# Agricultural Policy and Market Situation Newsletter

*Volume VIII, Issue 1*

## Trade Tariffs

Soybean contracts jumped 20 cents in midday trading on Wednesday, April 9th, joining other commodities in a sharp rebound, after President Donald Trump took to social media to again raise tariffs on the biggest buyer of U.S. soybeans- China. New Chinese tariffs (125%), set Wednesday, April 9th, more than double the cost for Chinese buyers to import U.S. soybeans, but that didn't stop soybean futures from climbing higher.

President Trump simultaneously announced a 90-day reprieve for tariffs on countries that have not retaliated against the U.S. That move sparked both stocks and commodities to rebound after the midday announcement on social media. Trump's announcements came after both China and the European Union announced new retaliatory tariffs on the U.S.

The president also suggested that there could be future exemptions to the tariffs, but when asked how he would decide, he said "instinctively, more than anything else."

Successful Farming.

Asked by reporters at the White House whether Mexico and Canada are part of the duty reductions, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent seemed to indicate that they are.

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***What's inside this Issue?***

***Trade Tariff Uncertainty; Prospective Plantings for 2025/26; Profiling U.S. Ag Export Value by State, Commodity, and Market Outlet; Budget Reconciliation; Market Updates, and more!***

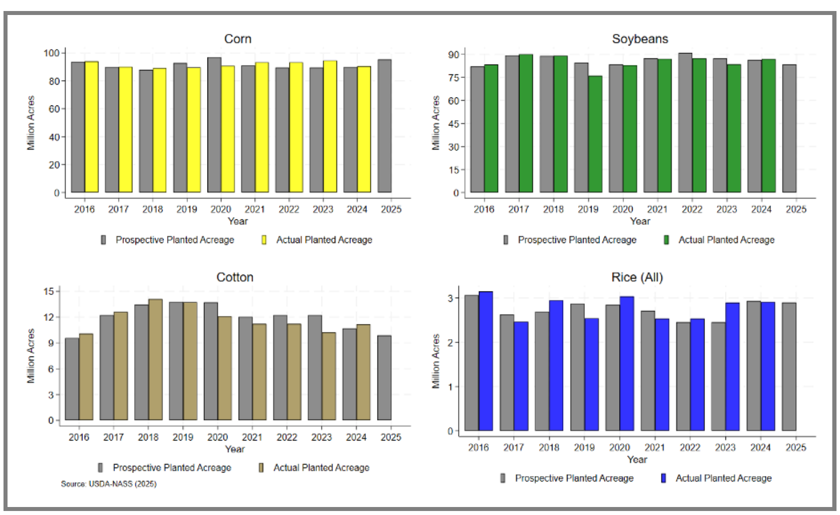
## USDA's 2025 Planting Intentions Report

On March 31st, the USDA released their annual planting intentions report for major agricultural crops in the U.S. for the 2025/26 crop year. Table 1 presents the newly released national planting intentions for corn, cotton, rice, and soybeans. In summary, corn planting intentions of 95.3 million acres represent a 4.73-million-acre increase (5%) from 2024 plantings. Soybean plantings are projected at 83.5 million acres, a 3.55-million-acre decrease (4%) from last year. Cotton acres (upland and Pima) are projected at 9.87 million acres, a decrease of 1.31 million acres (12%) from the year prior. By class, long grain rice plantings of 2.24 million acres represent a 35,000-acre decrease (1.5%) from 2024. The combined medium and short grain rice plantings of 655,000 acres represent 20,000-acre increase (3%) from the year prior.

Corn planted acreage (for all purposes) in 2025 is estimated at 95.3 million acres, up 5 percent or 4.73 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 40 of the 48 estimating States. the corn planting intentions estimate was higher than many were expecting, up from USDA's Ag Outlook Forum estimate of 94.0 million and up sharply from 90.594 million a year ago. Analysts on average were expecting 94.361 million according to a Reuters poll.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2025, totaled 8.15 billion bushels, down 2 percent from March 1, 2024. Of the total stocks, 4.50 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 11 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.65 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2024 - February 2025 indicated disappearance is 3.92 billion bushels, compared with 3.82 billion bushels during the same period last year.

The USDA March 1st stocks number came in right on the average guess, but the acreage figure was nearly a million higher than expected. However, many analysts were leaning toward a larger acreage number. Now, spring weather will need to cooperate so that farmers can get an early start to planting to get all the intended acres in.



Southern Ag Today

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# Trade Tariffs (cont.)

But a White House official commented that the duties on Mexico and Canada remain unchanged. "Fentanyl tariffs on Canada and Mexico remain unchanged," the official said. "The baseline of 10% did not go into effect on Canada and Mexico on April 5th, and neither country is getting the 10% baseline now." Both were exempt from the reciprocal tariffs, including the 10% baseline rate, because they had already been hit with 25% duties over concerns, they are not doing enough to curb the flow of fentanyl and illegal migrants to the U.S.

Earlier, China had announced it was setting 84% tariffs on all U.S. goods coming into the country- in response to Trump setting tariffs on Chinese goods at 104%. The EU also imposed 25% tariffs on Wednesday against U.S. products pegged to the U.S. setting 25% tariffs on European steel and aluminum. The EU tariffs target $23 billion worth of goods, including soybeans as well as poultry, almonds, and orange juice along with non-agricultural products.

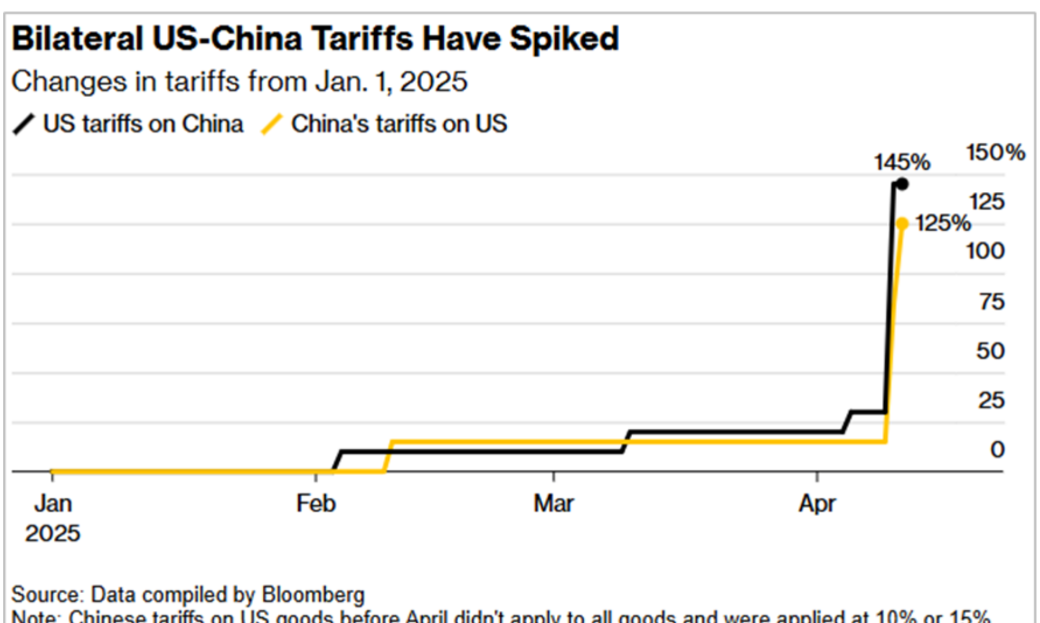
Trump posted on social media about 12:20 p.m. CDT that he would again raise tariffs on Chinese products. He also said more than 75 countries had contacted the U.S. Trade Representative's Office about negotiating trade deals. So, Trump said he would set a 90-day tariff pause against countries that have not retaliated. "Based on the lack of respect that China has shown to the World's Markets, I am hereby raising the Tariff charged to China by the United States of America to 125%, effective immediately. At some point, hopefully in the near future, China will realize that the days of ripping off the U.S.A., and other Countries, is no longer sustainable or acceptable. Conversely, and based on the fact that more than 75 Countries have called Representatives of the United States, including the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and the USTR, to negotiate a solution to the subjects being discussed relative to Trade, Trade Barriers, Tariffs, Currency Manipulation, and Non-Monetary Tariffs, and that these Countries have not, at my strong suggestion, retaliated in any way, shape, or form against the United States, I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE, and a substantially lowered Reciprocal Tariff during this period, of 10%, also effective immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump wrote.

The EU responded to President Donald Trump's 90-day pause of U.S. reciprocal tariffs by announcing its own pause on pending retaliatory tariffs on April 10th. EU member states approved a package of retaliatory measures in response to new U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum. The retaliatory duties were set to apply new duties of up to 25% on around $23 billion in U.S. exports between now and December, according to Germany's Deutsche Welle. Soybeans, poultry, nuts, and other U.S. food products are among the products targeted, according to reporting in Europe. Announcing the pause, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she wanted to give space for ongoing negotiations to continue.

How did we get here?
On April 2nd, Trump imposed across-the-board 10% tariffs on goods from all countries. He also levied "reciprocal" tariffs on various countries for amounts he said equaled half the tariff rate each nation levied on U.S. goods. At first, the president said those higher tariff rates were based on the "combined rates of a country's tariffs, nonmonetary barriers, other forms of cheating." Later, U.S. Trade Representative officials clarified the new rates were calculated using trade deficit numbers. Essentially, the administration divided each country's trade deficit amount by its total exports to the U.S. to determine a "tariff" percentage. The U.S. then imposed a "reciprocal" tariff for roughly half that amount.

Trump initially set China's reciprocal tariff rate at 34%. In response, China announced April 8th that it would impose 34% tariffs on U.S. imports. Trump responded with a 50% hike in reciprocal tariffs. This, coupled with previous tariffs on Chinese goods, put the new China tariff rate at 104%. Chinese officials countered today by upping their tariff rate on U.S. goods to 84%. In response, Trump pushed the U.S. tariff rates up to 125%.

China announced it will raise tariffs on all U.S. goods from 84% to 125% starting April 12th, in its sharpest retaliatory move yet against President Donald Trump's latest tariff escalation. The move is accompanied by a sharp rhetorical pivot: Beijing is done matching Washington dollar-for-dollar. "Given that American goods are no longer marketable in China under the current tariff rates, if the U.S. further raises tariffs on Chinese exports, China will disregard such measures," said the ministry of finance. In a separate rebuke, the Chinese commerce ministry declared Washington's use of high tariffs is now "economically meaningless," calling them a bullying tactic. The ministry issued a stark warning: "If the U.S. continues to infringe on China's rights and interests, we will resolutely counterattack and fight to the end." Of note: USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins said the administration is watching the impact of Chinese retaliation "hour by hour." She predicted "we'll see a little bit more movement and adjustment by the market as we move forward" but reiterated the administration was open to aid for farmers.

