

Wheat Outlook

April 18, 2025

Volume 34, Number 28

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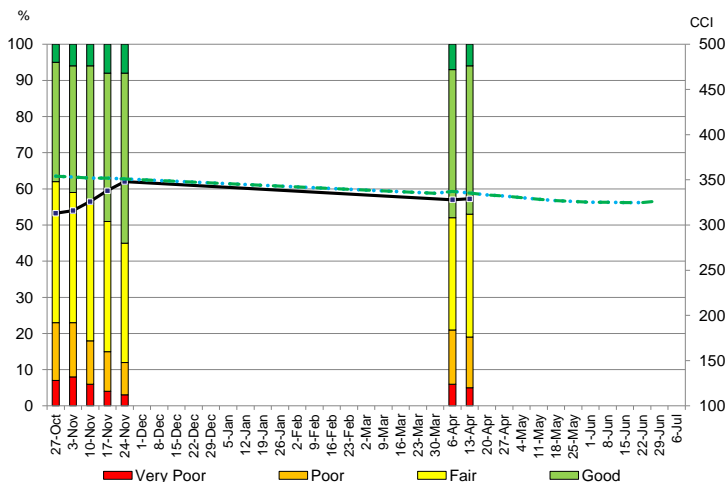
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Market Situation

Crop Progress and Condition. The share of the U.S. winter wheat crop rated good and excellent was down 1% this week while the share rated very poor and poor was down 2%. This resulted in the crop condition index being higher by one point to 329. The national average for this week of the growing season is 335.

2025 U.S. Winter Wheat Crop Condition Ratings, April 13



USDA Crop Progress, April 14, 2025

Crop conditions scores in the Southern Plains this week were lower in Kansas (-9), Texas (-4), and Colorado (-12). Oklahoma was higher (+3) for the second week in a row. The weighted Southern Plains winter wheat crop condition score was down 7 points to 322.

2025 Southern Plains Weighted Wheat Crop Condition Index
100% very poor = 100; 100% excellent = 500

	Kansas, 55%	Oklahoma, 18%	Texas, 14%	Colorado, 13%	Index
October 27	317	285	285	321	307
November 3	316	302	271	335	310
November 10	337	305	289	331	324
November 17	343	320	327	356	338
November 24	349	336	337	364	347
February 2	339	317	311	346	332
February 9			309		
February 16			300		
February 23		307	304		
March 2	344	296	295	359*	330
March 10	337	323	282	359*	330
March 16	331	310	283	356	324
March 23	334	302	288	363	326
March 30	334	301	285	371	326
April 6	335	324	279	361	329
April 13	326	327	275	349	322
Change	-9	+3	-4	-12	-7

