

Came Family

F A R M S

SECOND QUARTER 2023

THE SEASON SO FAR -AARON PHELPS, AGRONOMIST

UPDATES:

Don't forget to check out our website, Camefarmsinc.com, for updates and login to your personal landlord page for more information.

Check out our social media:
Facebook – Came Farms, Inc
Instagram – [camefamilyfarms](https://www.instagram.com/camefamilyfarms)
Twitter - [@CameFarms](https://twitter.com/@CameFarms)
LinkedIn – Came Family Farms

I'll update each crop separately, but if I had one big takeaway, it would be our moisture situation. We came into this spring with 2' of subsoil. In a normal year, I'd probe 4'+ by planting time. The rains have been very spotty, and our current subsoil is still lacking. Crops that were planted early have benefited from recent rains and a cooler spring and early summer. There is not the subsoil to supply these crops for very long. As we were out doing our crop consulting in the Marquette area, there was corn that was flashing this week trying to pollenate. South of Lindsborg, we saw some dry land sudan grass rolled up and turning blue. Continuing rains are going to be essential in the future to keep these crops healthy. A prolonged hot, dry spell and we'll start to see plants stressing quickly.


Even though our spring was dry clear into late May, the cooler temperatures allowed the wheat crop to have an extended fill period. Yields were not good across my area, 15 to 60 bushels with an average 25-30 bushel would cover most. Wet ground that would normally drown out had very good yields, while some of the best yielding fields or spots in fields were some of the poorest.

The winter freezes caused more damage in the best soil. It had the most residue and when those cold snaps hit, those areas froze harder. Irrigated wheat was extremely good this year 80–90-bushel yields were not uncommon, giving us a glimpse of what could have been with some timely rains.

Our corn crop was off to a good start until chinch bugs started moving out of the wheat as it dried down. We applied an insecticide with our post corn treatment to try to decrease the infestation. The problem this year is the extremely high numbers of chinch bugs. Chinch bugs thrive in a dry year, and they are very difficult to control. They protect themselves by getting into plant whorls and under leaf sheaths where spray can't reach them. There is a fungus that normally forms and eventually eliminates them during wet weather. That has not happened, and I am doubtful it will. I'd never seen chinch bug numbers like we have this year, so I wanted to come up with a treatment threshold. All my research indicated that on <6" tall corn plants, if 20% of the plants were infested with 5 chinch bugs per plant, we'd be looking at a 3% yield loss. In sorghum, 1 chinch bug per plant that is under 6" tall equates to a 2% yield loss. In many cases, we were estimating between 15-30 chinch bugs per plant. They were not just on edges of fields but across entire fields. I do not know what the long-term effects of the insect pressure will be, but they have stunted corn plants across fields, and I expect them to be here all summer. Good growing conditions will be necessary to keep plants growing, any stress to the crop will be magnified because of the insect pressure.

