Fundamentals: Chicago soybean futures climbed on Thursday, energized by fresh export sales, although forecasts for cooler, rainy weather capped gains.

Wheat fell to a three-week low, as the market assessed global supply prospects marked by large Russian exports and war-curtailed shipments from Ukraine.

Corn also touched a three-week low, pressured by crop-friendly weather.

The most-active soybean contract on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) ended the day up 4 cents at \$13.25-1/4 a bushel.

CBOT wheat lost 13 cents to \$6.27 per bushel, after earlier hitting its lowest level since July 13 at \$6.261/4. CBOT corn fell 7 cents to \$4.93-1/2 per bushel.

Private sales of 134,000 metric tons of U.S. soybeans to China, reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Thursday morning, renewed optimism around export demand.

The flash sale adds to recent export activity. The USDA reported soybean export sales for the week ended July 27 at 2.721 million metric tons, near the high end of trade expectations.

Wheat export sales of 421,300 metric tons were in line with expectations, while 456,400 metric tons of corn neared the low end of predictions.

August weather remains in focus, after commodity brokerage StoneX projected the average U.S. 2023 soybean yield at 50.5 bushels per acre (bpa), below the USDA's latest projection of 52.0 bpa. Such a drop would significantly tighten U.S. stocks.

StoneX pegged U.S. corn yield at 177.0 bpa, just below the USDA's latest projection of 177.5 bpa but still a record high, if realized.

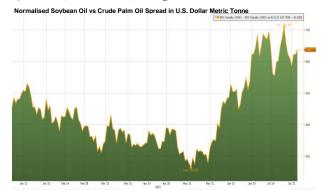
Wheat remains under pressure as U.S. harvest progresses and Black Sea routes remain open to Russian wheat, exemplified by a recent tender from Egypt's state grains buyer for wheat of Russian and Romanian origin.

September wheat futures are trading at their biggest discount ever to the December contract in Chicago as demand for US supplies stays low.

Inspections of grain shipments coming from U.S. ports in the second quarter of the year are 26% behind the pace of shipments for the same timeframe last year, said the USDA. The agency notes that grain shipments in most regions were roughly off by 20% to 25%, but those coming out of the Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes were actually 73% behind. Soybean inspections were down 47% in the second quarter versus the same timeframe last year, while corn was off 21% and wheat was down 7%. Weak export demand is an ongoing narrative in the grain futures market.

Export sales of U.S. soybeans soared for the week ended July 27, more than triple the previous week's total. The USDA said sales of soybeans totaled 2.72 million metric tons across the 2022/23 and 23/24 marketing years, exponentially higher than the 743, 100 tons the USDA reported last week. The total also beat the high end of predictions from analysts surveyed by The Wall Street Journal, who forecast anywhere from 1.6 million tons to 2.6 million tons. Combined with soybean crops hit by drought in the Corn Belt, traders think the supply picture for soybeans will be tighter than for corn or wheat.

(Source: Reuters, Dow Jones Newswires, Bloomberg)



High Contract Chg Low Soybeans Soybean Oil NOV 23 1.325.25 1.337.25 1.318.50 Soybean Oil DEC 23 Soybean Meal DEC 23 Corn DEC 23 59.440 392.40 60.740 4.70 -5.75 403.20 502.75 493.50 493.00 Wheat SEP 23 627.00 -11.75 648.25 626.25 US Dollar Index 102.498 -0.092 102.843 102.365

