## Managing Old and New Crop Price Risk

November 15, 2023
Dr. S. Aaron Smith, Associate Professor and Extension Economist Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Email: aaron.smith@utk.edu
Web Page: https://cropeconomics.tennessee.edu

## Overview

- Supply and demand
- Prices
- Stored crop strategies
- Interest rates and the cost to carry grain in storage
- Bridging the price risk gap

2023 Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI)


|  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2022/23 Est. |  |  |  | \(\left.\begin{array}{c}2023/24 <br>

Projected <br>

November\end{array}\right]\)| Change |
| :---: |
| $\mathbf{2 0 2 3 / 2 4 -}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 2 2 / 2 3}$ |$|$

- Tennessee average yield projected at 177 bu/acre (tied 2019 record)
- Brazil second crop corn
- Bounce back from drought for Argentina
- Ukraine- Russia market access
- Global demand
- USD and exchange rates

Planted and Harvested Acres \& Yield

| Planted (Million) | 87.5 | $\mathbf{8 3 . 6}$ | $\mathbf{- 3 . 9}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Harvested (Million) | 86.2 | $\mathbf{8 2 . 8}$ | $\mathbf{- 3 . 4}$ |
| U.S. Avg. Yield (Bu/Acre) | 49.6 | $\mathbf{4 9 . 9}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 3}$ |
|  | Supply (Million Bushels) |  |  |
| Beg. Stocks | 274 | $\mathbf{2 6 8}$ | $\mathbf{- 6}$ |
| Production | 4,270 | $\mathbf{4 , 1 2 9}$ | $\mathbf{- 1 4 1}$ |
| Imports | 25 | $\mathbf{3 0}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ |
| Total Supply | 4,569 | $\mathbf{4 , 4 2 8}$ | $\mathbf{- 1 4 1}$ |

Use \& Ending Stocks (Million Bushels)

|  | 2,212 | 2,300 | 88 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Crushing | $\mathbf{1 , 9 9 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 7 5 5}$ | $\mathbf{- 2 3 7}$ |
| Exports | 97 | $\mathbf{1 2 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 0}$ |
| Seed and Residual | 4,301 | $\mathbf{4 , 1 8 2}$ | $\mathbf{- 1 1 9}$ |
| Total Use | $\mathbf{2 6 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 5}$ | $\mathbf{- 2 3}$ |
| U.S. Ending Stocks | $\mathbf{3 , 4 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 9 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{5 4 4}$ |
| Foreign Stocks | Price and Stocks to Use Ratio |  |  |
|  | $\$ 14.20$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 2 . 9 0}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 . 3 0}$ |
| U.S. Average Season Price $(\$ / \mathrm{Bu})$ | $\mathbf{~}$ | $6.23 \%$ | $\mathbf{5 . 8 6 \%}$ |
| U.S. Stocks/Use |  |  |  |


|  | 2022/23 Est. | 2023/24 <br> Projected <br> November | $\begin{gathered} \text { Change } \\ \text { 2023/24- } \\ 2022 / 23 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Planted and Harvested Acres \& Yield |  |  |  |
| Planted (Million) | 13.76 | 10.23 | -3.53 |
| Harvested (Million) | 7.31 | 8.02 | 0.71 |
| U.S. Average Yield (lb/acre) | 950 | 783 | -167 |
| Supply (Million 480 Pound Bales) |  |  |  |
| Beg. Stocks | 4.05 | 4.25 | 0.2 |
| Production | 14.47 | 13.09 | -1.38 |
| Imports | 0 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Total Supply | 18.52 | 17.35 | -1.17 |
| Use and Stocks (Million 480 Pound Bales) |  |  |  |
| Domestic | 2.05 | 2.05 | 0 |
| Exports | 12.77 | 12.2 | -0.57 |
| Total Use | 14.82 | 14.25 | -0.57 |
| U.S. Ending Stocks | 4.25 | 3.2 | -1.05 |
| Foreign Stocks | 78.79 | 78.3 | -0.49 |
| Chinese Stocks | 37.4 | 37.3 | -0.1 |
| Price and Stocks to Use Ratio |  |  |  |
| U.S. Avg. Season Price (\$/lb) | \$0.848 | \$0.77 | -\$0.08 |
| U.S. Stocks/Use | 29\% | 22\% | -6.22\% |
| Chinese Stocks/Use | 100\% | 99\% | -0.27\% |