*End of February

Southern Plains accounts for about 25% of national winter wheat production

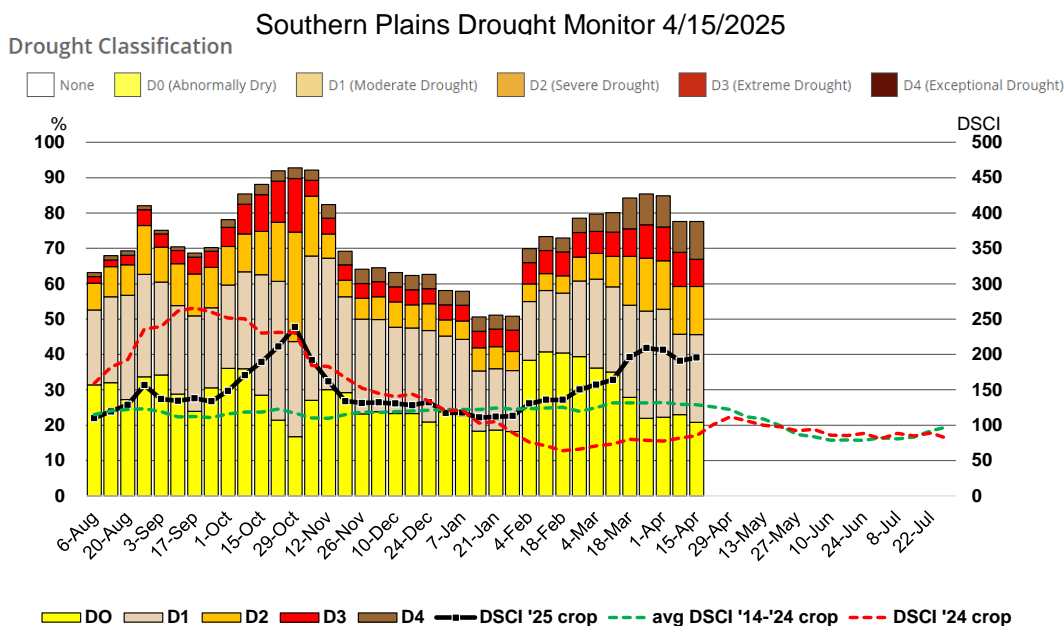
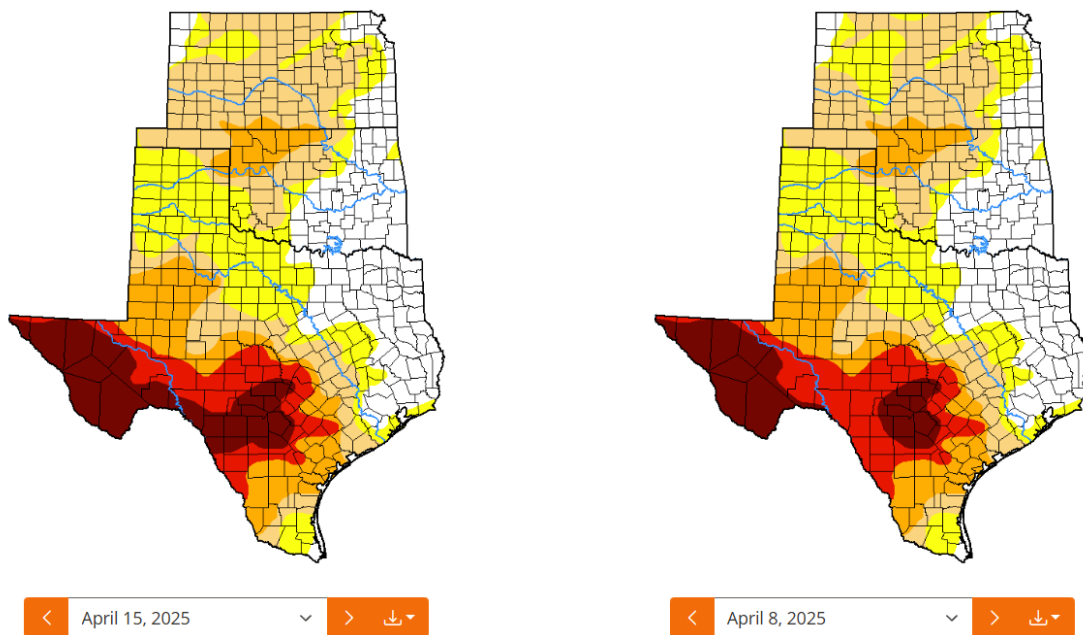
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Spring wheat planting is progressing at its normal pace: 7% planted, 7% average.

Weather. The area of the Southern Plains experiencing drought conditions held steady this week at 78% but the drought index was up 4 points to 195. 'Moderate' drought expanded across Kansas and 'exceptional' conditions were more widespread in Far West and South Texas.



Drought Severity and Coverage Index (DSCI) = (D0*1)+(D1*2)+(D2*3)+(D3*4)+(D4*5);
min 0--no drought conditions reported; max 500--100% under exceptional drought conditions

