



WEBINAR:

The year ahead in the agricultural economy

January 22, 2026

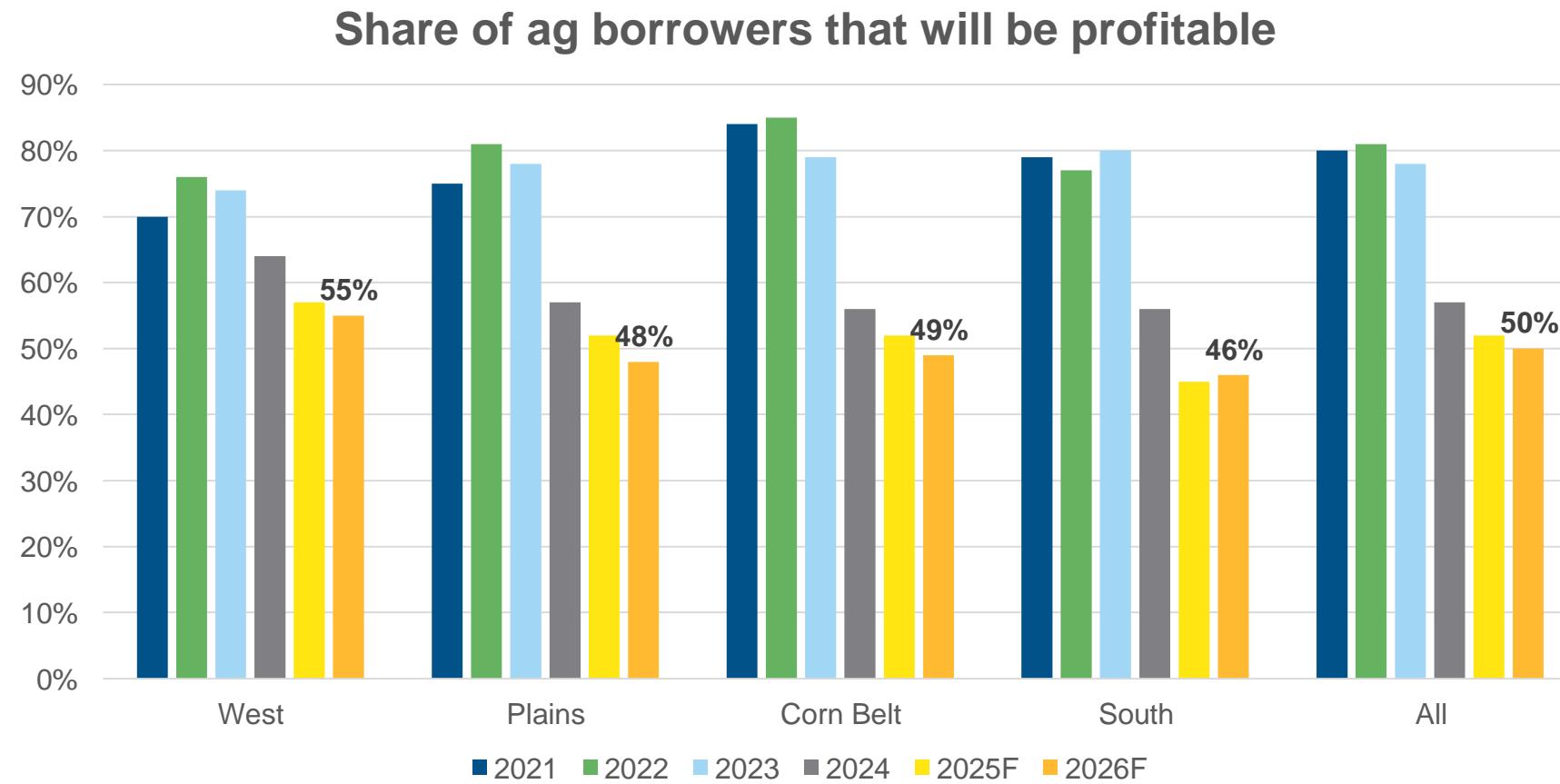




Agricultural Economic Outlook

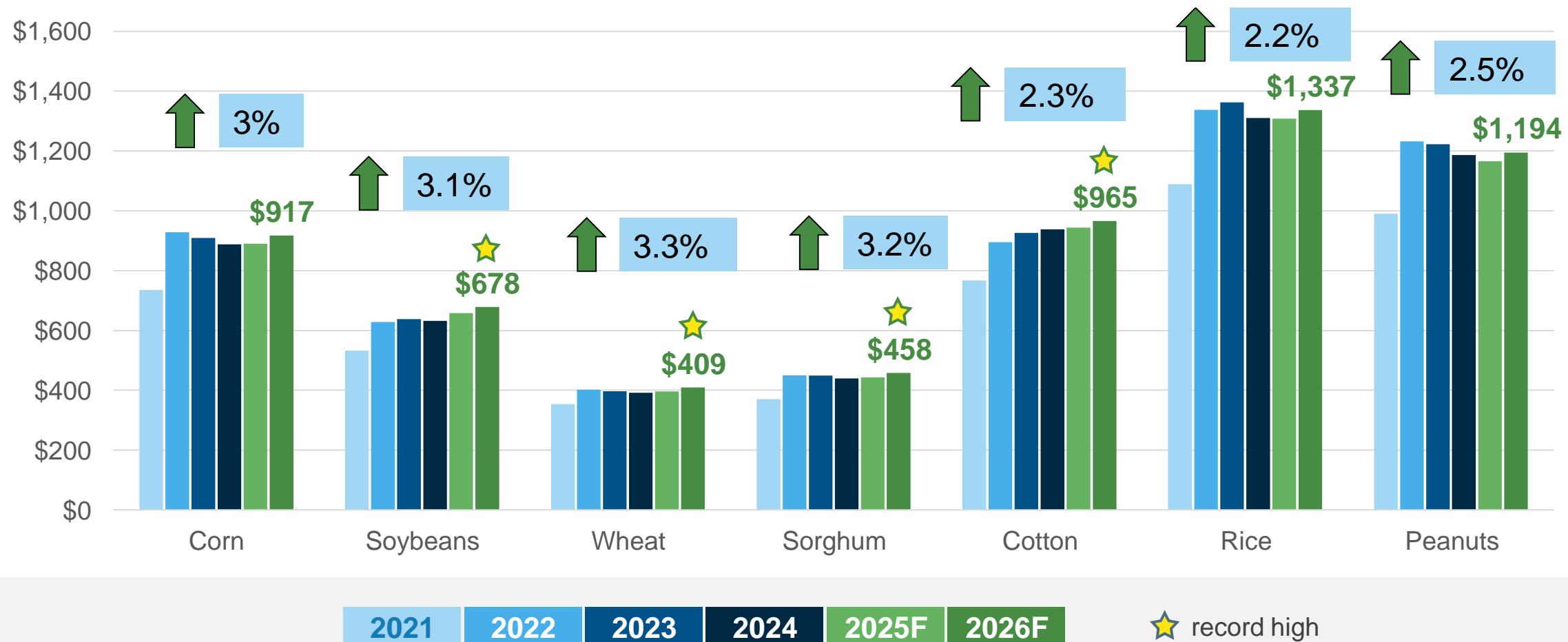
Ag profitability is declining considerably from recent highs

Only half of ag borrowers projected to be profitable in 2026



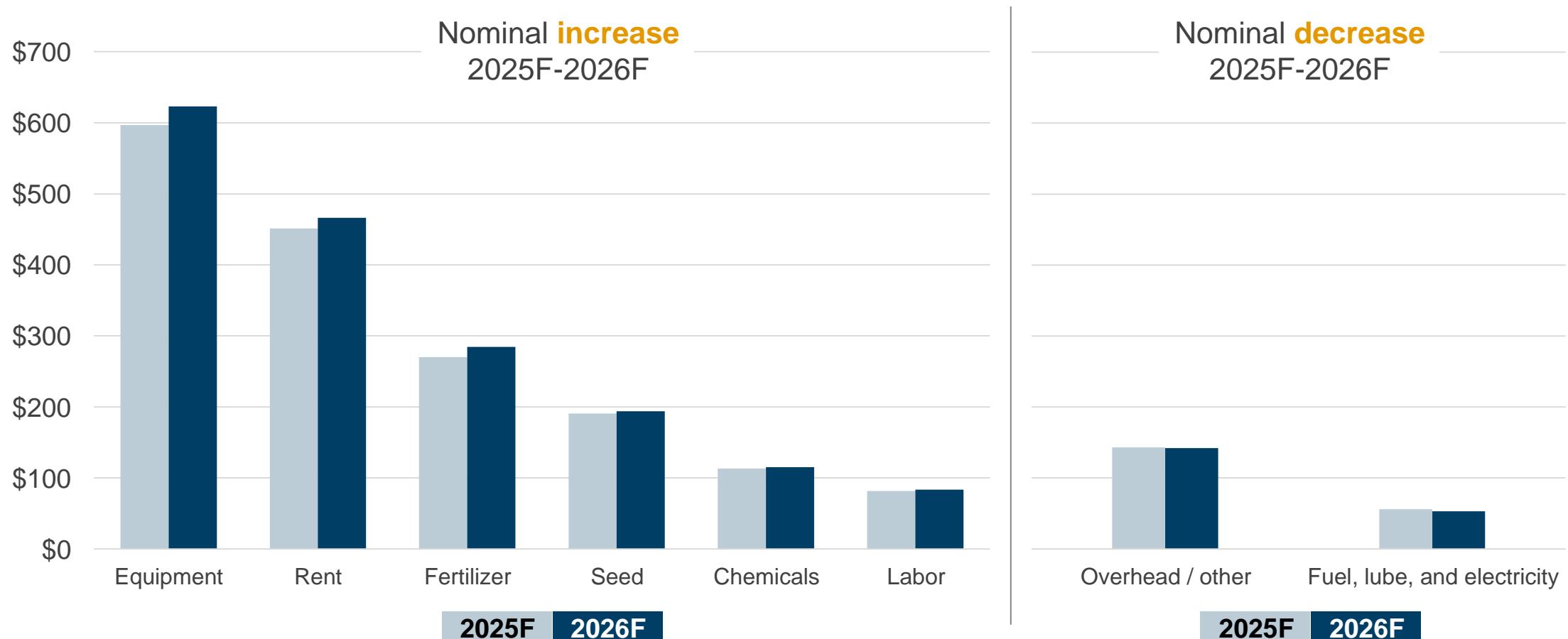
Input costs to reach record highs in many crops

Cost-of-production forecast for major crops (total cost per acre)



