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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Roundup: CBOT agricultural futures in correction

CHICAGO, May 22 (Xinhua) -- CBOT agricultural futures corrected recent gains last week on overbought technical conditions, Chicago-based research company AgResource noted.

AgResource's long term view of CBOT agricultural futures stays bullish, but there could be some back-and-forth in the short run.

Spot CBOT corn gapped lower following May's expiration, with July testing medium-term chart support. Improved soil moisture in U.S. Northern Plains and lack of glaring climate threats in U.S. Midwest are noted. The early May rally was based on concerning Central U.S. and Southern Canadian Prairie weather and reflects the size/speed on how the market will react to any coming weather supply threat.

Global cash corn markets continue to indicate real and widespread supply issues. Brazil's interior market this week again scored a new all-time high. Cash corn in Western Europe is trading above 8.50 dollars per bushel as supplies are exhausted. Chinese cash corn prices are perched at 11 U.S. dollars per bushel, near its historic high. And interior U.S. basis has failed to crack as ethanol plants compete with a massive U.S. corn export program to China. Global cash market strength implies there is zero tolerance for supply dislocation in 2021. Weather risks to the upside of corn are sizeable into August.

U.S. wheat futures ended sharply lower amid improving North American soil moisture and the potential for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to raise its U.S. winter wheat production estimate by 70-100 million bushels in the June report. Crop potential across the Southern and Central Plains has been elevated by abnormally heavy spring rainfall.

Corn values imply that wheat is cheap when compared to alternative feed sources. Historically large wheat feed use is anticipated across the world this summer.

Otherwise, rallies will struggle as harvest nears. However, concern over arid growing conditions in Southeast and South Russia remain intact. AgResource notes that drought will not end across the U.S. Northern Plains and Canada, where rain totals have fallen on the low end of expectations. Breaks remain buying opportunities as global wheat consump-



tion in 2021-2022 reaches a new record. Wheat also follows corn to sizable gains if U.S. Midwest weather turns adverse in June-August. Soybean futures corrected recent gains last week as cash markets turned down. Spot futures rallied 3 dollars from mid-April to mid-May, and the market gave back 0.78 dollars last week. New crop prices followed old crop lower, but reluctantly. The July/November soybean spread narrowed 24 cents to a 1.66-dollar July premium.

Through Sunday, USDA reported that a near-record 61 percent of the soybean crop was planted. AgResource estimates that progress should top 80 percent this week. Old crop soybeans likely scored a season high two weeks ago as spot futures traded through long-held target of 16.50 dollars. But the need for trend or above yields is acute in 2021-2022. AgResource looks for heightened volatility as the summer weather market kicks off. Market volatility looks to stay elevated in the weeks and months leading into harvest.

Military conflict looms in southern Yemen as tension rises between rivals:

ADEN, Yemen, May 22 (Xinhua) -- Military confrontations between forces loyal to the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and Yemen's government became imminent amid rising tensions over the control of key areas, a military official told Xinhua on Saturday.

Tensions escalated in the wake of recent government's accusations to the STC on refusing to implement a Saudi-brokered deal signed between the two rivals in 2019.

"The government and the STC dispatched heavy troops backed by armored vehicles to areas near the coastal town of Shuqrah that's located on the Arabian Sea," the source said on condition of anonymity.

"The two sides are currently blaming each other for truce breaches and failure to implement the remaining security provisions of Riyadh deal," he said.

He said the STC's troops were fully prepared and ready to engage in new armed confrontations against the government forces in the country's south.

On the other side, the government forces raised the level of combat readiness

of some units in an attempt to prevent the STC's troops from advancement on-ground and seizing new key southern areas, according to the official.

Another security official confirmed to Xinhua that the relationship between the two rivals representing the country's recent power-sharing government has strained further as the STC's troops tightened its grip over the Socotra Archipelago, an area officially part of Yemen.

"The STC that's part of Yemen's government heavily deployed its military units and tightened the security measures in the strategic Socotra Island," the official said anonymously.

Socotra is located in one of the busiest shipping routes in the world and Yemen's warring factions sporadically engage in armed confrontations over establishing military bases there for controlling the strategic island.

In 2019, Saudi Arabia persuaded the STC and the Yemeni government to hold reconciliation talks, which succeeded in reaching a deal to form a new technocratic cabinet and ending a deadly conflict in the country's southern regions.



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RMB appreciation shouldn't be used to offset bulk commodity price hikes: central bank

BEIJING, May 28 (Xinhua) -- Exchange rates cannot be used as a tool to spur exports, nor should they be leveraged to offset price hikes for bulk commodities, according to an online statement released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) on Thursday.

