November 4, 2025

CROP TALK MARKET UPDATE

Provided by

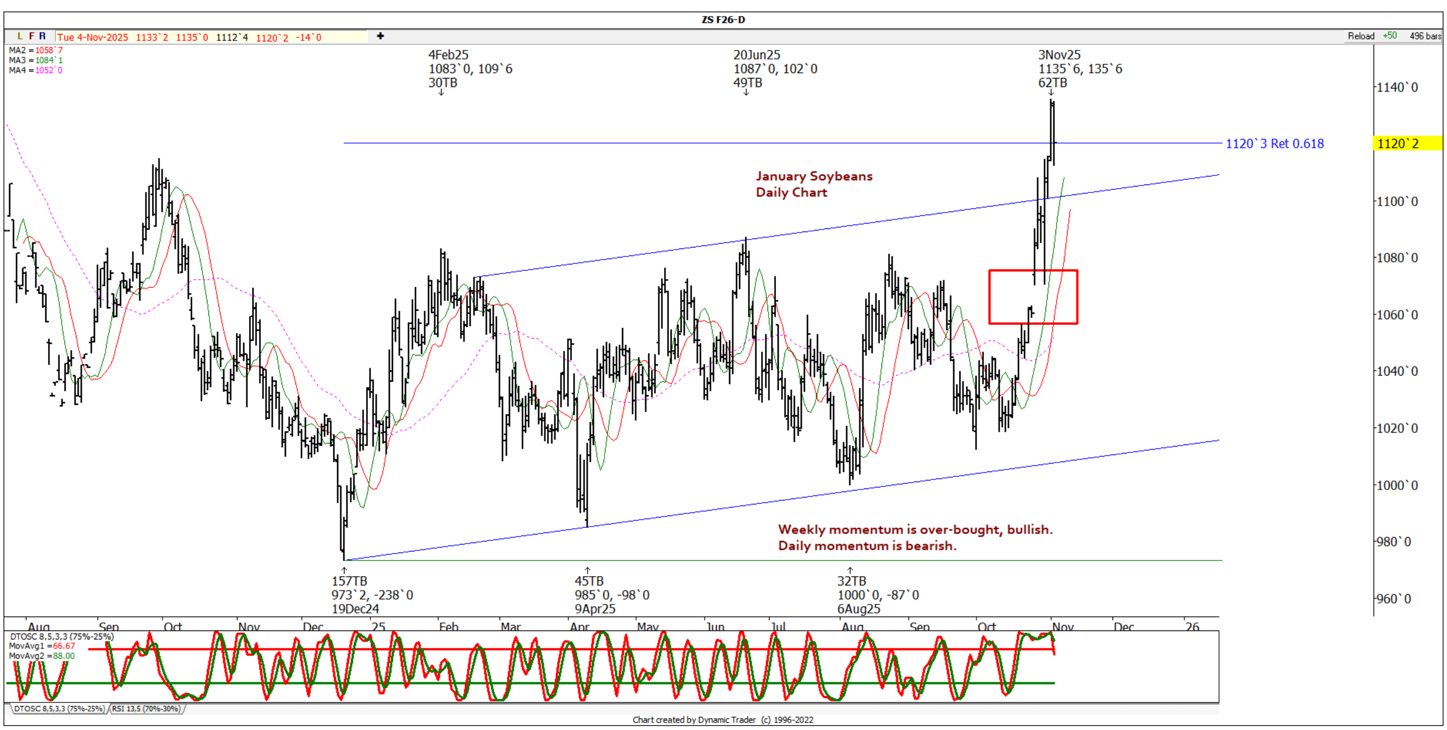
Lance Wilson, Grain Marketing Advisor
Integrity Consulting Company

SOYBEAN VOLATILITY

Last week, I took time to pack into the Bob Marshall Wilderness with my father for some quality reset time and elk hunting. I have been involved in these hunting trips for 37 years, and each trip is different and exciting. U.S. producers have been hoping for a trade deal with China, which would see them resume purchasing U.S. soybeans. With the calendar year nearing its end, it did not appear that there was much chance of a trade deal being made. It was with great surprise that I returned to service to find soybeans trading 50 cents higher than when I left, along with reports of a trade deal in the works.

The initial reports from the trade deal with China indicate they plan to purchase 12 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans by January, followed by 25 million tons per year for the next three years. This commitment was greeted with short covering of soybeans and reports of sales to China after last week's talks. The 25 million metric tons is not seen as an excessive amount, as it is less than what China has bought in previous years.

Soybean prices had been relatively stagnant and trading sideways since October of 2024, when prices dropped into the contract low on December 19, 2024. Volatility increased last week when prices gapped higher on Monday after the positive news from the trade talks. Reports of China purchasing soybeans last week led to January soybean futures pushing to $11.35 ¾ /bushel on Monday, November 3rd. Today, Tuesday, November 4th, prices traded lower on reports of China buying 10 cargoes of Brazilian soybeans, not U.S. beans, and fueled thoughts that China may not be a trustworthy trade partner. China is expected to come to the U.S. to finalize the trade agreement and will likely bring more volatility to the market.



Source: E-Signal and Dynamic Trader, November 4, 2025.

Weather and government action can lead to the greatest volatility in markets. Globally, there are no weather concerns as the U.S. soybean harvest is in mop-up stages, and Brazil and Argentina have been receiving rains, which have South American producers planting into good soil conditions. Government action is the leading fundamental to recent volatility. I have briefly discussed the possible trade agreement between the U.S. and China, but the other government factor is the U.S. government shutdown. The Senate failed to pass a temporary spending bill again today, and the shutdown is now the longest in U.S. history. The shutdown has left the industry blind without USDA reports and commitment of trader's reports. That may be resolved as 2,100 USDA employees are going to return to work to assist farmers with any government payments that are in the works, and put together the November WASDE report that will be released on the 14th.

The recent volatility has provided higher prices and given producers an opportunity to sell at higher prices and to begin locking in the 2026 crop near $11. The higher prices are welcomed, and many hope for even higher prices. There is now significant downside risk with a gap on the chart down to $10.60/bushel. If you sold earlier and bought calls to protect against an upside move, now may be the time to unwind those calls and add that profit back to your sales. While volatility can bring big gains, it also brings additional risk. Remember that stored grains are an asset and need to be managed accordingly.

Until next time,

Lance Wilson
Integrity Consulting Company
Grain Marketing Advisor
e wilson59602@mt.net
c. 406 231 5044
6350 Sleeping Giant View, Helena, MT 59602