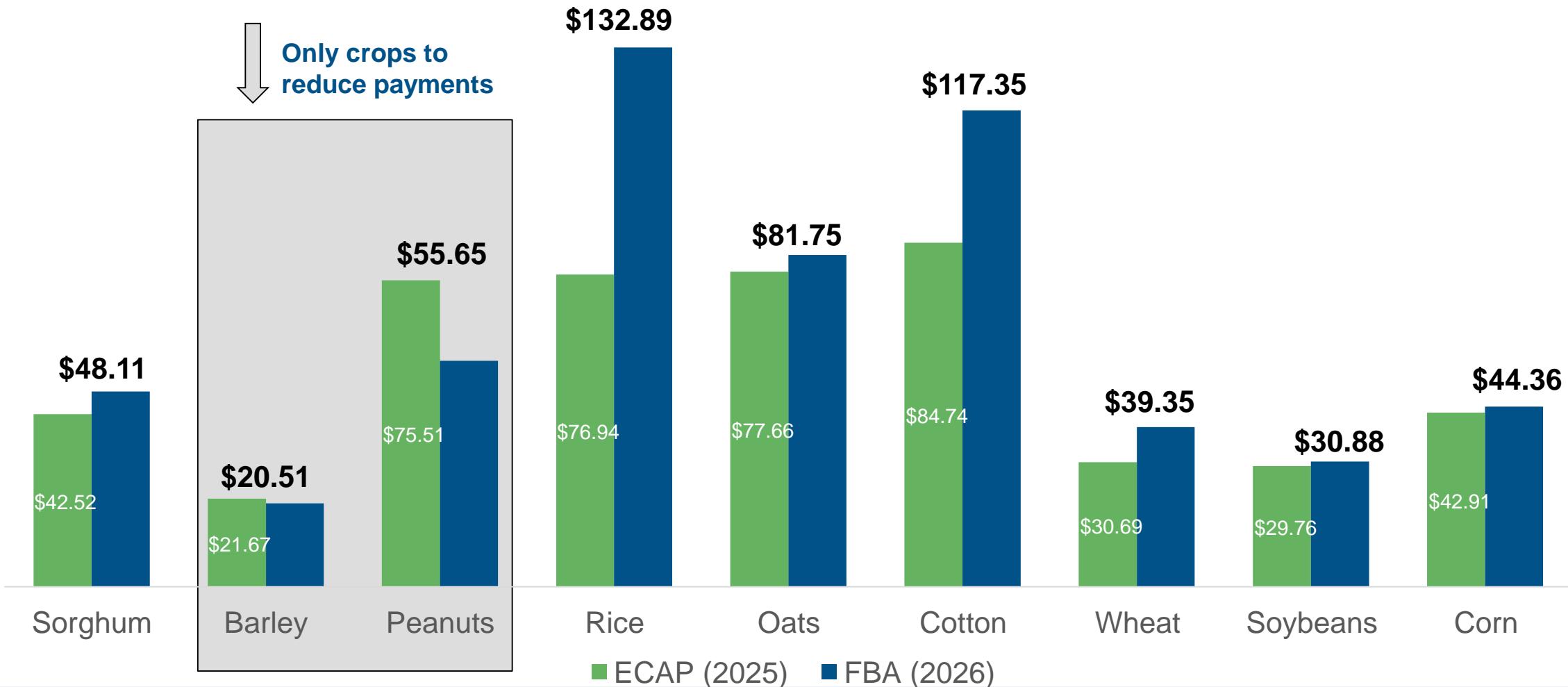
Most categories of inputs on the rise in 2026

Cost-of-production forecast for **corn, soybeans, and wheat** (total cost per acre)



FBA payments mostly higher than ECAP payments

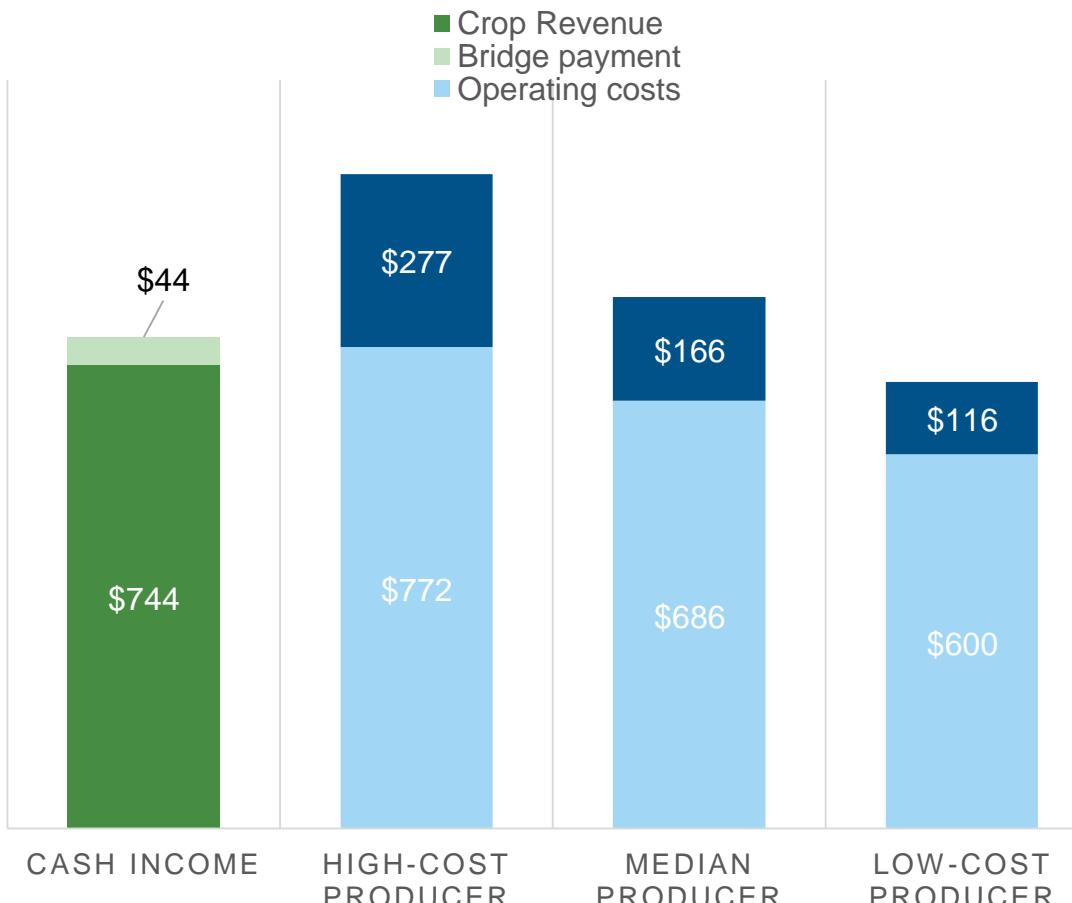
In dollars per acre



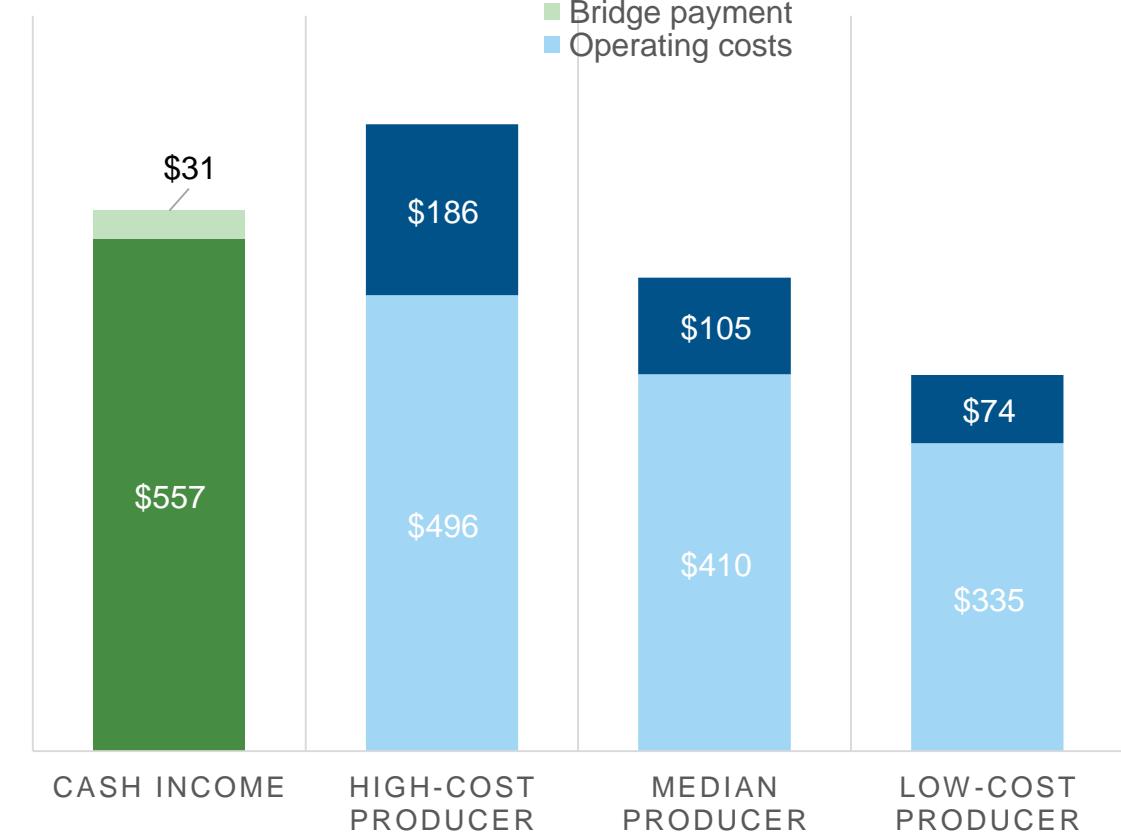
Bridge payments will not cover rising input costs

1/2 of corn farmers and 1/3 of soybean farmers will still generate a loss for the 2025/26 season