The managed floating exchange rate system, which is based on market supply and demand and adjusted in reference to a basket of currencies, is suitable for China's national conditions and should be adhered to in the long run, said the PBOC, citing a meeting of the China FX Market Self-Regulatory Framework.

The meeting emphasized that it is crucial to manage market expectations, reiterating a determination to clamp down on all market manipulation behaviors.

China's currency market remains generally stable at present, the meeting concluded, and the two-way fluctuations of the yuan will become the norm in both the short term and long term as the exchange rate is subject to an array of market and policy factors.

Enterprises and financial institutions are urged to actively adapt to exchange rate fluctuations, and they should refrain from currency speculation.



Lebanese soldiers stop pro-Palestinian protesters from crossing Lebanon-Israel border

BEIRUT, May 15 (Xinhua) -- Lebanese soldiers clashed on Saturday with pro-Palestinian demonstrators while trying to stop them from crossing a barbed wire fence between Lebanon and Israel, the National News Agency reported.

Hundreds of protesters took part on Saturday afternoon in demonstrations on Lebanon's borders with Israel in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Lebanese army soldiers were deployed in the area to prevent any escalations from Lebanon.

A day earlier, demonstrations resulted in the killing of one Lebanese citizen by gunshot as the Israeli army fired machine guns, smoke bombs and tear gas towards Lebanese protesters who tried to break into the Israeli side.

This has sparked anger among Lebanese authorities who asked for the intervention of the international community to put an end to Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinians



Editor's Choice



A man runs past the burning funeral pyres of those who died from the coronavirus during a mass cremation at a crematorium in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



Alyssa Rubino and Christina Gonzalez hold a picture of their cousin Michael Joseph Rudometkin, during a vigil for the nine victims of a shooting at a rail yard run by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose, California, May 27, 2021. REUTERS/Brittany Hosea-Small



Italians enjoy aperitivo evening drinks sitting down at a bar as much of the country becomes a 'yellow zone', easing coronavirus restrictions allowing bars and restaurants to serve clients at outdoor tables, in Venice, Italy. REUTERS/Manuel Silvestri



An audience member wipes a tear as the family of George Floyd, who was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer, take part with others in a commemorative concert a year after his death at The Fountain of Praise church in Houston, Texas, May 30, 2021. REUTERS/Callaghan O'Hare



Ko Phyo, 24, a protester who lost a leg during an anti-coup protest, sits in his wheelchair at home on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar, April 24, 2021. The bullet that hit Ko Phyo severed three arteries. The soldier who fired the shot removed it with a knife, and a local policeman he knew took him to a military hospital, a journey that took more than two hours, he said. "I started feeling the pain and I couldn't bear it. I told them to cut off my leg immediately. They cut it on the seventh day." REUTERS/Stringer



Tyres burn on a road as dockworkers protest against Chile's government seeking to block an approval made by lawmakers that would allow citizens to make another withdrawal from their privately-held pension savings to combat economic hardship generated by the coronavirus pandemic, in Valparaiso, Chile. REUTERS/Rodrigo Garrido

Nearly Half Of New U.S. Virus Infections Are In Five States



Manhattan New York City During Lockdown

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Nearly half of new coronavirus infections nationwide are in just five states — a situation that is putting pressure on the federal government to consider changing how it distributes vaccines by sending more doses to hot spots.

New York, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey together reported 44% of the nation’s new COVID-19 infections, or nearly 197,500 new cases, in the latest available seven-day period, according to state health agency data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Total U.S. infections during the same week numbered more than 452,000.

The heavy concentration of new cases in states that account for 22% of the U.S. population has prompted some experts and elected officials to call for President Joe Biden’s administration to ship additional vaccine doses to those places. So far, the White House has shown no signs of shifting from its policy of dividing vaccine doses among states based on population.

Sending extra doses to places where infection numbers are climbing makes sense, said Dr. Elvin H. Geng, a professor in infectious diseases at Washington University.

But it’s also complicated. States that are more successfully controlling the virus might see less vaccine as a result.



“You wouldn’t want to make those folks wait because they were doing better,” Geng said. “On the other hand, it only makes sense to send vaccines to where the cases are rising.”

The spike in cases has been especially pronounced in Michigan, where the seven-day average of daily new infections reached 6,719 cases Sunday — more than double what it was two weeks earlier. Only New York reported higher case numbers. And California and Texas, which have vastly larger populations than Michigan, are reporting less than half its number of daily infections.

Though Michigan has seen the highest rate of new infections in the past two

weeks, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has said she does not plan to tighten restrictions. She has blamed the virus surge on pandemic fatigue, which has people moving about more, as well as more contagious variants.