Price and Stocks to Use Ratio

## December Corn Futures Contract, Dec 1 to Expiration 2010-2023



Tenness Average Monthly Corn Basis (Elevators and Barge Points), 5Year Average and 2023


## November Soybean Futures Contract, Nov 1 to Expiration, 2010-2024*



MemphisAverage Monthly Soybean Basis (Elevators and Barge Points), 5-Year Average, 2022 and 2023


## December Cotton Futures Contract, Dec 1 to Expiration 2010-2023



## Profitability

|  | Cotton | Soybeans | Corn | Wheat/Soybeans |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yield - Crop Production Report (Tennessee) | 1,181 | 54 | 177 | $80 / 50$ |
| Harvest Price (as of 11/9/2023) | $\$ 0.74$ | $\$ 13.38$ | $\$ 4.57$ | $\$ 5.39 / \$ 13.38$ |
| Revenue | $\$ 874$ | $\$ 723$ | $\$ 809$ | $\$ 1,033$ |
| Variable Expenses | $\$ 590$ | $\$ 340$ | $\$ 595$ | $\$ 660$ |
| Returns Over Variable | $\$ 284$ | $\$ 383$ | $\$ 214$ | $\$ 373$ |
| Land Costs (Cash Rent - NASS State <br> Average) | $\$ 113$ | $\$ 113$ | $\$ 113$ | $\$ 113$ |
| Returns Over Variable and Land Costs | $\$ 171$ | $\$ 270$ | $\$ 101$ | $\$ 260$ |
| Fixed Costs (Capital Recovery and <br> Management Labor) | $\$ 195$ | $\$ 130$ | $\$ 145$ | $\$ 245$ |
| Returns Over Specified Costs | $\mathbf{( \$ 2 4 )}$ | $\$ 140$ | $\mathbf{( \$ 4 4 )}$ | $\$ 15$ |
| Breakeven Price at Estimated Yield and <br> Specified Cost | $\$ 0.76$ | $\$ 10.80$ | $\$ 4.82$ | $\$ 6.36 / \$ 10.18$ |

Corn - When did you buy your fertilizer?
Cotton - Did you take advantage of high prices?
Soybean - Did you avoid the Mississippi River basis lows?

## Current Futures Price Offerings

| Contract | Last |
| :--- | ---: |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCY00 (Cash) | $471-2 s$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCZ23 (Dec '23) | $478-2 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCH24 (Mar '24) | $494-2 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCK24 (May '24) | $503-6 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCN24 (Jul '24) | $512-0 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCU24 (Sep '24) | $512-4 s$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCZ24 (Dec '24) | $518-0 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCH25 (Mar '25) | $528-4 s$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCK25 (May '25) | $533-0 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCN25 (Jul '25) | $532-2 s$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCU25 (Sep '25) | $514-2 s$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZCZ25 (Dec '25) | $510-4 s$ |


| Contract | Last |
| :--- | ---: |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSY00 (Cash) | $1338-0 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSX23 (Nov '23) | $1368-6 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSF24 (Jan '24) | $1389-6 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSH24 (Mar '24) | $1402-4 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSK24 (May '24) | $1412-4 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSN24 (Jul '24) | $1414-4 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSQ24 (Aug '24) | $1388-0 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSU24 (Sep '24) | $1333-4 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSX24 (Nov '24) | $1311-4 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSF25 (Jan '25) | $1317-0 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSH25 (Mar '25) | $1307-6 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSK25 (May '25) | $1305-2 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSN25 (Jul '25) | $1308-0 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSQ25 (Aug '25) | $1298-2 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSU25 (Sep '25) | $1268-4 \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ ZSX25 (Nov '25) | $1258-6 \mathrm{~s}$ |


| Contract | Last |
| :--- | :---: |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTY00 (Cash) | 74.23 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTZ23 (Dec '23) | 78.68 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTH24 (Mar '24) | 81.15 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTK24 (May '24) | 81.88 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTN24 (Jul '24) | 82.46 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTV24 (Oct '24) | 79.59 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTZ24 (Dec '24) | 78.24 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTH25 (Mar '25) | 78.79 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTK25 (May '25) | 78.89 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTN25 (Jul '25) | 78.99 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTV25 (Oct '25) | 77.89 s |
| $\boldsymbol{+}$ CTZ25 (Dec '25) | 77.19 s |