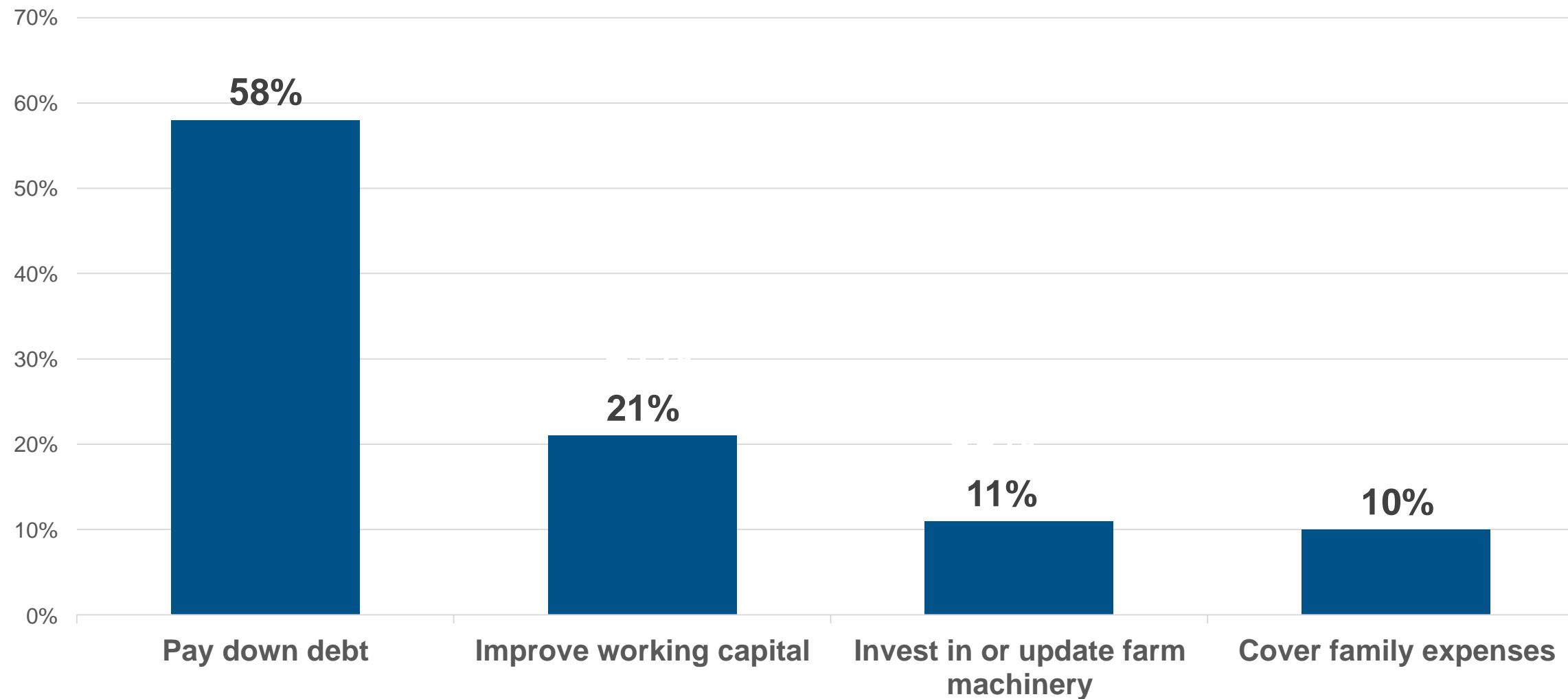
Corn Revenue vs. Costs



Soybean Revenue vs. Costs

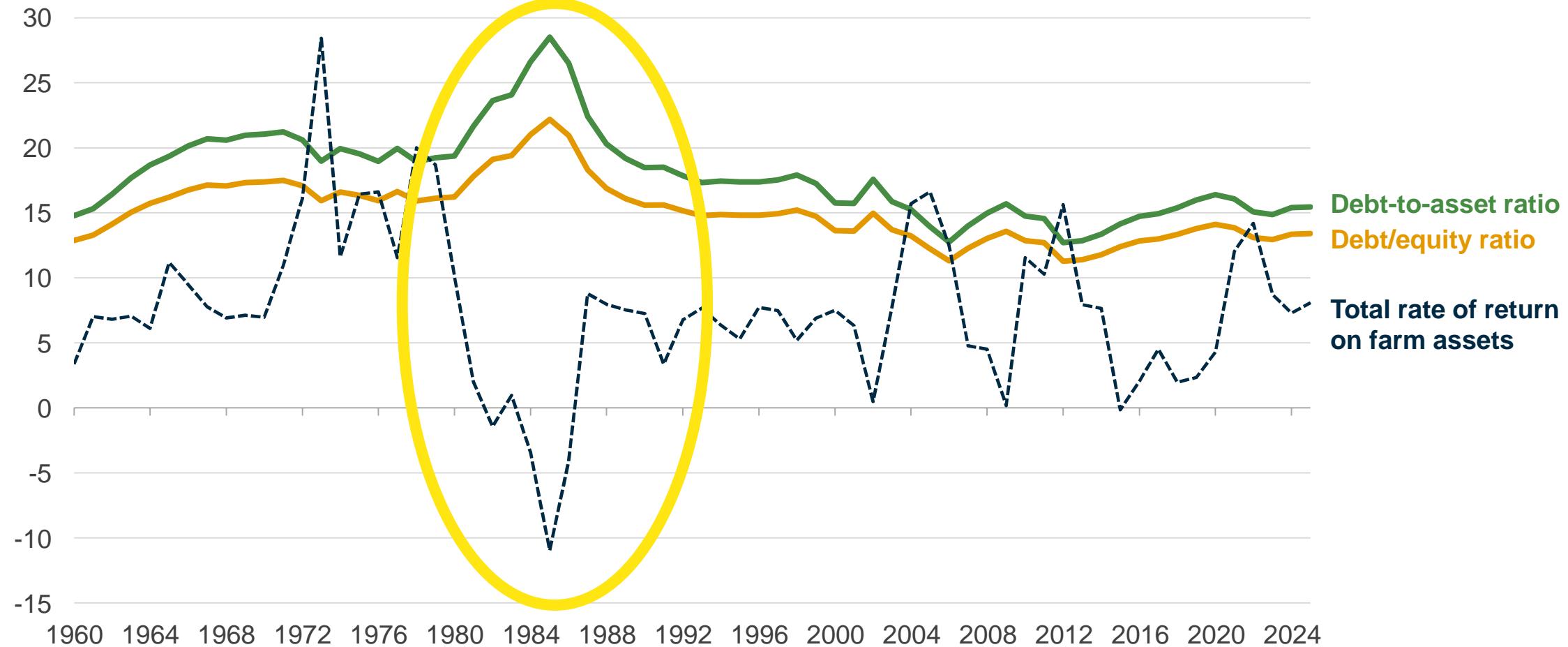


How do farmers plan to use government payments designed to compensate for weaker 2025 commodity prices?



Debt-to-asset ratio climbing, but not at the levels of the 80s

1980s Farm Crisis created mostly due to the crash in farmland values



Uncertainty in biofuels demand should soon be resolved



SREs

Amount of
reallocation



RIN values

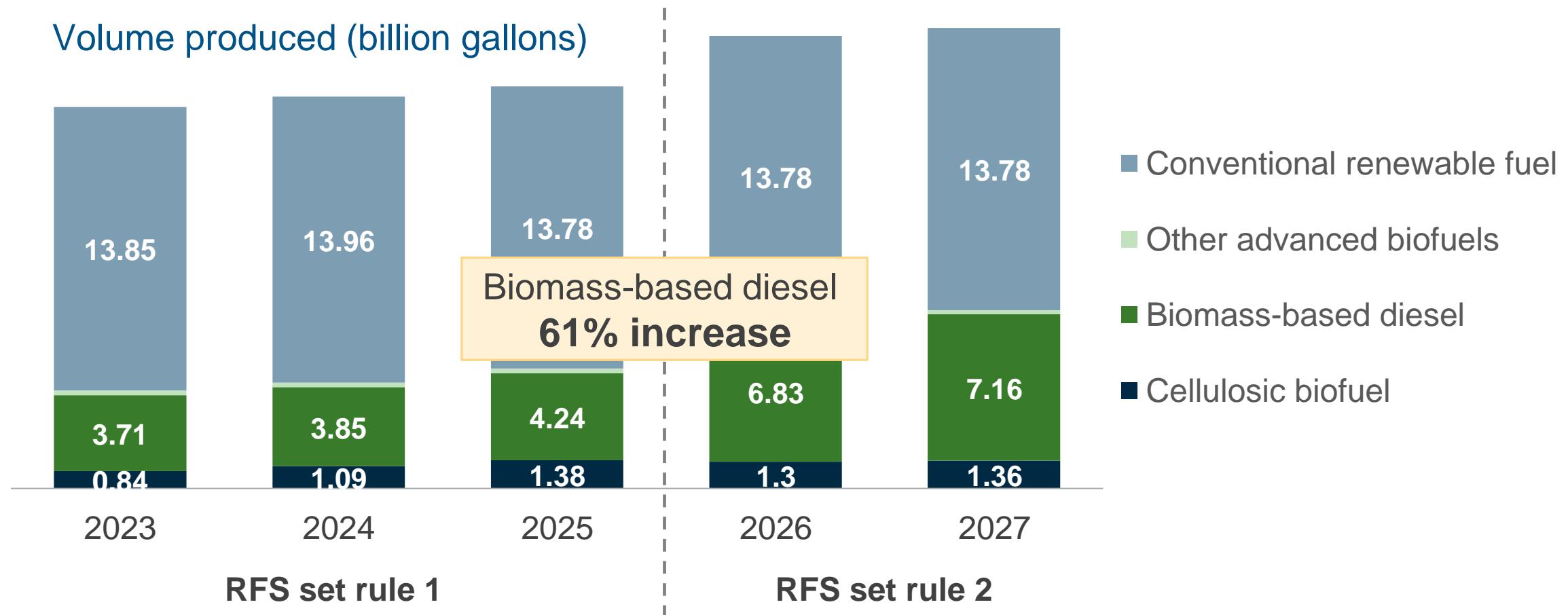
50% reduction for
foreign feedstocks?



