

# Soybeans reverse on China fears as Mato Grosso rain and Northern Arc bottlenecks intensify

Global Agricultural Developments

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## Soybeans reverse on China fears as Mato Grosso rain and Northern Arc bottlenecks intensify

*By Global Agricultural Developments • February 27, 2026*

Soybean markets reversed after fresh highs on China-related uncertainty, while Brazil's Mato Grosso harvest faces heavy rain and severe Northern Arc logistics bottlenecks. This brief also highlights ROI-linked burndown programs, AI timing tools, connected-farm experiments, and key policy/trade developments shaping 2026 planning.

### 1) Market Movers

**Oilseeds: soybeans hit fresh highs, then reversed on China/trade uncertainty**

- **Feb 26 pricing (international):** soybeans down 0.17% to \$11.63/bu, while corn and wheat finished higher <sup>1</sup>.
- Farm Journal's close described soybeans making **new highs then "crashing,"** tied more to **China concerns** than month-end profit taking—amid talk that U.S.-China negotiations were "not going well" and with the reminder that **Brazilian beans are about \$1 cheaper** <sup>2</sup>.
- The same segment also flagged that **exports were "dismal"** and that the U.S. is **"too expensive"** on the world market, making it hard to sustain upside momentum <sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>MT em estado de alerta para escoamento de soja em pico da colheita | Rural Notícias - 26/02/2026

<sup>2</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

<sup>3</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

### Soybean oil & biofuels: policy optimism vs. heavy inventories

- Farm Journal’s early show emphasized optimism tied to an **RVO proposal moving through regulatory channels**, while noting **crush pace has been below** what’s needed for USDA’s forecast and **soy oil stocks have climbed for three consecutive months** <sup>4</sup>.
- Discussion of **45Z** included: prioritizing **North America** (including Canadian canola oil), and removing the **indirect land use** penalty that had been “penalizing row crop” from a carbon-emissions standpoint—framed as supportive for soybean oil relative to the prior 18 months <sup>5</sup>.

### Corn: strong demand narrative, but watch basis and acreage

- Farm Journal’s close framed corn as a split story: **cash corn** potentially struggling versus **Dec futures** staying “relatively supported” until acres are secured, with **basis** a key risk in rallies <sup>6</sup>.
- The same segment cited **U.S. demand at 16.47B bu** (attributed to USDA), calling it a historically large demand figure <sup>7</sup>.
- Export signal: USDA reported **178,000 MT** of corn sold to **Japan** for delivery in **MY 2026/27 (154,000 MT)** and **MY 2027/28 (24,000 MT)** <sup>8</sup>.

### Wheat: weather-driven premium fading after a pop

- Farm Journal described wheat consolidating after a “big pop,” with last week’s rally attributed partly to **weather premium**, but with a more favorable rainfall forecast weighing on follow-through <sup>9</sup>.
- In a separate Farm Journal segment, wheat’s outlook was framed as difficult with **positive weather** in the forecast for **Kansas HRW** areas and “the world has plenty of wheat,” implying export-side surprises would matter most <sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup>Markets Now Early - 2/26 Can Soybeans Hit \$12, Corn \$5 With China Demand and Robust RVOs?

<sup>5</sup>Markets Now Early - 2/26 Can Soybeans Hit \$12, Corn \$5 With China Demand and Robust RVOs?

<sup>6</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

<sup>7</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

<sup>8</sup> post by @USDAForeignAg

<sup>9</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

<sup>10</sup>Markets Now Early - 2/26 Can Soybeans Hit \$12, Corn \$5 With China Demand and Robust RVOs?

### Livestock: cattle risk headline—JBS strike talk

- Farm Journal’s close flagged **strike whispers at the JBS plant in Greeley** as a bigger story than month-end profit taking, suggesting it could create sharp downside risk and reinforcing the need to protect cattle price risk near recent highs <sup>11</sup>.

### Brazil cash snapshots (Feb 26)

- National physical quotes (selected): **soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul** at **R\$122/saca** (+R\$1), **corn in RS R\$53/saca** (stable), and **wheat in Paraná R\$1,200/ton** (stable) <sup>12</sup>.

## 2) Innovation Spotlight

### Burndown ROI and operational flexibility (U.S.): Reviton programs in no-till

- **Product + fit:** Reviton (saflufenacil; **Group 14 PPO**) was positioned as a flexible burndown option in reduced/no-till systems, controlling **50+ broadleaf and grass species**, including some **glyphosate-, ALS-, and triazine-resistant** weeds, and functioning under cool conditions <sup>13</sup>.
- **Cost math cited in the training:** a proactive Reviton program was described as a **\$5–\$10/acre** add-on that can avoid rescue passes costing **\$30–\$50/acre**, for stated net savings of **\$15–\$40/acre** (chemistry + fuel + yield protection) <sup>14</sup>.
- **Operational note:** updated label guidance emphasized rapid plant-back intervals (e.g., **0-day** for corn; **0–7 days** for soybeans depending on rate/conditions) to “keep the planter moving” <sup>1516</sup>.

