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CUSTOM BLENDING & INGREDIENTS SOURCING SPECIALIST

NOVEMBER EDITION



This monthly MarketMix highlights the latest WASDE report findings and what that means for you, your customers and your operation.

TOP TOPICS FOR NOVEMBER

- Corn Stocks Fall Short
- Soy Stocks Hit 300M
- Basis Stays Stubbornly Firm
- Diesel Up 69%

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Ending stocks at 300 million bushels is a significant psychological threshold for the market and an important technical trigger.

A FEED AND FUTURES AND CASH MARKET

Corn: Corn futures have established a support area in recent weeks. The December 2026 contract retreated to $4.40 per bushel and has been in a sideways trade since late October. Export sales began to see new life as prices reached this range, with Mexico stepping in to purchase more than 2 million metric tons in the last two weeks alone after a quiet start to the marketing year. In the November *WASDE* report, USDA reduced corn yield by 1.6 bushels per acre after increasing it by three bushels just a month ago. This is likely to establish a firm floor in the marketplace until more is known about the South American crop, which is being planted now. Concerns over adverse weather effects from an El Niño cycle will keep the market underpinned, and any hiccups as that crop enters the heart of its growing season could renew the bullish tone the market experienced in August and September.

Harvest is nearly complete across most of the Midwest, and basis values are firmer than typically would be expected at this time of year. Farmers are shipping most of their beans at harvest to avoid further quality deterioration in on-farm bins. This additional on-farm space has allowed for more corn bushels to be held back from the commercial elevator system, encouraging stronger cash bids. Reports from the field indicate yield could see further reductions in future *WASDE* reports, meaning the amount of corn available to commercial entities is less than currently estimated, and bids are at a premium to ensure adequate ownership.

A FEED AND FUTURES AND CASH MARKET CONTINUED

Proteins: Soybean meal futures have also rounded out a bottom near $320 per ton, well off their September highs and ultimately in the lower third of the five-year price range. The soy complex responded more bullishly to November's *WASDE* release, with soybean yields increasing by only two-tenths of a bushel when the market was expecting more. Reports from the field continue to support higher yields, but Tuesday's modest adjustment was overshadowed by rising export demand, which drew ending stocks down to 300 million bushels. This is a significant threshold for the market psychologically and is an important technical trigger. This is why we saw such a strong reaction immediately following the report. Seasonal trends tell us soybean meal futures tend to grind higher from this point forward in the calendar, and, like with corn, South American weather will play a significant role in the market's tone for several months.

Basis values are incredibly firm, especially in the nearby shipment windows, as logistical issues and strong export demand command a premium across the supply chain. Railroads are still recovering from weather-related backlogs several weeks ago, and exporters have yet to take their foot off the gas pedal, leaving the domestic end user with elevated basis values and unreliable delivery schedules. This is true across all proteins, including soybean meal, canola, bypass proteins and corn byproduct. However, an ample supply of beans, profitable crush margins and the potential for large production in South America do leave the window open for better values in the protein space, especially from January forward.

Distillers, Gluten and Related Products: Distillers' byproducts, corn gluten feed and similar commodities are also carrying a hefty premium, with export demand underpinning those markets. Tight forage supplies are also pushing huge numbers of cattle to the feed bunk instead of on pasture with supplemental Winter feeding. Even with futures falling dramatically in the past two months, these commodities have been nearly non-responsive to the move. Europe consumes a significant volume of these products for the same drought-related reasons we have at home and Southeast Asian trade partners are seeing their demand reach the highest levels in several years. Expect a firm tone to remain well into 2027, with Spring forage harvest in the US and Europe being the likely first opportunity for prices to ease.

Fiber and Forages: The marketplace is aware of the forage and fiber shortage at this point. A failed Winter wheat crop, stunted hay production and another abysmal year of cotton production in the Western US have all strained forage inventories and elevated prices. Cotton harvest is underway, and ginning season is beginning to ramp up both in Texas and the Southeast. Cottonseed values dipped $10-15 per ton in most markets, but we do not expect much more improvement from here. Oilseed crush margins will drive processors to continue buying seed, and those feeding dairy cattle rations will struggle to find better commodities to displace the product.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel with a much-improved start to the Winter wheat crop this Fall. There is still a long way to go before livestock producers are comfortable with the outlook, but the Western Plains received adequate rainfall, and stands look far better than they did a year ago.