Demand impacted as we roll into 2026

Biomass-based diesel biggest winner in new set rule

Rule finalization and SRE decision delayed past November 1 statutory deadline



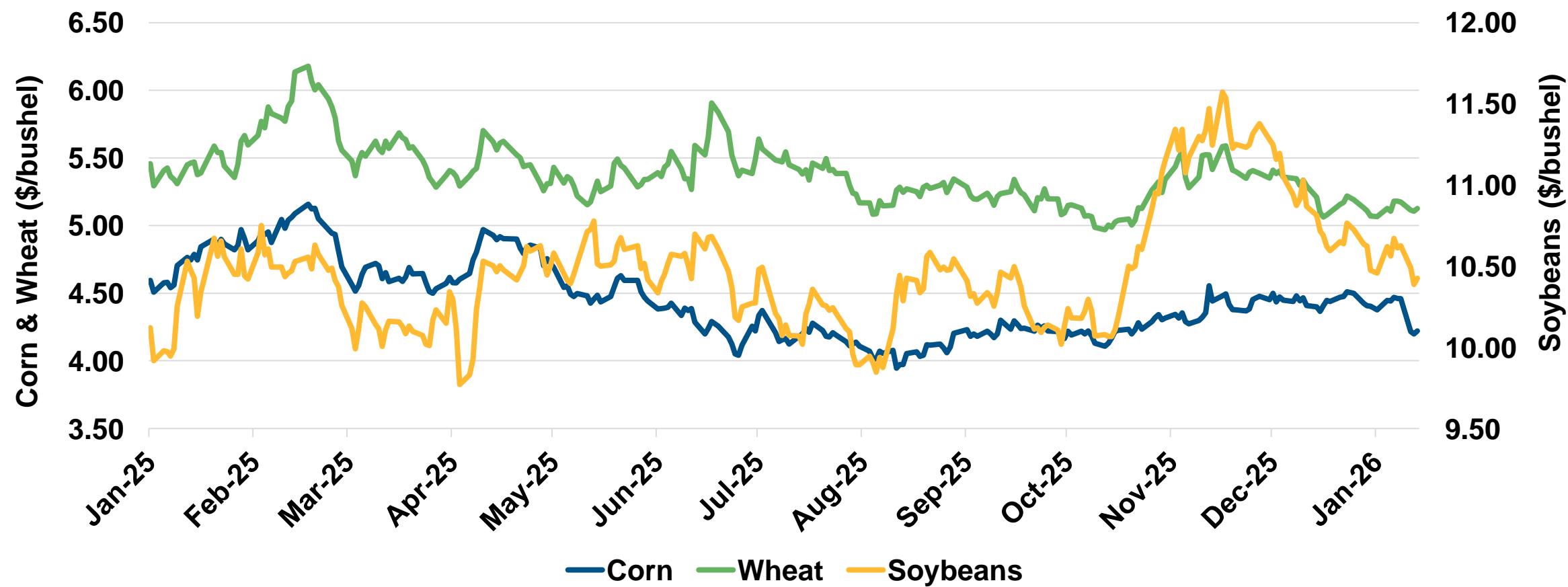


Grain & Oilseeds Outlook



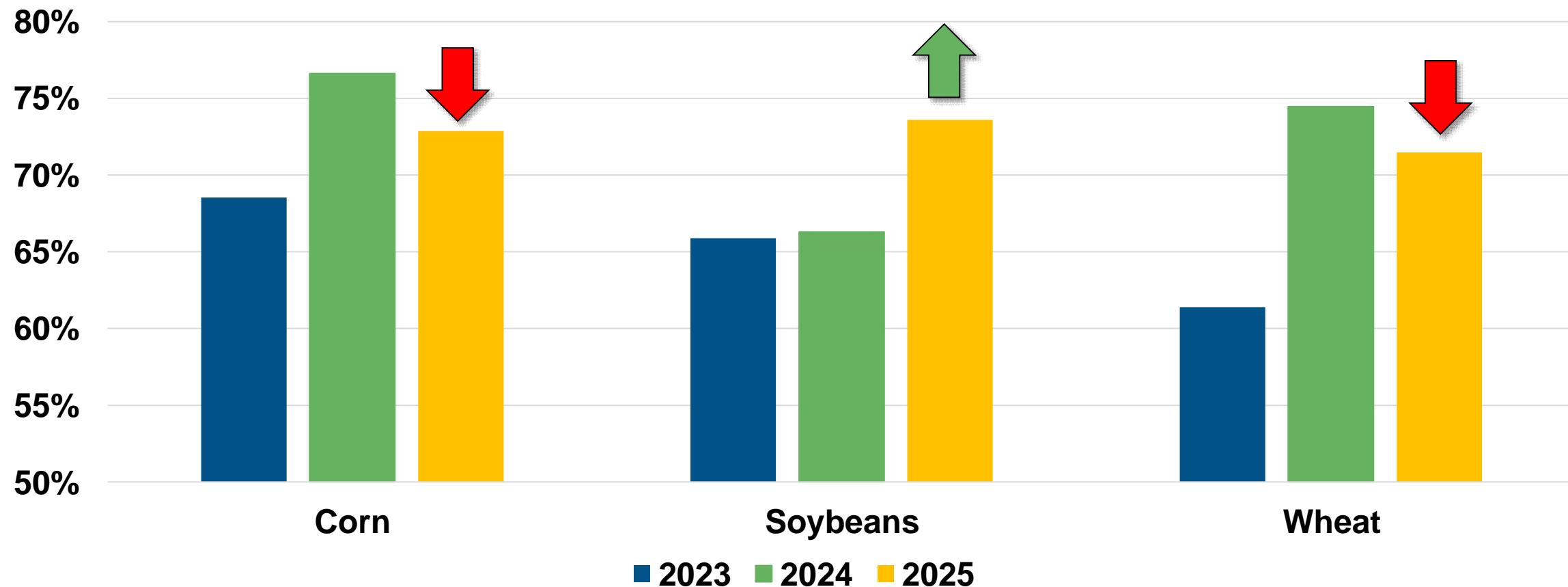
Soybean prices stronger YoY, corn & wheat weaker