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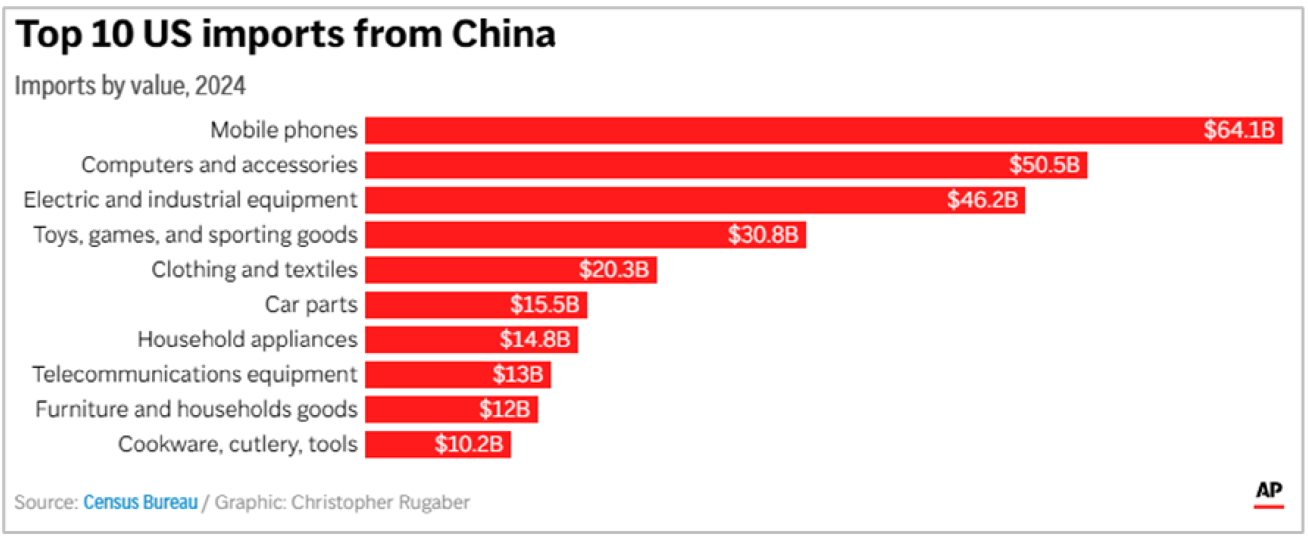
## Tariffs (cont.)

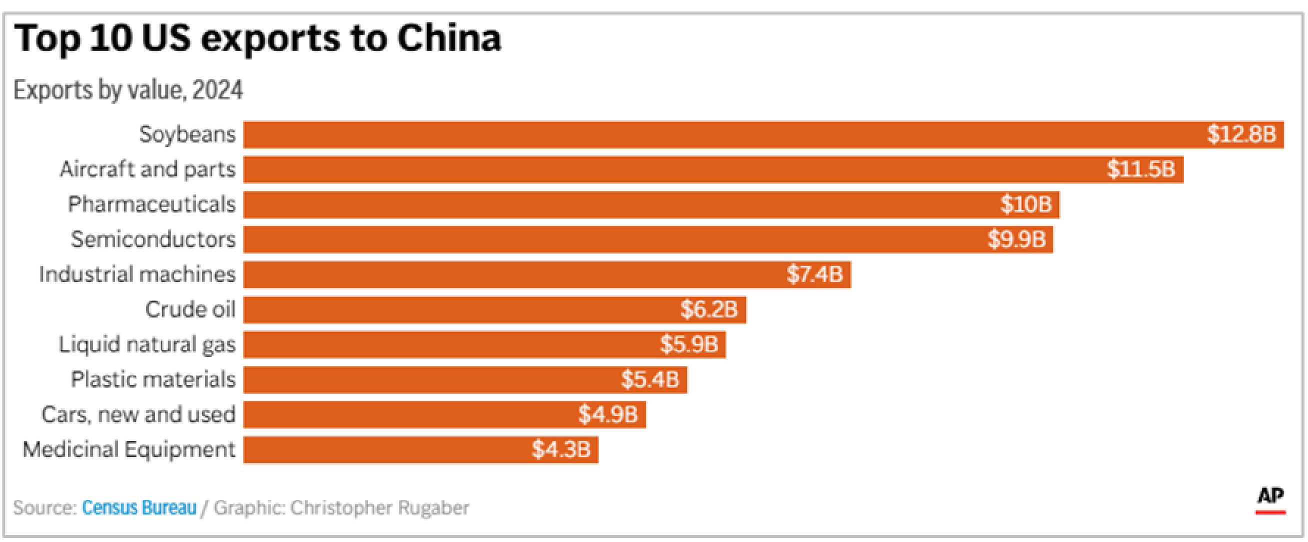
For primary agriculture inputs such as fertilizer, crop protection products, and seed, the evolving situation driven by the Trump administration around international trade has brought heightened awareness as these key input categories are vulnerable in any discussion of tariffs, emerging trade deals or trade disruptions due to their global supply chains.

As highlighted by the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), U.S. farmers are largely sourced by domestic production of corn, soybean, and wheat seed. However, the complete seed supply process relies on an international breeding program. As for the 2025 planting season, inventories are in place with ag retailers and customers with minor exceptions. The focus for the seed industry relative to the tariff discussion is on longer range effects and uncertainty.

When it comes to the fertilizer industry, the tariff discussion has largely focused on any effect to products from North America. This includes potash, of which 85% of the U.S. potash demand is sourced from Canada and more than 90% is imported overall. Per The Fertilizer Institute: “It’s our understanding that Mexico and Canada are unaffected (at least for now) and that the USMCA exemption continues. USMCA compliant potash has no tariff, non-USMCA compliant potash tariffed at a rate of 10%.” For nitrogen, the U.S. is a leading producer of ammonia - which is used in the production of any nitrogen fertilizers and requires the use of natural gas. The U.S. has been a net exporter of natural gas since 2017. Of the natural gas that is imported for U.S. use, over 90% is sourced from Canada. Regarding phosphorus, up to 16% of U.S. yearly consumption is imported with nearly all the imported phosphorous and phosphate rock sourced from Peru and Morocco since 2005.

According to the Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology, it’s estimated more than 50% of all the crop protection products used in the U.S. have an active ingredient (or the intermediates used) originating from overseas suppliers. “The Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology (CPDA) closely monitors global trade developments, as they play a key role in shaping the agricultural supply chain and ensuring that U.S. farmers have access to the tools they need to succeed,” says CPDA. There are only a few molecules made in the U.S. totally from domestic materials. The notable exceptions being glyphosate and 2,4-D. For example, Bayer’s domestic glyphosate production for Roundup is a major contributor to the supply. China, India, and European countries are key importers in the ag chemical supply chain. Specific to glyphosate, there was a bump in Chinese imports of this particular chemical prior to 2025. Nearly 40% more million tons of glyphosate acid was imported from China in the last four months of 2024 in comparison to 2023.



## Planting Intentions (cont.)

Post report price action was initially negative, but May corn has subsequently risen several cents higher. December new crop corn is near unchanged after an initial bearish reaction in the first few minutes after the report. With prices sinking last week, the higher acreage number may have been mostly priced in prior to the report, especially if December corn ends higher today. Now, the focus will return to spring weather.

Soybean planted area for 2025 is estimated at 83.5 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is down or unchanged in 23 of the 29 estimating States. Intentions were near the average trade estimate of 83.762 million.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2025 totaled 1.91 billion bushels, 4 percent up from March 1, 2024. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 877 million bushels, 6 percent down from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.03 billion bushels, are up 13 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2024 - February 2025 quarter totaled 1.19 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Surprisingly, the USDA numbers did not deviate dramatically from pre-report guesses, and the trade views the report as being neutral overall in tone. Slightly bullish acreage offsets slightly bearish stocks. Post-report market reaction has been muted, and beans are just a few cents lower. This is one of the more benign price reactions for this report in quite a while. Heavy rains expected in the eastern half of the US crop areas this week will boost soil moisture, which will reduce the need for immediate weather premium. However, with significantly reduced acreage from last year now a certainty, weather bulls will be watching the extended forecast for any reason to get long.

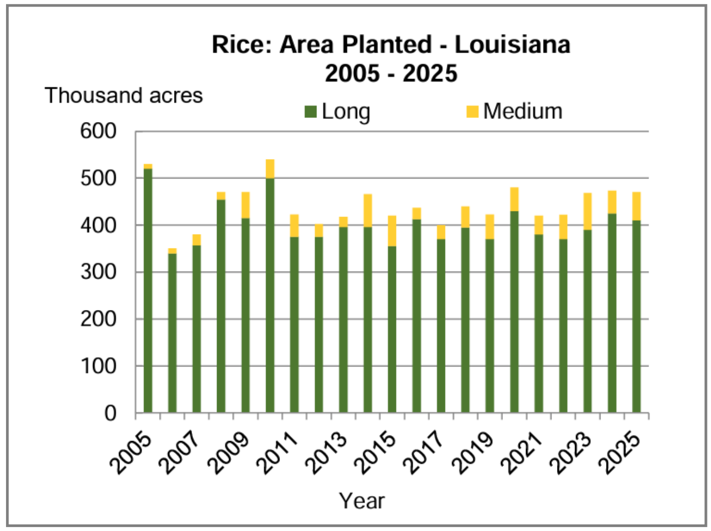
All cotton planted area for 2025 is estimated at 9.87 million acres, down 12 percent from last year. Upland area is estimated at 9.71 million acres, down 12 percent from 2024. American Pima area is estimated at 157,000 acres, down 24 percent from 2024.

The market showed little reaction to USDA's planting intentions estimate of 9.867 million acres, which was closely in line with the avg. of trade expectations and down from last year's final plantings of 11.182 million. Slow export demand and worries about the impact of U.S. tariffs remain negative market factors.

Rice planting intentions came in at 2.895 million acres, slightly below the average of trade estimates and just slightly below the final 2024 plantings of 2.910 million.

Rough rice stocks in all positions on March 1, 2025, totaled 101 million hundredweight (cwt), down 4 percent from the total on March 1, 2024. Stocks held on farms totaled 18.7 million cwt, and off-farm stocks totaled 82.4 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for 67 percent of the total rough rice, medium grain accounted for 32 percent, and short grain varieties accounted for 1 percent. Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 6.26 million cwt, down 5 percent from a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 4.17 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 2.09 million cwt of second heads, screenings, and brewers rice.

Louisiana corn producers intend to plant 530,000 acres, up 13 percent from the 470,000 acres planted in 2024. Soybean producers




intend to plant 1.05 million acres in 2025, down 5 percent from last year. Upland cotton acreage intentions are at 110,000 acres, down 29 percent from the 155,000 acres planted last year. All rice intended planted acres for 2025 are estimated at 470,000 acres, down 1 percent from the 473,000 acres planted in 2024. Long grain rice acres are down 15,000 acres from last year, but medium grain acres are up 12,000 acres from a year ago. The first sugarcane harvested acreage estimate for 2025 will be available on June 30, 2025.

USDA
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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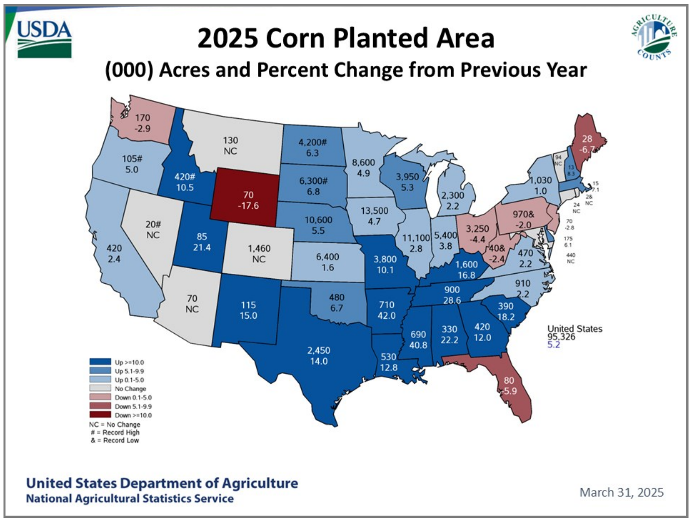
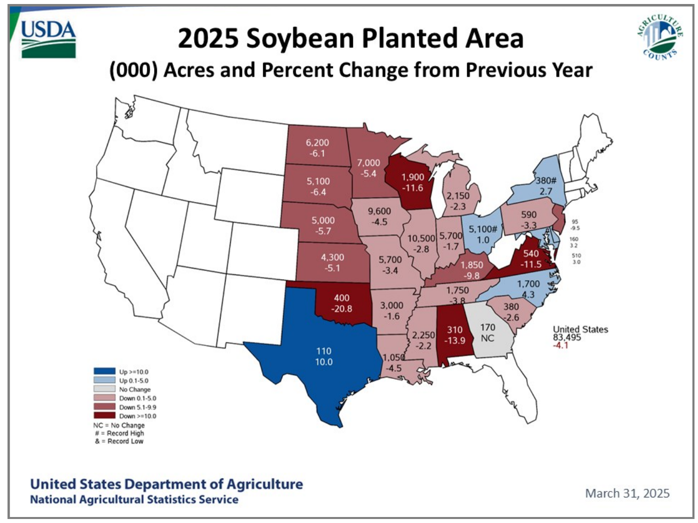
**Principal Crops: Area Planted and Harvested - Louisiana and United States: 2024 and 2025**

