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### USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum 2009

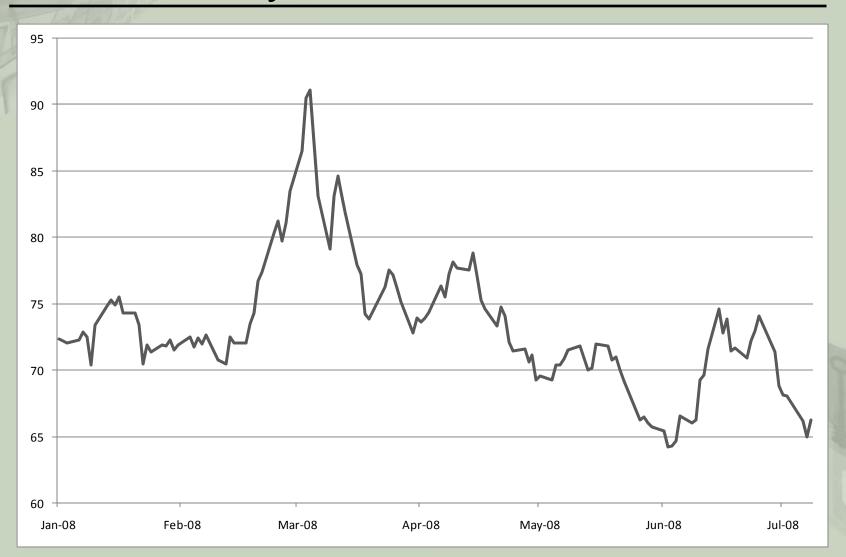
From an Index/Hedge Fund Perspective:

Commodities as an Investment – Impact on Futures Markets

**Timothy Rudderow** 

February 2009

## Cotton - July 2008 Contract



### All Funds Are Not Alike

- >Traditional Speculators
  - CTAs
  - Locals
- >The New Guys
  - Index replicators
  - ETFs

### Commodities As An Asset Class

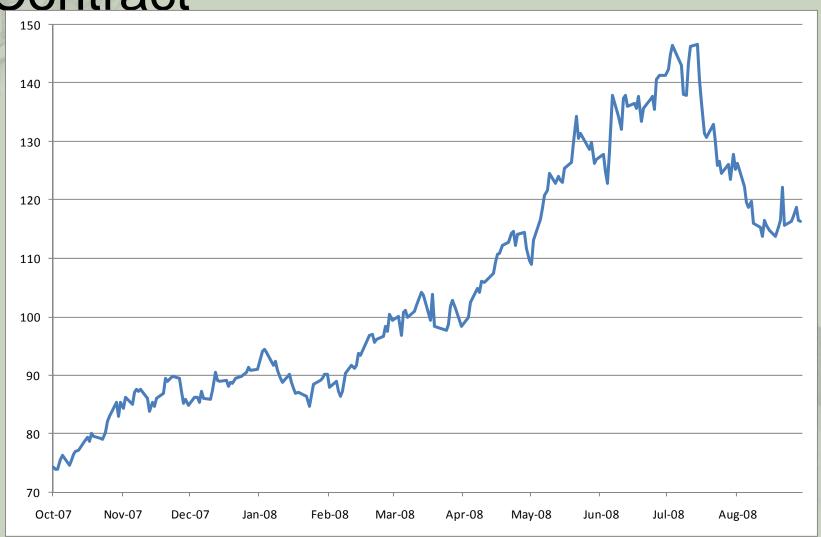
- >Traditional Role of Speculative Capital
  - Bridge between buy side and sell side hedgers
  - Two sided nature of the asset class
- >Nouveau View
  - Long only commodities for portfolio diversification
  - Rationale for Return has Changed
    - From "Roll Yield" to ...
    - Let's get Long

## Impact On The Market

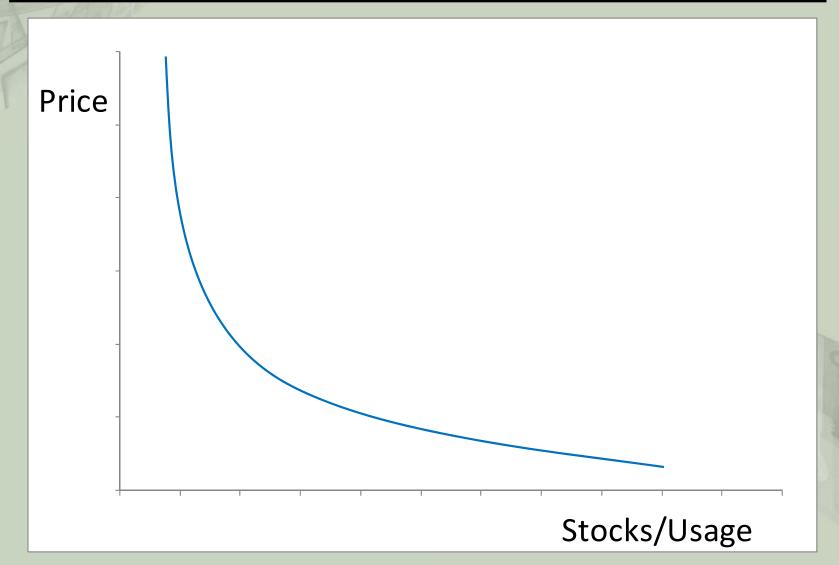
- >Index players are a large well capitalized long
- >Leads to:
  - Higher Prices
    - It's a short Squeeze
  - Basket Effects
    - Basket traders force strange correlations
  - Basis Impact
    - Very strange activity as contracts go off the board