Bypass Fat: The fat market remains difficult to define. Prices rose hundreds of dollars per ton as the US government launched an anti-dumping investigation into palm products imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. There have been mentions of tariffs as high as 60%–90%, but a lack of clarity on the subject has forced importers and domestic resellers to either increase prices dramatically or refuse to offer products altogether. A soft late-November deadline is supposed to more clearly outline the expectations and timeline for the investigation, but little is known beyond that. There is potential for some relief if the newly elected government officials reverse course on the matter, or if an announcement is made indicating tariffs will be much less severe. We're monitoring this closely and currently advising end users to buy 30 or 60 days' worth of product without committing to the current values for any extended period.

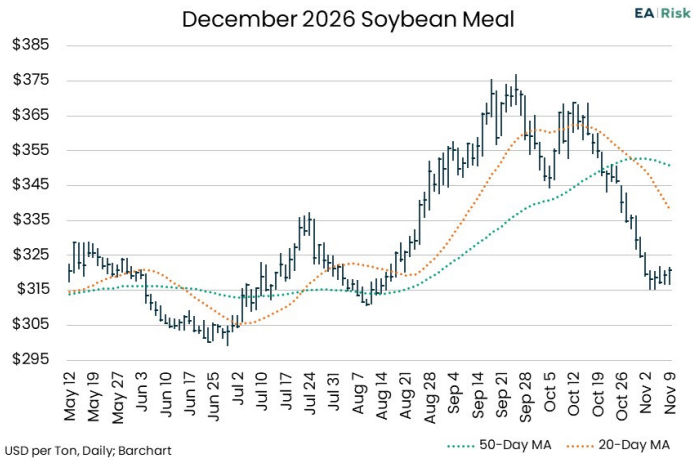
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Fast Facts:

- Insight Portal

A FEED AND FUTURES AND CASH MARKET CONTINUED

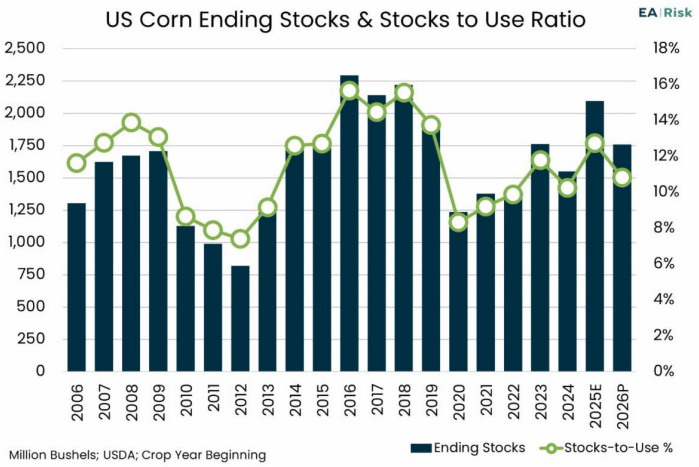


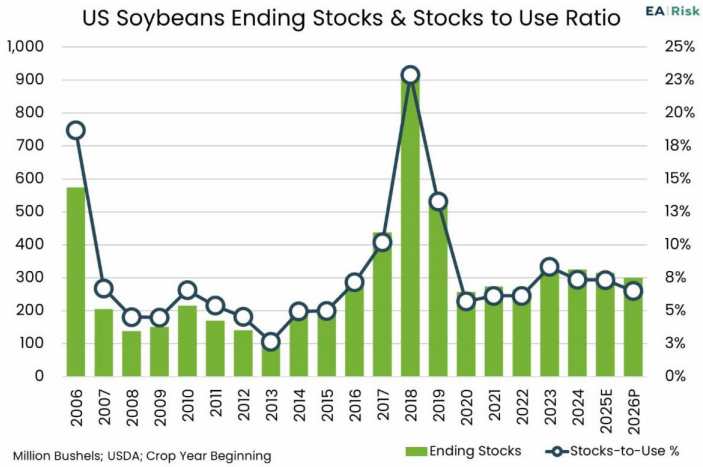


NOVEMBER WASDE REPORT

In the November *WASDE* report, USDA decreased US ending corn stocks to 1.758 billion bushels, down from 1.849 billion bushels in October and nearly 100 million bushels below analysts' expectations. The export and feed and residual categories were also lower than the October estimates. World corn ending stocks totaled 281.94 million metric tons, ahead of expectations and exceeding October's estimate of 280.44 million metric tons.

