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August 18, 2022

### **CME Group**

### Eat These Trades: Understanding Agricultural Commodities, Futures & Inflation

### **Tariq Dennison**

TEP, Wealth Manager GFM Asset Management

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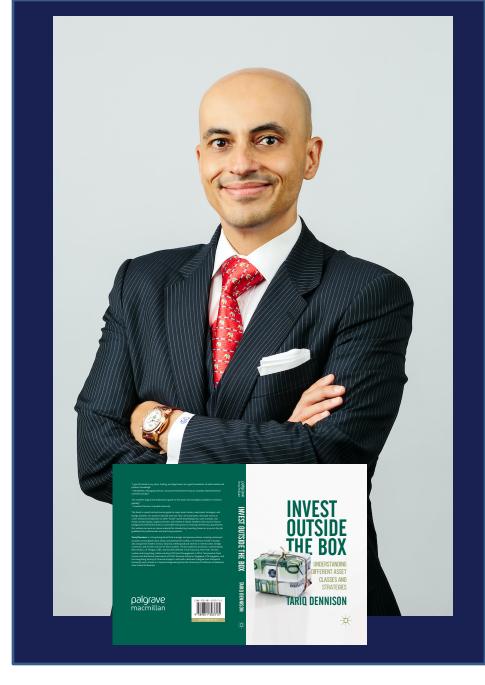
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### **About Tariq Dennison TEP**

- Independent Advisor Managing Accounts on the IBKR platform
  - US Advisor: GFM Asset Management LLC
  - HK Advisor: GFM Group Limited
- In the market since 1998
  - Commerzbank (NY, London, Frankfurt)
  - Bear Stearns (NY)
  - J.P. Morgan (NY)
  - Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
  - Societe Generale (HK)
- Masters in Financial Engineering
  - University of California at Berkeley
- Lecturer at ESSEC Singapore
  - Fixed Income
  - Alternative Assets
- "Neither Standard Nor Poor"
- Author "Invest Outside the Box"





### Agriculture Fundamentals

- The Bloomberg Index
- Grains
  - Corn
  - Wheat
- Oilseeds: Soy, Meal & Oil
- Livestock
  - Cattle (Beef)
    - Live vs Feeder
  - Hogs (Pork)

### Futures & Strategies

- Corn in detail
  - Full vs mini futures
  - Contango & backwardation
  - Options
- Wheat & soy futures
  - Chicago-Kansas Spread
  - Crush Spread
- Livestock futures



### The Bloomberg Commodity Index (formerly Dow Jones AIG)

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	Group	Commodity	Ticker	2022 Target Weight	2021 Target Weight
		WTI Crude Oil	CL	8.0368820%	8.1448320%
		Natural Gas	NG	7.9548670%	8.0720060%
		Brent Crude Oil	CO	6.9631180%	6.8551680%
	Energy	Low Sulphur Gas Oil	QS	2.6496240%	2.6415190%
		RBOB Gasoline	XB	2.1728010%	2.1791840%
		ULS Diesel	НО	2.0526330%	2.0820140%
				29.83%	29.97%
ľ		Corn	С	5.5899030%	5.5866490%
		Soybeans	S	5.7888440%	5.8174090%
		Soybean Meal	SM	3.5200260%	3.5987640%
	Grains	Wheat	W	2.8463610%	2.8850050%
		Soybean Oil	ВО	3.1716110%	3.1955900%
		HRW Wheat	KW	1.6636530%	1.5713880%
				22.58%	22.65%
		Copper	HG	5.3982920%	5.3937680%
l		Aluminum	LA	4.2457680%	4.2083970%
l	Industrial	Zinc	LX	3.1189270%	3.2468830%
l	Metals	Nickel	LN	2.7134270%	2.7139540%
				15.48%	15.56%
ŀ		Gold	GC	15.0000000%	14.6459560%
	Precious	Silver	SI	4.7468930%	4.3539140%
l	Metals			19.75%	19.00%
ŀ		Sugar	SB	2.7943260%	2.9870850%
		Coffee	KC	2.7333550%	2.7366190%
	Softs	Cotton	СТ	1.5032870%	1.5110980%
l				7.03%	7.23%
		Live Cattle	LC	3.5807520%	3.8464030%
	Livestock	Lean Hogs	LH	1.7546500%	1.7263950%
		- 3-		5.34%	5.57%
	⊜ 20	22 GEM Group		5.34%	

# Food was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest contributor to US CPI inflation this year

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Source: https://bls.gov/cpi





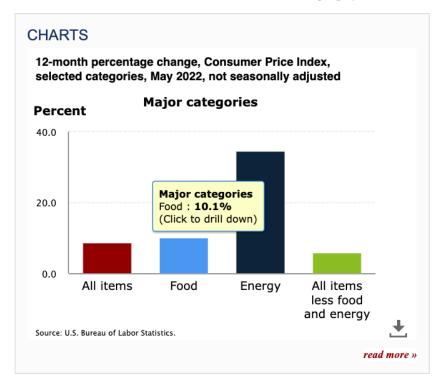
### **U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS**



### **Consumer Price Index**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a measure of the average change over time and services. Indexes are available for the U.S. and various geographic areas. Average





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### The futures we will be looking at today

	COMPANY NAME				CHAI	NGE
ZC ∞ Sep14'22 @ECBOT	Corn Futures	629	5.98K	420K	-8	-1.26%
YC ∞ Dec14'22 @ECBOT	Mini Sized Corn Futures	620 1/4	424	12.1K	-8 3/4	-1.39%
ZW ∞ Sep14'22 @ECBOT	Wheat Futures	838 1/2	6.46K	141K	-18	-2.10%
YW ∞ Sep14'22 @ECBOT	Mini Sized Wheat Futures	837	347	1.40K	-19 1/2	-2.28%
KE ∞ Sep14'22 @ECBOT	Hard Red Winter Wheat -KCBOT-	896 1/4	1.38K	76.6K	-19	-2.08%
ZS ∞ Nov14'22 @ECBOT	Soybean Futures	1385 1/2	14.4K	336K	-19 1/2	-1.39%
YK ∞ Nov14'22 @ECBOT	Mini Sized Soybean Futures	1385 3/4	590	22.6K	-19 1/4	-1.37%
ZM ∞ Dec14'22 @ECBOT	Soybean Meal Futures	397.50	3.11K	171K	-3.40	-0.85%
ZL ∞ Dec14'22 @ECBOT	Soybean Oil Futures	60.50	7.93K	137K	-0.81	-1.32%
LE ∞ Aug31'22 @GLOBEX	Live Cattle	c <b>136.150</b>	42.5K	81.7K		
HE ∞ Aug12'22 @GLOBEX	Lean Hogs	c108.375	23.2K	43.8K		
AIGCI ∞ Sep21'22 @ECBOT	Bloomberg Commodity Index	c116.38		66.4K		
GSCI ∞ Jul18'22 @GLOBEX	S&P-GSCI Index	c <b>702.30</b>		1.36K		