“Taking steps back wasn’t going to fix the issue,” Whitmer said as she got her first vaccine Tuesday at Ford Field in Detroit, home of the NFL’s Lions. “What we have to do is really put our foot down on the pedal on vaccines” and urge people to wear masks, keep their social distance and wash their hands.



Whitmer got the shot the day after Michigan expanded eligibility to everyone 16 and older. She asked the White House last week during a conference call with governors whether it has considered sending extra vaccine to states battling virus surges. She was told all options were on the table.

In New York City, vaccination appointments are still challenging to get. Mayor Bill de Blasio has publicly harangued the federal government about the need for a bigger vaccine allotment almost daily, a refrain he repeated when speaking to reporters Tuesday.

“We still need supply, supply, supply,” de Blasio said, before adding, “But things are really getting better.”

On the state level, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has not called publicly for an increase in New York’s vaccine allotment, even as cases ticked up in recent weeks and the number of hospitalized people hit a plateau.

In New Jersey, where the seven-day rolling average of daily new infections has risen over the past two weeks, from 4,050 daily cases to 4,250, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy said he is constantly talking to the White House about demand for the coronavirus vaccine, though he stopped

short of saying he was lobbying for more vaccines because of the state’s high infection rate.



Vaccine shipments to New Jersey were up 12% in the last week, Murphy said Monday, though he questioned whether that’s enough.

“We constantly look at, OK, we know we’re going up, but are we going up at the rate we should be, particularly given the amount of cases we have?” Murphy said.

New virus variants are clearly one of the drivers in the increase, said Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, chair of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California at San Francisco. Failure to suppress the rise in cases will lead to more people getting sick and dying, she said, and drive increases in other parts of the country.

“More vaccine needs to be where the virus is,” Bibbins-Domingo said, adding that people should get over the “scarcity mindset” that has them thinking surging vaccine into one place will hurt people elsewhere.

In Florida, relaxed safeguards during a busy spring break season likely helped spread virus variants, said University of South Florida epidemiologist Jason Salemi. The state’s seven-day average of daily new infections has exceeded 5,400, an increase of 20% in the past two weeks.



While many new infections appear to be among younger people, Salemi said he’s worried about Florida’s seniors. About 78% of residents age 65 and older have received at least one vaccine dose, but roughly 1 mil-

lion more still have not gotten any shots.

“We seemingly have the supply,” Salemi said. “Are these people not planning to get vaccinated?”

Talk of sending extra shots to some states comes at a time when the number of daily infections in the U.S. has fallen dramatically compared to a January spike following the holiday season. However, the seven-day average of daily infections been rising slowly since mid-March.

The five states seeing the most infections stand out. As of Tuesday, 31 U.S. states were reporting seven-day averages of fewer than 1,000 new daily cases.

White House coronavirus coordinator Jeff Zients said Tuesday more than 28 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines will be delivered to states this week. That allocation will bring the U.S. total to more than 90 million doses distributed in the past three weeks.

The news came as Biden announced more than 150 million coronavirus shots have been administered since he took office, and that all adults will be eligible to receive a vaccine by April 19.



About 40% of U.S. adults have now received at least one COVID-19 shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 23% of American adults have been fully vaccinated — including more than half of Americans 65 and older.

Geng said the nation should take a step back and go slow. Even just a few more weeks of Americans sticking with social distancing and other precautions could make a huge difference.

“The take-home message here is, let’s not jump the gun,” Geng said. “There’s light at the end of the tunnel. We all see it there. And we will get there. Slow and steady.” (Courtesy apnews.com/)

COMMUNITY

Data Show That Many Asian American Youths Have Experienced Anti-Asian Violence In The Past **Are America’s Schools Safe For Asian Americans?**



Key Points

The rise in anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic has prompted many Asian American parents to enroll their children in remote learning out of concern for their child’s safety at school. Asian American youths are enrolled in remote learning at much higher rates than other racial groups. Federal data show that 78% of Asian American eighth graders attended school virtually in February 2021, whereas just 59% of Black, 59% of Latino and 29% of white students attended school virtually.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Asian Americans have experienced a great deal of racial harassment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent survey found that 1 in 8 Asian Americans reported experiencing anti-Asian hate incidents in 2020. The victims of that harassment aren’t just adults – they include students.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 3,800 hate incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been reported to the Stop AAPI Hate National Reporting Center. Among the incidents early in the pandemic, 16% percent of the targets were Asian American youths ages 12-20.

The majority of the young victims, about 80%, reported being bullied or verbally harassed. In over half the incidents, the perpetrator used anti-Asian hate rhetoric. About 1 in 5 hate incidents happened at school.