USDA also lowered US soybean ending stocks to 300 million bushels, down from 315 million bushels last month and below analysts' expectations for 331 million. Exports lifted slightly, from 1.695 billion bushels in October to 1.720 billion in the November report. World soybean ending stocks tallied 123.50 million metric tons, down from 124.28 million metric tons last month and below expectations





USDA WASDE Report: November 2026

2026-2027 US Production Estimates (Billion Bushels)			
	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat
November	15.893	4.574	1.534
Consensus	15.962	4.597	
Range	15.344-16.203	4.552-4.725	
October	16.034	4.562	1.534

2026-2027 US Yield Estimates (Bushels Per Acre)			
	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat
November	179.6	53.3	48.1
Consensus	180.3	53.5	
Range	173.2-183.1	53.0-55.0	
October	181.2	53.1	48.1

2026-2027 US Ending Stocks (Billion Bushels)			
	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat
November	1.758	0.300	0.743
Consensus	1.840	0.331	0.746
Range	1.698-1.969	0.280-0.370	0.730-0.769
October	1.849	0.315	0.740

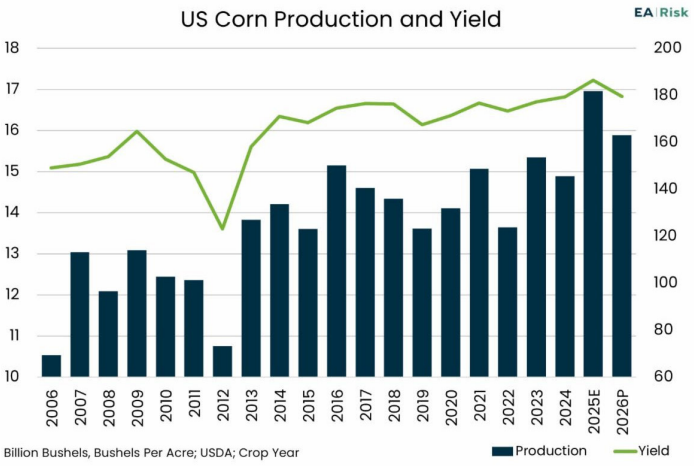
2026-2027 World Ending Stocks (Million Metric Tons)			
	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat
November	281.94	123.50	280.82
Consensus	281.44	124.73	276.44
Range	280.00-283.71	120.40-126.20	274.60-278.60
October	280.44	124.28	276.04

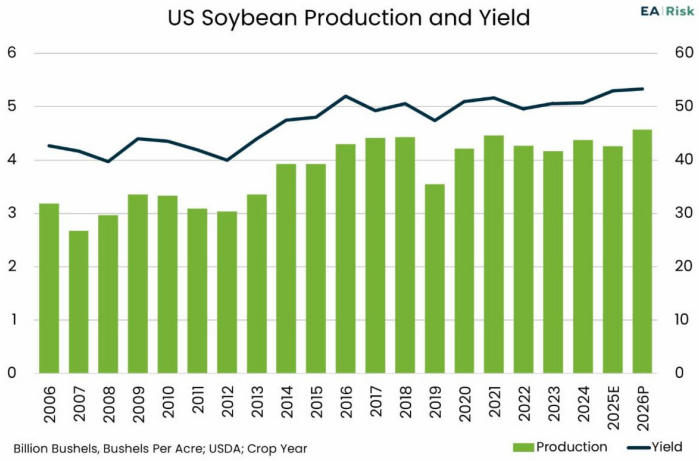
Source: Reuters, USDA

HARVEST NEARS THE FINISH LINE

As of November 8, US corn harvest was 81% complete, compared to the five-year average of 86%. Soybean harvest reached 92% completion, slightly ahead of the five-year average of 91% for this time in the season. At this point in the season, attention turns to South America's growing season and the potential weather risks that may come from the looming El Niño.