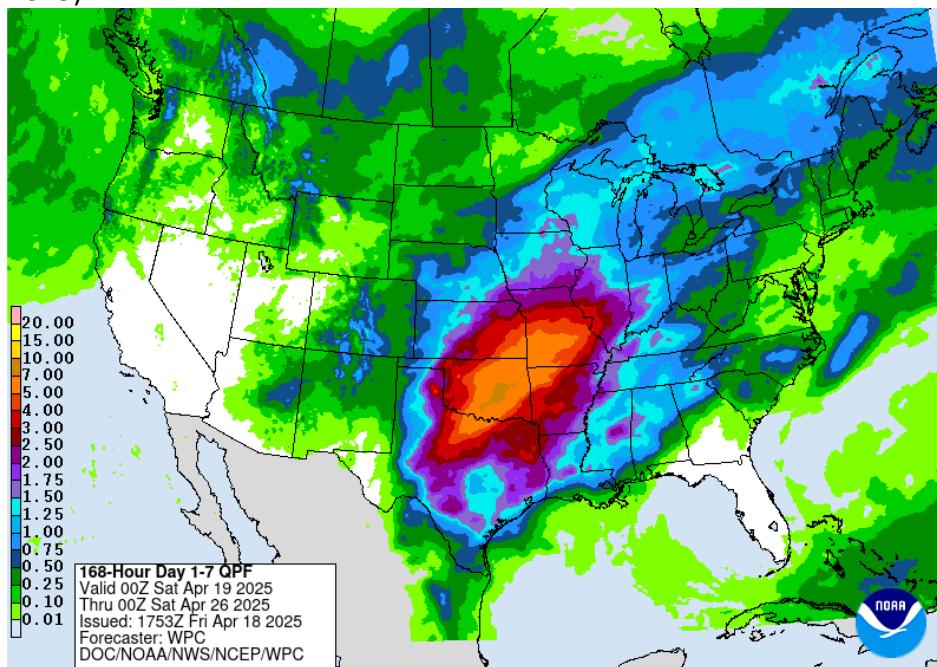
Drought Monitor, 4/17/2025, Southern Plains Climate Hub, <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

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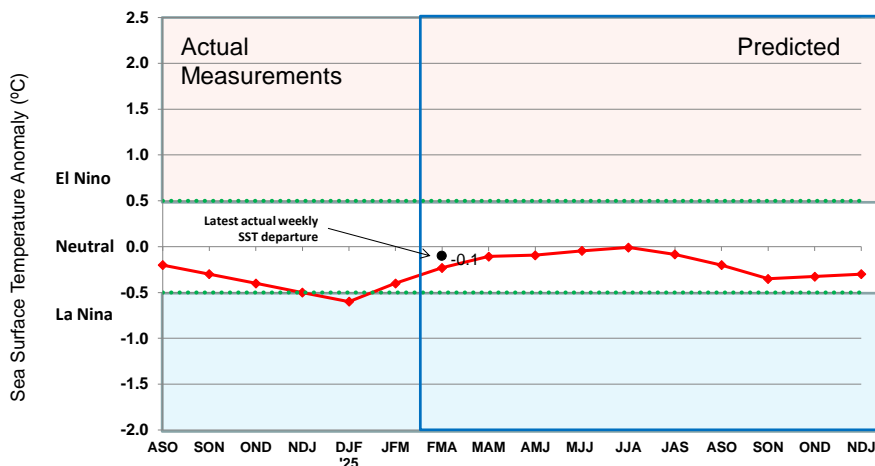
Widespread precipitation is in the forecast for most of the Southern Plains the next 7 days (4/19-4/26/2025).



The three-month average sea surface temperature departure from normal in the Eastern Pacific for January/February/March was -0.4°C , back above the La Nina threshold. The temperature departure from normal this week held steady at -0.1°C . Neutral conditions are forecast to last through the summer.

Oceanic Nino Index (ONI) ENSO Alert System Status: **La Nina Advisory**

CPC: ENSO-neutral is favored during the Northern Hemisphere summer, with a greater than 50% chance through August-October 2025.



El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diagnostic Discussion, April 14, 2025

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/

Australian Bureau of Meteorology, <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