Argentina & Brazil	Weekly Export	t Statistic	(metric ton)
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Date	A. Corn	B.Corn	A.Soybean	B.Soybean	A.Wheat	B.Wheat
31/07/2023	182,000	242,000	172,000	566,000	#N/A N/A	55,000
24/07/2023	321,000	409,000	84,000	512,000	0	20,000
17/07/2023	233,000	822,000	63,000	386,000	0	33,000
10/07/2023	474,000	547,000	30,000	1,131,000	0	62,000
03/07/2023	150,000	148,000	36,000	971,000	0	37,000
26/06/2023	513,000	143,000	79,000	766,000	0	32,000
19/06/2023	177,000	60,000	172,000	955,000	0	56,000
12/06/2023	340,000	198,000	271,000	1,739,000	0	38,000
05/06/2023	234,000	292,000	281,000	1,262,000	0	216,000
29/05/2023	234,000	92,000	155,000	1,683,000	0	110,000

US Weekly Export Statistic Data by USDA (,000 metric tons)

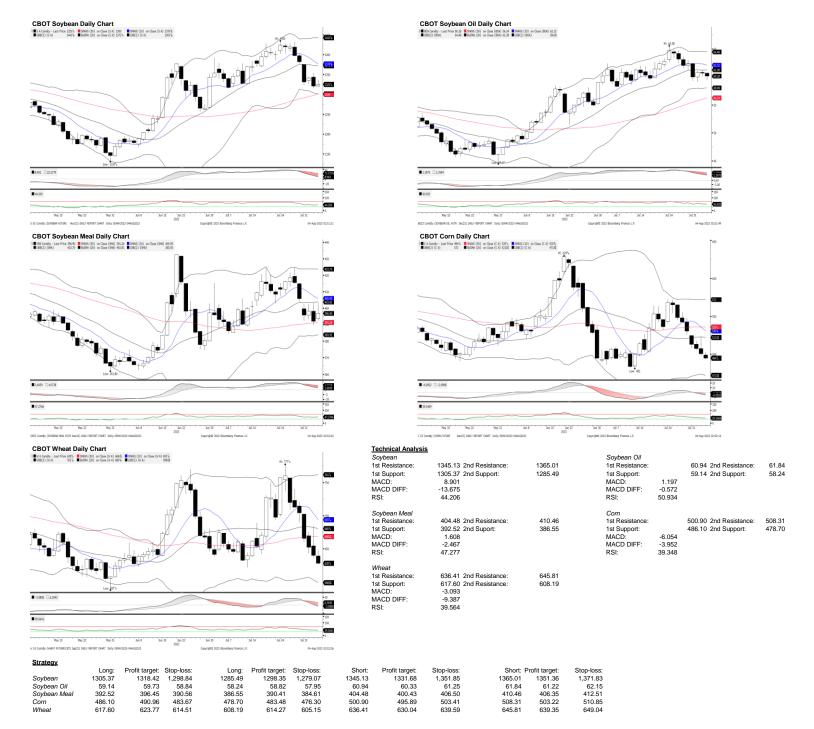
Date	Corn	Soybean	Soy Oil	Soy Meal	Wheat
27/07/2023	456.4	2721.3	4.4	347	434.7
20/07/2023	650	743.1	2.1	273.8	233.2
13/07/2023	728.4	821.9	-0.8	407.7	170.7
06/07/2023	939.2	248.8	1.2	172.7	395.7
29/06/2023	669.7	724	-6.3	181.8	402.8
22/06/2023	263.9	244.4	1	173.6	155.1
15/06/2023	83.1	626.3	0.2	146.4	123.8
08/06/2023	294.3	526.9	1.9	225.9	165
01/06/2023	65.9	471.8	-0.1	267.6	234.8
25/05/2023	499.3	424.4	4.9	467.3	256
18/05/2023	-23.1	116.1	6.2	391.9	200.1
11/05/2023	-265	680.8	0.9	291.5	294.6

Historical Volatility	10 Days	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days
Soybean Futures	25.31	30.94	29.32	24.77
Soybean Oil Futures	32.40	39.33	40.92	35.42
Soybean Meal Futures	23.96	30.55	31.72	26.50
Corn Futures	43.25	48.98	42.12	35.53
Wheat Futures	65.24	57.00	48.42	42.18



Soybean Synthetic Crush Spread





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