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Commodity Price Changes and Corn-Minus-Soybean Returns

Gary Schnitkey

Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
University of Illinois

February 24, 2011

farmdoc daily (1):10

Recommended citation format: Schnitkey, G. "[Commodity Price Changes and Corn-Minus-Soybean Returns](#)." *farmdoc daily* (1):10, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 24, 2011.

Permalink: <http://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2011/02/commodity-price-changes-and-co-1.html>

Even with recent decreases in commodity prices, corn is still projected to be more profitable than soybeans. Current cash bids for fall delivery are about \$5.45 per bushel for corn and \$12.65 for soybeans. Corn-minus-soybean returns measure return differences. Positive numbers indicate corn is projected to be more profitable than soybeans. Using the above commodity prices, corn-minus-soybean returns are projected at \$194 per acre in northern Illinois, \$166 per acre for high-productivity farmland in central Illinois, \$157 per acre for low-productivity farmland in central Illinois, and \$123 per acre in southern Illinois.

In northern and central Illinois, the 2011 projected corn-minus-soybean returns are over \$100 above the 2005-2010 average. In southern Illinois, 2011 projected corn-minus-soybean returns are over \$60 above the 2005-2010 average.

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