Corn, Wheat & Soybean Prices

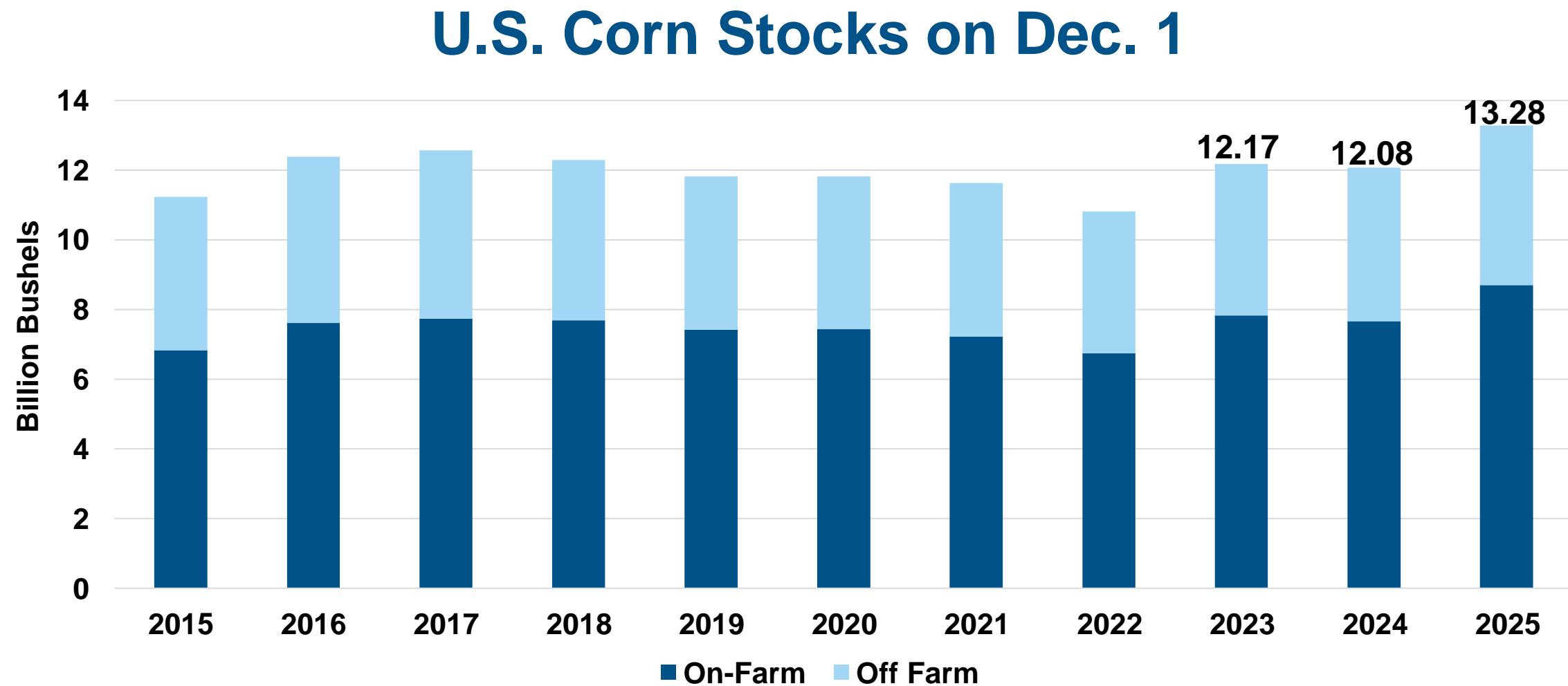


Farmers were aggressive sellers of soybeans last fall

Percent Company-Owned on Nov. 31

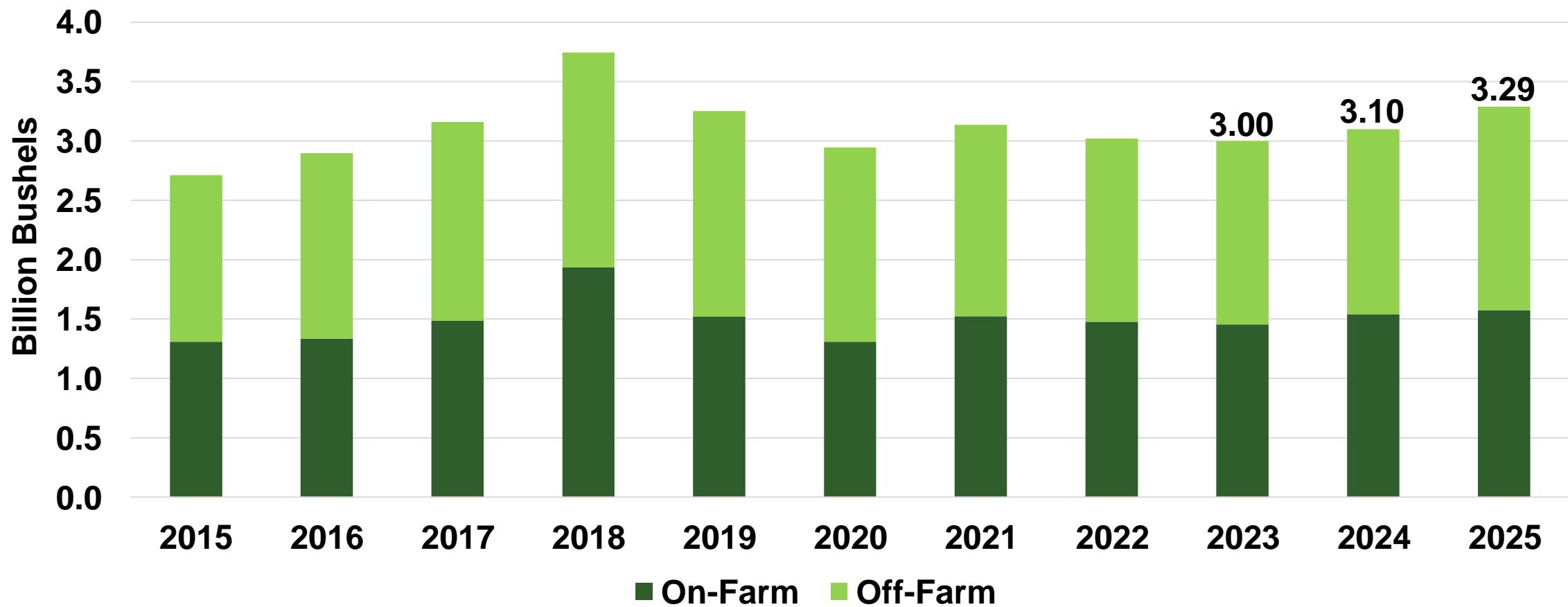


U.S. corn supply record high



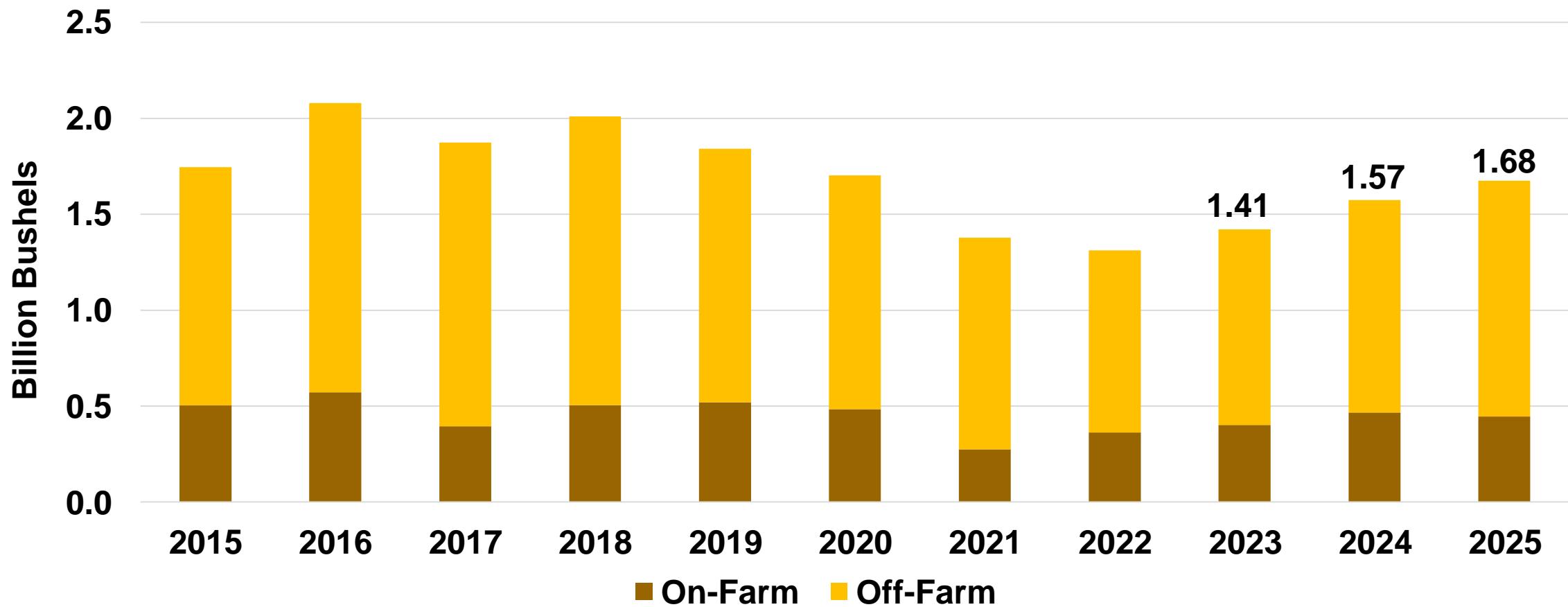
U.S. soybean stocks highest since 2018

U.S. Soybean Stocks on Dec. 1



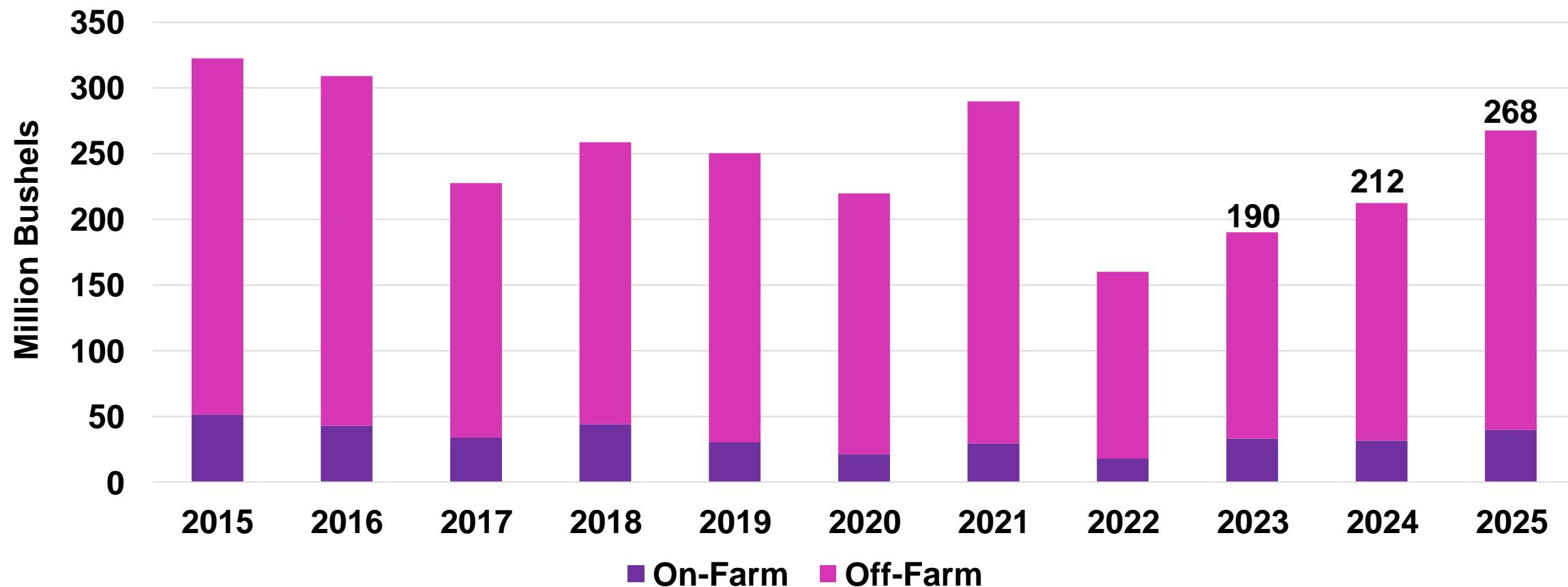
U.S. Wheat Stocks Highest Since 2020

U.S. Wheat Stocks on Dec. 1

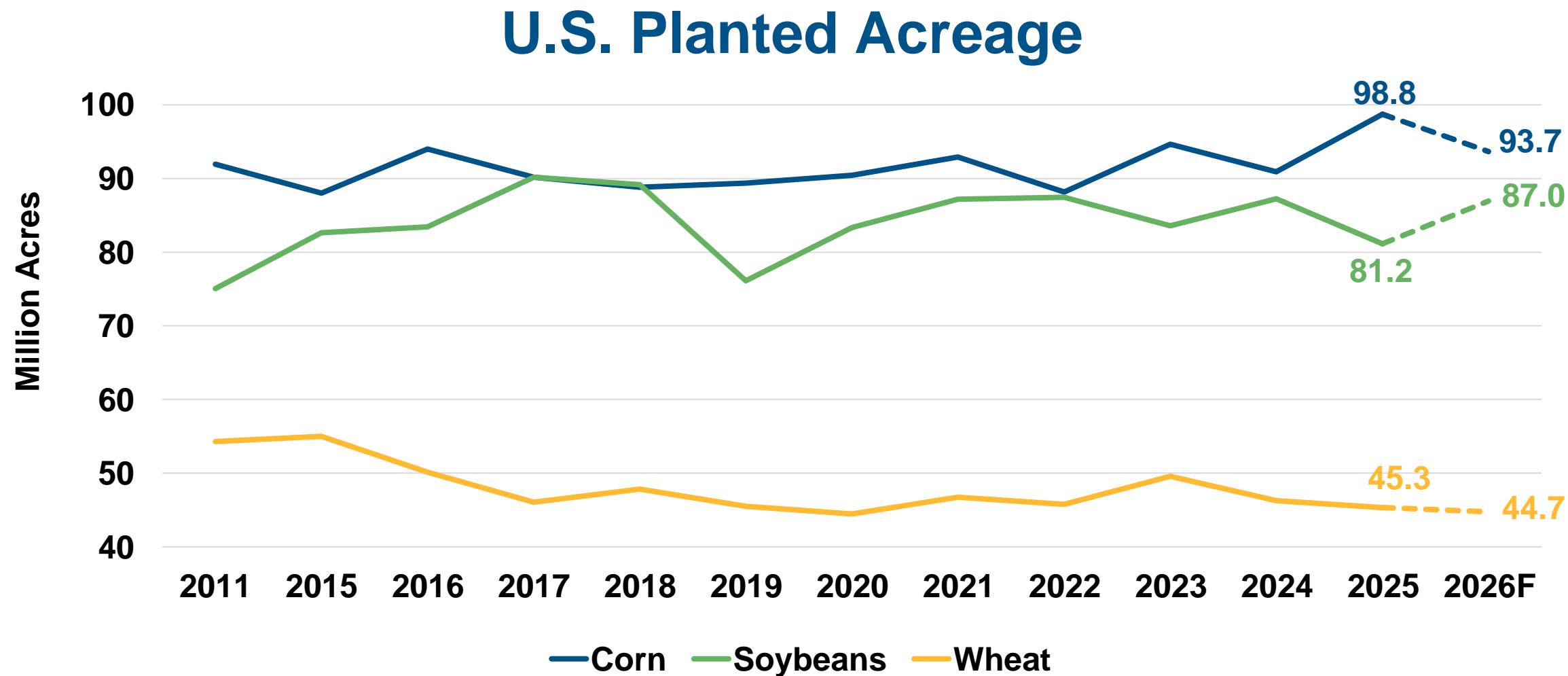


U.S. Sorghum Stocks Highest since 2021

U.S. Sorghum Stocks on Dec. 1



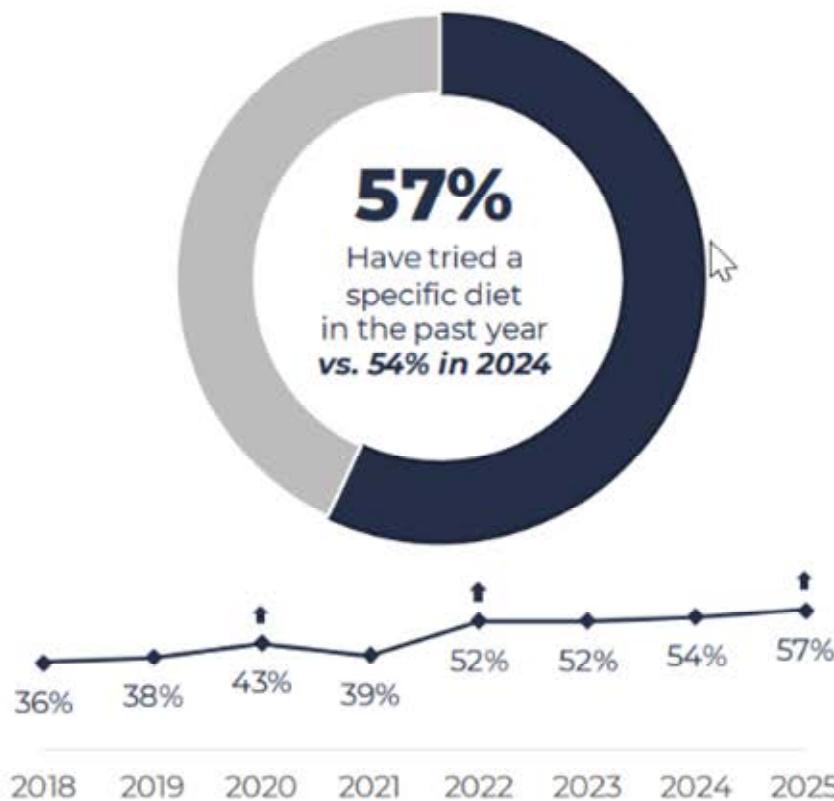
Soybean Acres Currently Expected to Climb in 2026



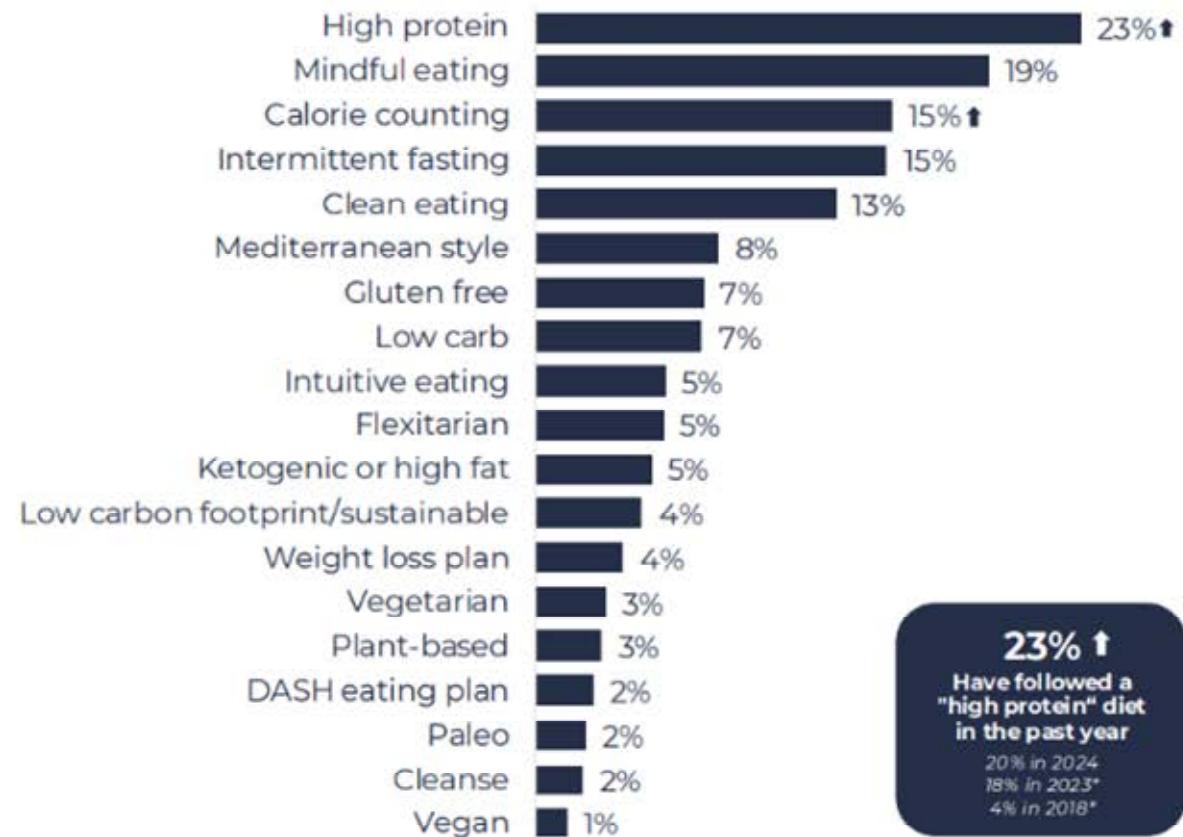
Protein Outlook

Americans increasingly following a specific diet

Followed Eating Pattern/Diet in Past Year



Followed Eating Pattern/Diet in Past Year



The ground game is fierce



Bestseller

\$7.99 (\$0.50/ounce)
All Natural 93/7 Ground
Beef - 1lb - Good &
Gather™

Add to cart

\$7.99/lb.



