

Agricultural Market Report

16 January 2025



LAFEKI trading

USA SPOT PRICES (compared to 12 Dec 24)

Corn	477.20	USc/bu
KC HRW Wheat	551.20	USc/bu
Soybeans	1031.00	USc/bu
Soybean Meal	296.90	USD/t
Soybean Oil	45.89	USD/p

**New Year,
New Estimates and
Projections.**

RSA SPOT PRICES (compared to 12 Dec 24)

White Maize	6841.00	R/t
Yellow Maize	5668.00	R/t
Sunflower	10 380.00	R/t
Soybeans	9592.00	R/t
Wheat	6065.00	R/t

Here is a snapshot of what you have missed – Happy 2025!

Welcome back! It has been a while since our last meeting of minds. Hopefully by now you have settled in at the office and failed or forgotten about half of your new year’s resolutions. No judgement here. It is a safe space. Now grab your coffee, sit back, pretend to work and view the summary for the lazy of what has been happening in the world of soybeans.

Firstly, let’s start with the classic small talk ice breaker. The weather. Finally, it has arrived. We have officially reached the threshold where we can say it is now a weak La Nina. Expectations are that it will persist until about May 2025, before changing back to ENSO neutral conditions. Locally the La Nina forecast reads rainy and wet. This has been experienced mostly in the East and Northeast regions of the country and will likely continue through February and March. Current weather conditions have equated to vast improvements in soil moisture during a crucial time for new soybean and other summer crops. The improvement in soil moisture has been so significant that estimates for the new soybean production remain at 2.7 million metric tons. This is in stark contrast to the 1.8 million metric tons produced last year. The lower soybean production of 2023/24 is partly responsible for the 8-year high soybean imports of 160 thousand metric tons.

In South America the La Nina has brought mixed results. For Brazil, some major regions saw a dry end to the season, but the new crop harvest remains on course to be a record breaking one. As for Argentina, where the season lags slightly behind Brazil, the feeling is less optimistic with La Nina’s impact regarding the drought being more severe. In both cases estimates have been revised to indicate lower expected production than initially thought. A similar trend to what we experienced with the recent US soybean season.

In the US, the continued uncertainty regarding possible trade conflicts and import penalties to be implemented by the Trump administration has impacted pricing. Uncertainty about bio-fuel policies further adding to the psychological levy currently imposed on pricing. Clarity should be gained within the next month or so, following the inauguration next week. Global demand for soybean oil has increased substantially. Soybean oil now holding the majority market share in most markets previously dominated by palm oil, with the shift most notable in India and other Asian countries. Speaking of supply and demand, here is our table tracking changes for The World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates.

Global Soybeans – December WASDE

	Commodity	2022/2023	2023/2024 (est.)	2024/2025 December	2024/2025 January	Change from December to January Projections
		[Million Metric Tons]				
Global Production	Oilseed	638,18	657,05	683,38	680,35	-0,44%
	Oilseed Crush	526,45	545,92	558,18	560,27	0,37%
	Oil Meals	358,09	372,64	383,42	385,04	0,42%
	Vegetable Oils	217,29	221,67	226,81	227,18	0,16%
	Soybean Production	378,16	394,97	427,14	424,26	-0,67%
	Soybean Trade	168,6	178,08	178,18	179,24	0,59%
	Soybean Beginning Stock	92,9	101,24	112,16	112,38	0,20%
	Soybean Ending Stock	101,24	112,38	131,87	128,37	-2,65%
	Soybean Domestic Crush	315,62	331,24	347,42	349,29	0,54%
	Soybean Exports	171,75	177,62	181,97	181,97	0,00%
	Soyabean Oil	59,67	62,8	65,86	66,25	0,59%
	Soybean Meal	247,91	260,1	272,48	274,11	0,60%