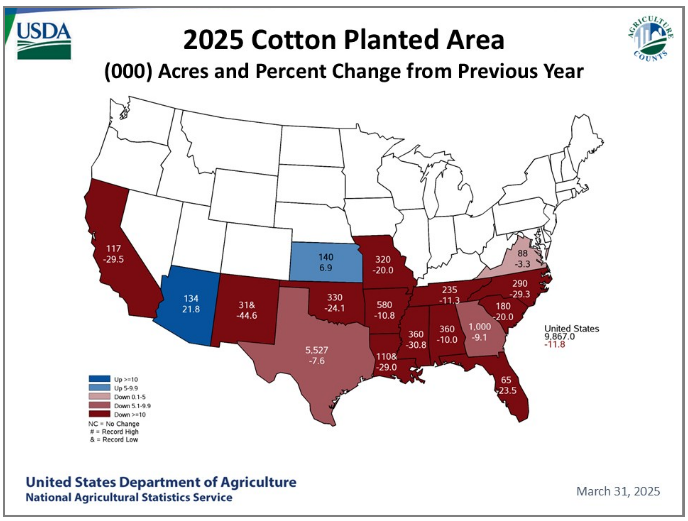
| Crop | Louisiana | | | United States | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2024 | 2025 [1] | Percent of previous year | 2024 | 2025 [1] | Percent of previous year |
| | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (percent) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (percent) |
| Corn | 470.0 | 530.0 | 113 | 90,594.0 | 95,326.0 | 105 |
| Cotton, upland | 155.0 | 110.0 | 71 | 10,975.0 | 9,710.0 | 88 |
| Hay, all [2] | 370.0 | 380.0 | 103 | 49,390.0 | 48,493.0 | 98 |
| Rice, all | 473.0 | 470.0 | 99 | 2,910.0 | 2,895.0 | 99 |
| Long Grain | 425.0 | 410.0 | 96 | 2,275.0 | 2,240.0 | 98 |
| Medium Grain | 48.0 | 60.0 | 125 | 605.0 | 627.0 | 104 |
| Soybeans | 1,100.0 | 1,050.0 | 95 | 87,050.0 | 83,495.0 | 96 |

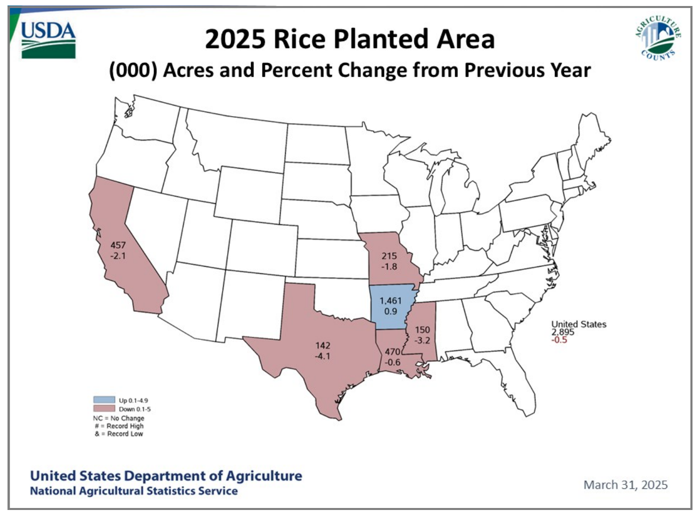
[1] Intended plantings in 2025 as indicated by reports from producers.
[2] Intended area for harvest in 2025 as indicated by reports from producers.

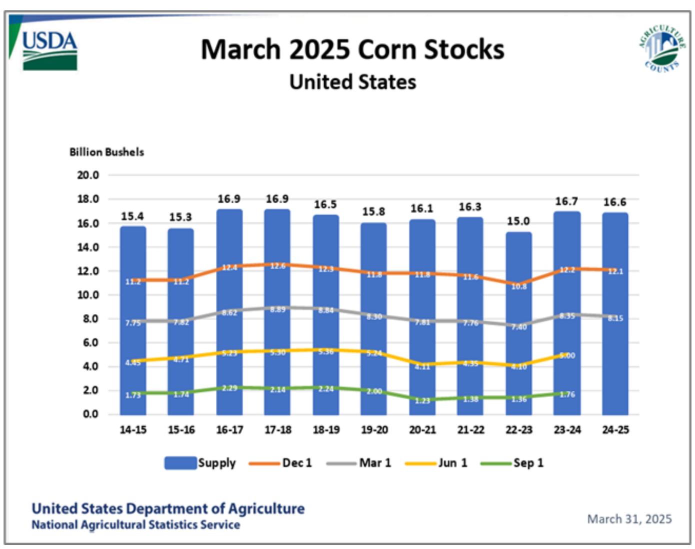
# Planting Intentions (cont.)