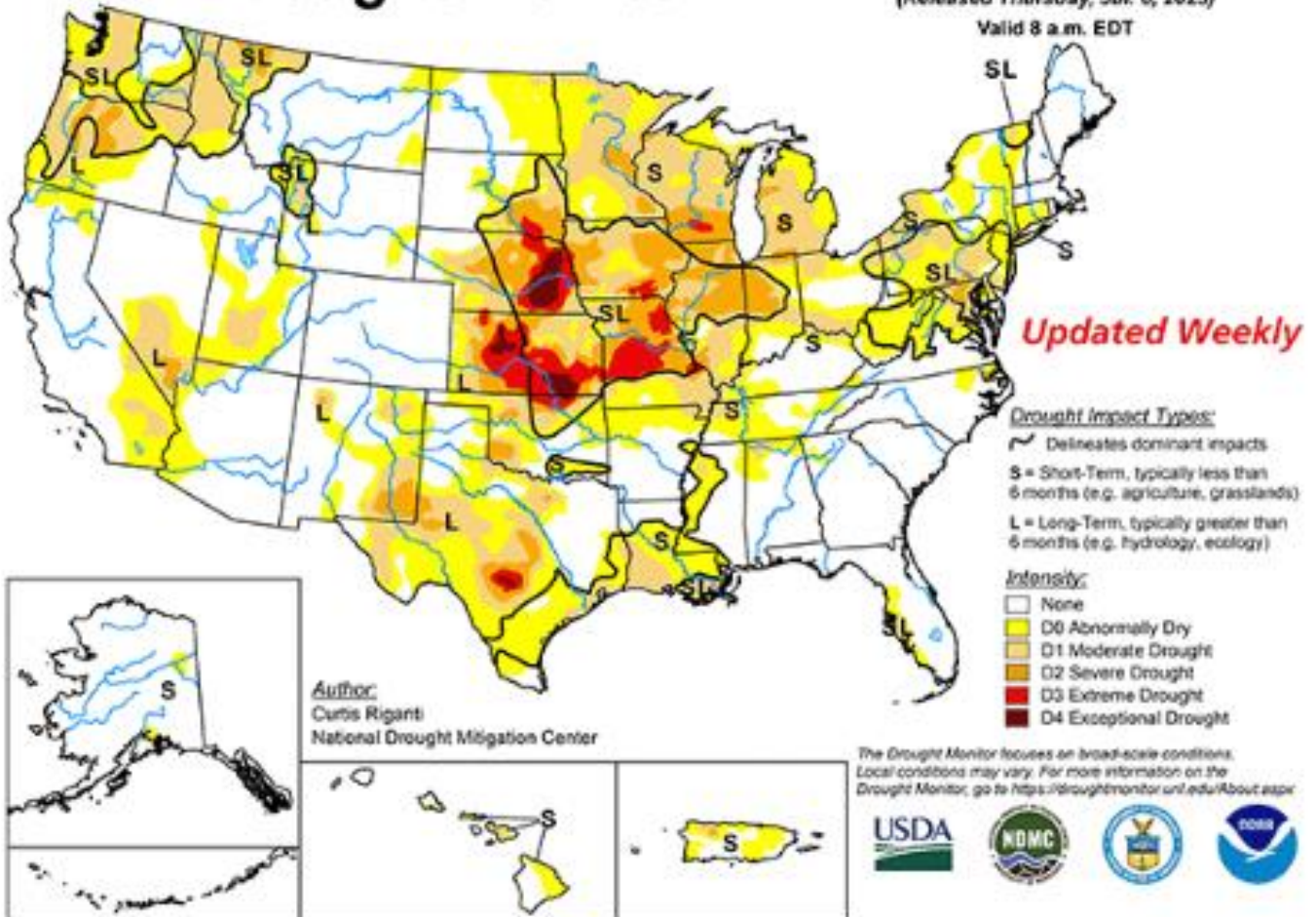
Luckily soybeans are not affected by chinch bugs! Bean stands are excellent. We decided to run Liberty plus Enlist this year and are very pleased with the results. August seems to be the key to successful soybeans, so we'll see if we can catch some rain and cooler temperatures when they begin to fill.

We moved away from double crop soybeans to double crop milo to try to increase our residue and organic matter. Because of the chinch bugs we put insecticide out with all our burndowns. That has worked and so far, we've escaped the injury we've seen in full season milo. We are now in the process of posting the volunteer wheat and any broadleaves that have emerged.

PRECIPITATION GAUGE			
Precip Summary	Evapotranspiration	Precip at a Glance <small>(Last updated 7/6/2023)</small>	Precip Impact
Today (since 12AM) 0.00 in. Last 24 Hours 0.00 in. Observed at: Came Farms (D12050) for 8:10 AM CDT	Yesterday Actual: 0.14 in. 10 Year Avg: 0.26 in. Month to Date: Actual: 1.23 in. 10 Year Avg: 1.56 in. Year to Date: Actual: 27.01 in. 10 Year Avg: 22.34 in.	Month to Date 2.04 1.53 1.02 0.51 0 (in.) 1.16 0.88 MTD AVG	Year to Date 34 26 17 8.54 0 (in.) 15.42 18.75 YTD AVG
		Precip Impact  Condition: Normal For: Saline County, KS 30 Day Precip: Actual: 6.57 in. Normal: 4.08 in. % of Normal: 161% 60 Day Precip: Actual: 9.77 in. Normal: 8.58 in. % of Normal: 114%	

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 4, 2023
 (Released Thursday, Jul. 6, 2023)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