## Inflation and Interest Rates, 2000-2023 (Oct)



## Corn - Interest Cost (\$/bu) @ 8.5\%

|  |  |  |  | Month |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Corn Price |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| \$ | 4.00 | \$0.03 | \$0.06 | \$0.09 | \$0.11 | \$0.14 |
| \$ | 4.25 | \$0.03 | \$0.06 | \$0.09 | \$0.12 | \$0.15 |
| \$ | 4.50 | \$0.03 | \$0.06 | \$0.10 | \$0.13 | \$0.16 |
| \$ | 4.75 | \$0.03 | \$0.07 | \$0.10 | \$0.13 | \$0.17 |
| \$ | 5.00 | \$0.04 | \$0.07 | \$0.11 | \$0.14 | \$0.18 |
| \$ | 5.25 | \$0.04 | \$0.07 | \$0.11 | \$0.15 | \$0.19 |
| \$ | 5.50 | \$0.04 | \$0.08 | \$0.12 | \$0.16 | \$0.19 |
| \$ | 5.75 | \$0.04 | \$0.08 | \$0.12 | \$0.16 | \$0.20 |
| \$ | 6.00 | \$0.04 | \$0.09 | \$0.13 | \$0.17 | \$0.21 |
| \$ | 6.25 | \$0.04 | \$0.09 | \$0.13 | \$0.18 | \$0.22 |
| \$ | 6.50 | \$0.05 | \$0.09 | \$0.14 | \$0.18 | \$0.23 |
| \$ | 6.75 | \$0.05 | \$0.10 | \$0.14 | \$0.19 | \$0.24 |
| \$ | 7.00 | \$0.05 | \$0.10 | \$0.15 | \$0.20 | \$0.25 |

* Does not include other storage costs ( $\sim 10-20$ cents)

10-Year Average Tennessee Corn Price Improvement from September by Month at Elevators and Barge Points


## 10-Year Average Tennessee Soybean Price Improvement from September by Month at Elevators and Barge Points




## Sell Futures

- Cash price for corn of $\$ 5.25$
- \$5.03 futures price ( $96 \%$ of price risk)
- \$0.22 basis (4\% of price risk)
- Sell a \$5.03 May futures contract
- Locks in a futures price for crop held in storage
- If basis improves $=$ higher cash price
- If basis declines = lower cash price



## Futures Market Re-ownership (Option Spread Example)

- March Corn (current price \$4.94):
- Buy a \$5.20 March call option for 10 cents,
- Sell a \$5.50 March call option for 5 cents.
- Net premium cost is 5 cents.
- If the March contract is below $\$ 5.20$ you will lose 5 cents
- If the March contract is $\$ 5.20$ to $\$ 5.25$ you will lose 0 to 5 cents
- If the March contract is between $\$ 5.25$ and $\$ 5.50$ you will make 0 to 25 cents
- If the March contract is above $\$ 5.50$ you will make 25 cents.
- No basis.

Example: Bridging the price risk gap until crop insurance prices are determined - put option

- On November 14, a \$5.20 December 2024 Put Option cost \$0.44.
- After crop insurance prices are determined:
-Out-of-the money: exit options position recoup premium.
-In-the-money: maintain the position as price protection.


## Take Home Message

- Know your cost of production and breakeven prices for projected yields.
- Identify price risk and seek mitigating strategies.
- Evaluate risk management strategies available.
- Make a decision and implement.


November 15, 2023
Dr. S. Aaron Smith Associate Professor and Extension Economist
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Email: aaron.smith@utk.edu
Web Page: https://cropeconomics.tennessee.edu


THANK YOU