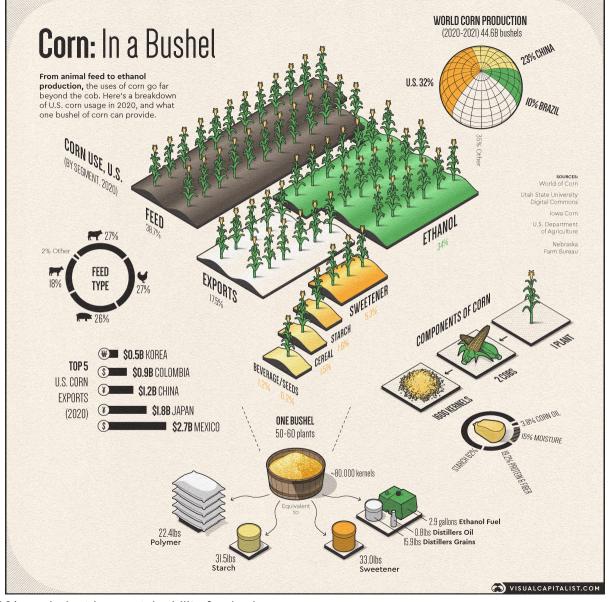
Source: Interactive Brokers, 12 July 2022



# O M



### Why it's the top American grain

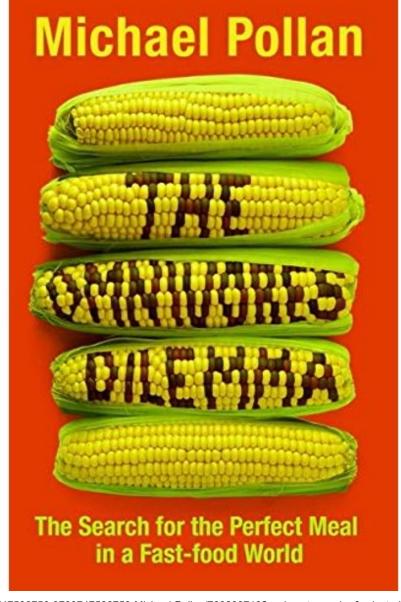


Source: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/06/corn-industries-sustainability-food-prices
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### Great book on how core corn is to the American diet:



Source: https://www.walmart.com/ip/The-Omnivore-s-Dilemma-Pre-Owned-Paperback-0747586756-9780747586753-Michael-Pollan/789288719?wmlspartner=wlpa&selectedSellerId=1719

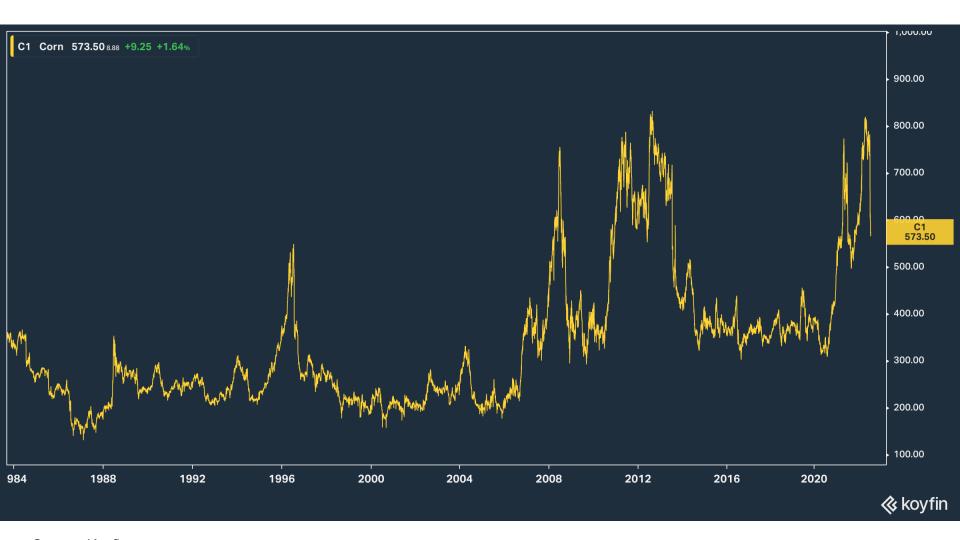
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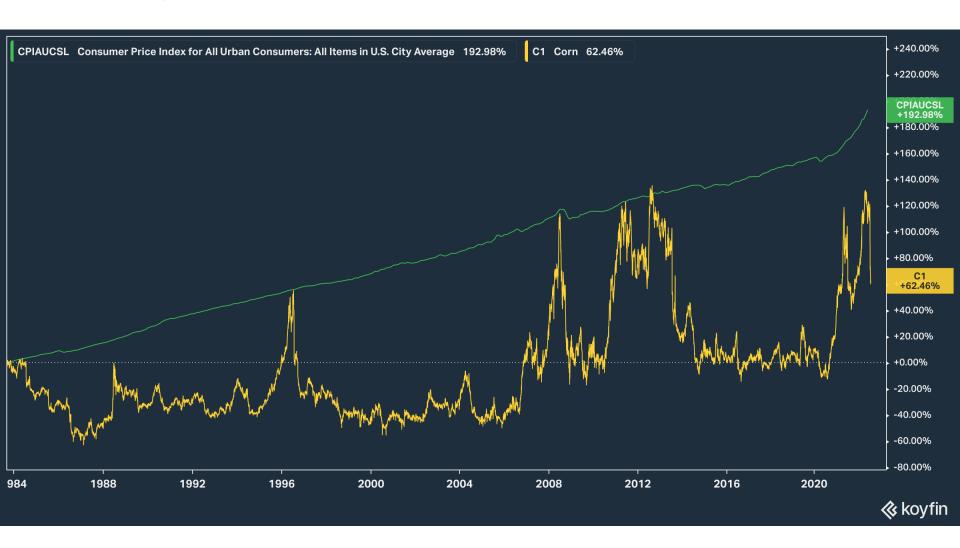
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### Corn prices over the years (front month)