In its November *Crop Production* report, USDA pegged US corn production at 15.893 billion bushels, below expectations for 15.962 billion bushels. Corn yield came in at 179.6 bushels per acre, falling below expectations for 180.3 bushels per acre and down from the October *WASDE* estimate of 181.2 bushels. US soybean production projections totaled 4.574 billion bushels compared to the consensus call for 4.597 billion bushels. Yield estimates reached 53.3 bushels per acre, below expectations for 53.5 bushels but ahead of the October estimate of 53.1 bushels.





Fast Facts:

- Crop Progress Report

DIESEL AND FERTILIZER REMAIN ELEVATED

Fertilizer Cost Update: Illinois

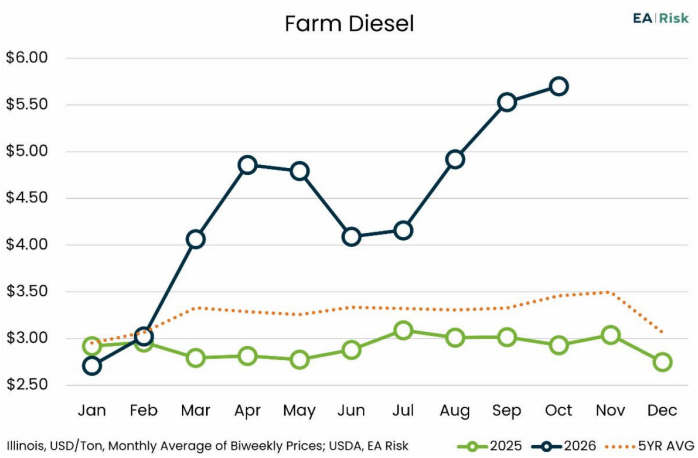
Product	Oct 26	Last Month	Change	Last Year	Change	Average	Change
Liquid Nitrogen 28% Spread	$ 468	$ 501	-7%	$ 438	+7%	$ 448	+4%
Anhydrous Ammonia	$ 948	$ 900	+5%	$ 820	+16%	$ 935	+1%
Potash	$ 516	$ 500	+3%	$ 494	+5%	$ 612	-16%
DAP	$ 929	$ 925	+0%	$ 880	+6%	$ 807	+15%
Urea	$ 770	$ 722	+7%	$ 607	+27%	$ 649	+19%
Farm Diesel	$ 5.70	$ 5.53	+3%	$ 2.93	+95%	$ 3.46	+65%

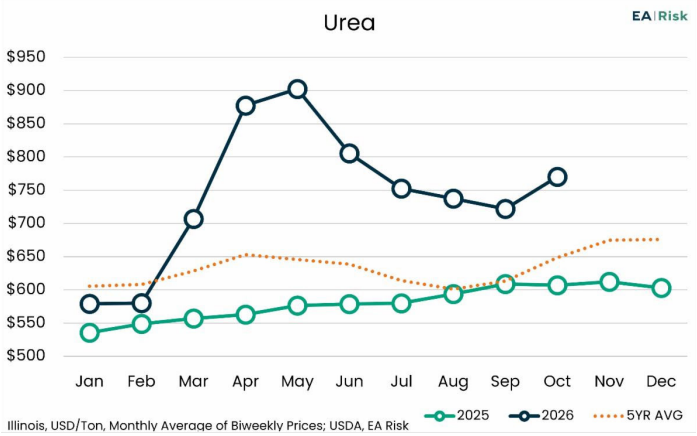
Monthly Average in Illinois, USD Per Ton for Fertilizer, USD Per Gallon for Diesel; USDA, EA Risk Calculations