Bestseller

\$4.39 (\$0.27/ounce)
93/7 All Natural Ground
Turkey - 16oz - Good &
Gather™

★★★★★ 272 reviews

Check stores

\$4.39/lb.



Bestseller

\$4.49 (\$0.28/ounce)
Mild Flavor Mixes Ground
Pork - 1lb - Good &
Gather™

★★★★★ 1002 reviews

Add to cart

\$4.49/lb.



\$6.49 (\$0.41/ounce)

Smart Chicken Ground Chicken -
16oz

Smart Chicken

4.5 ★ (55)

SNAP EBT eligible

Only 9 left at Lakewood

Pickup ready within 2 hours

Delivery as soon as 11am



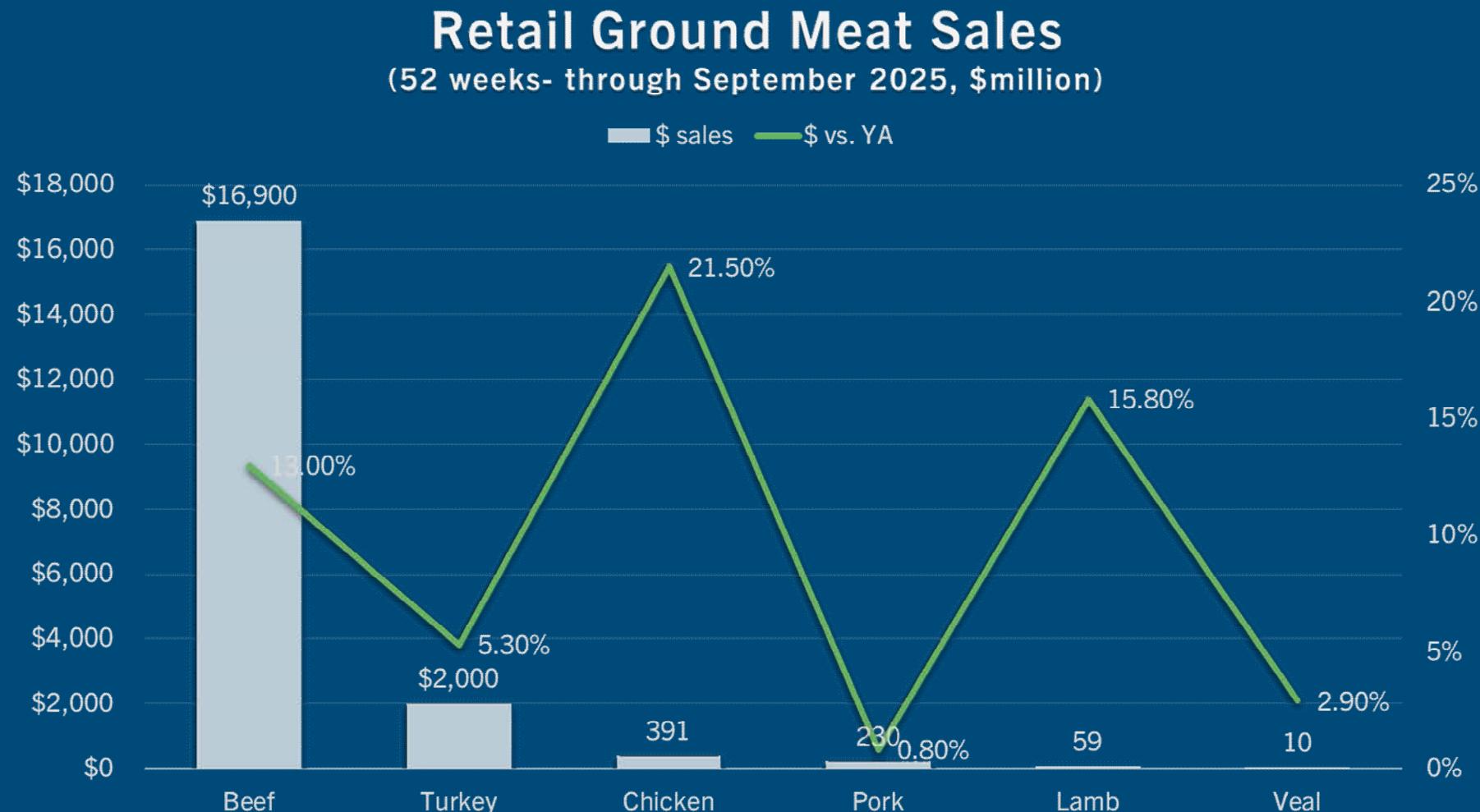
\$5.49 (\$0.46/ounce)
Plant Based Ground -
12oz - Good & Gather™

★★★★★ 37 reviews

Check stores

\$7.36/lb.

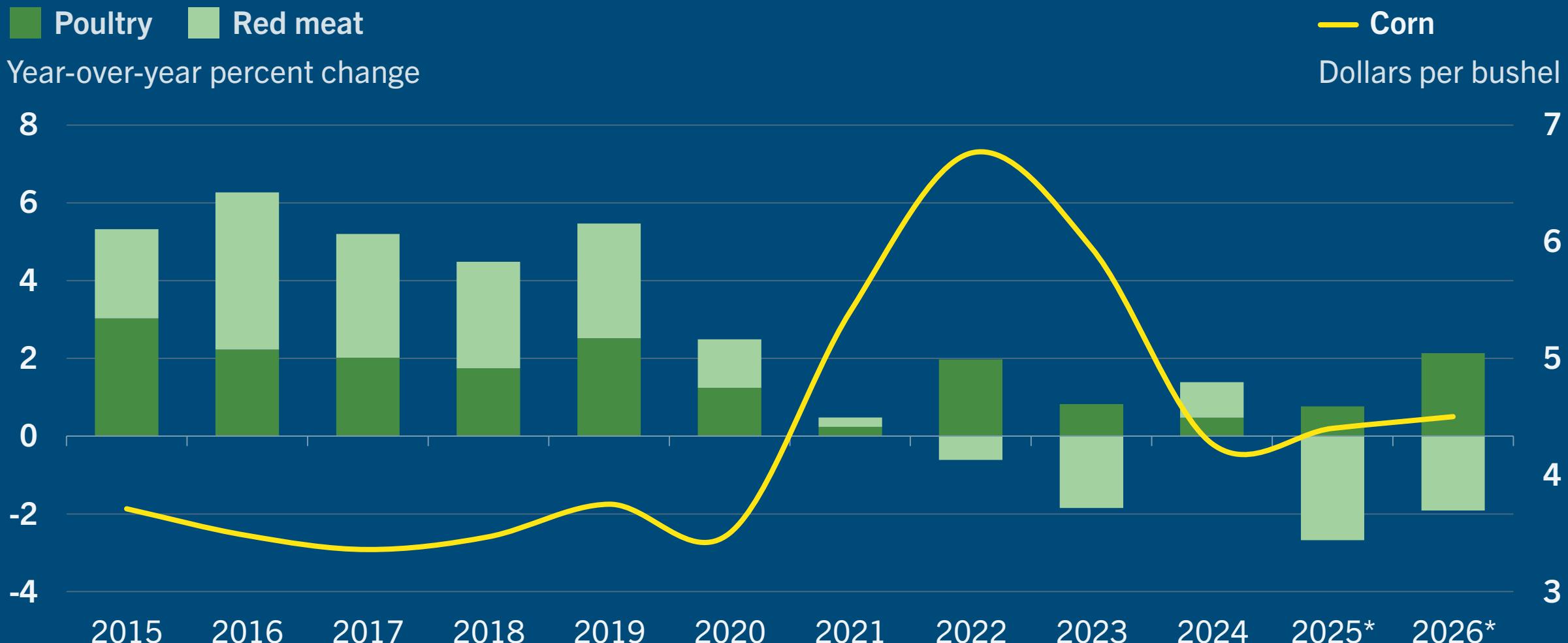
Grinds soaring, beef demand assists lift



Source: 210 Analytics, Circana

 COBANK®

Dampened corn values boost meat and poultry output

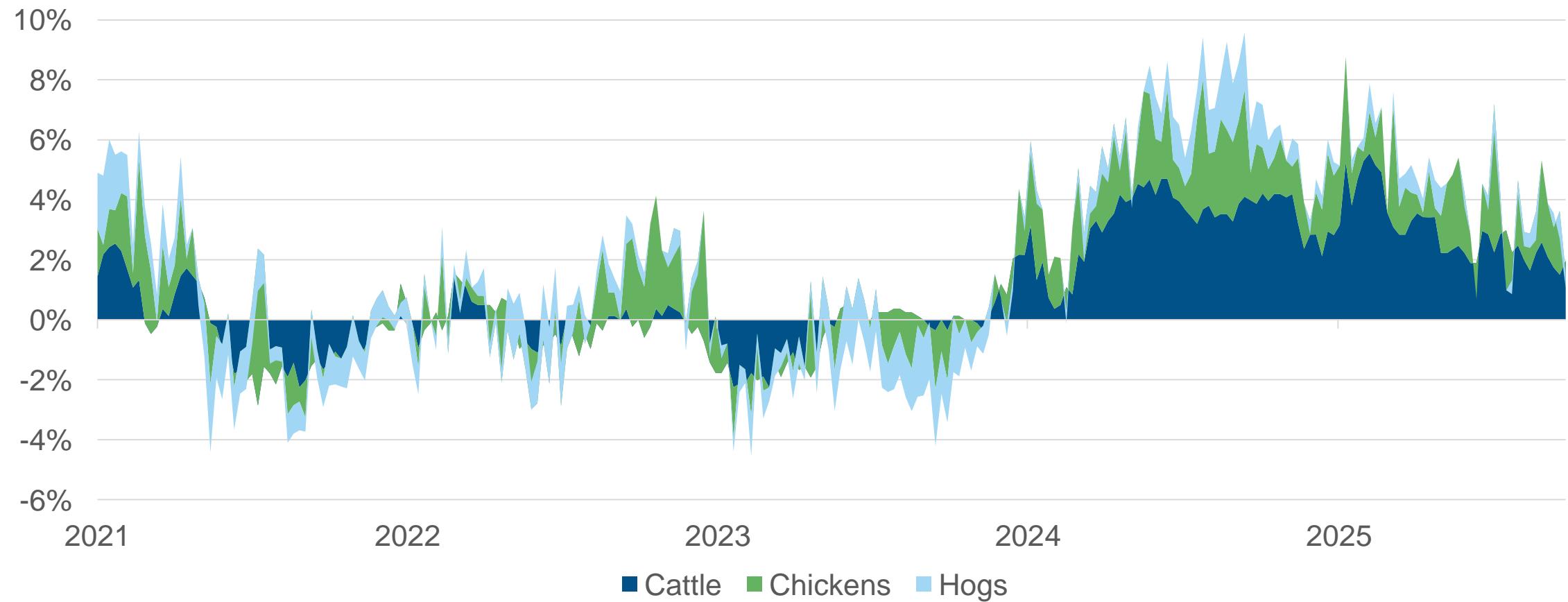


Source: LMIC, USDA

*LMIC 2025 estimate/2026 forecast for meat and poultry; CoBank 2026 forecast for corn