Source: Koyfin

### ...now Corn vs Inflation...



Source: Koyfin

### **Drivers of Corn Demand**

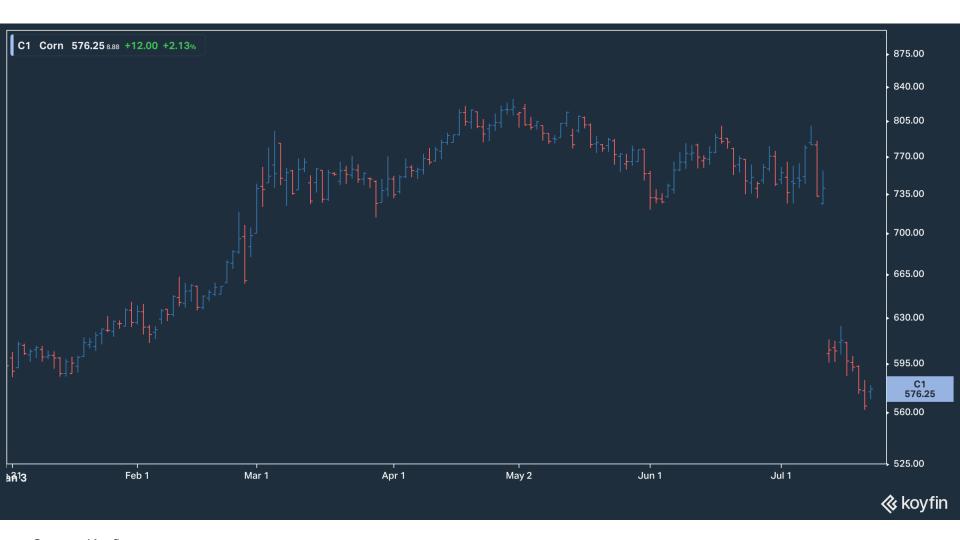
- Livestock markets & including for export
- Energy markets & prices, especially US gasoline
- Direct export markets
  - Mexico, Colombia
  - Japan, China, Korea
- Sugar markets & prices
- Packaged food chains

### **Drivers of Corn Supply**

- Stockpiles / elevators
- Current harvest / supply
  - Planned production
  - Fertilizer
  - Rainfall
- Import markets:
  - Canada, Argentina, Chile



### Corn prices in 2022 (front month)



Source: Koyfin

The current corn "curve"

OVERVIEW

QUOTES

SETTLEMENTS

**VOLUME & OI** 

SPECS

MARGINS

CALENDAR

TIME & SALES

монтн	OPTIONS	CHART	LAST	CHANGE	PRIOR SETTLE	OPEN	нібн	LOW	VOLUME	UPDATED
ZCU2	ОРТ	all	576'2	+12'0 (+2.13%)	564'2	574'2	579'0	569'0	8,695	25 Jul 2022
DEC 2022 ZCZ2	ОРТ	all	577'0	+12'6 (+2.26%)	564'2	575'0	580'0	570'0	23,757	06:49:58 CT 25 Jul 2022
MAR 2023 ZCH3	ОРТ	all	583'4	+12'4 (+2.19%)	571'0	581'6	586'4	576 ' 4	5,565	06:48:58 CT 25 Jul 2022
MAY 2023 ZCK3	ОРТ	all	586'0	+10'4 (+1.82%)	575'4	586'0	590'6	581'0	2,953	06:40:44 CT 25 Jul 2022
JUL 2023 ZCN3	ОРТ	all	588'0	+12'0 (+2.08%)	576'0	582'6	590'4	581'4	1,183	06:46:50 CT 25 Jul 2022
SEP 2023 ZCU3	ОРТ	all	562'6	+8'6 (+1.58%)	554'0	565'0	565'0	559'0	208	06:30:24 CT 25 Jul 2022
DEC 2023 ZCZ3	ОРТ	all	555'0	+9'0 (+1.65%)	546'0	551'6	556'0	549'6	386	06:42:47 CT 25 Jul 2022
MAR 2024 ZCH4	ОРТ	all	561'6	+7'6 (+1.40%)	554'0	564'0	564'0	559'6	10	05:54:59 CT 25 Jul 2022
MAY 2024 ZCK4	ОРТ	all	-	-	557'4	-	-	-	0	16:00:00 CT 24 Jul 2022
JUL 2024 ZCN4	ОРТ	all	-	-	556'2	-	-	-	0	16:00:00 CT 24 Jul 2022
SEP 2024 ZCU4	ОРТ	all	-	-	523'2	-	-	-	0	16:00:00 CT 24 Jul 2022
DEC 2024 ZCZ4	ОРТ	all	525'0	+9'0 (+1.74%)	516'0	525'0	525'0	525'0	2	05:58:09 CT 25 Jul 2022
JUL 2025 ZCN5	ОРТ	all	-	-	522'0	-	-	-	0	16:00:00 CT 24 Jul 2022
DEC 2025 ZCZ5	ТЧО	all	500'0	+4'4 (+0.91%)	495'4	500'0	500'0	500'0	1	19:00:09 CT 24 Jul 2022