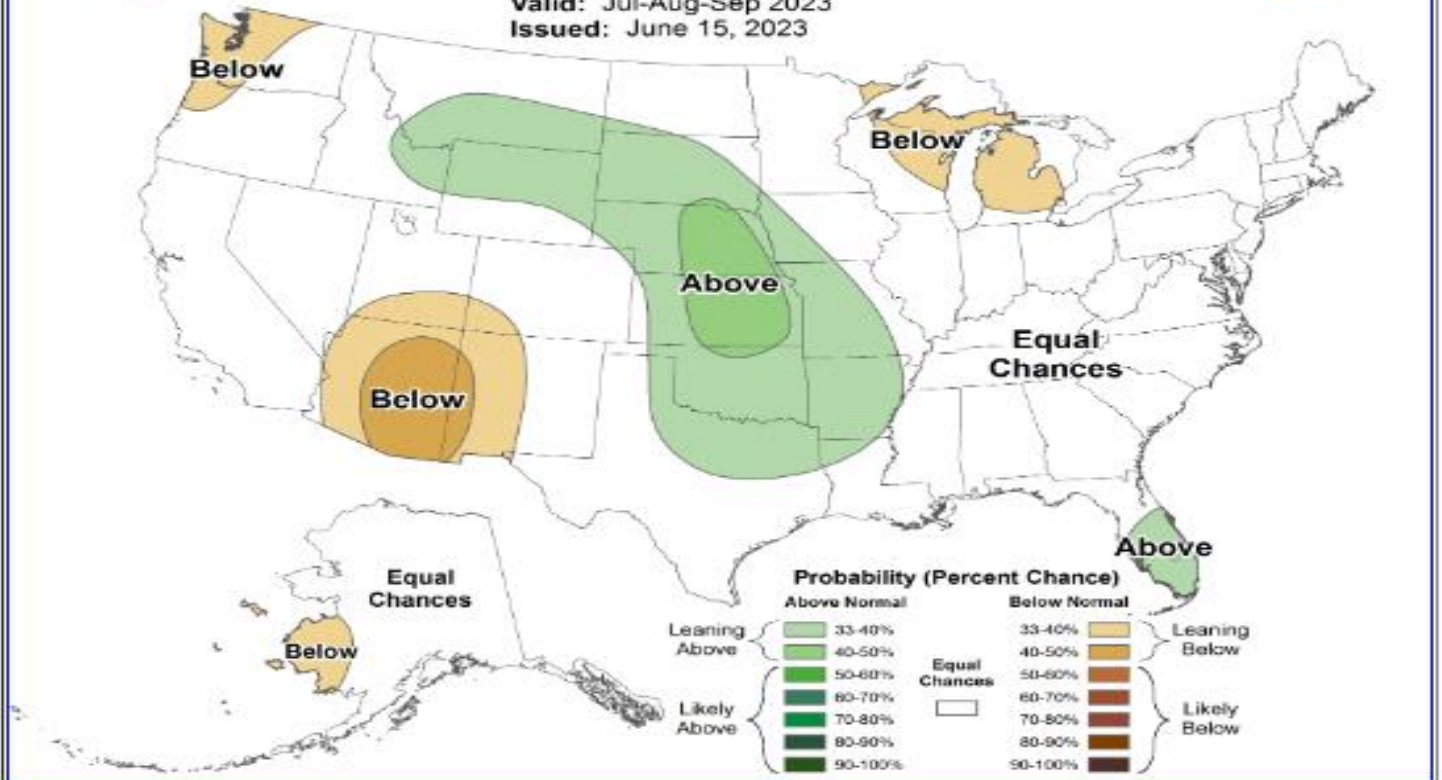




Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