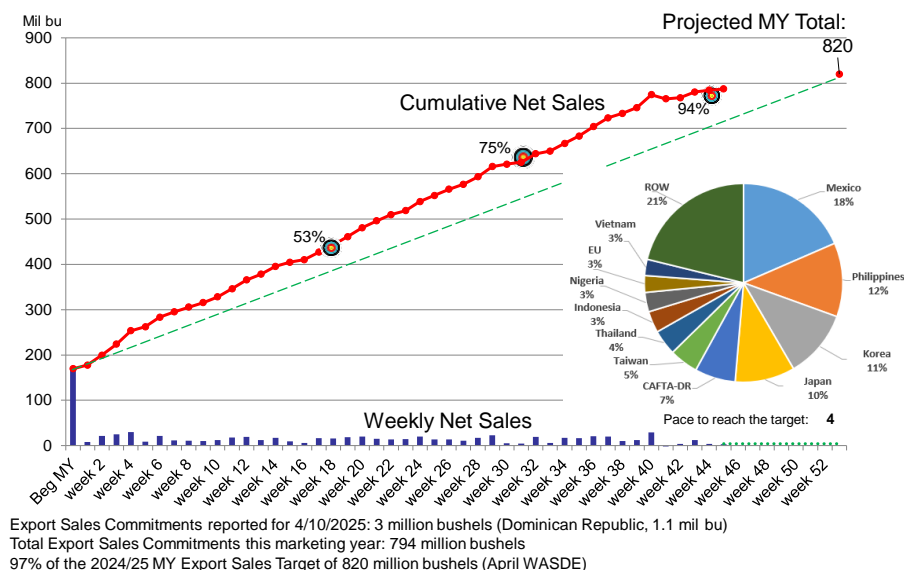
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Grain Use. All wheat export sales for the week of April 10 were 3 million bushels. The top buyer for the week was the Dominican Republic at 1.1 million bushels. Of the CAFTA-DR group, the Dominican Republic accounts for about 1/3 of that total. Sales have reached 794 million bushels, 97% of the 820-million-bushel target.

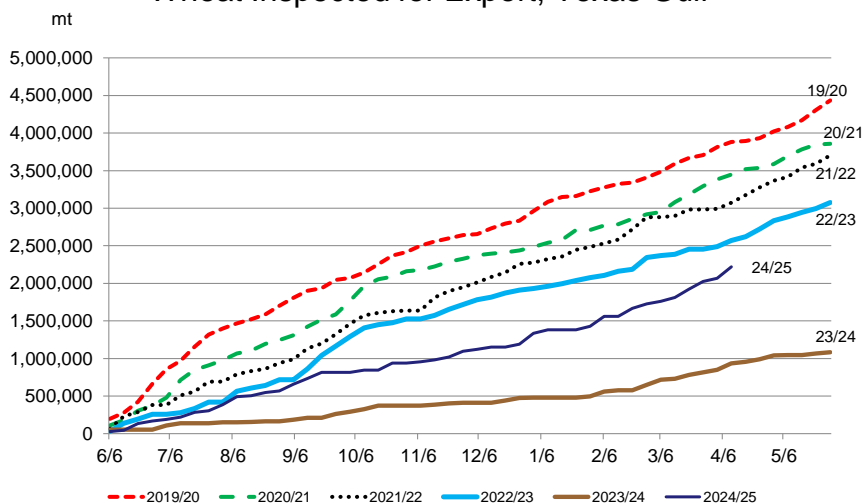
2024/25 U.S. All Wheat Export Sales Commitments



USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service: 4/17/2025

Wheat exports out of the Texas Gulf were successively lower from 2019/2020 through the 2023/24 marketing year. Sales are up in 2024/25 compared to last year but still below the 4 years prior to that.

Wheat Inspected for Export, Texas Gulf



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Cash Wheat Prices, \$/bu.

	Nearby KC Futures	Avg TX cash elevator	basis	Houston Port	basis	Elevator to Export Spread
March 20	5.87	4.84	-1.03	6.42	0.56	-1.58
March 27	5.66	4.63	-1.04	6.20	0.54	-1.58
April 3	5.69	4.65	-1.04	6.24	0.55	-1.59
April 10	5.58	4.55	-1.03	6.43	0.85	-1.88
April 17	5.58	4.54	-1.03	6.43	0.86	-1.89
10-year avg			-0.45		0.75	-1.20

USDA, AMS, Market News: TX cash = average (North, Central, and South Panhandle); Houston Port, StoneX

Commitment of Traders. The grain markets were consistent in the impact of adjustments speculative traders made to their positions this week in that net longs went up for both wheat contracts, corn, and soybeans. But there was wide variation in why and by how much. In Chicago wheat the increase in net longs came as traders exited both sides of the market, more in getting out of bets for lower prices (shorts) than bets for higher prices (longs). In Kansas City wheat, traders added to both long and short contracts held, here by adding more longs.

The wide swings were seen in corn and soybeans. Traders added over 20,000 long contracts and exited more than 40,000 short positions. The net long position of +50,161 in soybeans is the highest since 50,697 on November 28, 2023.