Source: CME

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**FUTURES** 

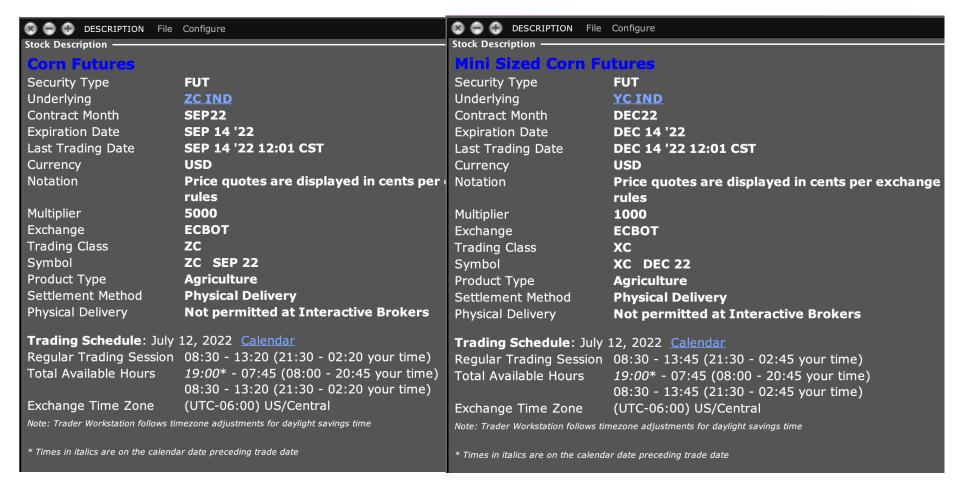
OPTIONS +

### Corn curve on IBKR TWS

		LAST	CHAI	NGE	FUT OI	VLM
ZC Sep14'22 @ECBOT	•	568	+3 3/4	0.66%	363K	34.3K
ZC Dec14'22 @ECBOT	•	570	+5 3/4	1.02%	605K	64.8K
ZC Mar14'23 @ECBOT	•	577	+6	1.05%	140K	10.8K
ZC May12'23 @ECBOT	•	581	+5 1/2	0.96%	63.0K	5.55K
ZC Jul14'23 @ECBOT	•	582	+6	1.04%	72.4K	3.94K
ZC Sep14'23 @ECBOT	•	556 3/4	+2 3/4	0.50%	17.2K	770
ZC Dec14'23 @ECBOT	•	547 1/4	+1 1/4	0.23%	59.1K	1.18K
ZC Mar14'24 @ECBOT	•	560 1/2	+6 1/2	1.17%	3.37K	17
ZC May14'24 @ECBOT	•	c557 1/2			951	
ZC Jul12'24 @ECBOT	•	c556 1/4			654	
ZC Sep13'24 @ECBOT	•	c523 1/4			45	
ZC Dec13'24 @ECBOT	•	522	+6	1.16%	3.37K	7
ZC Jul14'25 @ECBOT	•	c <b>522</b>			8	
ZC Dec12'25 @ECBOT	•	500	+4 1/2	0.91%	634	1

Source: IBKR TWS

### Corn and its mini: 5,000 vs 1,000 bushels\*



### \* 1 bushel = 8 US gallons, or around 35.2 liters volume

Source: Interactive Brokers, 12 July 2022

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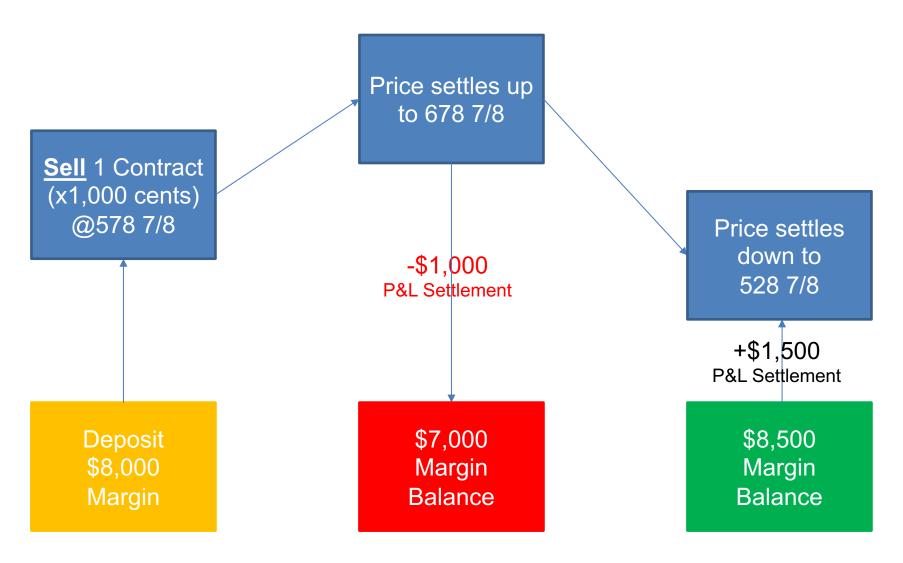
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### Sample Mini Corn Futures Trade