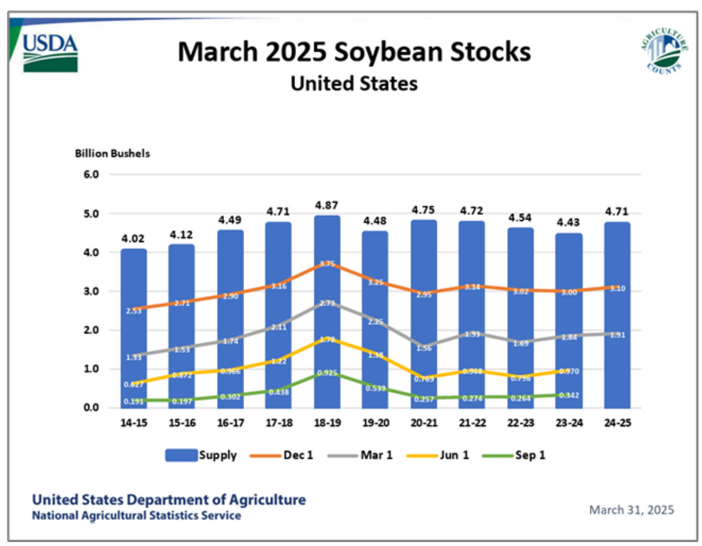


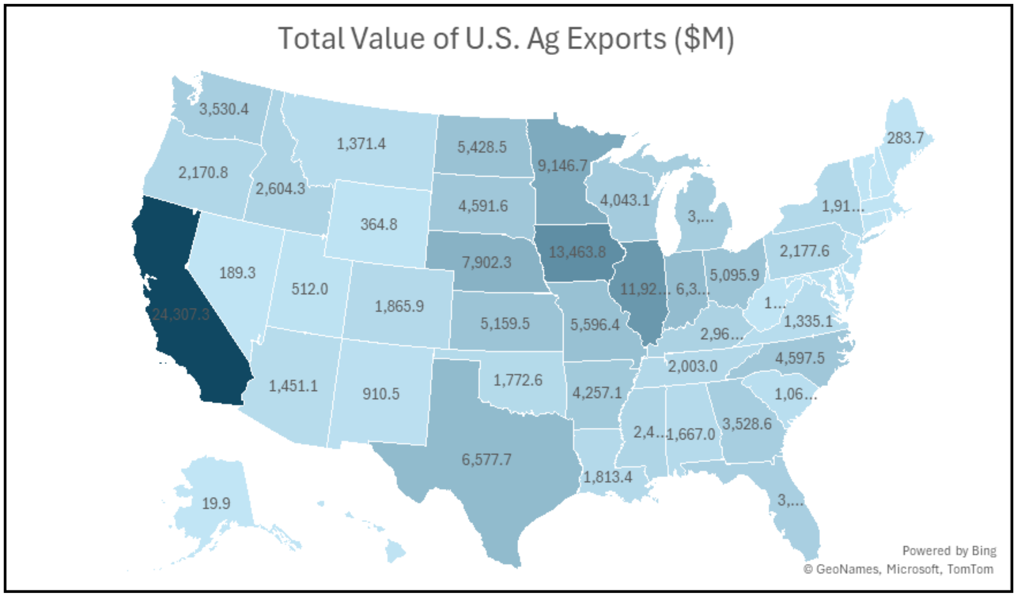



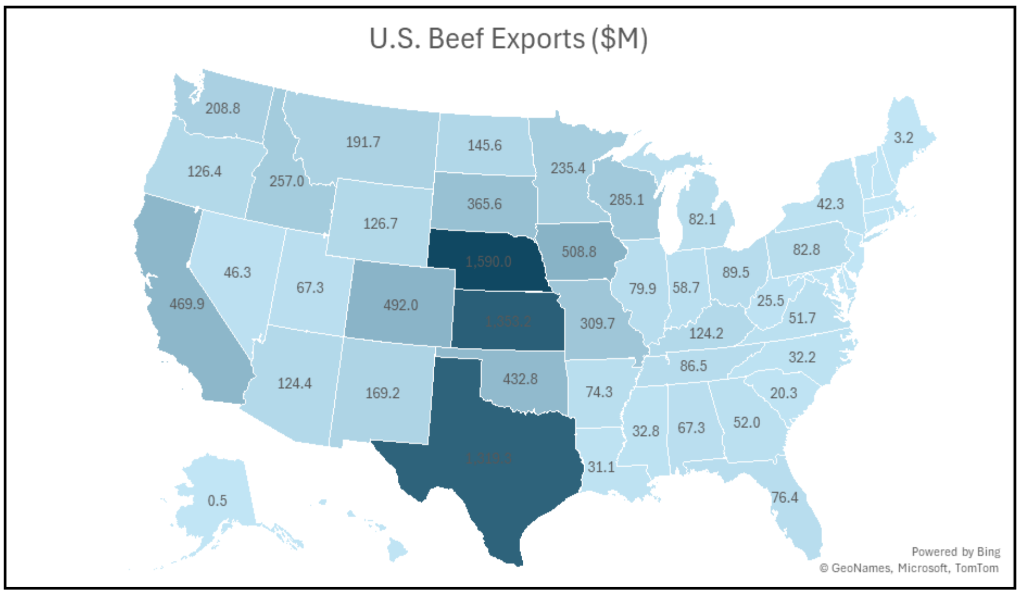



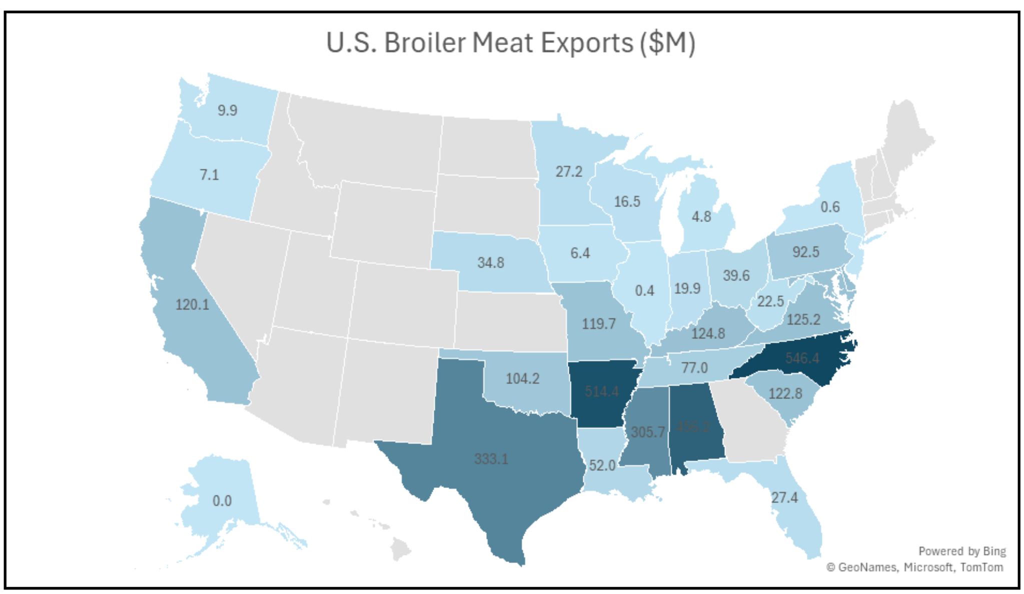



# A Profile on the Value of State-level Agricultural Exports

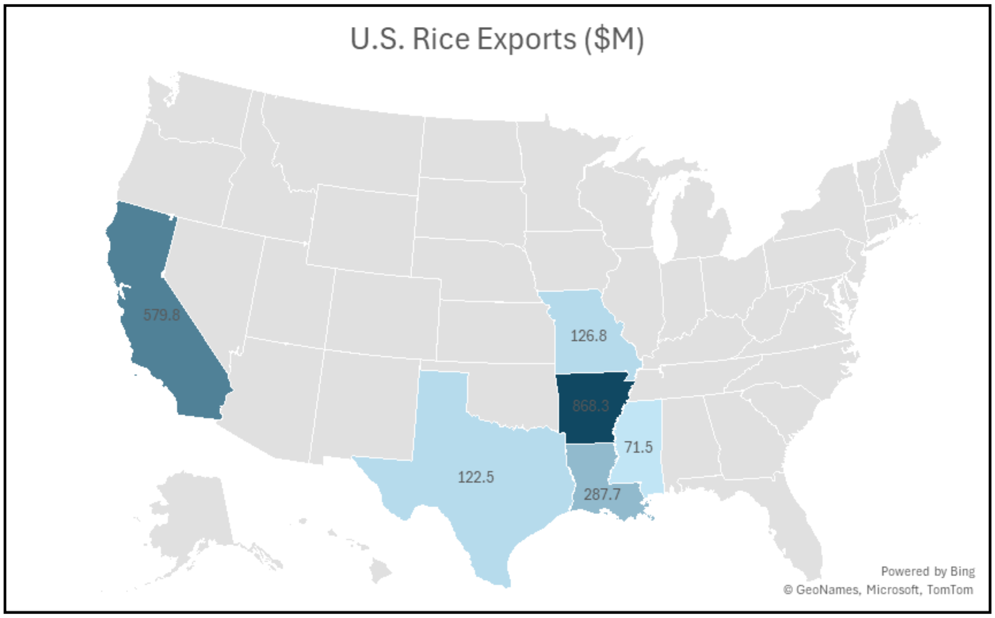
Information from USDA ERS was used to generate maps for selected agricultural exports per state. Values are reported for 2023.

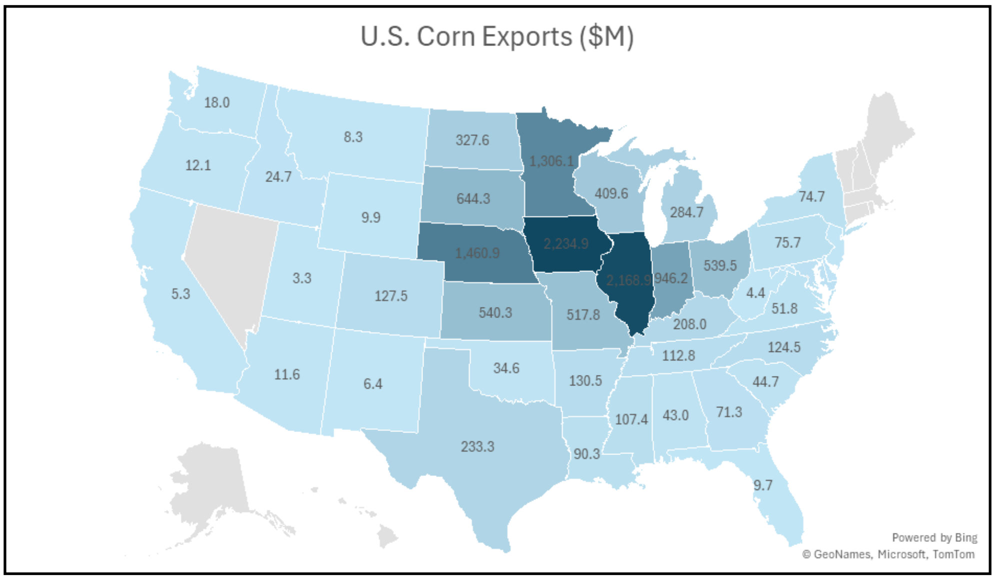


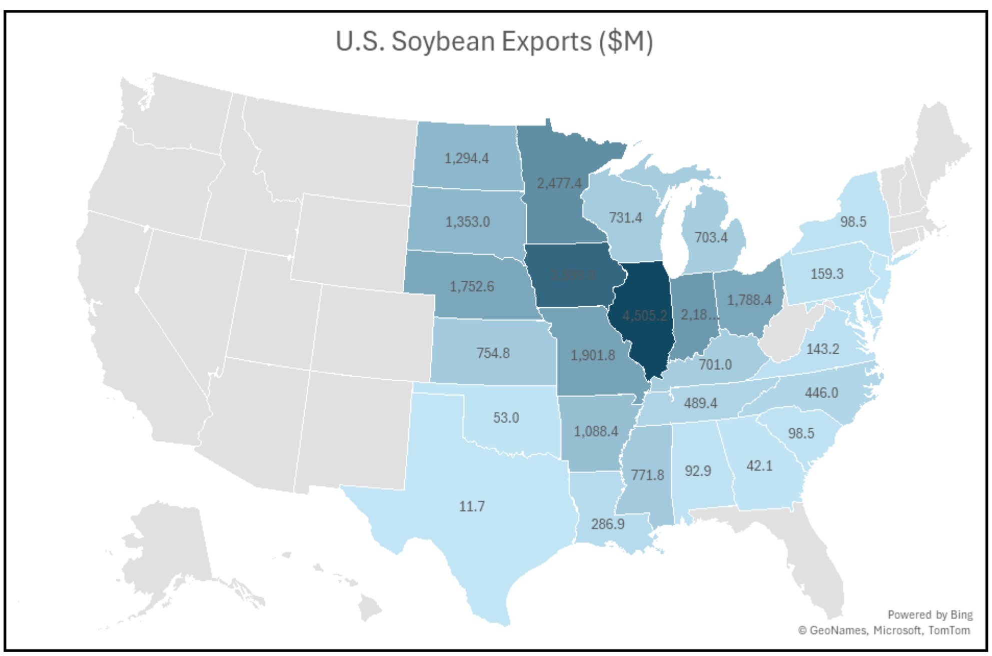



# Value of State-level Ag Exports (cont.)

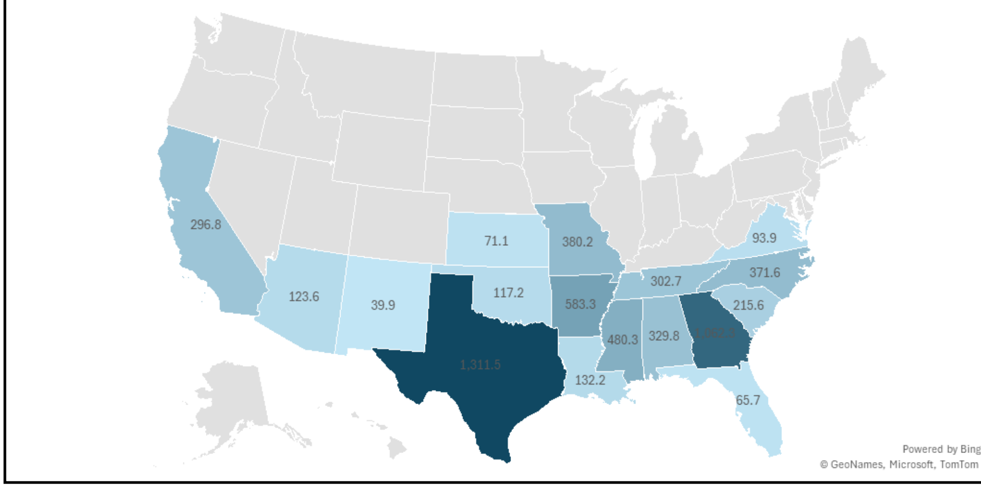


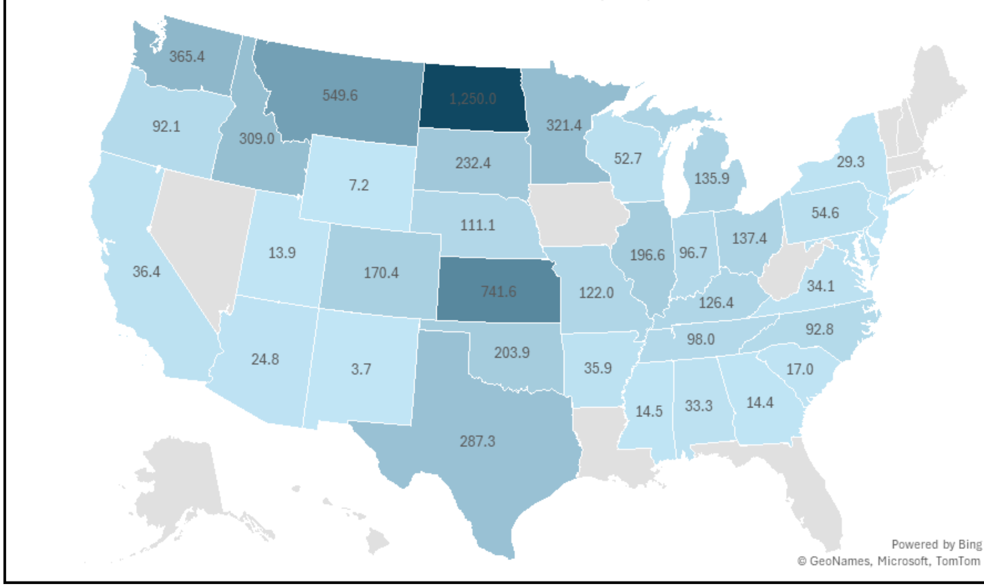



# Value of State-level Ag Exports (cont.)

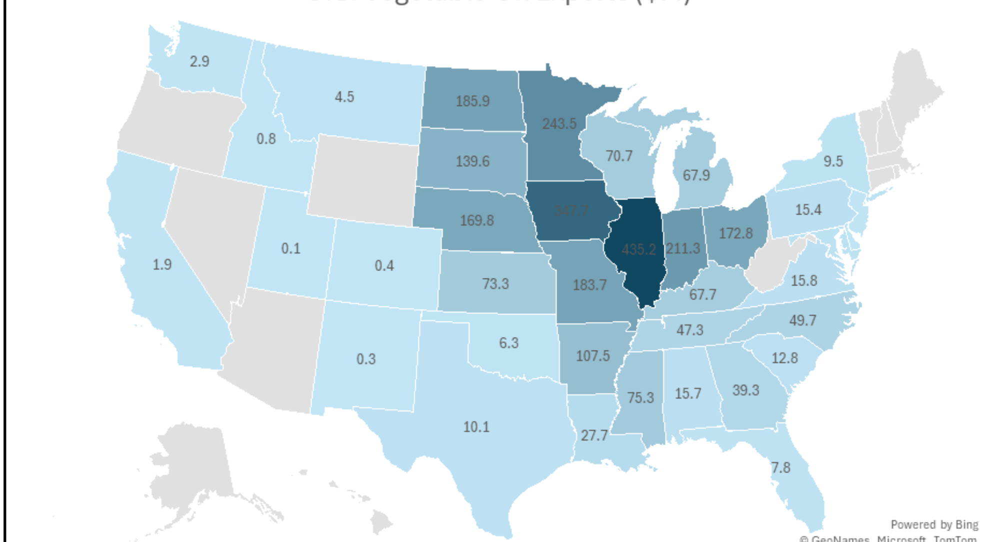
U.S. Cotton Exports ($M)




U.S. Wheat Exports ($M)

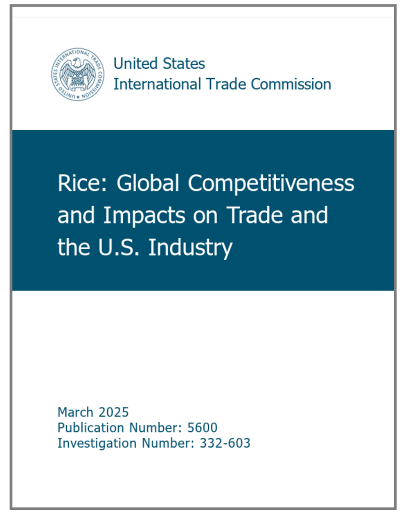



U.S. Vegetable Oil Exports ($M)



# USITC Examines Rice Competitiveness of the U.S. and Other Major Producers

Main findings of the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) report include the following. A small share of production is traded internationally. Many governments intervened in the rice industry to promote domestic production and food security. There were major fluctuations in global prices that occurred between 2018 and 2022. Climate- and weather-related disruptions have strong effects on rice production. Production costs vary widely among the major rice producing countries. Rice consumption patters are changing. Other countries' import policies cab impact the export competitiveness of the U.S. rice industry.


