

CURRENT TREND: Higher

Lower USDA crop conditions and Pro Farmer estimates pushing markets higher this morning

Trivia: Within ten years either way, when was the first United States one-dollar bill made?

Soybeans

Soybeans trading higher today, with old crop and new crop up 19 cents. The USDA lowered soybean crop conditions by 1% in yesterday's crop progress report. The Pro Farmer tour did pod counts in both Ohio and South Dakota yesterday. Ohio numbers were modestly lower than last year and South Dakota numbers down about 12%. As we all know, after pods are set, soybean yield is determined at grain fill. If moisture is short we may only get 2 beans per pod, or if there is plenty of moisture we may get 4. So I always encourage people to keep that in mind when looking at these Pro Farmer results. We are nearing \$14 again on new crop. Keep that in mind if you have more bushels you'd like to cover.

Corn

Corn higher today, with both old and new crop up 24 cents. The USDA lowered corn crop conditions another 2% in yesterday afternoon's crop progress report. It's also worth noting that conditions are 5% worse than they were this time last year. On day 1 of the Pro Farmer tour, South Dakota yields were released at 118.45 bushels per acre, much lower than the USDA estimate of 147. Ohio yields were also released at 174.17, compared to the 190 bushel per acre USDA estimate. I think most would agree that the USDA numbers were high, but it will be very interesting to see the Tour estimates once we get into the major corn producing "I" states.

Wheat

Wheat trading higher this morning, with old crop up 12 cents to around \$7.37 and new crop up 11 cents to \$7.97. The wheat market continues to trade headlines. The dominant headline as of late is that some of the worst fighting is concentrated around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Obviously there is some legitimate concerns with the safety of this plant but is this enough to drive us significantly higher? Other news is that it sounds like China could be interested in some wheat as they struggle with the effects of their serious drought. Again, without a strong supply or demand story one way or the other, the market will continue to trade sideways.