National trends before the pandemic suggested that Asian American students were already more likely to experience racial discrimination, such as race-related name-calling, from their peers

at school than other categories of students. About 11% of Asian American students reported being called hate-related words, compared with 6.3% of white students in 2015. A separate study found that bullying and physical violence were less of an issue for Asian American students. Only about 7.3% reported being bullied at school in 2017, compared with 23% of white students.



Anti-Asian hate crimes have been on a steep rise during the pandemic. (Photo/Jeremy Hogan/SOPA Images/Light-Rocket via Getty Images)

How common race-based harassment against Asian students is can vary based on different

factors, such as where students live, their gender, grades or immigration status. For example, a study from California found that Asian American sixth graders in California reported being bullied and victimized at higher rates than other racial groups.

What are the biggest worries for Asian American youth and parents?

Many Asian American parents are worried that their children will be the victims of discrimination once school reopens.

In one survey, nearly 1 in 2 Chinese American parents and 1 in 2 Chinese American youth reported being directly targeted with COVID-19 racial discrimination in person or online. About 4 in 5 of these parents and their children also reported witnessing racism directed at someone else of their own race either online or in person. Despite their concerns, some parents may avoid talking to their children about anti-Asian racism to avoid scaring them while they are at school. Even if parents want to have the “race talk” with their children, many struggle with how to talk to their children about the potential racism they might encounter. Some parents may not have been taught these lessons while growing up and are grappling with how to make sense of these experiences.

Anti-Asian racism is also associated with greater depressive symptoms and anxiety in Chinese American parents and their children. A majority of Americans blame China for its mishandling of the coronavirus outbreak. Researchers have found that even thinking that one’s racial or ethnic group is viewed by the general public as a threat to the health of Americans is linked to poorer mental health in both Chinese American parents and youths.

Asian Americans are less likely than non-Hispanic white Americans to seek mental health help. This is due in part to perceived stigma, language barriers and lack of mental health providers of the same ethnicity. These disparities are even greater for Asian American families with fewer financial resources.



Elderly Asian Americans are at a high-

er risk of being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19. (Photo/Ringo Chiu/AFP via Getty Images)

Some Asian American parents have also expressed concerns about the ability of schools to maintain appropriate COVID-19-related health and safety measures. They are worried about the health risks that children exposed to others at school might bring home. Asians Americans are more likely to live in a multigenerational household, in which older adults might be at a higher health risk.

Even if parents choose to keep their children home because of one or several of these concerns, they are getting the message that in-person education is superior to virtual education. Being out of physical school could cause Asian Americans to miss out on these opportunities and resources even more. Also, due to the “model minority myth,” which characterizes Asian Americans as successful, the needs of this very diverse group, including a large number of immigrant and refugee Asian families in the U.S., are often overlooked. With 30% of Asian Americans reporting limited English proficiency, these families are more difficult to reach. The fears of being harassed also make some parents reluctant to access educational materials or free meals or even reach out to teachers or counselors for help.

What can schools do to reduce threats to Asian American students?

Helping students build strong and supportive relationships with each other can reduce their physical victimization and buffer the negative effects of discrimination Asian Americans face. Schools can also create supportive environments by implementing a range of evidence-based approaches, such as building teachers’ cultural knowledge and strengthening teacher-student relationships. Activities like engaging students in class discussions about bullying have been shown to reduce bullying.



Class discussions around the harms of bullying in schools can prevent harassment toward Asian American students. (Photo/Rich-

Vintage/E+via Getty Images)

Alongside initiatives to build supportive environments, schools should also consider partnering with parents. Directly engaging Asian American parents in anti-bullying initiatives can help reduce victimization. For example, schools can collaborate with parents to craft disciplinary policies on bullying. Schools can also hold workshops to teach parents how to handle and prevent bullying.

In order to reduce threats and eradicate harm, I believe schools will need to consider whether they are doing enough to protect Asian American youth. One landmark case underscores this. In the aftermath of violent attacks on Asian American students at South Philadelphia High School in 2009, a Department of Justice investigation revealed that the school district was “deliberately indifferent” to harassment against Asian students that fueled the attacks.

A key takeaway: Harms against Asian American students can be systemic and require broader structural solutions. When South Philadelphia High School began to do more to promote multicultural awareness and improved systems to report and investigate harassment, the school saw fewer violent incidents.

To make Asian American youth feel safe and protected, schools need to track, report and respond to incidents of hate against Asian Americans, especially among Asian American ethnic subgroups. Subgroup data, often lacking on Asian Americans, can be a powerful tool in revealing potential disparities and highlighting groups that schools need to target for support. I believe schools also need to invest in longer-term systemic changes such as including a more complete history of Asian Americans in U.S. social studies curricula. (Courtesy theconversation.com/)