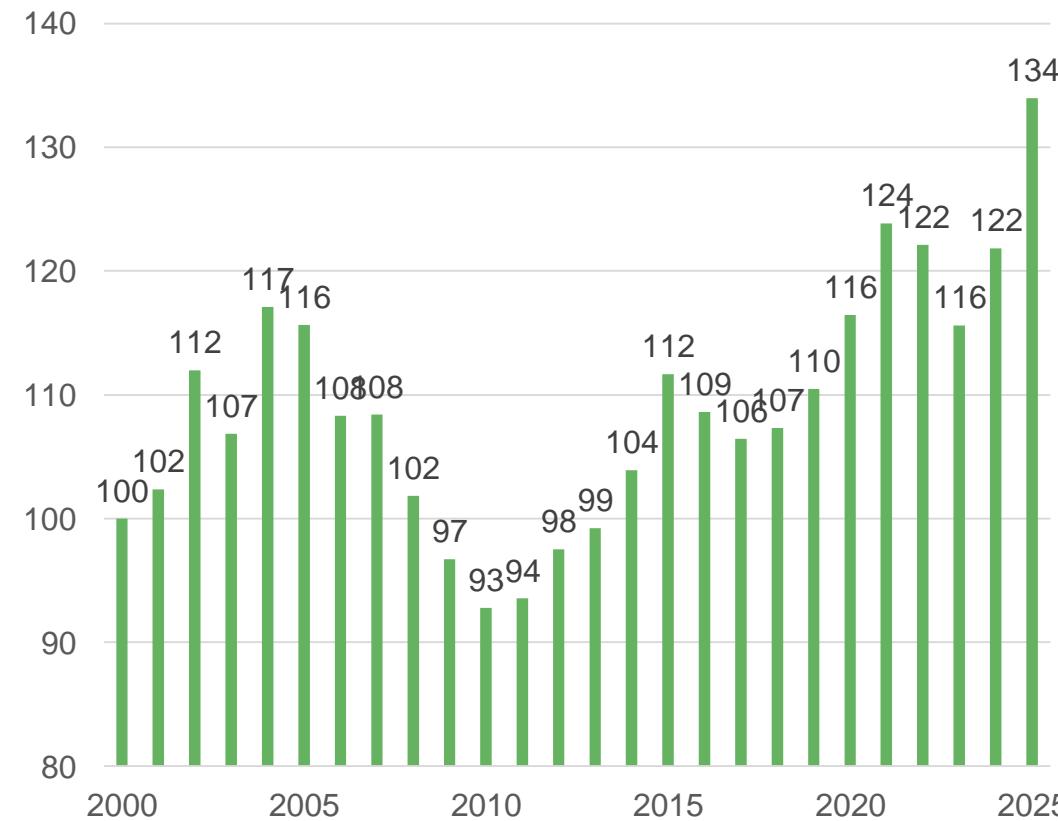
Livestock “waistline” is growing

Change in weekly slaughter weights (% year-over-year)

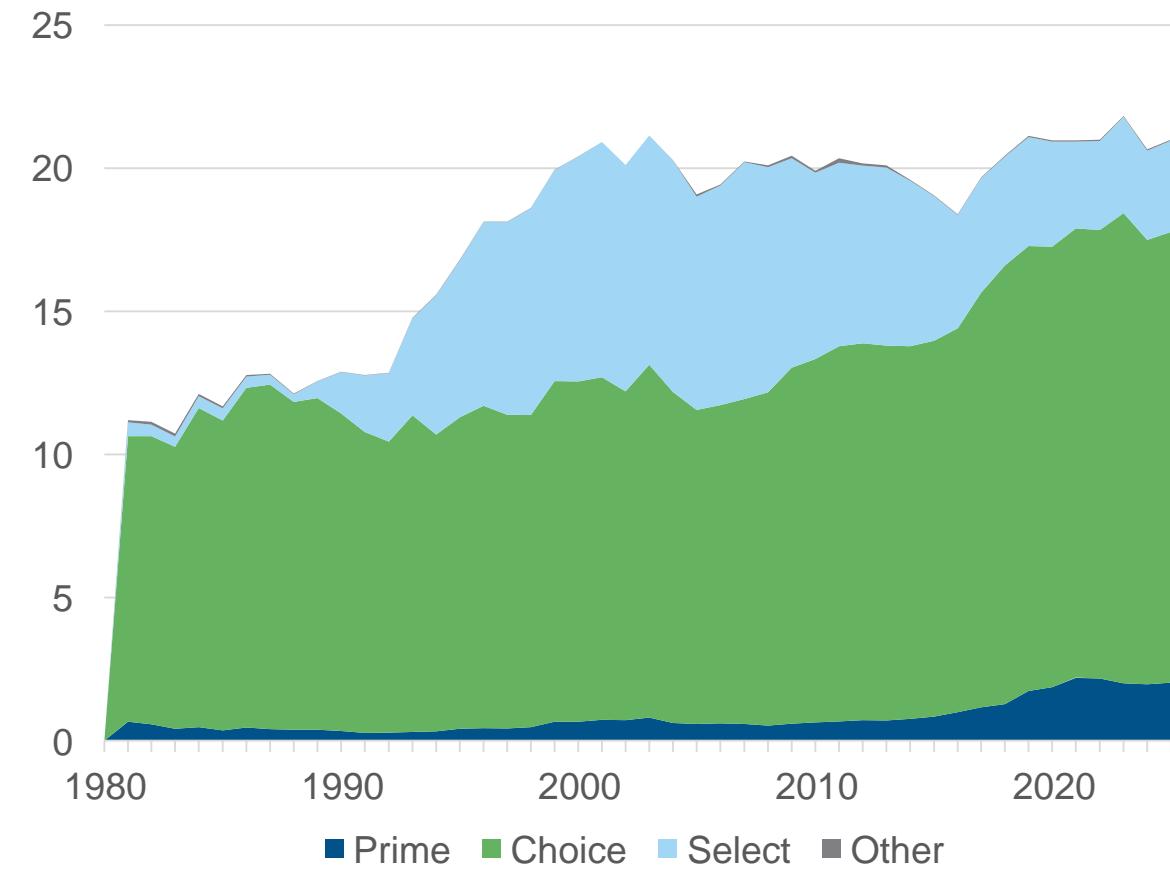


Beef demand soaring – premiumization deserves credit

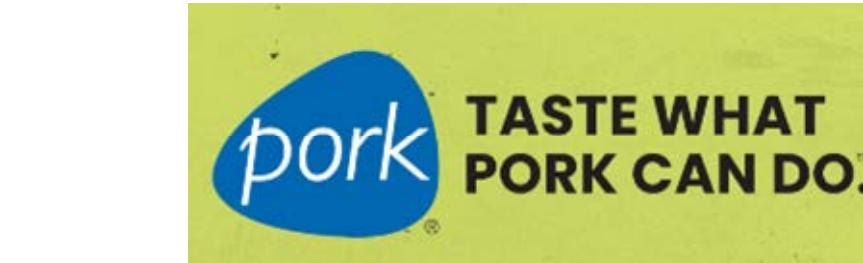
All fresh beef retail demand index, second quarter,
using CPI 2000=100



U.S. beef production by grade (billion pounds)



New drive to restore U.S. pork demand



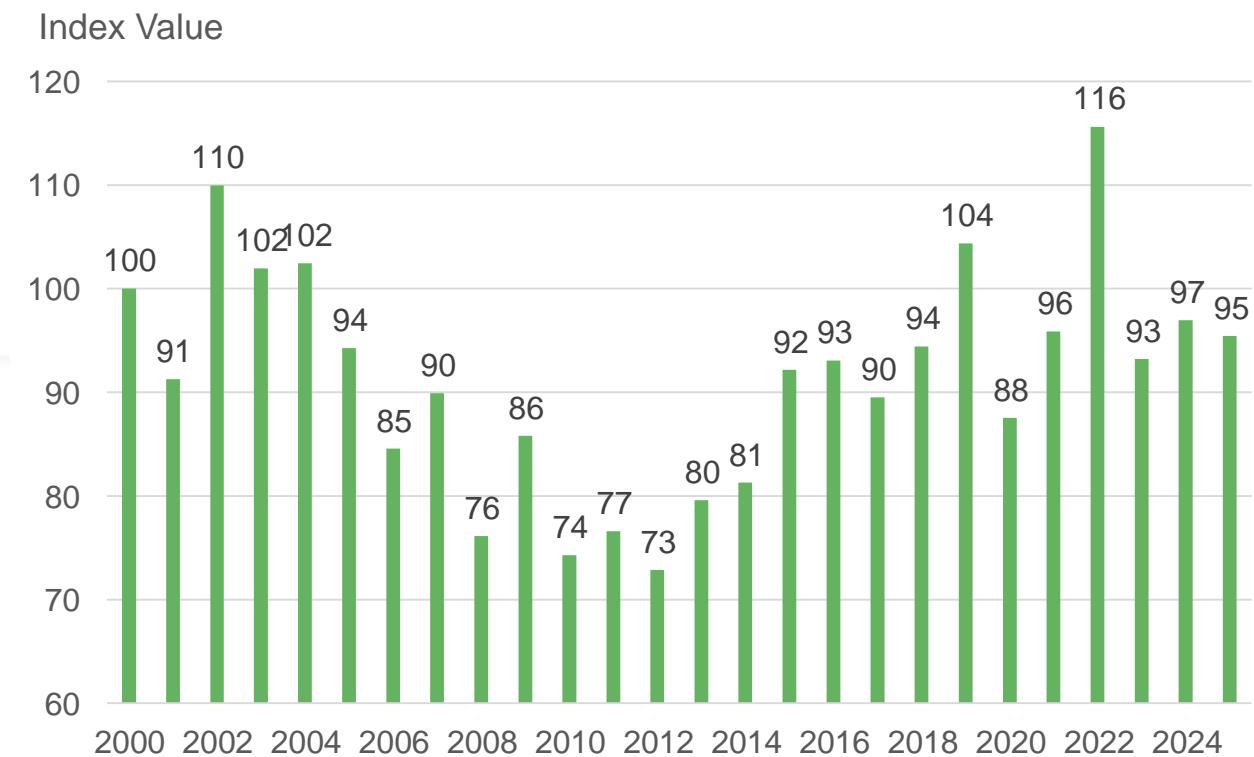
 MARKETINGDIVE Deep Dive Library Events Press Releases Topics ▾

Inside the campaign to reposition pork for Gen Z, millennial consumers

An effort launched in May tries to shed associations with an iconic “Other White Meat” tagline in favor of something more modern and digital-first.