### **How Futures Settlements Work**



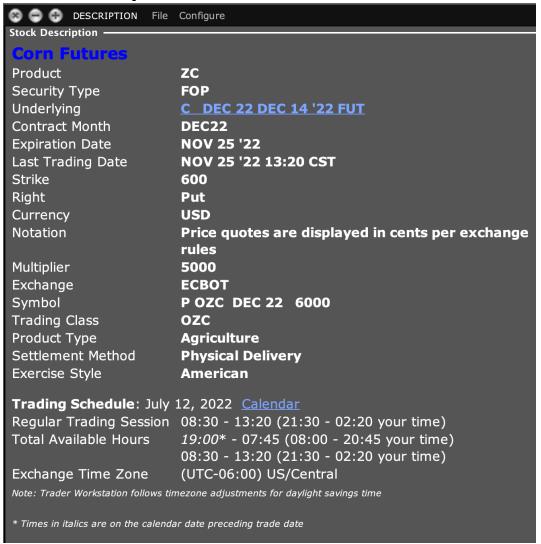


A quick look at options on corn futures

9 0 z	C ∞ Dec14'2	2 @ECBOT▼	PUT/CALLs (Si	ide by Side) ▼										575 1,	<mark>/2</mark> +11 1/4 (+	1.99%) ?	
OCT OZC / DEC OZC 5000 88 DAYS		/ DEC'23 DCD 5000 DAYS	NOV OZC / DEC OZC 5000 123 DAYS	NOV / DEC'23 OCD 5000 123 DAYS	MORE ▼					TABBED '	VIEW <b>~</b> F	PUT/CAL	L ▼ AI	I STRIKES ▼	ECBOT▼ TF	RADING CLA	.SS▼ 5000
			C	ALLS									PUT				IV: 31.4
TN OP	VOLUME I	BID SIZE		x ASK	DELTA IN	1PLD V	ASK SIZE	STRIKE	OPTN OP	VOLUME	BID SIZE		BIDx		DELTA	IMPLD V	ASK SIZE
565		8	• 145 3/4	x 147 •	0.964	30.2%	32	430	1.00K		220		1 1/2 x 1	5/8 •	-0.037	29.5%	3,582
210		8	• 136 1/4	x 137 1/2 •	0.956	29.2%	32	440	23.7K		3,382		1 7/8 x 2	1/8 •	-0.046	29%	10,115
454		1	• 127 1/8	x 127 5/8 •	0.943	28.5%	1	450	5.45K	158	698		2 1/2 x 2	3/4 •	-0.059	28.6%	8,346
223		1	• 117 7/8 >	x 118 1/2 •	0.926	28.5%	1	460	5.82K	108	2,381		3 1/4 x 3	1/2 •	-0.076	28.4%	5,037
1.15K		1	• 108 7/8	x 109 5/8 •	0.908	28.1%	11	470	3.22K	1	5,314		4 1/4 x 4	1/2 •	-0.094	28.1%	393
882		1	• 100 1/4	x 101 •	0.884	27.9%	11	480	3.31K	3	1,301		5 5/8 x 5	7/8 •	-0.118	28%	799
1.11K		1	• 92 1/8	x 92 3/4 •	0.856	28.2%	11	490	5.56K	10	473	•	7 3/8 x 7	5/8 •	-0.146	28.2%	574
5.03K		1	• 84 1/4	x 84 7/8 •	0.825	28.5%	1	500	19.9K	294	592		9 1/2 x 9	3/4 •	-0.177	28.4%	10
720		1	• 77 >	x 77 5/8 •	0.790	28.6%	1	510	6.74K	780	208	•	12 1/4 x 1	2 1/2 •	-0.212	28.6%	64
1.23K		1	• 70 1/4	x 70 7/8 •	0.753	29%	11	520	9.00K	182	257		15 3/8 x 1	5 5/8 •	-0.249	29.1%	10
4.69K		11	• 64	x 64 5/8 •	0.713	29.7%	17	530	9.64K	110	10	•	19 1/8 x 1	9 3/8 •	-0.289	29.5%	102
2.47K	10	1	• 58 3/8	x 58 7/8 •	0.673	29.8%	1	540	25.1K	186	282		23 1/4 x 2	3 5/8 •	-0.329	29.9%	92
8.34K	449	10	• 53 1/8	x 53 5/8 •	0.633	30.6%	66	550	22.1K	100	10	•	28 x 2	8 1/4 •	-0.369	30.4%	72
3.78K	18	53	• 48 1/4	x 48 3/4 •	0.594	30.7%	5	560	6.77K	402	180		33 x 3	3 3/8 •	-0.409	30.9%	16
4.78K	55	46	<ul> <li>43 7/8 x</li> </ul>	x 44 3/8 •	0.555	31.3%	93	570	7.27K	373	231	•	38 1/2 x 3	8 7/8 •	-0.447	31.4%	10
7.74K	308	34	• 39 7/8	x 40 1/4 •	0.518	31.8%	10	580	12.5K	867	25		44 1/2 x 4	4 3/4 •	-0.485	31.8%	10
6.32K	126	2	• 36 1/4	x 36 5/8 •	0.482	32.1%	35	590	8.62K	55	43		50 5/8 x 5	1 1/8 •	-0.521	32.1%	59
26.9K	528	8	• 32 7/8	x 33 1/4 •	0.448	32.5%	35	600	31.6K	270	20		57 1/4 x 5	7 5/8 •	-0.555	32.5%	10
7.42K	69	60	• 29 3/4 x	x 30 1/8 •	0.416	32.8%	60	610	8.66K	4	102	•	64 x 6	4 1/2 •	-0.588	33%	10
10.8K	1.19K	8	• 27	x 27 3/8 •	0.385	33.1%	25	620	11.6K	165	26		71 1/8 x 7	1 3/4 •	-0.619		11
7.45K	45	10	• 24 1/2	x 24 3/4 •	0.357	33.8%	16	630	11.1K	10	21	•	78 1/2 x 7	9 1/8 •	-0.648		11
11.2K	554	64	• 22 1/8		0.329	34.1%	10	640	10.7K		27		86 1/8 x 8	6 3/4 •	-0.676		11
26.5K	419	91	• 20 x	x 20 3/8 •	0.303	34.4%	111	650	15.4K	153	1		94 x 9	4 5/8 •	-0.702		11
12.6K	71	55	• 18 1/8		0.280	34.5%	155	660	5.25K	105	16		102 x 1	02 5/8 •	-0.725		1
9.95K	125	10	• 16 1/2	x 16 3/4 •	0.257	35%	37	670	4.18K		1	• 1	10 1/4 x 1	10 7/8 •	-0.748		1
11.4K	304	296	• 14 7/8		0.237	35.3%	10	680	9.08K		1		18 5/8 x 1		-0.769		1
4.24K	88	428	• 13 1/2		0.219	35.5%	64	690	2.35K		1		27 1/4 x 1		-0.788		1
36.5K	367	609	• 12 1/4 >		0.201	35.9%	10	700	11.8K	83	1		35 7/8 x 1		-0.805		1
6.08K		3	• 11 1/4 >		0.186	36.3%	445	710	2.57K		1		44 3/4 x 1		-0.822		1
14.3K	1.03K	11	• 10 1/4 >		0.171	36.6%	1,450	720	4.31K		1		53 3/4 x 1		-0.836		1
6.81K		4	• 9 3/8 3		0.158	37%	10	730	1.14K	25	11		62 3/4 x 1		-0.850		1
6.10K	1	686		x 8 3/4 •	0.146	37.5%	208	740	2.68K		1		172 x 1		-0.862		1
38.6K	110	1,323	• 7 3/4 3	x 8 •	0.134	37.6%	17	750	2.62K		1	• 1	81 1/4 x 1	81 7/8 •	-0.874	37.6%	1

Source: Interactive Brokers, 25 July 2022

### Description of this option on corn futures



Source: Interactive Brokers, 12 July 2022

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### Sample Put Write: 540 Strike Nov/Dec





## Moleat



### The two types of wheat we'll look at trading: SOFT RED WINTER (Chicago)



Soft Red Winter (SRW) is a profitable choice for producing a wide range of confectionary products like cookies, crackers and cakes, and for blending for baguettes and other bread products.