United States
International Trade Commission

Rice: Global Competitiveness and Impacts on Trade and the U.S. Industry

March 2025
Publication Number: 5600
Investigation Number: 332-603

Rice growers in the United States face relatively high costs of production for their rice cultivation. Due to higher production costs, the U.S. rice industry focuses efforts on certain export markets where it is better able to compete. In these export markets, U.S. competitiveness is strengthened by efficient transportation logistics that offer consistent, timely delivery and offset higher production costs. Additionally, tariff preferences in key markets in Latin America improved the price competitiveness of U.S. exports. Some of these advantages, however, have eroded in recent years as similar tariff preferences were extended to competing producers. Compounding the challenge for U.S. exporters, some of these same Latin American markets also have raised concerns regarding certain quality attributes of U.S. rice.

Excerpt from the chapter on "*Impact of Foreign Exports on the U.S. Rice Industry*".

The U.S. rice industry competes with global exporters in the U.S. market and foreign markets. In the United States, domestic production is the source of about 80 percent of rice consumption. U.S. rice imports are increasing to meet growing demand, particularly for aromatic rice from Thailand and India. 1372 Aromatic rice (jasmine and basmati) is highly valued by U.S. consumers for its aroma and flavor, both as table rice prepared at home and in restaurants and foodservice. U.S. production of aromatic varieties remains small, necessitating imports. Medium grain and other rice types constitute a small share of the U.S. import market relative to aromatic varieties.

U.S.-produced rice of all types and varieties competes with other sources of rice in export markets. As a net exporter of rice, the U.S. rice industry depends on foreign markets, which receive about half of the rice crop each year. The United States is the world's largest exporter of paddy rice. U.S. paddy rice is primarily exported throughout the Western Hemisphere, particularly to Mexico and various Central American markets, where it faces growing competition from South American producers. For long grain rice, more than 70 percent of U.S. exports are shipped to Haiti and Iraq. Finally, U.S. medium grain rice is primarily produced in California and exported to Japan, but also to Canada and South Korea, where consumer preferences and trade agreements provide market access to U.S. rice producers.

The United States exports to a large number of markets, and export volumes have generally been consistent over the time frame examined in this report, with a few notable exceptions: The United States lost market shares in Mexico's paddy rice market and in the medium grain rice markets of Jordan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Each of these markets has its own dynamics and set of competitors. Broadly, U.S. export competition in its important export markets comes from lower-priced Asian suppliers of long grain white rice and South American suppliers of lower-priced paddy and white rice.

The 453-page report can be accessed at: https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub5600.pdf

## U.S. Seasonal Farm Price Outlook

The following table represents national seasonal average farm prices ($/unit), as per the USDA WASDE report.

| Crop | 2021/22 Estimate | 2022/23 Estimate | 2023/24 Estimate | *2024/25 Estimate* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corn | **$6.00** | **$6.54** | **$4.55** | ***$4.35*** |
| Cotton | **$0.914** | **$0.848** | **$0.761** | ***$0.630*** |
| Rice (LG) | **$13.60** | **$16.70** | **$15.90** | ***$14.20*** |
| Rice (Southern MG) | **$13.90** | **$18.20** | **17.20** | ***$15.20*** |
| Sorghum | **$5.94** | **$6.38** | **$4.93** | ***$4.10*** |
| Soybeans | **$13.30** | **$14.20** | **$12.40** | ***$9.95*** |

# The Top Five Export Markets for U.S. Agriculture, by Country and Product

Information from USDA FAS was obtained to identify the top five U.S. agriculture export markets by country and product. The data is the ranked by the value of exports in 2024.

U.S. Ag Exports to Mexico

| Rank | Product | 2024 Value | Share |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Corn | $5,619,839 | 18% |
| 2 | Pork & Pork Products | $2,583,802 | 8% |
| 3 | Dairy Products | $2,469,664 | 8% |
| 4 | Soybeans | $2,304,576 | 7% |
| 5 | Poultry Meat & Prods. (excl. eggs) | $1,468,674 | 5% |
| 6 | Beef & Beef Products | $1,345,353 | 4% |
| 7 | Sugar, Sweeteners, Bev. Bases | $1,243,329 | 4% |
| 8 | Food Preparations | $1,166,948 | 4% |
| 9 | Wheat | $1,049,885 | 3% |
| 10 | Fresh Fruit | $978,763 | 3% |
| | All Other | $11,062,676 | 35% |
| | Grand Total | $31,293,508 | |

U.S. Ag Exports to Canada

| Rank | Product | 2024 Value | Share |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bakery Goods, Cereals, & Pasta | $2,691,271 | 8% |
| 2 | Forest Products | $2,230,461 | 7% |
| 3 | Fresh Vegetables | $2,044,119 | 6% |
| 4 | Fresh Fruit | $1,801,373 | 6% |
| 5 | Ethanol (non-bev.) | $1,470,014 | 5% |
| 6 | Non-Alcoholic Bev. (excl. juice) | $1,457,176 | 4% |
| 7 | Food Preparations | $1,455,845 | 4% |
| 8 | Dog & Cat Food | $1,219,097 | 4% |
| 9 | Chocolate & Cocoa Products | $1,172,254 | 4% |
| 10 | Dairy Products | $1,138,166 | 4% |
| | All Other | $15,739,345 | 49% |
| | Grand Total | $32,419,126 | |

U.S. Ag Exports to China

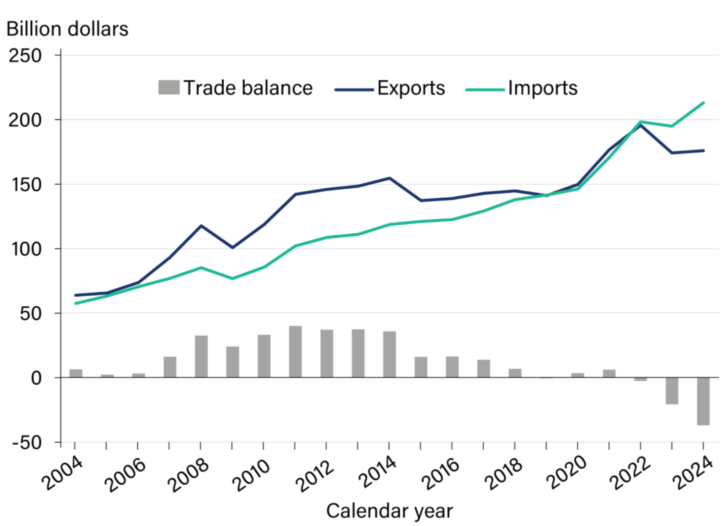
| Rank | Product | 2024 Value | Share |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Soybeans | $12,836,060 | 47% |
| 2 | Forest Products | $1,621,527 | 6% |
| 3 | Beef & Beef Products | $1,584,366 | 6% |
| 4 | Cotton | $1,482,280 | 5% |
| 5 | Coarse Grains (excl. corn) | $1,260,167 | 5% |
| 6 | Pork & Pork Products | $1,112,191 | 4% |
| 7 | Tree Nuts | $1,063,782 | 4% |
| 8 | Seafood Products | $1,019,963 | 4% |
| 9 | Dairy Products | $584,004 | 2% |
| 10 | Poultry Meat & Prods. (excl. eggs) | $490,111 | 2% |
| | All Other | $4,238,803 | 16% |
| | Grand Total | $27,293,254 | |

# Top Five Markets (cont.)

| U.S. Ag Exports to the EU | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | Product | 2024 Value | Share |
| 1 | Tree Nuts | $2,919,171 | 16% |
| 2 | Forest Products | $2,565,851 | 14% |
| 3 | Soybeans | $2,484,110 | 13% |
| 4 | Distilled Spirits | $1,371,351 | 7% |
| 5 | Seafood Products | $1,037,458 | 6% |
| 6 | Ethanol (non-bev.) | $963,206 | 5% |
| 7 | Essential Oils | $602,323 | 3% |
| 8 | Food Preparations | $556,622 | 3% |
| 9 | Other Intermediate Products | $481,848 | 3% |
| 10 | Corn | $411,787 | 2% |
| | All Other | $5,193,268 | 28% |
| | Grand Total | $18,586,994 | |

| U.S. Ag Exports to Japan | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | Product | 2024 Value | Share |
| 1 | Corn | $2,774,569 | 21% |
| 2 | Beef & Beef Products | $1,867,731 | 14% |
| 3 | Pork & Pork Products | $1,382,125 | 10% |
| 4 | Soybeans | $1,000,127 | 8% |
| 5 | Forest Products | $726,212 | 5% |
| 6 | Processed Vegetables | $639,037 | 5% |
| 7 | Wheat | $582,764 | 4% |
| 8 | Seafood Products | $568,065 | 4% |
| 9 | Dairy Products | $394,606 | 3% |
| 10 | Hay | $352,084 | 3% |
| | All Other | $2,990,213 | 23% |
| | Grand Total | $13,277,535 | |

**U.S. agricultural trade, 2004–24**



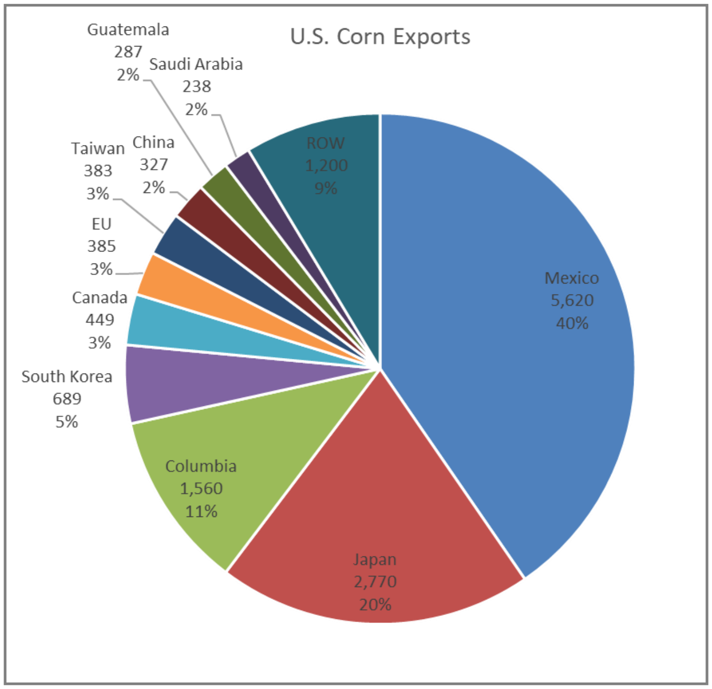

Note: Values are not adjusted for inflation. The trade balance is the value of exports minus the value of imports. When the balance is negative, imports exceed imports.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