Published Oct. 27, 2025

Retail Demand Index
Second Quarter, Using CPI 2000=100



Source: USDA, LMIC, [Inside the campaign to reposition pork for Gen Z, millennial consumers | Marketing Dive](#) CoBank, Presentation by Brian Earnest CoBank

Broiler industry thriving

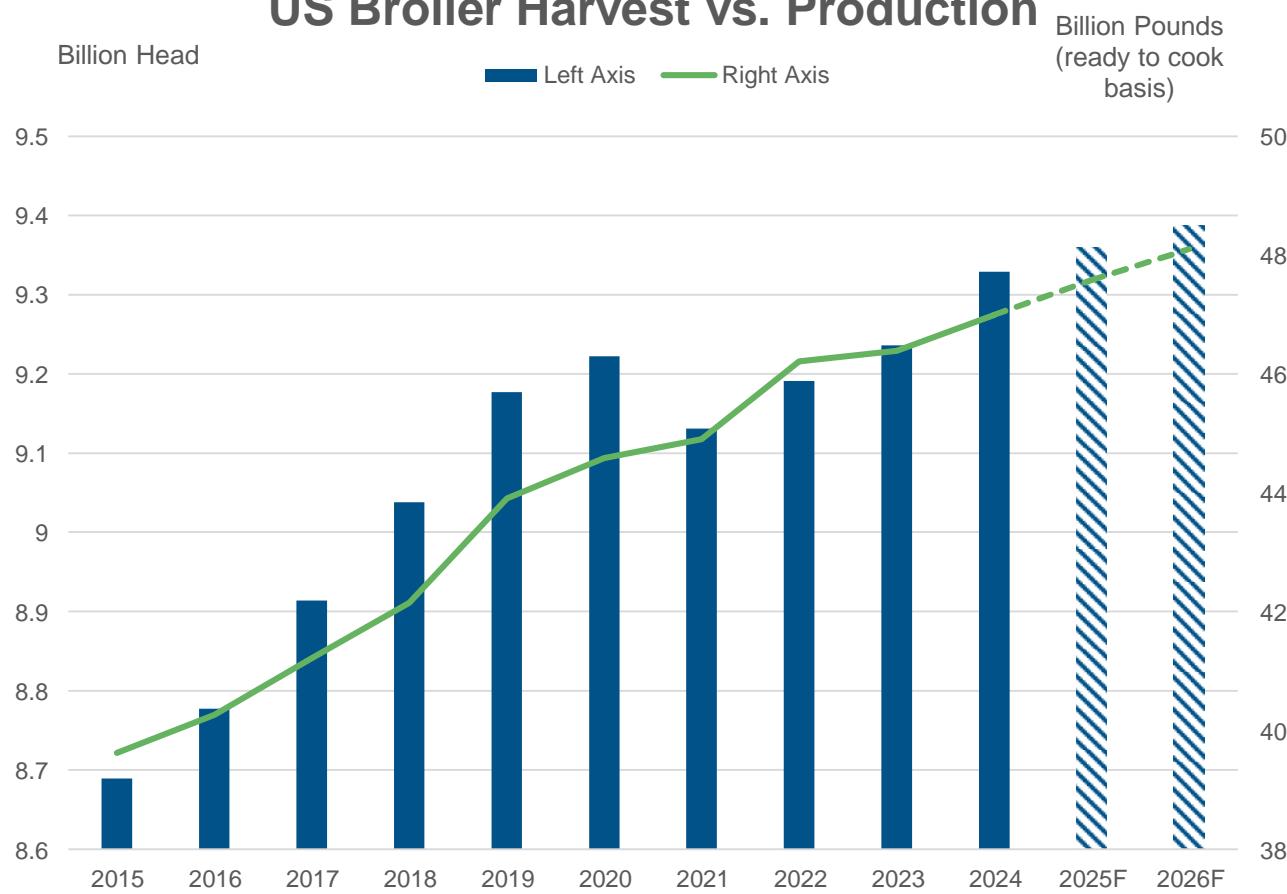
Tailwinds:

- Low corn and soybean meal costs
- Expanding more of what consumers are asking for
 - Value
 - Convenience
- Export exposure relatively low
 - Only about 15% of chicken exported
 - Domestic dark meat demand growing

Headwinds:

- Capital costs
- Breeder supply issues
- Grow-out level expansion

US Broiler Harvest vs. Production

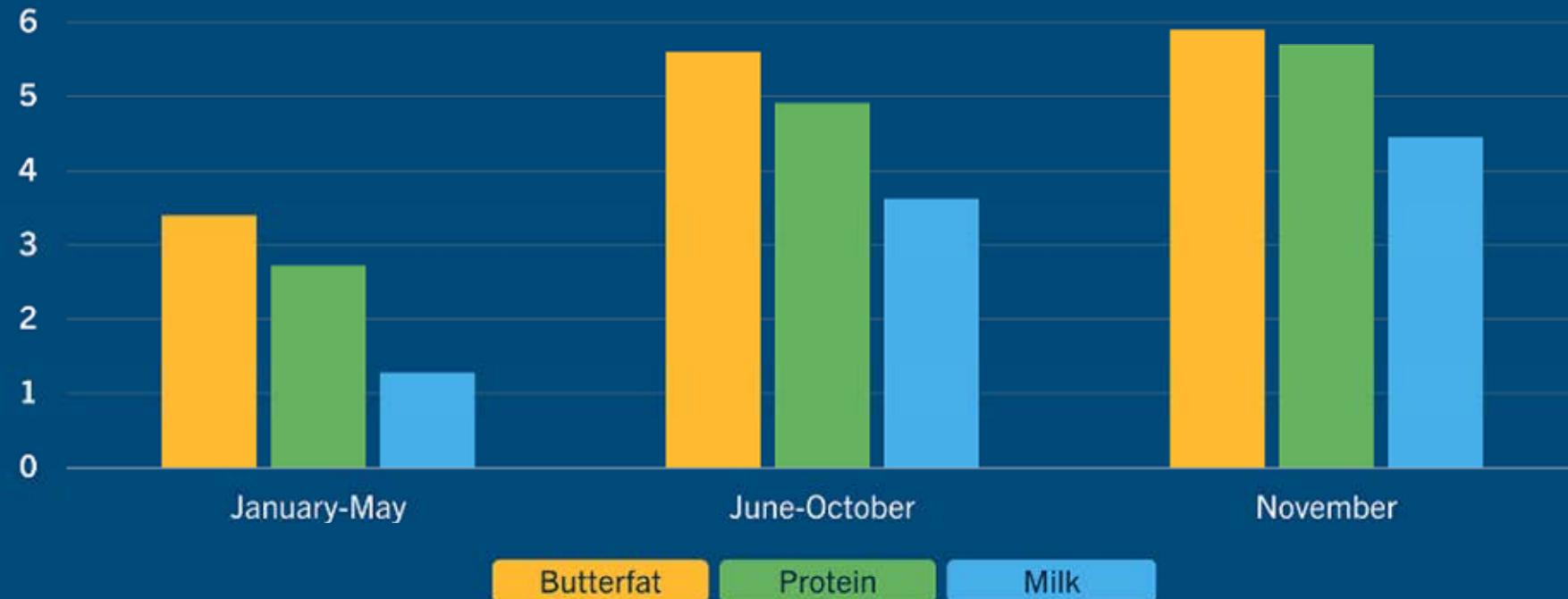


Dairy Outlook

Butterfat production continues to surge year over year

Butterfat continues to outpace milk and protein

Percent change, 2025



Source: USDA-NASS and FMMO data; calculations by Corey Geiger



Largest dairy cow herd in 30 years

Monthly dairy cow inventory



Source: USDA. Presentation by Corey Geiger and Abbi Prins, CoBank.

Why cow numbers and milk may not contract quickly

Pennsylvania beef-on-dairy calf pricing (price per calf)



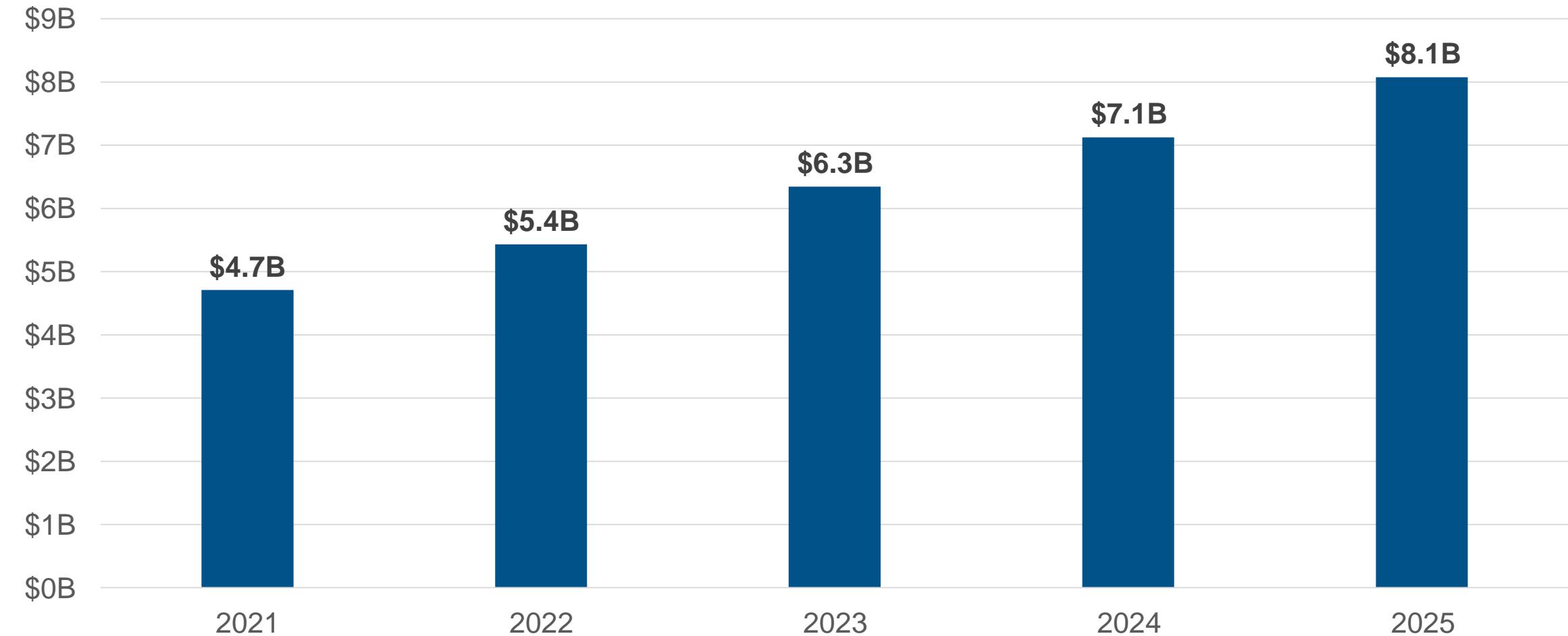
Dairy margins to be hindered until milk price rebound

Actual and forecast dairy margin
(dollars per cwt.)



Ready-to-drink protein dairy shakes and nutritionals sales up 71% in four years

Dollar sales

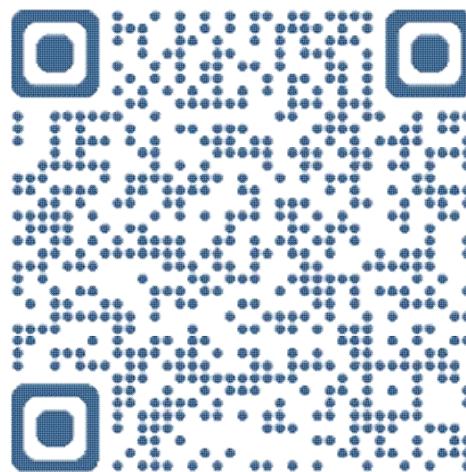


Source: Circana MULO+ with RTD Nutritionals as based on UPCs. Presentation by Corey Geiger and Abbi Prins, CoBank.

If you aren't receiving our FREE weekly *Gleanings* newsletter,
please email jfatka@cobank.com to be added to the distribution list.

Brian Earnest

Lead Economist, Animal Protein
bearnest@cobank.com



Tanner Ehmke

Lead Economist, Grains & Oilseeds
tehmke@cobank.com

Jacqui Fatka

Lead Economist, Farm Supply & Biofuels
jfatka@cobank.com

Corey Geiger

Lead Economist, Dairy
cgeiger@cobank.com

**Subscribe to Knowledge
Exchange reports!**