	Wheat--SRW				Wheat--HRW			
	Long	Short	Net Long	Price	Long	Short	Net Long	Price
3/11/2025	120,935	199,008	(78,073)	556.75	52,893	89,087	(36,194)	572.00
3/18/2025	116,964	193,443	(76,479)	565.00	55,013	84,666	(29,653)	606.25
3/25/2025	121,763	204,311	(82,548)	543.25	52,273	85,137	(32,864)	569.25
4/1/2025	119,598	222,398	(102,800)	540.50	60,579	95,461	(34,882)	565.25
4/8/2025	119,544	211,468	(91,924)	540.00	60,702	100,886	(40,184)	561.50
4/15/2025	116,030	204,356	(88,326)	542.00	61,931	101,220	(39,289)	553.00
Change	(3,514)	(7,112)	3,598	2.00	1,229	334	895	(8.50)

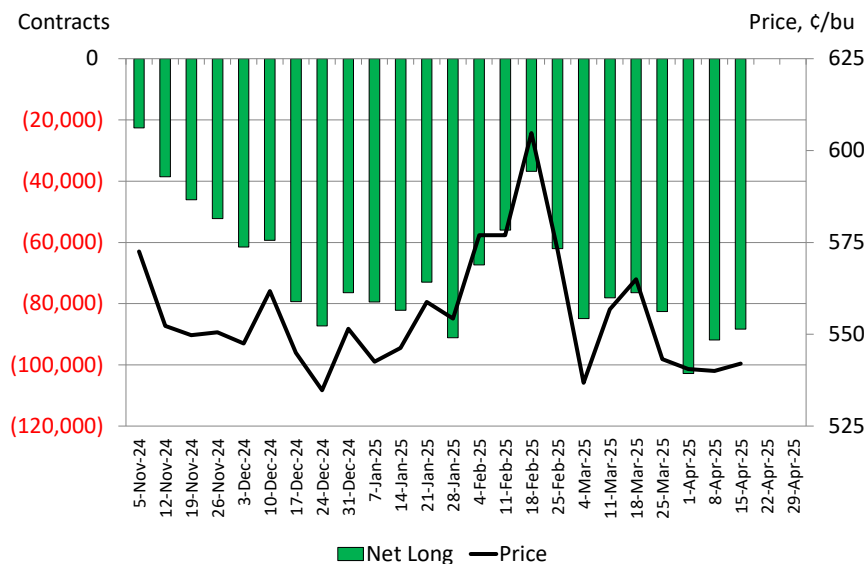
	Corn				Soybeans			
	Long	Short	Net Long	Price	Long	Short	Net Long	Price
3/11/2025	449,005	180,648	268,357	470.25	165,758	177,898	(12,140)	1011.25
3/18/2025	441,602	202,226	239,376	458.75	167,323	175,600	(8,277)	1012.75
3/25/2025	416,135	215,764	200,371	457.75	161,713	176,123	(14,410)	1001.75
4/1/2025	412,771	245,902	166,869	461.75	158,653	162,165	(3,512)	1034.25
4/8/2025	418,031	245,149	172,882	469.00	162,286	179,134	(16,848)	992.75
4/15/2025	438,836	204,654	234,182	481.25	182,824	132,663	50,161	1036.00
Change	20,805	(40,495)	61,300	12.25	20,538	(46,471)	67,009	43.25

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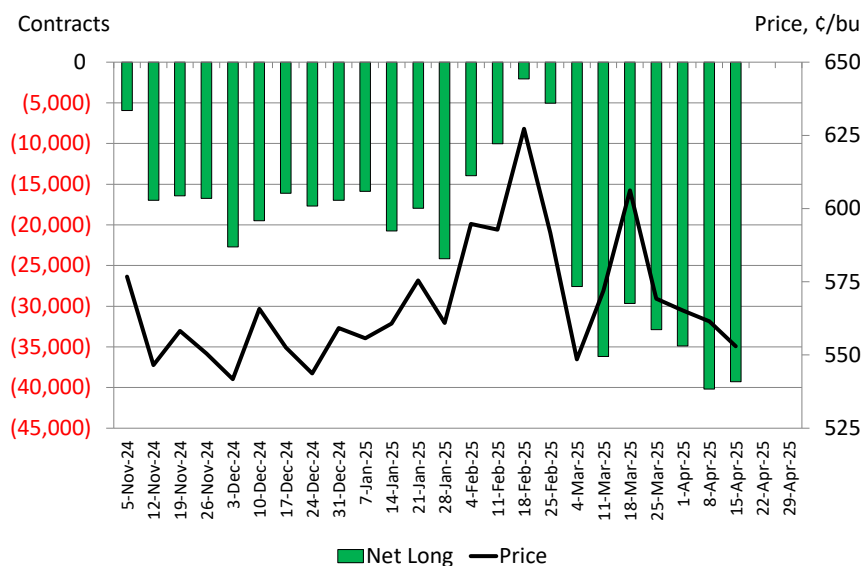
Non-commercial Investment in CBOT Wheat, 4/15/2025