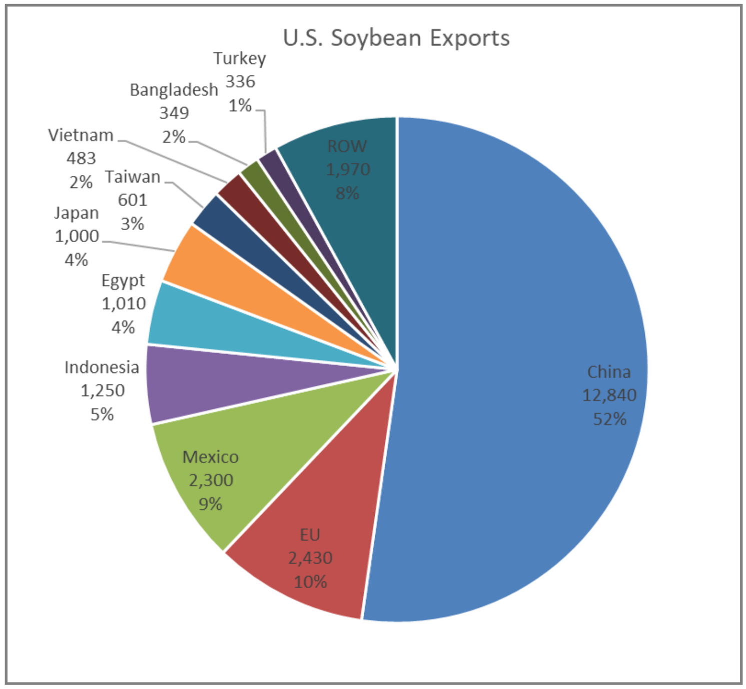
The United States is the world's largest nation in terms of agricultural product trade (and second behind the aggregated European Union). The leading U.S. agricultural exports are grains and feeds, soybeans, livestock products, tree nuts, fruits, vegetables, and consumer-oriented food products. The leading U.S. agricultural imports are processed food and beverages, and tropical products. Mexico, Canada, the European Union, and China are the top U.S. trade partners.

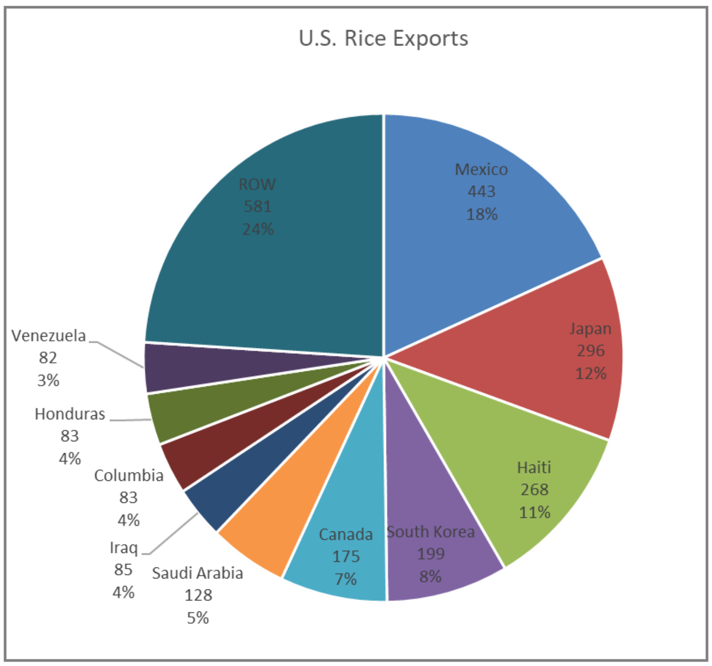
The U.S. agricultural trade balance was positive for nearly 60 years until 2019, when it shifted to a deficit. Despite record agricultural imports and exports in 2021–22, imports exceeded exports by $21 billion in 2023. Between 2014 and 2024, U.S. agricultural exports grew at 1 percent annually—hindered by competition, a strong dollar, and trade barriers—while imports rose 6 percent during that time. U.S. agricultural import growth has been driven by a strong U.S. economy, favorable exchange rates, and rising consumer demand. Much of this demand is for high-valued imports like fruits and vegetables, alcoholic beverages and processed foods. Such goods often can't be easily or economically produced in the United States, such as tropical products or off-season produce.

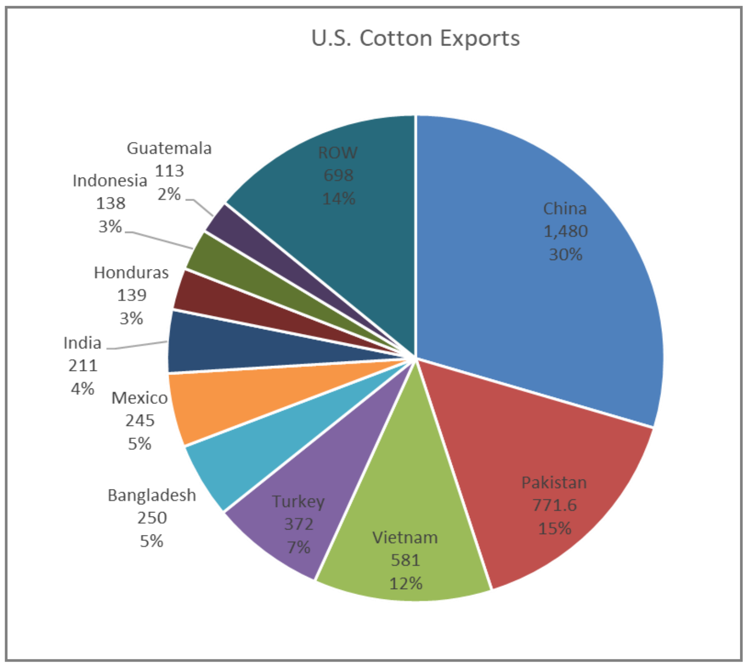
# The Top Export Markets for U.S. Agriculture, by Commodity

The following graphs represent the top markets (and the ROW rest of world countries) for selected U.S. agricultural exports, by value in 2024.



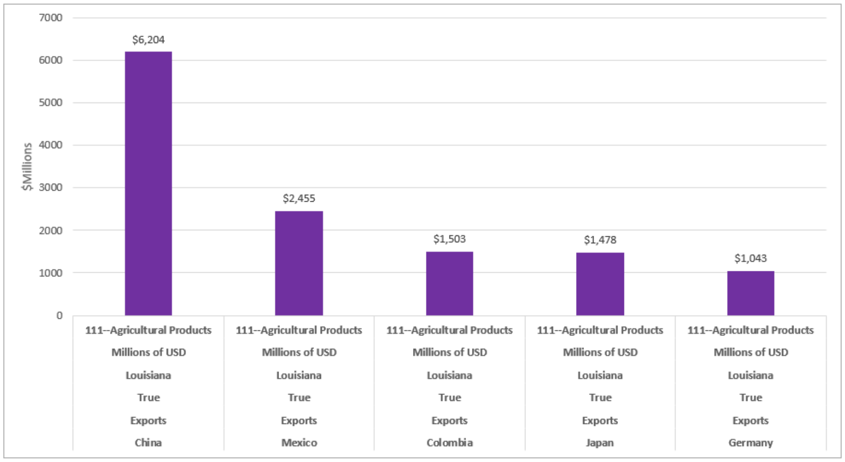



# Louisiana's Agricultural Export and Import Profile

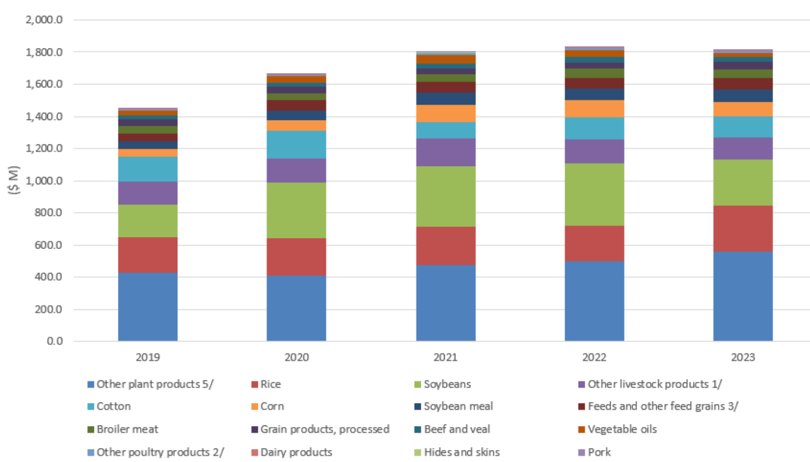
## Top Ag Exports Destinations for Louisiana

*Represented by the export value in 2024*




## Top Ag Exports for Louisiana

*2019 to 2023 summary, by export product*




## Top Export/Imports for Louisiana Agriculture

*Represented by commodity and export destination, 2024*

| Commodity | Trading Partner (Top Five Export Markets) |
|---|---|
| Soybeans | China, Germany, Japan, Egypt, Indonesia |
| Corn | Mexio, Columbia, Japan, Spain, Honduras |
| Soybean Meal | Columbia, DR, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala |
| Rice | Mexico, Haiti, Iraq, Honduras, Nicaragua |
| Wheat | China, Mexico, DR, Columbia, Ecuador |

| Commodity | Trading Partner (Top Five Import Markets) |
|---|---|
| Vegetable Oils | Indonesia, Canada, Malaysia, Philippines, China |
| Coffee, unroasted | Brazil, Vietnam, Columbia, Guatemala, Mexico |
| Livestock Products | Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Canada, Uruguay |
| Industrial Alcohols | Indonesia, S. Africa, Netherlands, Malaysia, India |
| Coffee, roasted | Brazil, Spain, France, Canada, Switzerland |

# Crop Market Situation for the Current Marketing Year

*The information that is presented in this market update reflects current information as of April 11, 2025.*

**Corn**

USDA, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) released its latest Grain Stocks report on March 31, 2025. As of March 1, 2025, corn stocks were 201.7 million bushels lower than at the same time last year, at 8,150.7 million bushels. Off-farm stocks were 11.5 percent above last year. The lower March 1st corn stocks are attributed to on-farm stocks, which declined by 11.4 percent compared to a year ago and held a lower share of total corn stocks. Considering the inventory change between September 1st and March 1st, indicated corn disappearance for the second quarter of the 2024/25 marketing year is estimated to be 3,929.4 million bushels, up 104.7 million bushels from a year ago. The increase in corn disappearance during the second quarter is supported by strong export activity.

This month, U.S. corn exports are raised by 100 million bushels, to 2,550 million bushels, considering the pace of exports. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census data, U.S. corn exports totaled 695.8 million bushels during the second quarter of the 2024/25 marketing year (MY), exceeding last year's second quarter by 126.5 million bushels. As such, U.S. corn exports during the first half of the marketing year are 264.5 million bushels above last year. As of the week ending April 3, 2025, USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)'s reported export commitments (accumulated exports and outstanding sales) stand at 2,166 million bushels. Those commitments are the second largest recorded commitments at the end of March and further support this month's increase in the export estimate.

Second quarter domestic corn use is estimated at 3,233.6 million bushels, 21.8 million bushels lower than a year ago. With little changes estimated for food, seed, and industrial usage during the second quarter from the previous year (down 1.9 million bushels), the lower domestic use is mostly reflected in weaker second quarter feed and residual use, implied at 1,545.5 million bushels (down 1.3 percent from last year). Feed and residual use for the first half of the 2024/25 MY is 4.2 percent lower than last year. As such, the 2024/25 MY feed and residual use estimate is reduced by 25 million bushels this month, to 5,750 million bushels. The latest NASS Grain Crushings and Co-Products data indicate that corn use for ethanol production is 1.3 percent higher between September 2024 and March 2025 than the same period a year ago, at 2,754.3 million bushels. Corn use for ethanol during December-February was nearly unchanged from a year ago (down 0.1 percent). Growing sorghum usage for ethanol production contributes to the recent flattening of corn use for ethanol. The Department of Energy, Energy Information Service (EIA) data show a 10.7-million-bushel increase in sorghum usage from a year ago for the December-January period (February data will be available at the end of this month). Acknowledging strong ethanol production levels, spurred by ethanol exports, and considering the latest corn and sorghum crushing data, the 2024/25 MY corn-use-for ethanol production is unchanged this month, at 5,500 million bushels. Changes in the exports forecast and feed and residual use result in a lower ending-stocks forecast of 1,465.1 million bushels, down 75 million bushels from the March forecast. Based on prices received to date and expectations of prices going forward (following the current stock levels and planting intentions), the season-average price received by corn farmers is unchanged this month, at $4.35 per bushel.