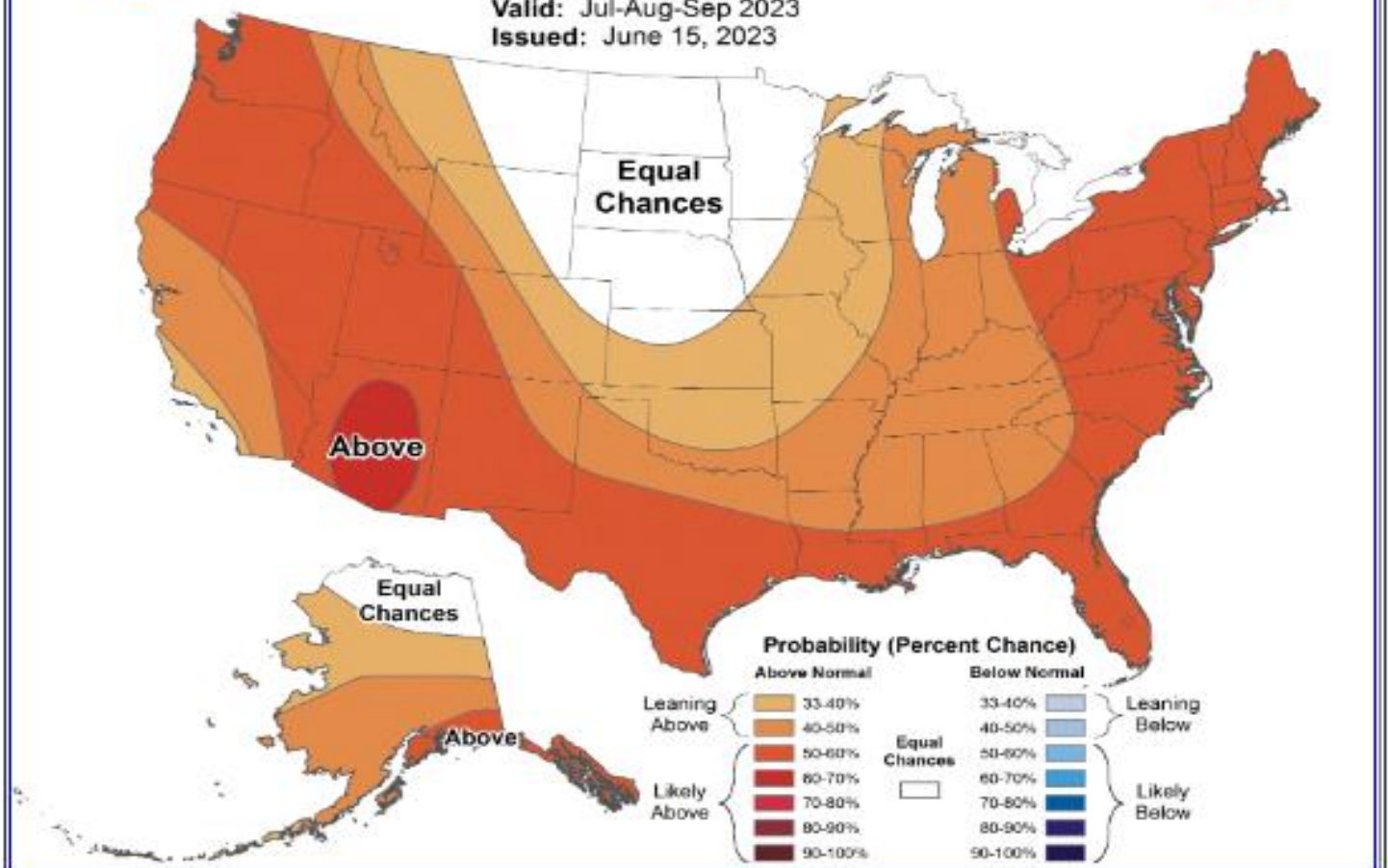
Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2023
Issued: June 15, 2023



