important asset to the farmers GROWMARK serves. "This transaction reflects GROWMARK's commitment to increasing farmers' profitability while strengthening its presence along strategic waterways and ports throughout the Midwest," he said. "We plan to continue investing in our US business, and we intend to pursue additional opportunities focused on supporting our US Gulf and Pacific Northwest export strategy," said Zhijun (Jerry) Shi, chief operating officer, grains and oilseeds, for COFCO International in North America. Doing business in 36 countries, COFCO International is the overseas agriculture platform for COFCO Corp., China's largest food and agriculture company. In 2023, COFCO International handled over 122 mil. tonnes of related commodities with revenues of over \$50 bil. →
- It seems simple enough, but since COFCO is China's global means of sourcing grain, some questions are being asked and concerns raised. Reps. Nikki Budzinski, D-IL, and Mike Bost, R-IL, have sought the efforts of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to investigate the impact of the GROWMARK-COFCO transaction as part of her chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CIFUS). Budzinski and Bost say, "This transaction fully divests U.S. ownership of an active grain terminal along the Mississippi River to COFCO International Ltd, China's largest state-run food and agriculture company with a focus on grains, oilseeds, and sugar supply chains. We respectfully request that CFIUS consider these concerns and look into this acquisition further to fully understand the scope and implications of this transaction on our national security."

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