**Soybeans**

The U.S. soybean ending stocks forecast for MY 2024/25 is lowered on unchanged soybean exports and higher soybean crush. An increase in soybean imports partially offset the lower soybean crush. The U.S. soybeans export forecast remained unchanged this month. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) soybean exports for the September 2024–February 2025 period totaled 1.4 billion bushels, nearly 10 percent higher than the same period last year. Furthermore, the USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) reported export commitments (i.e., accumulated exports and outstanding sales) for the week ending March 27, 2025, at 1.7 billion bushels, up 14 percent from last year. With 5 months remaining in the marketing year, U.S. soybean exports are expected to reach 1.8 billion bushels. While China has tariffs in place on U.S. soybeans, the majority of China's imports come from Brazil during this time of year (April–August).

The U.S. soybean crush forecast for MY 2024/25 is raised this month on higher demand for soybean meal and soybean oil. In February, U.S. soybean crush totaled 189.0 million bushels, down 23.5 million bushels from the previous month and down 4.4 million bushels from February 2024. The lower crush in February was attributed to reduced operations. The crush margins declined in February due to uncertainty in the domestic soybean oil market especially biofuels. For the September 2024–February 2025 period, soybean crush is up 63.4 million bushels or 5 percent.

*Continued next page*

# In-depth Crop Market Update (Cont.)

*The information that is presented in this market update reflects current information as of April 11, 2025.*

**Rice**

The only supply-side revision this month to the 2024/25 U.S. rice balance sheet is a 1.0-million hundredweight (cwt) decrease in the all-rice import forecast to 47.0 million, still up more than 5 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. Medium- and short-grain accounts for all of the reduced import forecast, lowered 1.0 million cwt to 6.0 million, 18 percent below a year earlier. The downward revision is based on weaker-than-expected shipments to Puerto Rico from China through February and expectations regarding these shipments for March–July.

U.S. 2024/25 rice exports are forecast at 95.5 million hundredweight (cwt), down 1.5 million cwt from the previous forecast and nearly 3 percent below a year earlier. Long-grain accounts for all this month's downward revision in exports. Long-grain exports are reduced 2.0 million cwt to 66.0 million, 11 percent below a year earlier. The downward revision is based on monthly U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census trade data through February, outstanding sales and shipments reported by the USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) through March 27th, and expectations regarding sales and shipments for the remainder of the market year. Latin America, the largest export market for U.S. long-grain rice, accounts for most of the month-to-month reduction and projected year-to-year decline in U.S. long-grain exports. In addition to regular competition from rough and milled rice from the South American exporters, the United States is now facing competition from milled rice from Asian exporters in Latin American markets. In March–April 2025, the bulk of the rice will be harvested in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, increasing the competition for U.S. exports in Latin America.

This month, the 2024/25 U.S. total domestic and residual use forecast is raised 3.0 million cwt to a record 169.0 million cwt, up 9 percent from a year earlier, with long-grain accounting for all of the upward revision and most of the year-to-year increase. Long-grain domestic and residual use is raised 3.0 million cwt to a record 132.0 million cwt. The upward revision is based on implied use for August–February as indicated by the March 1st stocks reported by NASS on March 31st in its Rice Stocks report, as well as by the Bureau of the Census U.S. trade data through February. Lower-than-average milling yields account for some of the annual increase in the long-grain domestic and residual use.

Based on the data reported by NASS, U.S. stocks of rice on March 1, 2025, are estimated at 110.4 million cwt (combined rough- and milled-rice stocks on a rough-rice basis) almost 4 percent smaller than a year earlier. Long-grain stocks on March 1 are estimated at 71.3 million cwt, up almost 4 percent from a year earlier and the highest since 2020/21. Combined medium- and short-grain rice stocks on March 1 are estimated at 35.8 million cwt, down 17.5 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of brokens, not classified by grain length, are estimated at almost 3.0 million cwt, up 43 percent from a year earlier and the smallest since 2017/18. There were no changes to the 2024/25 season-average farm-price (SAFP) forecasts this month, with the all-rice SAFP forecast at $15.60 per cwt, down $1.70 from a year earlier. SAFPs are forecast below a year earlier for long-grain rice and for medium- and short-grain rice in both the South and California. The price decline for long grain is mainly due to larger U.S. supplies.

**Cotton**

The 2024/25 U.S. cotton crop remains estimated at 14.4 million bales (upland at 13.9 million bales and extra-long staple (ELS) at 468,000 bales). This estimate is 19 percent above the 2023 crop but near 2022/23's level. USDA will release the final U.S. cotton production estimates for the 2024 crop on May 12. Based on the latest production estimate and beginning stocks of 3.15 million bales, the 2024/25 U.S. cotton supply totals approximately 17.6 million bales, 5 percent above 2023/24 but the second lowest since 2015/16. U.S. cotton demand in 2024/25 is projected at 12.6 million bales—1 million below 2023/24 and similar to 2015/16—with U.S. mill use and exports both lower this season. U.S. cotton mill use is forecast at 1.7 million bales in 2024/25—the lowest in 145 years—as competition from synthetic fibers and uncertainties surrounding the global economy limit spinning activity. Based on data through the first 7 months of 2024/25, U.S. textile mills used approximately 1 million bales of cotton, 8 percent below the comparable period of 2023/24. U.S. cotton exports also are forecast lower this season due to reduced foreign import demand— particularly from China—and increased competition from other major producers, most notably Brazil. Exports are projected at 10.9 million bales in 2024/25, 850,000 bales below 2023/24 and the lowest shipments in 9 years. During the first 8 months of 2024/25, U.S. cotton exports totaled nearly 7.1 million bales, or 65 percent of this season's forecast, with the shipment pace expected to follow seasonal shipping patterns over the next several months. As a result, the U.S. share of global trade is forecast at 26 percent, compared with the 3-year average of 31 percent. U.S. cotton ending stocks for 2024/25 are forecast at 5.0 million bales, 1.85 million bales above 2023/24 and the highest in 5 years. The current stocks-to-use ratio is estimated at 40 percent, compared with the previous 3-year average of about 28 percent. U.S. cotton prices have weakened this season based on higher ending stocks and limited growth of global cotton demand in 2024/25. The average U.S. upland cotton farm price for 2024/25 is projected at 63 cents per pound, unchanged from the March forecast and beneath 2023/24's 76.1 cents per pound.

*Continued next page*

## USDA WASDE Report Release Dates for 2025

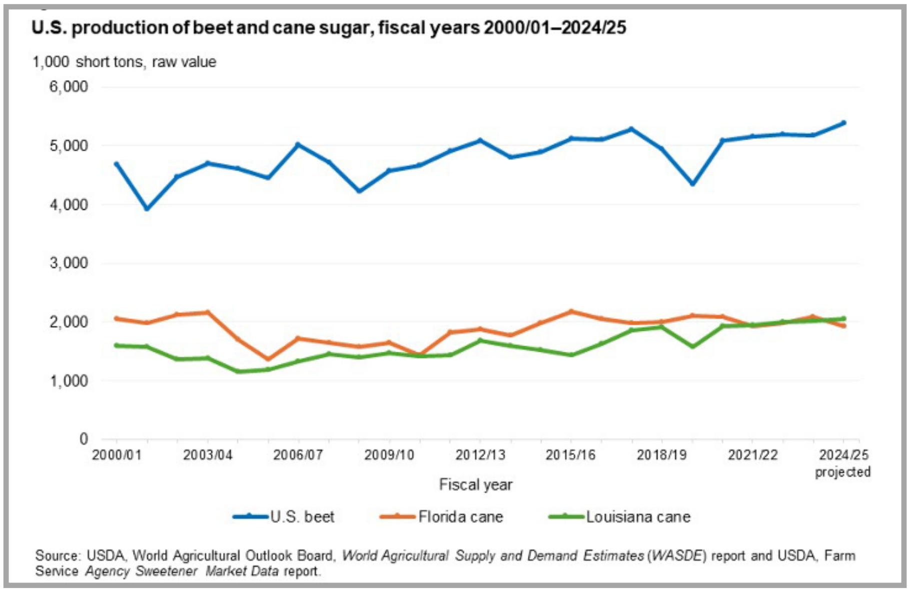
World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) Report: Jan. 10, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 10, May 12, Jun. 12, Jul. 11, Aug. 12, Sep. 12, Oct. 9, Nov. 10, and Dec. 9.

# In-depth Crop Market Update (Cont.)

*The information that is presented in this market update reflects current information as of April 11, 2025.*

## Sugar

Domestic sugar production in 2024/25 is lowered from last month by 39,000 STRV to 9.369 million, as the increase in beet sugar production is more than offset by the decrease in cane sugar production. Despite the downward adjustment, the 2024/25 domestic sugar output would be a record, surpassing last year's 9.313 million STRV.U.S. beet sugar production is increased slightly by 2,000 STRV to a record 5.391 million. Sucrose recovery is increased from 15.349 percent to 15.415 percent, based on statistical analysis of data through February, but was offset by an increased estimate of beet-pile shrink and reduced sugar production expected from molasses that processors submitted to the USDA, Farm Service Agency, Sweetener Market Data (SMD) report. USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its Prospective Plantings report on March 31, which indicated that sugarbeet growers intend to plant 1.132 million acres for the upcoming 2025/26 crop year. This planting implies a 2.5-percent increase from the 2024/25 area planted. Beet processors determine planted area mainly based on optimizing sugarbeet slicing capacity for the upcoming campaign.



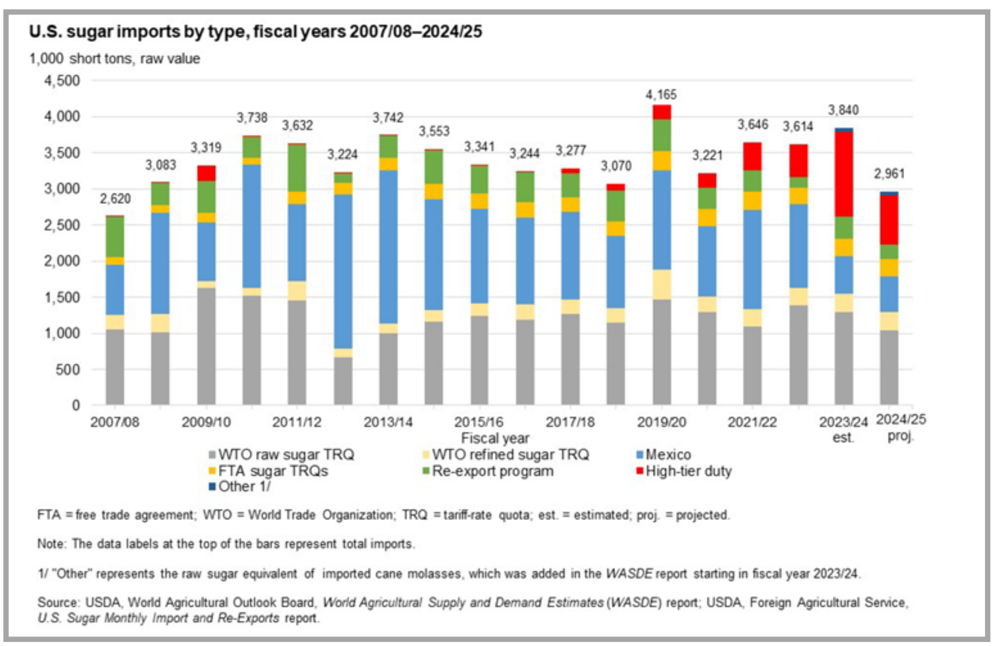

Florida's cane sugar production is lowered by 41,000 STRV to 1.930 million, based on lower yield forecasts submitted by the processors in the SMD. With the conclusion of Louisiana's sugar production campaign in January, Louisiana's output is unchanged at a record 2.049 million STRV, implying larger production than Florida for 3 of the last 4 years. Total cane sugar production is therefore reduced by 41,000 STRV to 3.978 million STRV, down 163,000 STRV from last year.