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

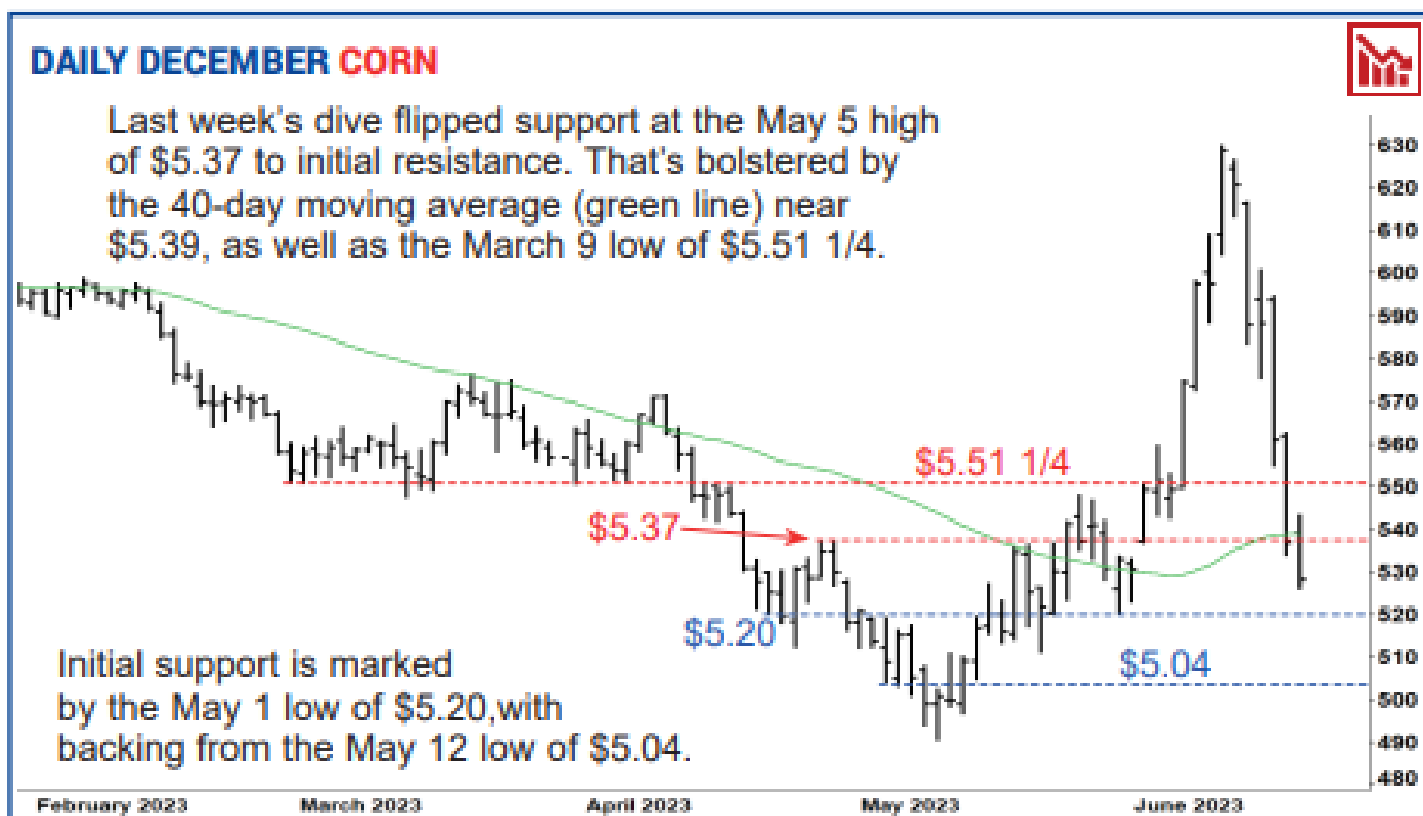


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CORN - Fundamental Analysis

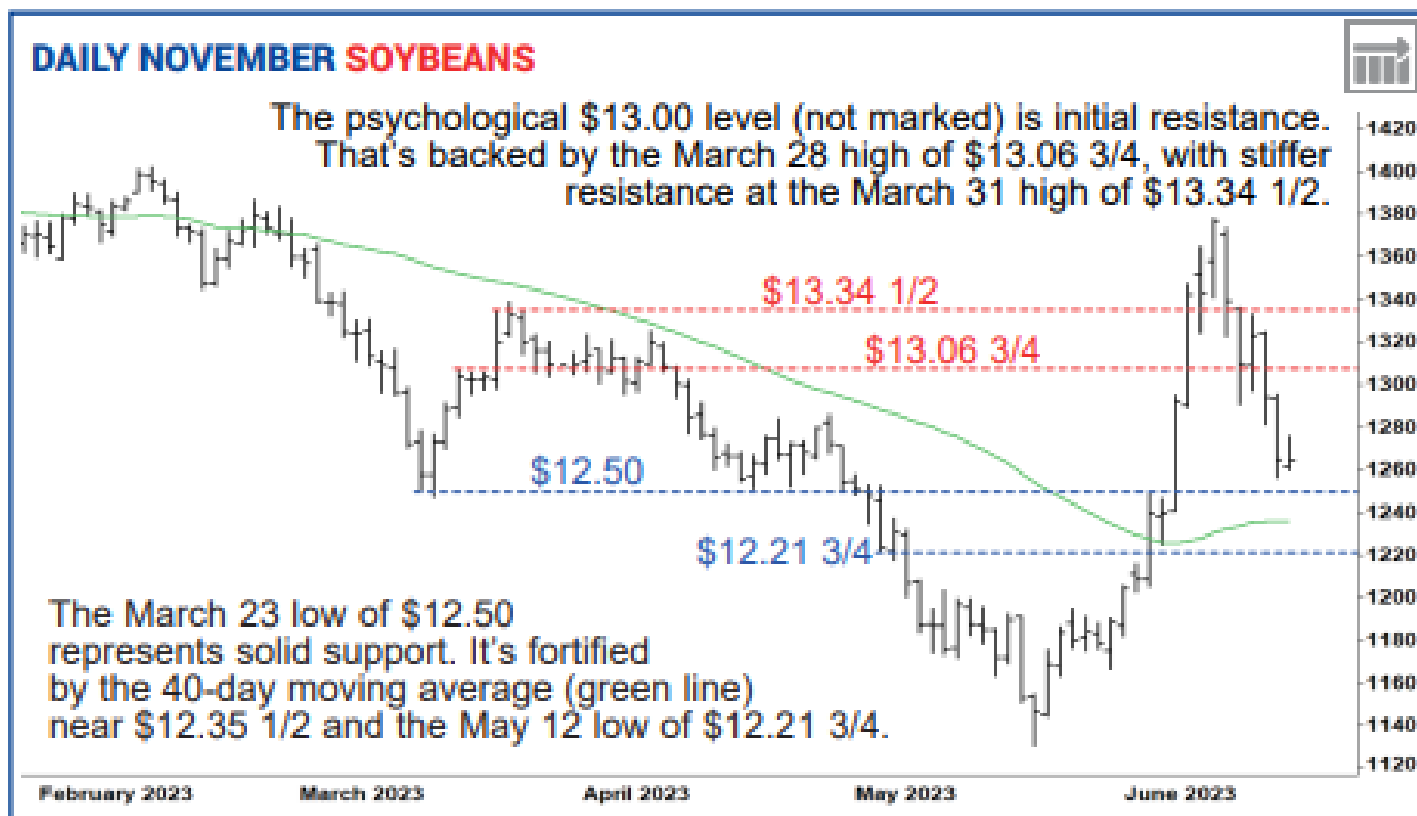
The late-June shift in the weather pattern looks much more conducive to corn production than the flash drought that came before. Forecasts of changing conditions caused the price dive leading up to USDA's Acreage and Grain Stocks Reports. Thus, the first weather rally of 2023 ended. But another rally can't be ruled out. The industry focuses heavily on the "good" to "excellent" ratings on the weekly USDA Crop Progress Reports, whereas the most important readings may prove to be the "poor" to "very poor" levels this year. That 15% figure for late June was second worst (1988 at 28%) on records extending back to 1986. Weather and money flow will dictate price action.



Harvest 2023

SOYBEANS - Fundamental Analysis

This year's soybean harvest could prove extremely interesting since the push to plant beans early was quickly followed by May-June dryness, with early crop condition ratings falling well below historical norms. Whether significant damage was done is moot at this time, since late-summer weather is most critical for yield potential. November futures are reminding us of this point, since the contract stabilized near the 50% retracement level prior to Friday's USDA reports, whereas December corn gave back nearly three-quarters of its spring surge. Expect continued fluctuations as weather forecasts change and be ready to advance sales if the market posts a fresh rally.



Owen Bradley got a visit from his niece, Paislee Bradley, during harvest, while running the combine. It was her first time to the harvest field.