**LEARN MORE** 

### HARD RED WINTER (Kansas)



Versatile, with excellent milling and baking characteristics for wheat foods like hearth breads, hard rolls, croissants and flat breads. Hard Red Winter (HRW) is also an ideal wheat choice for some types of Asian noodles, general purpose flour and as an improver for blending.

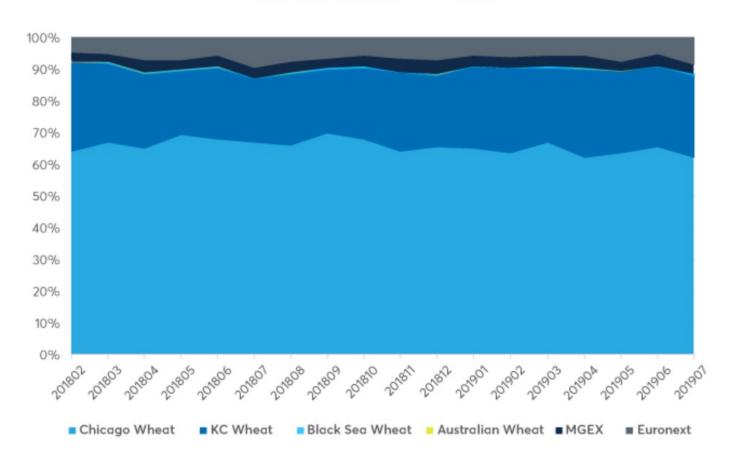
**LEARN MORE** 

Source: https://www.uswheat.org/working-with-buyers/wheat-classes/



### Global Wheat Futures Market Share

### Market Share - Wheat

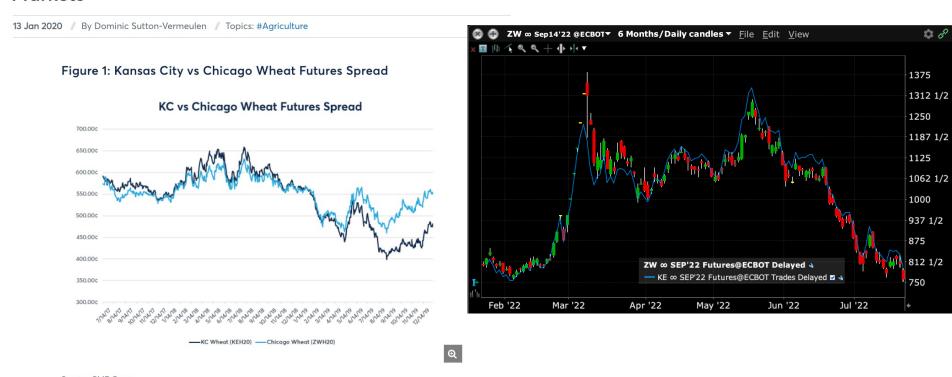


Source: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/wheat-futures.html

Any stock, options or futures symbols displayed are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to portray recommendations. There is a substantial risk of loss in trading futures and options. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

GFM ASSET MANAGEMENT

### Kansas City vs. Chicago Wheat Spread: A Tale of Two Markets

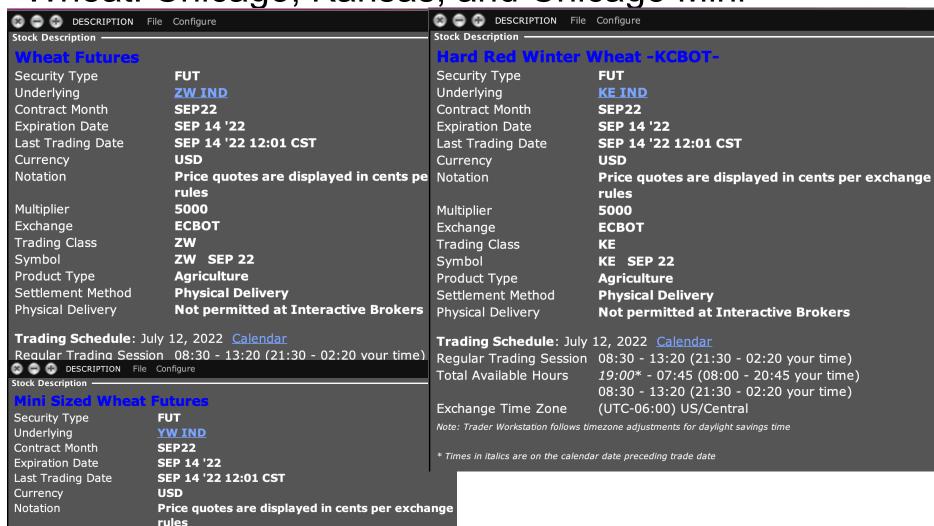


Source: CME Group

Starting in 2019 and going into 2020, The Kansas City Wheat futures (KE) contract has been trading at an unusual discount relative to Chicago Wheat futures (ZW). With the Mar 2020 KE contract trading at a 75 cent per bushel discount and the Dec 2020 KE contract trading at a 65 cent per bushel discount, the market's current expectations imply continued tightness in the Chicago Wheat market compared to KC throughout 2020.

Source: https://www.cmegroup.com/education/articles-and-reports/kc-vs-chicago-wheat-spread-a-tale-of-two-markets.html, IBKR

