

### Summary

Cash prices have recovered due to a combination of sharply reduced imports and state buying.

### Futures

Corn futures were slightly lower in March, with May futures down 1.8% but prices remain comfortably off the lows set in December.

### Production

There doesn't seem to be any large shift in the corn planted area this and currently looks to be steady or marginally higher than last year.

Farmers have sold almost all of their corn at this point. At the end of March, the sales pace in the northeast was 89% which is 10 percentage points faster than last year, while in north China it is 87%, 16 percentage points faster than last year.

Weather forecasts have slightly higher precipitation in the northeast which already has some wet areas. This could make planting more difficult but isn't a major concern at the moment.

### Feed

Feed production was 315 million tons in 2024, down 2.1% year on year but the amount of corn used increased by 7.9 million tons.

Feed production in January and February was up 9.6% year on year. The use of corn in feed was strong at 47.2%, up 1.2% year on year.

Corn is starting to face competition from wheat in rations as the corn discount to wheat has narrowed sharply and the 2025 wheat crop could be another record.

### FSI

The rise in corn prices has pushed processors into losses but the operating rate remains high. Processors were operating at 68%, up 3% compared to February.

This has increased starch inventories to 1.36 million tons, up 174k tons compared to last year. Starch exports have resumed. From August 2022 through October 2024, exports were stopped. Exports have resumed but are still below previous levels.

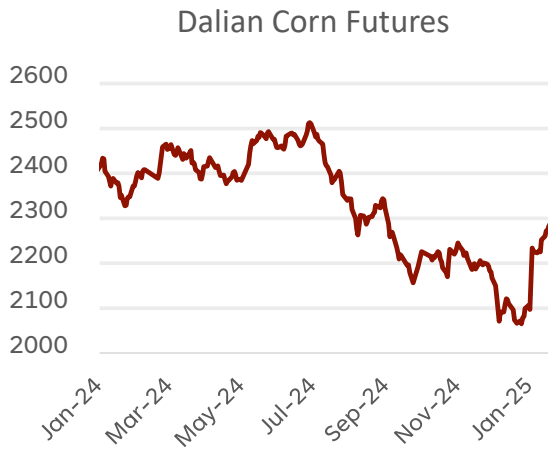
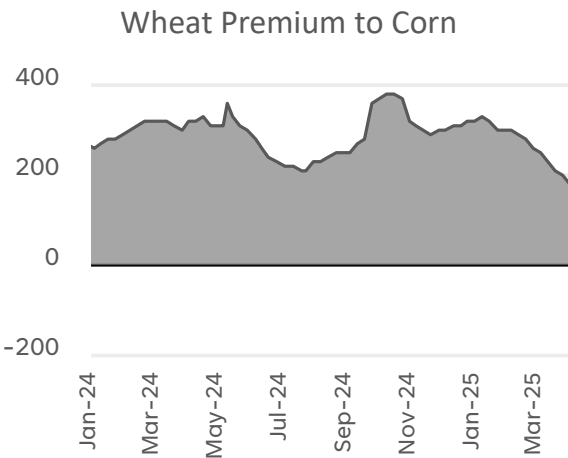
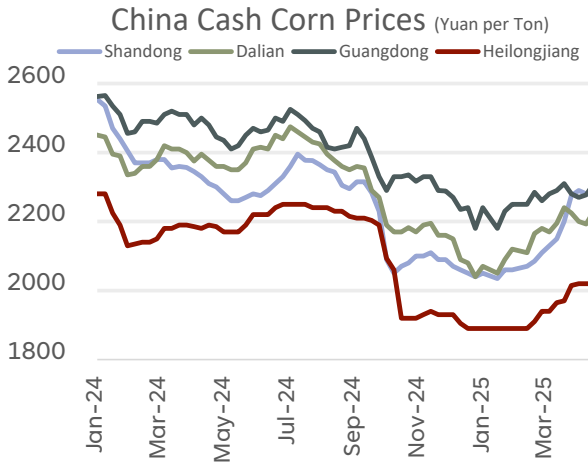
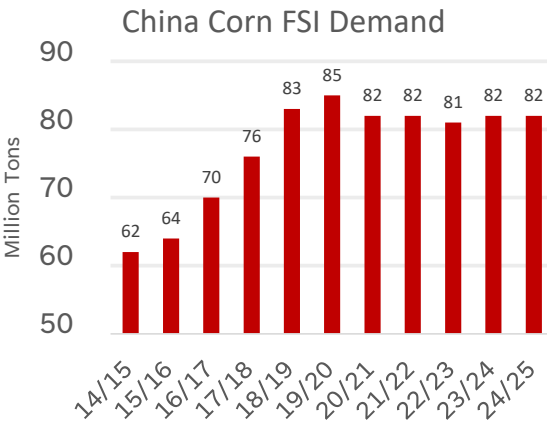
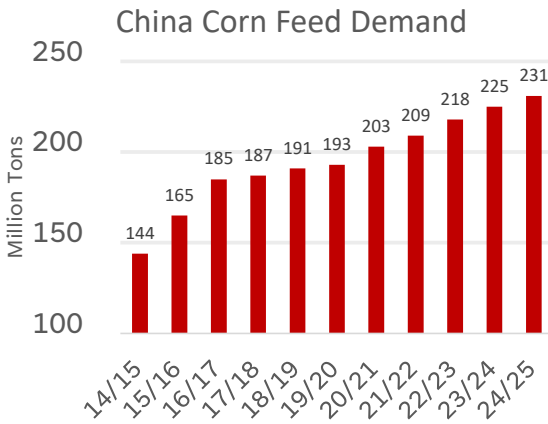
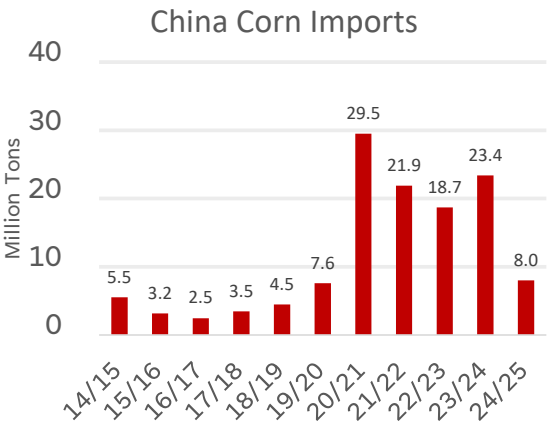
### Imports