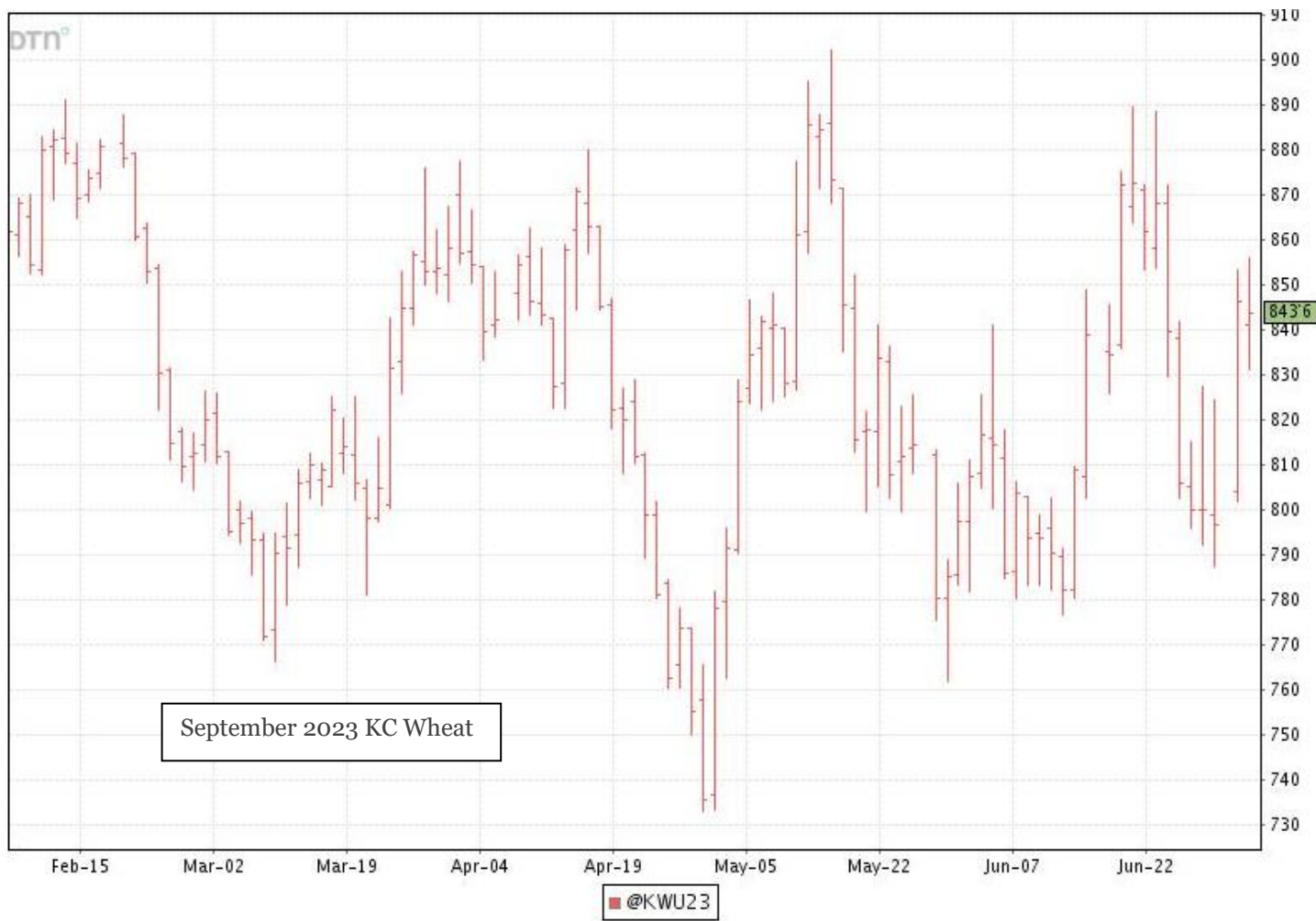
Steven Groot got several visits from his daughter, Aubrey, during harvest. Running the combine with her dad was exciting but exhausting!



HRW – Recent rains have the HRW harvest lagging, as exemplified by Kansas progress at 21% being 17 percentage points behind the five-year norm. Still, the moisture likely did little damage to the grain, meaning summer harvest pressure on prices may be extended. Look for action in the corn market to continue affecting prices.



Greg Plott, one of our grain cart operators, had a visit from his grandkids, Forest Plott and Paislee Bradley! This is Greg's second year helping us with harvest and his favorite part about it is, "Darcy's food!"