### Wheat: Chicago, Kansas, and Chicago Mini



Source: Interactive Brokers, 12 July 2022

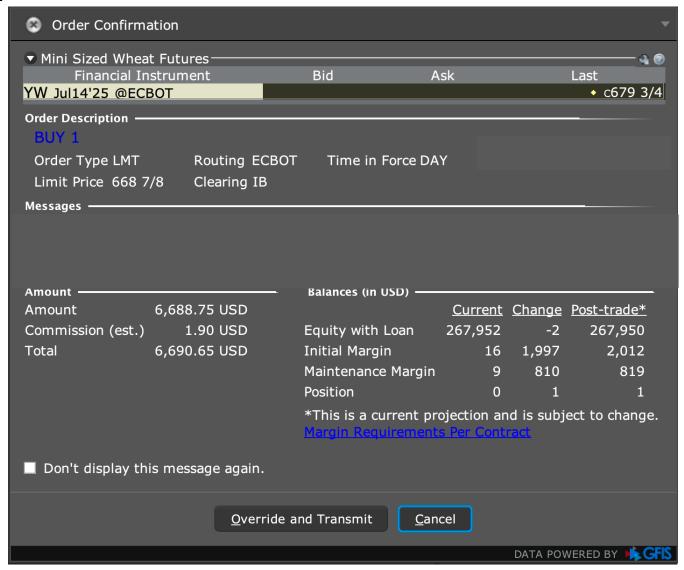
1000

Multiplier

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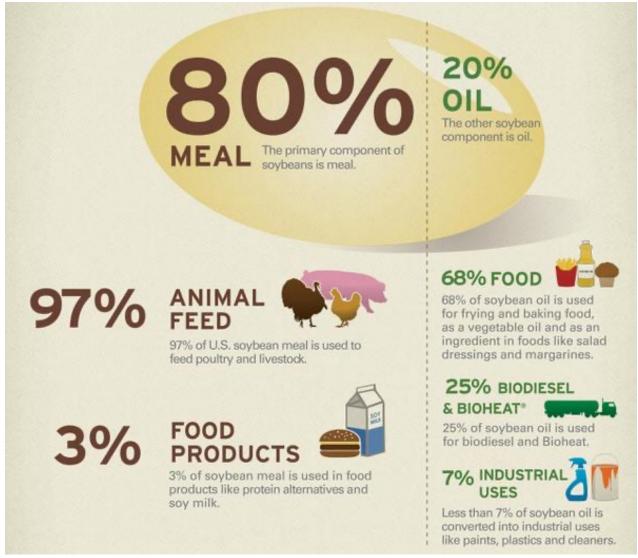
27

### Sample Mini Wheat Futures Trade



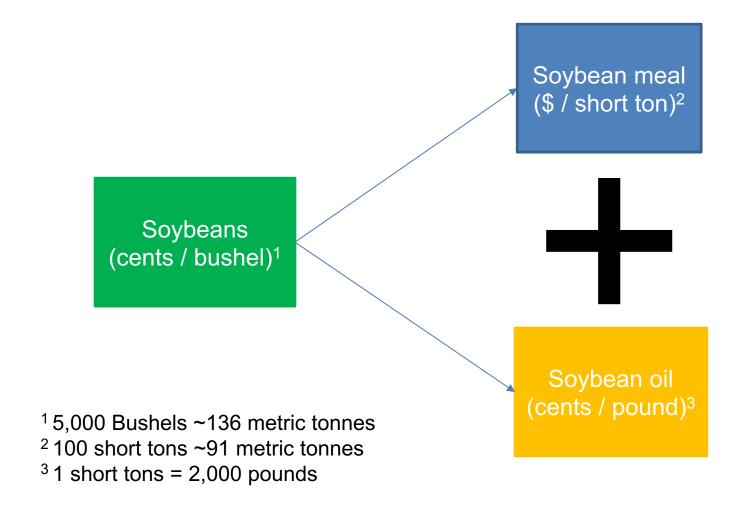


### What's in a soybean?



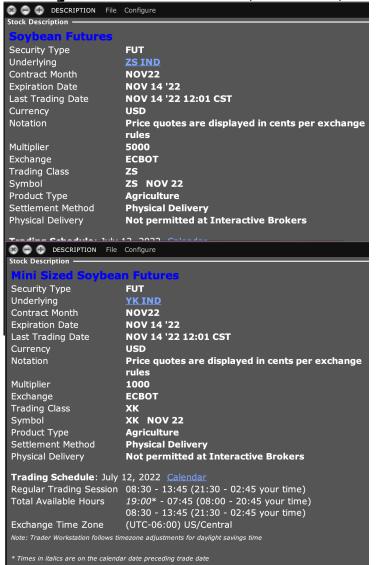
Source: https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/north-carolina-soybean-production-guide/soybean-facts
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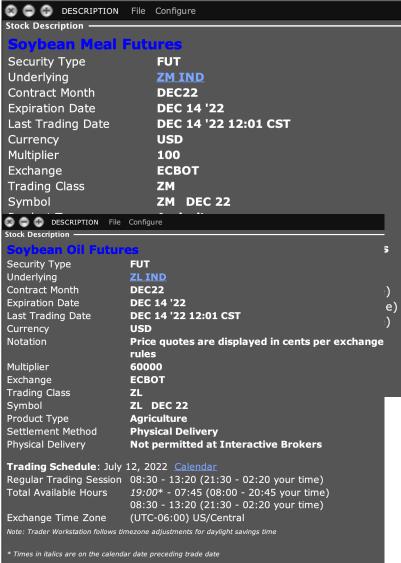
### The "Crush Spread"





Soy: Standard, Mini, Meal an<u>d Oil</u>







Sample Mini Soy Futures Trade





### Livestock



### Life cycle of beef cattle



Source: https://www.pabeef.org/raising-beef/beef-lifecycle

### The Feeder Cattle-Live Cattle Spread In 2022



Source: Koyfin

### Why pork is (often) cheaper than beef

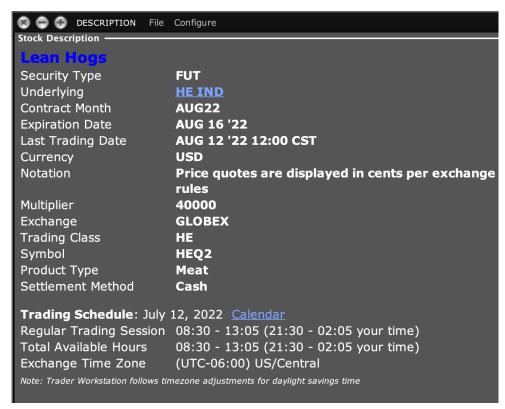
- 1. Hogs grow faster than cattle, and tend to have more piglets
- 2. Hogs are omnivores, with cheaper feeding options than with cattle
- 3. Hog processing is more automated, requiring fewer employees to transport and butcher
- 4. More of a hog can be eaten, meaning less waste