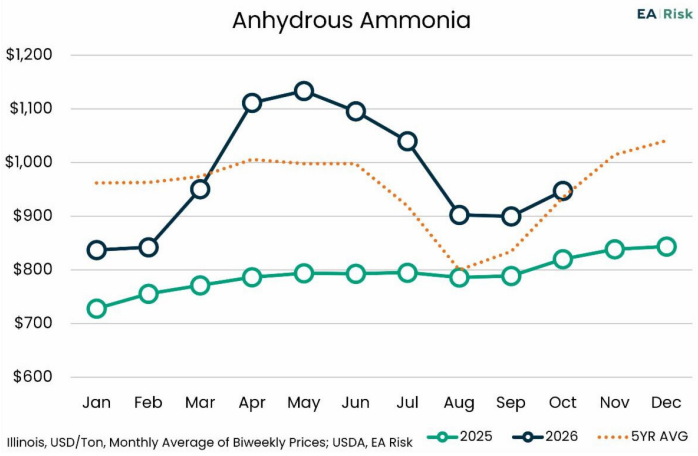
While gas and diesel prices have come off their highs, prices remain elevated. Retail diesel prices averaged $6.29 per gallon in early November, up 69% from a year ago. As shown in the table, the farm diesel FOB price leapt 95% from last October to an average of $5.70 per gallon. Geopolitical conflict around the Strait of Hormuz as well as in Ukraine and Russia will continue to influence energy prices as the year end approaches.

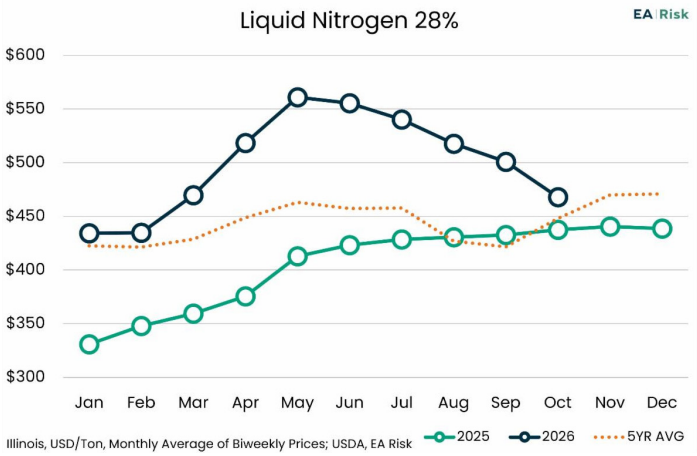
Fertilizer prices also remain above year-ago levels. In late October, urea was up 27% from last year, averaging $770 per ton. Anhydrous ammonia was 16% higher, reaching $948 per ton. Liquid nitrogen 28% was $468 per ton, a 7% increase year-over-year. DAP climbed 6% from last year to $929 per ton. Potash was $516 per ton, up 5% from a year ago.