CFTC Legacy Report, Futures Only

<https://www.cftc.gov/MarketReports/CommitmentsofTraders/index.htm>

Non-commercial Investment in KC Wheat, 4/15/2025



CFTC Legacy Report, Futures Only

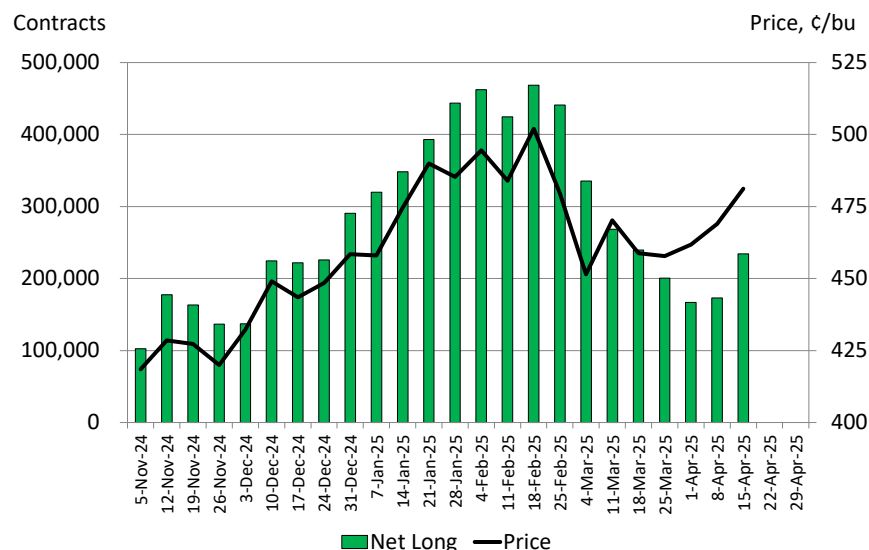
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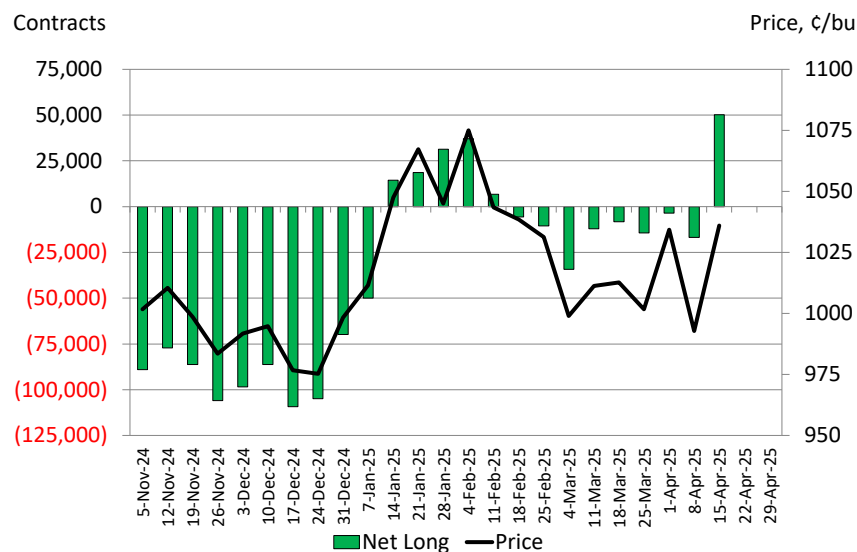
Non-commercial Investment in Corn, 4/15/2025