The 2024/25 U.S. total sugar imports are raised from last month by 181,000 STRV to 2.961 million, solely on an 181,000-STRV upward adjustment to high-tier sugar imports, which are now estimated at 677,000 STRV. Thus, while high-tier sugar was traditionally the smallest U.S. import category and was mostly comprised of high-value, refined sugar that is difficult to source domestically, this category has overtaken Mexico as the second largest source behind the raw sugar World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for 2 consecutive years.

Despite this month's increase, the total U.S. sugar imports of 2.961 million STRV would remain the lowest since 2007/08 and almost 1 million tons lower than last year. This decrease is because imports, particularly of raw sugar, are down from last year. The raw sugar component of high-tier imports has the largest year-over-year reduction (down 625,000 STRV), followed by raw sugar WTO TRQ (down 258,000 STRV).

In the last 3 years, more high-tier sugar imports arrived in the United States during the first half of the fiscal year compared with sugar imports from Mexico, partly because Mexico's sugarcane harvest campaign is just starting and exports to the United States are governed by shipping patterns. While there are several factors to consider regarding the substitutability of sugar imports between these two sources3, the increased pace of high-tier imports has reduced Mexico's market share.

U.S. raw high-tier sugar imports are raised 88,000 STRV to 262,000 STRV, based on proprietary CBP entry data through the first week of April. Brazil is the main origin for high-tier raw sugar imports between October 2024–February 2025 based on the publicly available U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census data that contain detailed information on port of entry and country origin. Expectedly, most of the high-tier raw sugar is entered into a few U.S. ports that are relatively close to cane refiners: Savannah, Philadelphia, San Diego, Baltimore, and New Orleans.

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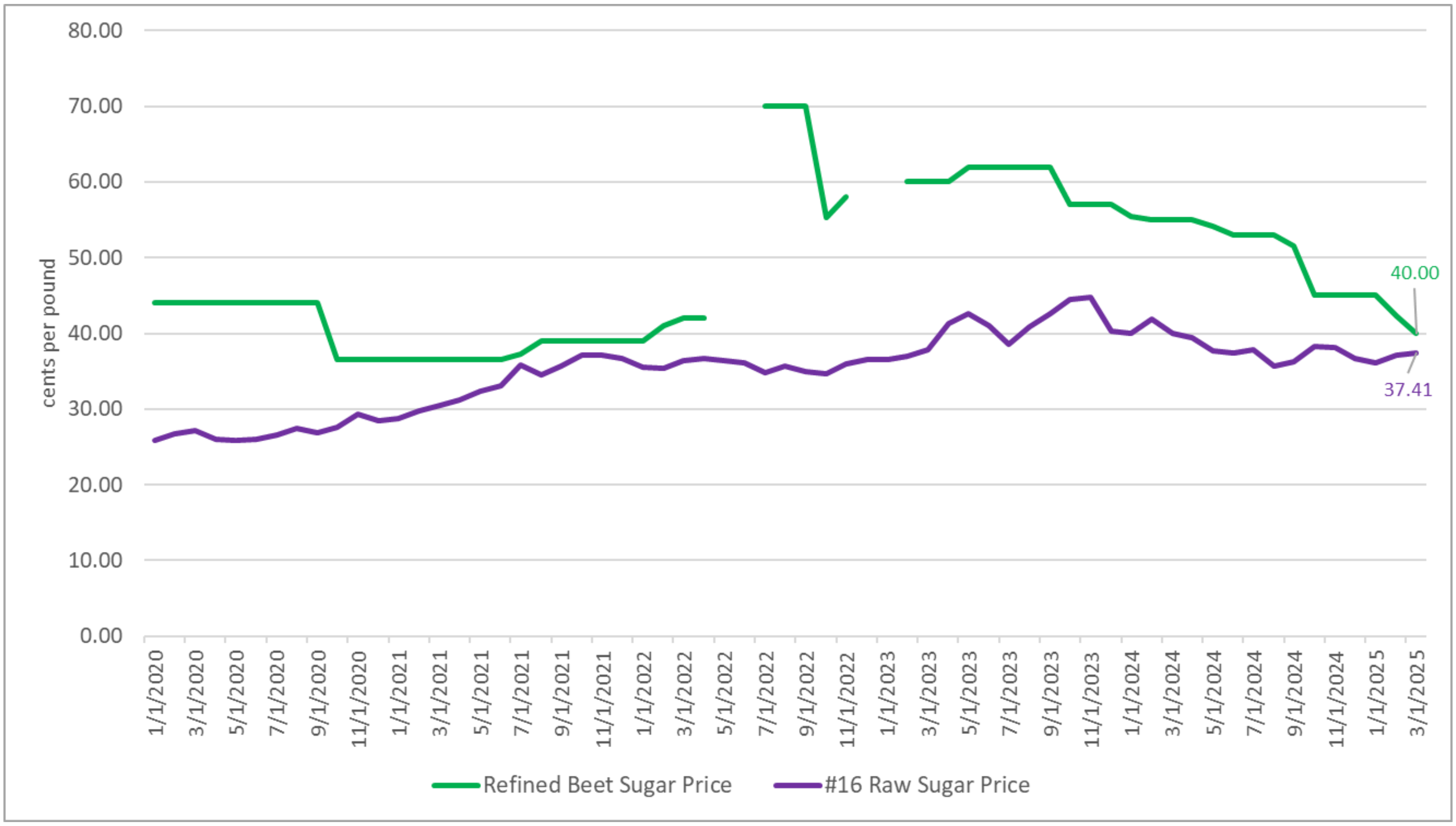
# In-depth Crop Market Update (Cont.)

*The information that is presented in this market update reflects current information as of April 11, 2025.*

**Sugar Cont'd**

The bulk-refined beet-sugar spot price reported in Sosland Publishing's Sweetener Market April 9 report hovers between 40–45 cents per pound, which is down 13–15 cents from the prior year. The low end (40 cents per pound) is 14 cents lower than the Northeast bulk-refined cane sugar spot price and edging closer to the U.S. raw sugar (Number 16) price of 37.65 cents per pound through the first week of April. Sosland also reported that forward trading for next year has been sluggish, despite lower offerings (between 39–42 cents per pound) but also noted that beet processors consider 40 cents per pound as the breakeven price to cover their production costs. The larger beet sugar planting intentions for 2025/26 also added bearish sentiments.




The tariff uncertainty kept the sugar market off balance. Prices held steady as sellers used tariff concerns to encourage early coverage, though many buyers remained cautious. The USDA forecast higher 2024-25 high-tier sugar imports, offsetting lower Florida cane production and raising the stocks-to-use ratio.

The on-again, off-again import tariffs kept the sugar industry off balance during the week ended April 11, with the situation currently being 10% additional tariffs on all US sugar imports except those from Mexico, which is the largest sugar exporter to the US. Spot and forward trading in the cash market was slow and steady. Beet sugar prices for next year were weaker. Some sellers were using the tariffs and potential tariffs as a reason to talk prices up—and, at a minimum, to encourage buyers to lock in coverage sooner rather than later. While some users were steadily adding partial coverage for 2025-26, there was no rush for many to fully cover next year's needs. RFPs continued to come in, but few carried any urgency for signing. The 90-day reciprocal tariff delay was seen as a chance to import sugar, if it could clear customs before the moratorium expires. At a minimum, "kicking the can down the road" made it hard to write contracts because of the uncertainty.

Bulk refined beet sugar for 2025-26 continues to sell mostly in the upper 30c/lb to lower 40c/lb range, FOB Midwest, with the range lowered slightly based on traders' reports. Some beet processors tried to hold values at 40c/lb, as that was seen as the break-even level for growers. Spot sugar prices were unchanged in the lower 40c/lb area FOB Midwest for beet sugar, with offers for refined cane sugar holding at 54c/lb in the Northeast and West Coast, and closer to 50c/lb in the South, Southeast and Gulf regions. One beet processor was sold out for 2024-25, but most others still had spot sugar to sell.

The arguments for price strength include tariffs, a long growing season with weather uncertainties, and a large volume of uncovered needs for 2025-26. Arguments for weakness include increased sugar beet acreage indicated in the USDA's March 31 Prospective Plantings report, ample spot supplies and weak demand—especially in the industrial sector.

## Budget Resolution Clears House on Promise of Steeper Spending Cuts

The House cleared the Senate-amended budget framework after Freedom Caucus holdouts said they got the necessary guarantees that the Senate will pursue higher spending cuts. The resolution passed 216-214. Passage of the resolution unlocks the budget reconciliation process that Republicans want to use to enact President Trump's legislative priorities, extend expiring provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and potentially increase funding for farm bill commodity programs and crop insurance. But the resolution contains vastly different instructions to House and Senate committees when it comes to spending cuts. The House Ag Committee is required to find $230 billion over 10 years, while the Senate Ag Committee can cut as little as $1 billion. The cuts would come from projected spending for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Senate adopted the amended version of the House budget resolution last week.

In the budget resolution, the House committee instructions require a total of $1.5 trillion in cuts, while the Senate instructions only detail $4 billion. At a joint appearance with House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., ahead of the House vote, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., briefly addressed the $1.5 trillion target. “Our ambition in the Senate is we are aligned with the House in terms of what their budget resolution outlined in terms of savings. The speaker has talked about $1.5 trillion," Thune said.

AP Photo.

But cuts of that size will be hard for many moderate Republicans in both chambers to swallow. However, members of the Freedom Caucus and House Budget Committee Republicans said they are still committed to making the 2017 tax cuts permanent as well and that it will be essential to reach the $1.5 trillion in cuts to pay for this. Members also said they assume a level of growth tied to the tax cuts that will help offset the full cost of the extension.

While passing the resolution was another significant milestone for Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., it is just the beginning. Now the House and Senate will start the reconciliation process, where they will have to come to an agreement on specific spending cut policies.

AP Photo.

Some more moderate House Republicans expressed frustration with their Freedom Caucus colleagues for delaying the resolution vote. other moderate Republicans in both chambers are anxious about possible cuts to Medicaid. Instructions to the House Energy and Commerce Committee include $880 billion in cuts, which are largely expected to come from the Medicaid program. Rural health advocates have warned cuts would have a disproportionate impact on rural communities and hospitals.

Some members of the House Freedom Caucus have also pushed for repealing parts of the Inflation Reduction Act. Members of the Iowa delegation have been vocal about ensuring those cuts don't include the 45Z tax credit for clean fuel producers.

## Newsletter Information

A group of growers inquired about a quarterly newsletter being delivered to them containing relevant market news and agricultural policy events. As a result, this publication is delivered electronically per the release schedule– at right. Please contact Dr. Mike Deliberto at mdeliberto@agcenter.lsu.edu to be added to the email distribution list. Subscription is free.

| QUARTER | Reporting Period | Release Date |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | January 1 through March 31 | April 15 |
| 2 | April 1 through June 30 | July 15 |
| 3 | July 1 through September 30 | October 15 |
| 4 | October 1 through December 31 | January 15 |

Please direct questions and comments to Dr. Michael Deliberto, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, LSU AgCenter. Mailing Address: 101 Martin D. Woodin Hall, LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Office Phone: 225-578-7267. Email: mdeliberto@agcenter.lsu.edu *Staff Report 2025-35 April 2025.*

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