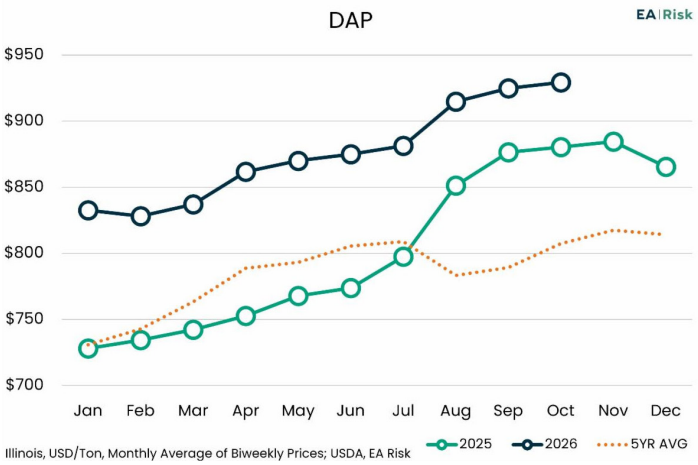
DIESEL AND FERTILIZER REMAIN ELEVATED CONTINUED

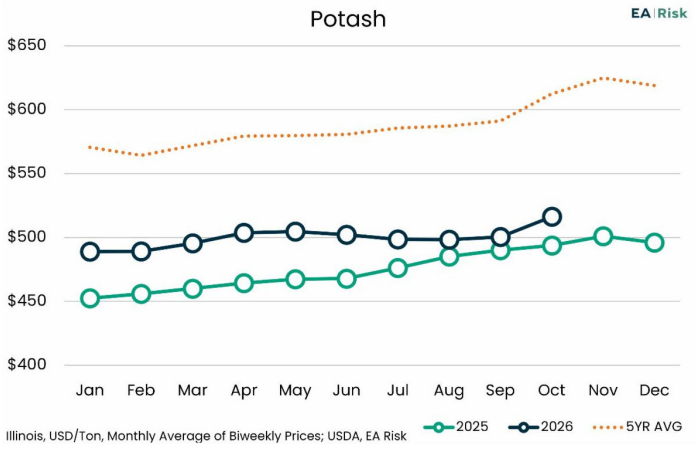












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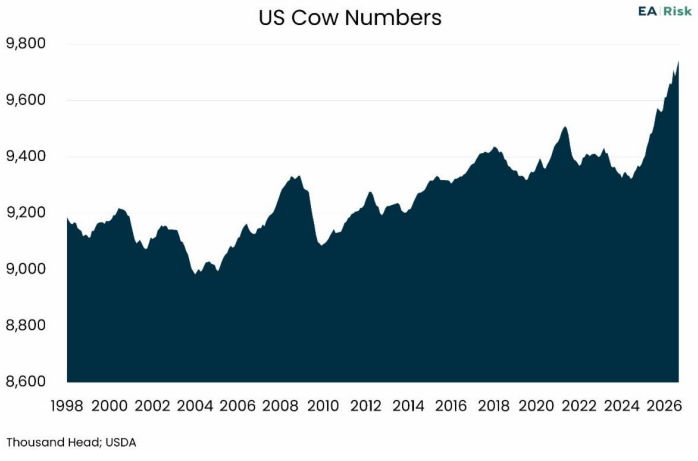
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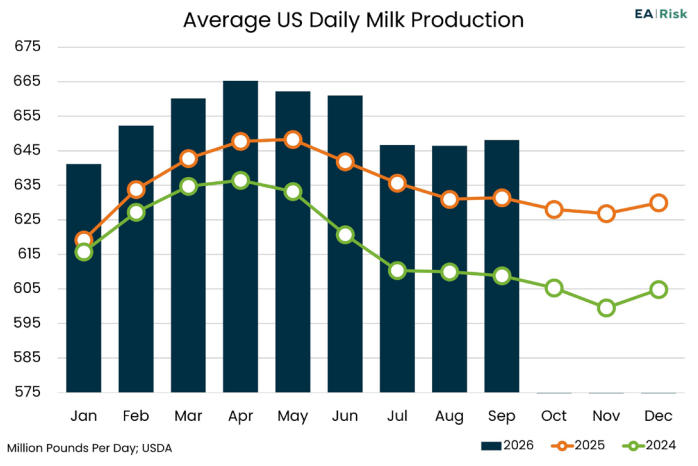
- Farmers Report Good Yields, but Rising Costs Are Cutting Into Profits