### Crude Oil - December 2008

Contract



## The First Thing I Learned

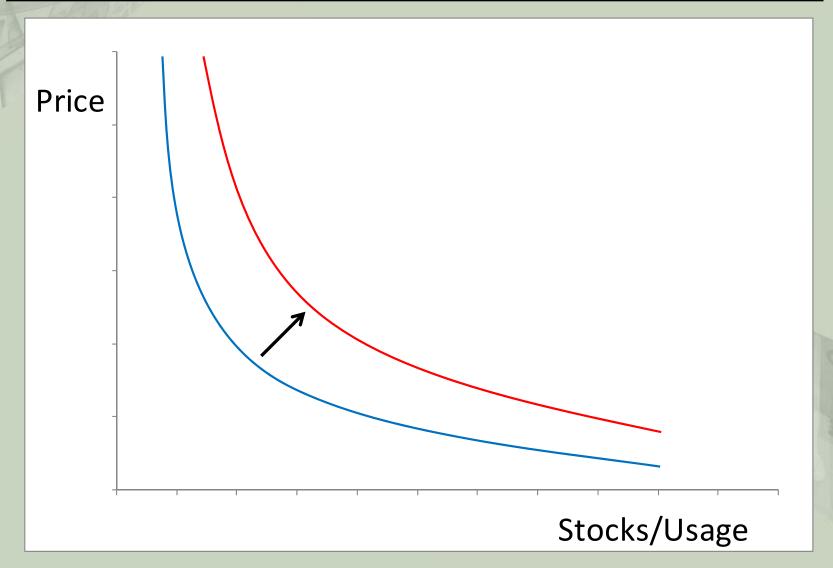


### Balance Table: Corn

| Exhibit 1: U.S. Corn Supply & Use |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |          | Jan      | Feb      |
|                                   | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08E | 2008/09E | 2008/09E |
| Area (Millions of Acres)          |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |
| Planted                           | 80.2    | 77.4    | 79.6    | 75.7    | 78.9    | 78.6    | 80.9    | 81.8    | 78.3    | 93.6     | 86.0     | 86.0     |
| Harvested                         | 72.6    | 70.5    | 72.4    | 68.8    | 69.3    | 70.9    | 73.6    | 75.1    | 70.6    | 86.5     | 78.6     | 78.6     |
| Yield per Harvested Acre          | 134.4   | 133.8   | 136.9   | 138.2   | 129.3   | 142.2   | 160.4   | 148.0   | 149.1   | 151.1    | 153.9    | 153.9    |
|                                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |
| Beginning Stocks (M bushels)      | 1,308   | 1,787   | 1,718   | 1,899   | 1,596   | 1,087   | 958     | 2,114   | 1,967   | 1,304    | 1,624    | 1,624    |
| Production                        | 9,759   | 9,431   | 9,915   | 95      | 8,967   | 10,089  | 11,807  | 11,114  | 10,535  | 13,074   | 12,101   | 12,101   |
| Imports                           | 19      | 15      | 7       | 10      | 14      | 14      | 11      | 9       | 12      | 20       | 15       | 15       |
| Supply, Total                     | 11,085  | 11,232  | 11,639  | 11,412  | 10,578  | 11,190  | 12,776  | 13,237  | 12,514  | 14,398   | 13,740   | 13,740   |
| Feed and Residual                 | 5,471   | 5,664   | 5,842   | 5,864   | 5,558   | 5,789   | 6,162   | 6,141   | 5,598   | 5,974    | 5,300    | 5,300    |
| Food, Seed & Industrial           | 1,846   | 1,913   | 1,957   | 2,046   | 2,340   | 2,537   | 2,686   | 2,981   | 3,488   | 4,364    | 4,900    | 4,900    |
| Ethanol for Fuel                  | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | 1,168   | 1,323   | 1,603   | 2,117   | 3,026    | 3,600    | 3,600    |
| Domestic, Total                   | 7,318   | 7,578   | 7,799   | 7,911   | 7,898   | 8,335   | 8,848   | 9,122   | 9,086   | 10,338   | 10,200   | 10,200   |
| Exports                           | 1,981   | 1,937   | 1,941   | 1,905   | 1,592   | 1,897   | 1,814   | 2,147   | 2,125   | 2,436    | 1,750    | 1,750    |
| Use, Total                        | 9,298   | 9,515   | 9,740   | 9,815   | 9,491   | 10,232  | 10,662  | 11,270  | 11,210  | 12,774   | 11,950   | 11,950   |
| Ending Stocks, Total              | 1,787   | 1,718   | 1,899   | 1,590   | 1,087   | 958     | 2,114   | 1,967   | 1,304   | 1,624    | 1,790    | 1,790    |
| Stocks/Use Ratio                  | 19.2%   | 18.1%   | 19.5%   | 16.2%   | 11.5%   | 9.4%    | 19.8%   | 17.5%   | 11.6%   | 12.7%    | 15.0%    | 15.0%    |
| Avg. Farm Price (\$/bu) LOW       | \$1.94  | \$1.82  | \$1.85  | \$1.97  | \$2.32  | \$2.42  | \$2.00  | \$1.95  | \$3.00  | \$4.10   | \$3.55   | \$3.65   |
| Avg. Farm Price (\$/bu) HIGH      | \$1.94  | \$1.82  | \$1.85  | \$1.97  | \$2.32  | \$2.42  | \$2.10  | \$2.00  | \$3.08  | \$4.30   | \$4.25   | \$4.15   |
|                                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |

Source: USDA WASDE

# Higher Prices?



### Alternative Reasons

- >Everyone tells me its different
  - China
  - Ethanol
  - People have to eat
- >Market still has to clear