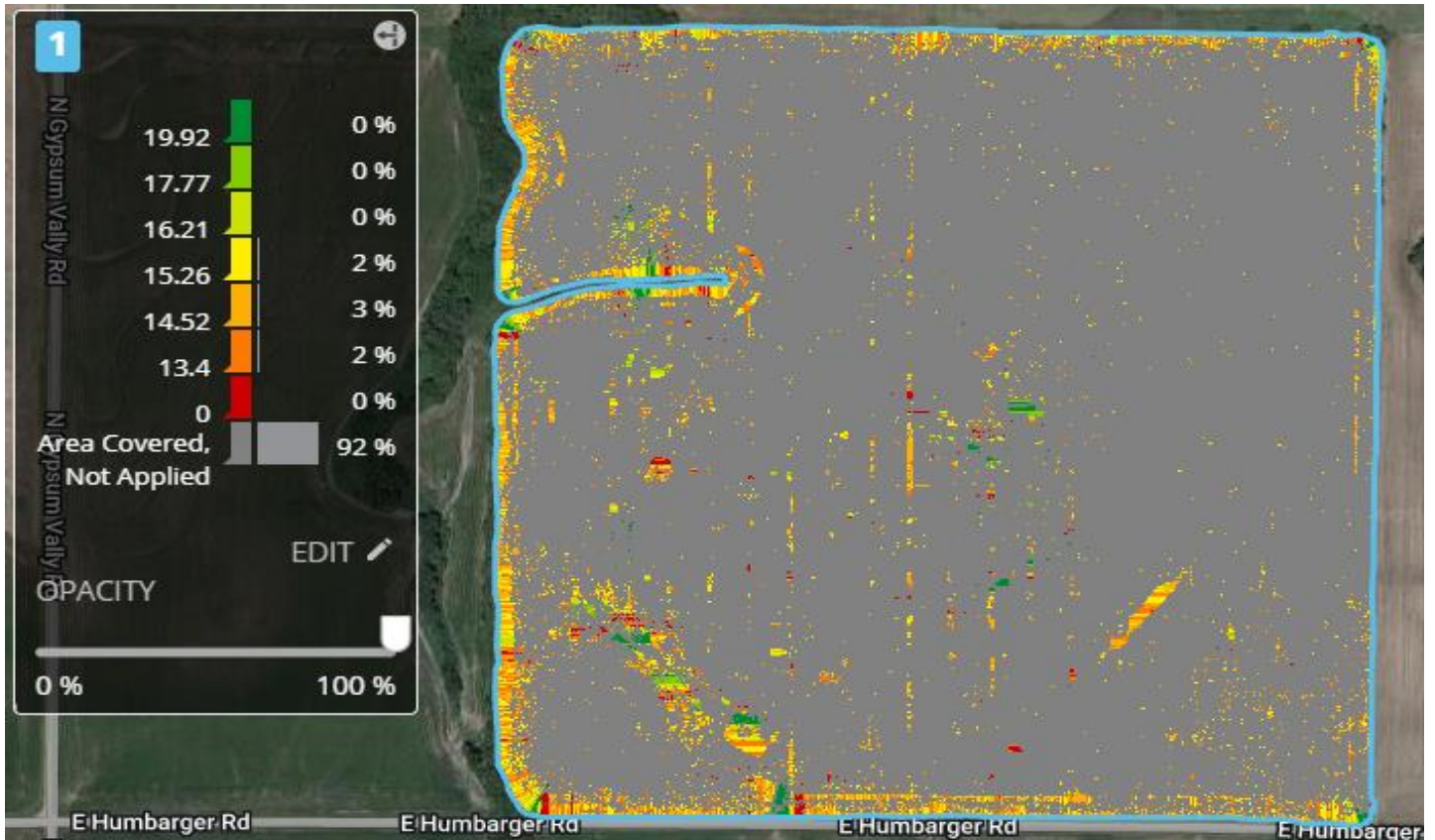


“The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn’t still be a farmer.”

- Will Rogers

See & Spray Ultimate Sprayer

Below is a map created by the new See & Spray Ultimate sprayer. This sprayer has cameras mounted along the boom, which gives it the ability to actually see weeds as it moves through the field. The Ultimate has two independent spraying systems, meaning two tanks, two pumps, two sets of plumbing, and two nozzles. This gives us the ability to spray our residual herbicides across the entire field while only spraying contact herbicides on emerged weeds. By only utilizing this chemical on the weeds we are able to save on chemical, depending on the weed pressure in the field. The above map shows the spots in the field where the cameras picked up weeds and consequently turned on the sprayer for the contact herbicide. This allowed us to save 92% of the chemical we would have otherwise wasted on this field!



We also began construction of a new machine shop. Our goal with the new shop is to be more efficient with our time during the winter months, by being able to have multiple pieces of equipment inside to service at a time. We will also turn our current shop into a fertilizer and chemical storage building, allowing us to preorder more inputs and keep better inventories of products. We are hoping to have construction wrapped up sometime in September.

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