Imports continue to be minimal with only 100k tons imported in January and only 80k tons imported in February. This is the lowest volume since September 2018.

The USDA has also continued to adjust their import estimate lower to 8 million tons in March, down from 10 in February, and down from 23 in August.

### Outlook

Prices have recovered but face some bearish factors such as a potentially record wheat crop and stable, but not growing, demand from the hog sector.



USDA Balance Sheet (Million Tons)

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Beginning Stocks	223	210	201	206	209	206	211
Area Harv. (Mil HA)	42.1	41.3	41.3	43.3	43.1	44.2	44.7
Yield (Ton/HA)	6.10	6.32	6.32	6.29	6.44	6.44	7.44
Production	257	261	261	273	277	289	295
Imports	4.5	7.6	29.5	21.9	18.7	23.4	8.0
Total Use	274	278	285	291	299	307	313
Feed Consumption	191	193	203	209	218	225	231
FSI Consumption	83	85	82	82	81	82	82
Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Stocks	210	201	206	209	206	211	201

Monthly Corn Imports (Thousand Tons)

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Oct	73	81	91	1,141	1,302	547	2,040	250
Nov	22	118	98	1,226	787	741	3,590	300
Dec	454	417	734	2,217	1,332	867	4,950	340
Jan	392	401	661	3,014	2,754	2,243	3,590	100
Feb	102	165	271	1,780	1,929	3,086	2,600	80
Mar	63	416	318	1,931	2,413	2,191	1,710	
Apr	379	664	887	1,850	2,209	1,002	1,180	
May	755	747	637	3,154	2,081	1,662	1,050	
Jun	515	717	882	3,569	2,207	1,846	920	
Jul	331	386	912	2,862	1,537	1,678	1,090	
Aug	327	232	1,007	3,235	1,798	1,200	430	
Sep	41	139	1,081	3,533	1,534	1,650	310	
Total	3,455	4,483	7,579	29,511	21,884	18,715	23,460	

China Monthly Corn Imports