CFTC Legacy Report, Futures Only

<https://www.cftc.gov/MarketReports/CommitmentsofTraders/index.htm>

Non-commercial Investment in Soybeans, 4/15/2025



CFTC Legacy Report, Futures Only

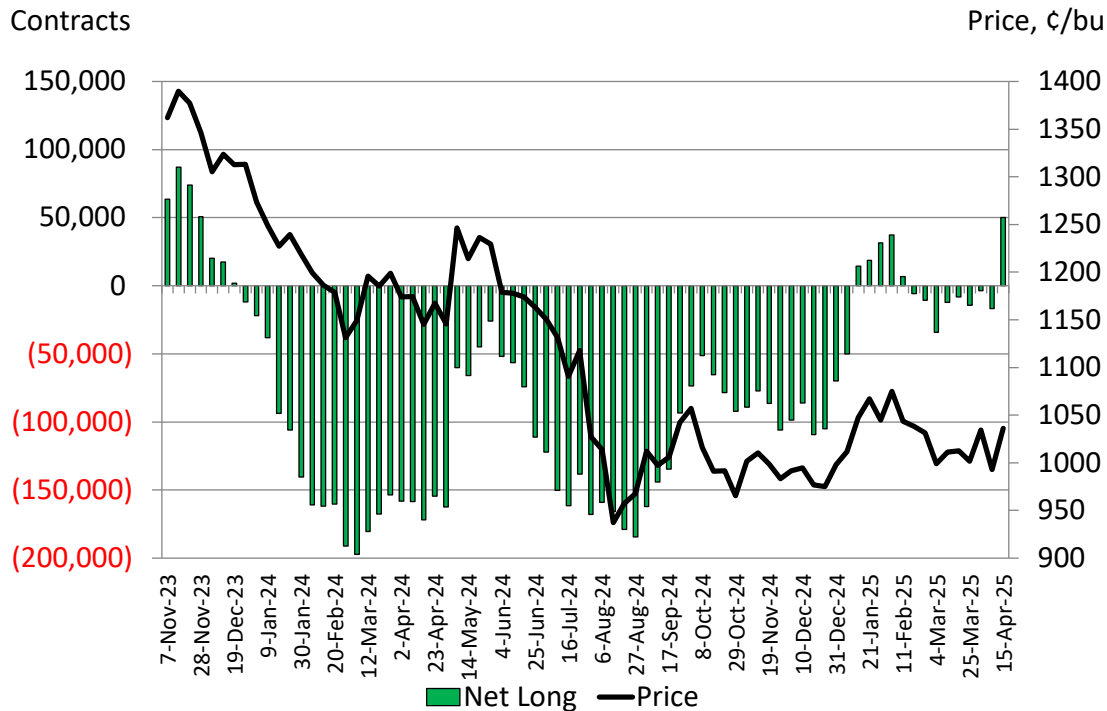
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Non-commercial Investment in Soybeans, 4/15/2025



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For April 15, based on whether the net long number (long contracts held minus short contracts held) is positive or negative and whether that net long number increased or decreased compared to the week before, speculators were:

- less bearish Chicago soft red winter wheat,
- less bearish KC hard red winter wheat,
- more bullish corn, and
- more bullish soybeans.