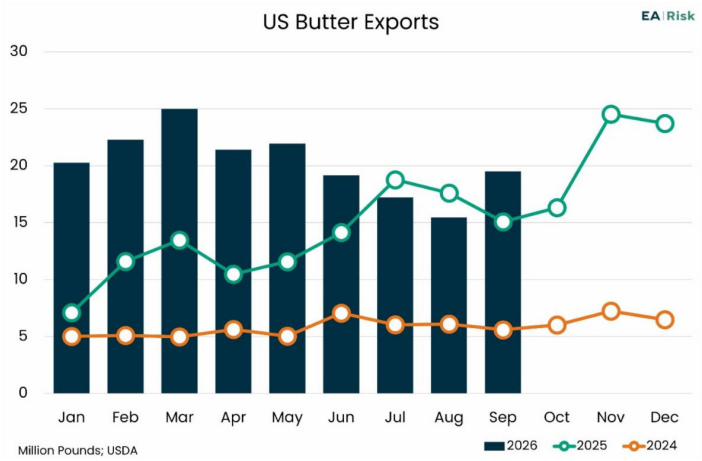
MORE COWS AND MORE MILK

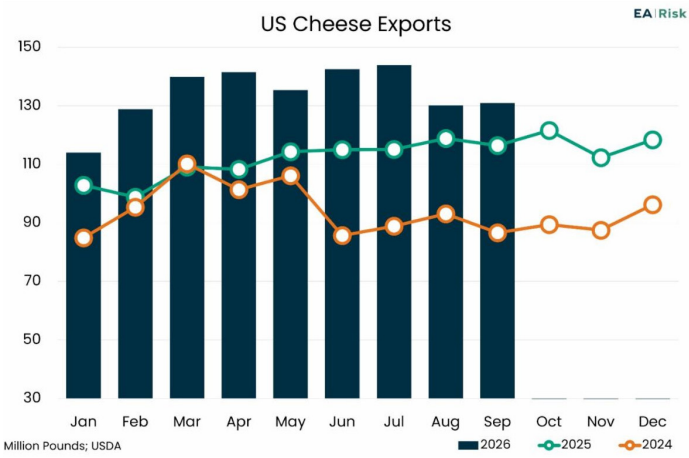
Milk output remains strong. US milk production increased 2.6% in September, ahead of expectations. USDA also revised the August data from +1.7% to +2.4%. All major dairy regions logged output growth in September, with big gains in the Mideast (+4.1%), Midwest (+3.1%) and Northeast (+2.6%). Cow numbers are also expanding, with the US dairy cow herd reaching 9.743 million head – its largest size in more than 35 years. Cow numbers grew 26,000 head from August to September and are up 169,000 head year-over-year. At the same time, dairy cow culling trends remained relatively unchanged, with culling running ahead of last year's pace but still well below the five-year average.

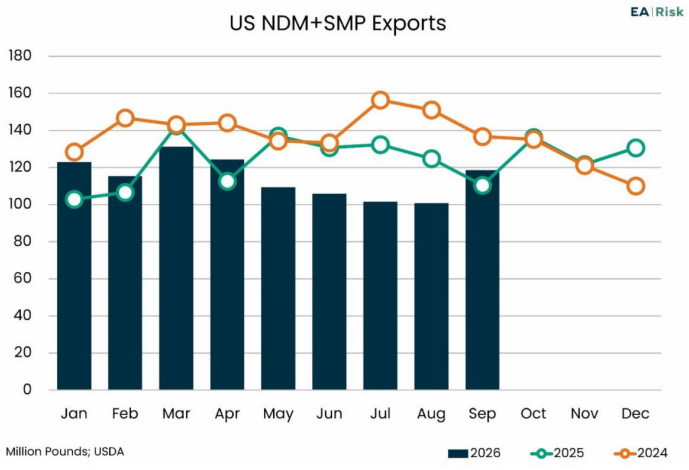
US exports had a strong showing in September. Cheese exports climbed to 131 million pounds, up 12% (+15 million pounds) year-over-year. Butter exports reached 19.5 million pounds, up 29% (+4 million pounds) from last September and the first positive annual growth since June. Nonfat dry milk and skim milk powder exports topped 119 million pounds, up 7% (+8 million pounds) from a year ago and the first year-over-year increase since April. Dry whey exports soared to 63 million pounds, up 53% (+22 million pounds) from September 2025.







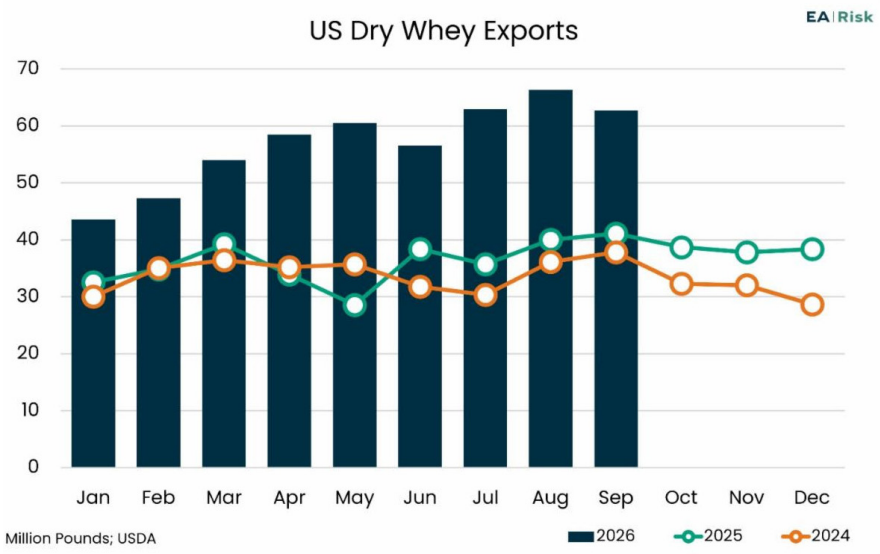




Fast Facts:

- Milk Production Report

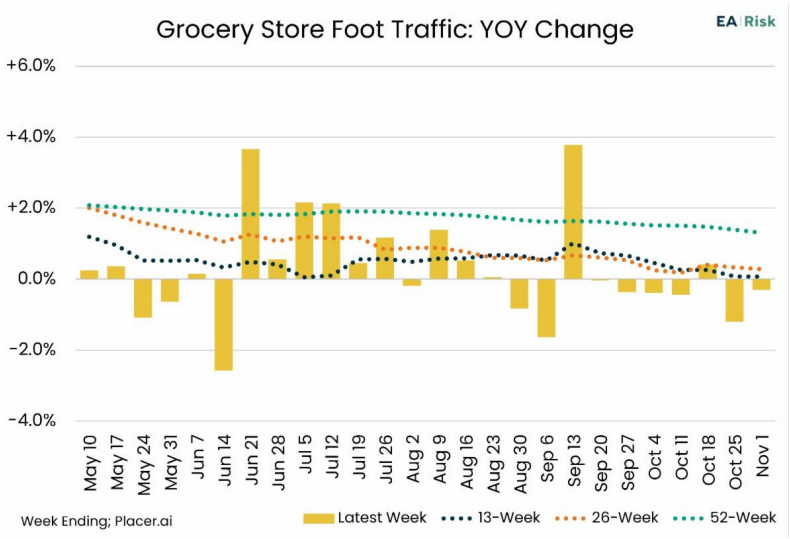
MORE COWS AND MORE MILK CONTINUED



RESTAURANT AND GROCERY STORE VISITS TREND LOWER

Higher prices are still impacting US consumers, especially when it comes to energy costs, which are up more than 20% year-over-year. This financial strain could be playing a role in people's dining-out habits as restaurant traffic continues to lag year-ago levels. Recent Placer.ai data shows combined quick-service and full-service restaurant traffic fell 2.3% year-over-year during the week ending October 25. That means restaurant traffic came in below prior-year levels 26 of the last 27 weeks.

Fewer restaurant visits aren't translating into busier grocery stores, though. Grocery store visits were 1.1% below 2025 levels in the week ending October 25, continuing a stretch of eight weekly declines in 10 weeks. While shoppers may be purchasing more per visit, Census Bureau figures show grocery sales growth hasn't kept pace with food-at-home inflation for the last nine months. Slower population growth, SNAP funding changes and greater GLP-1 weight loss medication use are all factors that may be combining with inflation to keep Americans from visiting restaurants and grocery stores more frequently.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Top Takeaways From This MarketMix

The Bottom Line

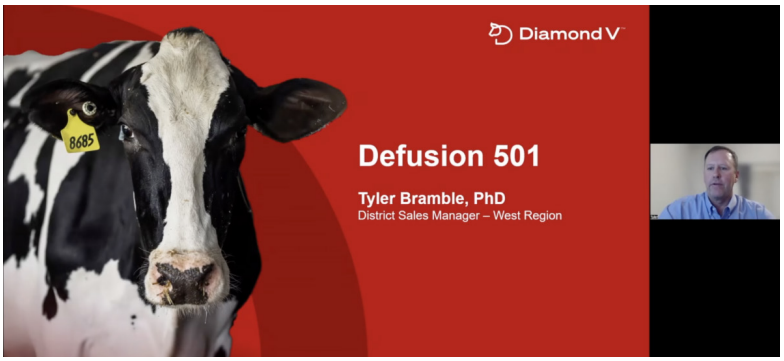
1. **Corn has found its floor.** USDA cut yield to 179.6 bu/acre, pulling ending stocks nearly 100 million bushels below expectations.
2. **Basis is the real cost driver.** Rail backlogs and strong exports are keeping premiums high, and byproduct relief likely won't come until spring.
3. **Bypass fat calls for short-term buying.** With 60%–90% palm tariffs on the table, buy 30 to 60 days out and avoid long commitments.
4. **More cows, more milk, more exports.** The US herd hit its largest size in 35+ years, and dry whey exports jumped 53%.

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- **Multi-species versatility.** For use in cattle, poultry and swine diets.
- **Support you can count on. Backed by Diamond V's technical expertise and service.**



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