Source: https://carnivorestyle.com/why-is-pork-cheaper-than-beef/



### 🙉 🖨 🚯 DESCRIPTION File Configure Stock Description Security Type **FUT** Underlying **LE IND** Contract Month AUG22 **Expiration Date** AUG 31 '22 AUG 31 '22 12:00 CST Last Trading Date Currency USD Price quotes are displayed in cents per exchange Notation rules 40000 Multiplier **GLOBEX** Exchange LE Trading Class LEQ2 Symbol Product Type Meat Settlement Method **Physical Delivery** Physical Delivery **Not permitted at Interactive Brokers** 🔞 🛑 🚯 DESCRIPTION File Configure Stock Description -Security Type **FUT** Underlying **GFIND** Contract Month SEP22 **SEP 30 '22 Expiration Date** Last Trading Date SEP 29 '22 12:00 CST Currency Notation Price quotes are displayed in cents per exchange rules 50000 Multiplier Exchange **GLOBEX** Trading Class GF GFU<sub>2</sub> Symbol Meat Product Type Settlement Method Cash Trading Schedule: July 25, 2022 Calendar Regular Trading Session 08:30 - 13:05 (21:30 - 02:05 your time) 08:30 - 13:05 (21:30 - 02:05 your time) Total Available Hours Exchange Time Zone (UTC-06:00) US/Central Note: Trader Workstation follows timezone adjustments for daylight savings time Margin Information -**Margin Requirements Per Contract More** 8554.63 USD Initial Maintenance 6843.70 USD

## Cattle & Hogs Futures Specs in cents per pound (options available)





### Sample Lean Hogs Futures Trade



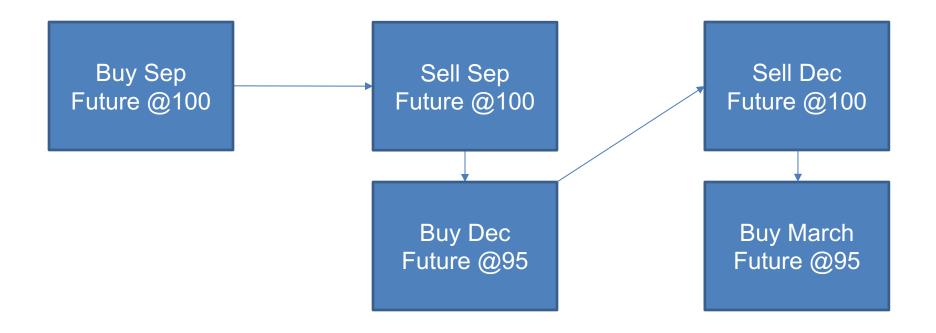


# ndex



### **Very Important: Backwardation**

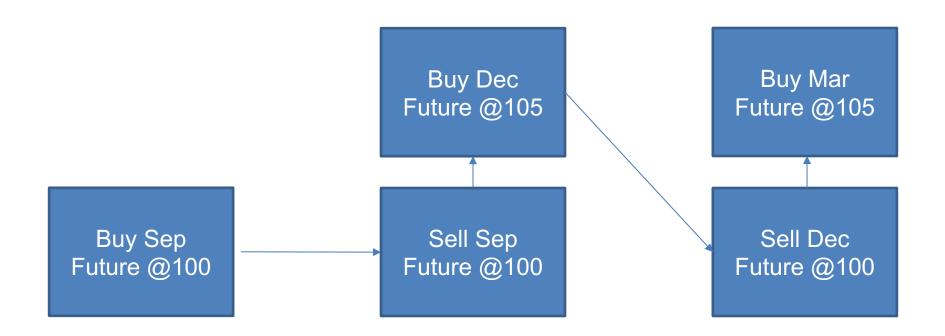
Here, you profit 5/contract/quarter even the underlying "remains" at 100 through Sep->Dec





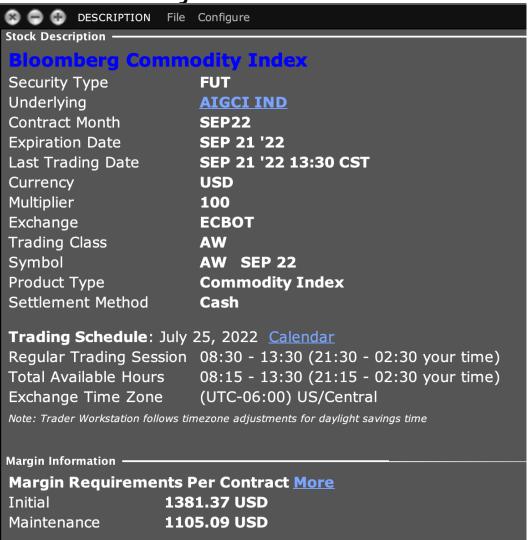
### ... vs Contango

Here, you <u>lose</u> 5/contract/quarter even the underlying "remains" at 100 through Sep->Dec



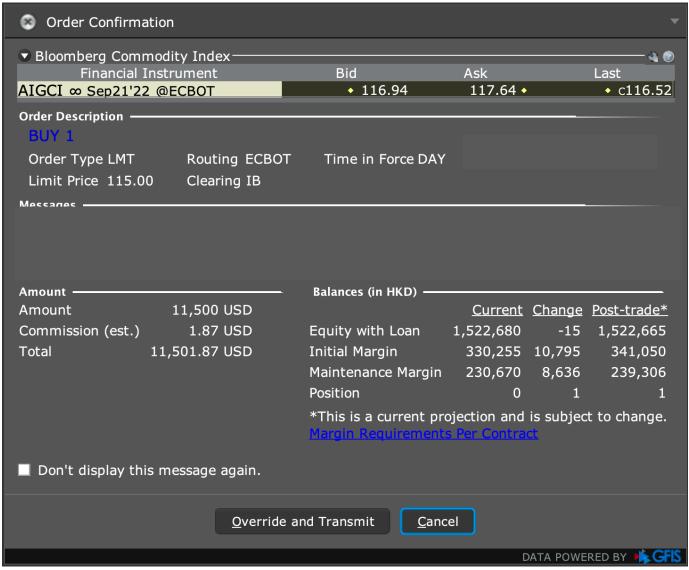


Bloomberg Commodity Index Futures



Source: Interactive Brokers, 25 July 2022

### Sample Index Futures Trade



### Forming your Agricultural Commodities Strategy

- Do you have a timely view on a specific commodity or spread, or are you seeking a more permanent risk allocation?
- Is your strategy more triggered on fundamentals, or on technical / momentum factors?
- How will you factor in contango / backwardation and what the options market tells you?
- Is it better to implement your strategy with the micro futures, full sized, or options?

## Questions?

**GFM Contact** 

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