Marketing Strategies

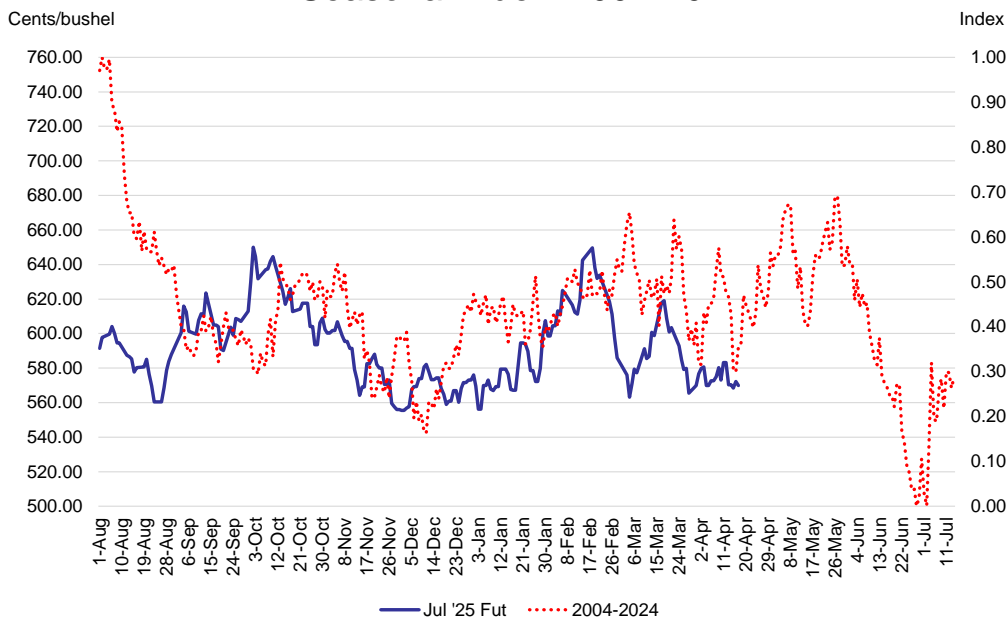
Seasonal Index. The seasonal index for the July Kansas City Wheat futures contract shows prices typically declining from August to the end of the calendar year. Prices tend to trend upwards in late-winter associated with crop condition concerns, topping out in February/March as the crop breaks dormancy. Another price rally in April/May is often associated with late-season weather risk before the seasonal price decline into harvest.

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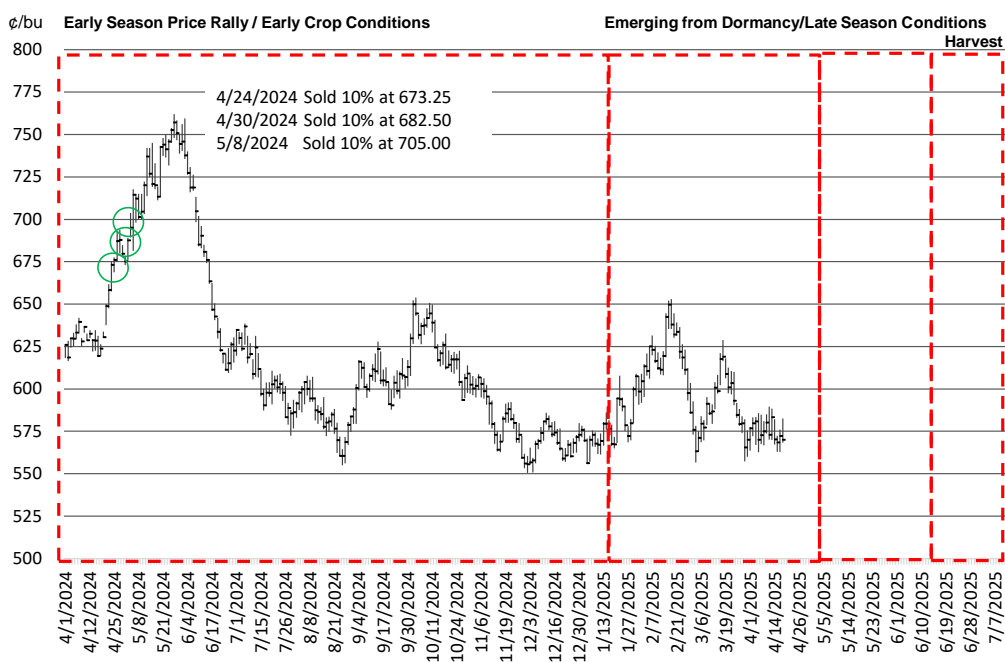
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2025 July KC Wheat Futures and Seasonal Index: 2004-2024



Wheat Marketing Plan. For the 2025 wheat crop, I am 30% sold. We are in the time frame when I look to add to sales.

July 2025 KC Wheat and Marketing Plan



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Upcoming Reports/Events

April 21	Chicken and Eggs
April 23-24	Master Marketer: Building a Marketing Plan: Grain, Cotton, Livestock, Weslaco
April 30	Gross Domestic Product, 1st Quarter 2025 (Advance Estimate)
May 1	Flour Milling
May 2	April 2025 Employment Situation
May 6-7	Federal Open Market Committee, Federal Reserve
May 12	WASDE and Crop Production

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