### Precision decision support: AI-based fungicide timing

- Pioneer launched an **AI-based fungicide timing tool** intended to predict disease risk and identify optimal spray windows using **field-level data** <sup>17</sup>.

### Connected-farm experimentation: Starlink for irrigation + sensing

- Nick Horob described plans to irrigate trees/small plots on an arid **500-acre farm** using a productive well and **Starlink-connected pumps and**

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<sup>11</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

<sup>12</sup>MT em estado de alerta para escoamento de soja em pico da colheita | Rural Notícias - 26/02/2026

<sup>13</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

<sup>14</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

<sup>15</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

<sup>16</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

<sup>17</sup> post by @SuccessfulFarm

**switches** for remote operation <sup>18</sup>.

- He also plans to extend Starlink across the farm to support **soil moisture sensors**, cameras, and other experiments, with the intention to share results and possibly live data feeds <sup>19</sup>.

#### Post-harvest automation: bin monitoring to protect grain quality

- An Indiana farmer highlighted an AGI **137,000-bushel** bin and a **bin manager system** that can automatically run fans to manage moisture/temperature risk, framed as protecting **\$600k–\$700k** of grain value in a single bin and reducing “risk factor” and quality anxiety <sup>20</sup>.

#### On-farm feed manufacturing: grinder mixers to reduce custom costs

- Art’s-Way’s largest grinder mixer (model **8215**) was described as a **215-bushel tank, 26-inch hammer mill**, roughly **6-ton** capacity unit (diet-dependent), requiring **90–100 PTO HP** <sup>21</sup>.
- Cost lever cited: avoiding **\$10–\$16/ton** custom grind/mix delivery by using more grain on-farm with less handling/transport <sup>22</sup>.

#### Small-/mid-scale tech adoption (Brazil): drones + automation with payback windows

- A Canal Rural segment said replacing conventional sprayers with **drones** can eliminate **trampling (“amassamento”) losses** and recover productivity in tramlines **from the first harvest** <sup>23</sup>.
- It also pointed to automation options that can pencil for smaller farms (e.g., **pumping/irrigation** and water supply for small animals) <sup>24</sup> and noted that automated feeding systems for small animals can show better economic consistency after **4–5 cycles**, assuming management adjustments accompany the tech <sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>18</sup> post by @NickHorob

<sup>19</sup> post by @NickHorob

<sup>20</sup>Brownfield’s Meghan Grebner interviews Kevin Kalb about AGI & Corn Strategy at Commodity Classic ’26

<sup>21</sup>Art’s-Way Mfg- Building a Legacy in Farm Machinery with Jim Cronk

<sup>22</sup>Art’s-Way Mfg- Building a Legacy in Farm Machinery with Jim Cronk

<sup>23</sup>Tecnologia avança nas pequenas e médias propriedades e ajuda produtor a ganhar eficiência

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### 3) Regional Developments

#### Brazil (Mato Grosso + Northern Arc): rain + logistics disrupting soybean harvest execution

- Field conditions: reports cited **2,300 mm** of accumulated rain versus an **1,800 mm annual average**, with harvesters getting stuck and conditions also complicating corn planting <sup>2627</sup>.
- Crop progress and losses: Mato Grosso soybean harvest was cited at **66% complete**, with corn planting at **65%** by **Feb 20**, both slowed by sustained rainfall; estimated soybean losses were discussed at **~15%** in affected areas <sup>2829</sup>.
- Export bottleneck: the road access to **Miritituba (Pará)** port terminals was linked to truck queues up to **30 km**, driven by poor road conditions (worse when it rains), leaving terminals short of trucks and slowing discharge despite daily targets <sup>3031</sup>.

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<sup>26</sup>MT em estado de alerta para escoamento de soja em pico da colheita | Rural Notícias - 26/02/2026

<sup>27</sup>MT em estado de alerta para escoamento de soja em pico da colheita | Rural Notícias - 26/02/2026

<sup>28</sup>MT em estado de alerta para escoamento de soja em pico da colheita | Rural Notícias - 26/02/2026

<sup>29</sup>MT em estado de alerta para escoamento de soja em pico da colheita | Rural Notícias - 26/02/2026

<sup>30</sup>Caminhões enfrentam filas para descarregar soja em Miritituba

<sup>31</sup>Caminhões enfrentam filas para descarregar soja em Miritituba



*Caminhões enfrentam filas para descarregar soja em Miritituba (1:29)*

- Economic impact signals: producers described losing **10–15 BRL per soy sack** due to logistics delays <sup>32</sup>. Another report highlighted **BR-163** challenges (including a toll cited at **R\$676.80**) alongside pot-holes/accident risk, framed as compounding transport difficulty during peak harvest <sup>33</sup>.

#### **Mercosur–EU agreement: ratification pace hinges on safeguards**

- Status: the agreement was approved in the lower houses of **Brazil** and **Argentina**, while Brazil’s Senate was described as awaiting a government **safeguards decree** before taking the text to a plenary vote <sup>34</sup>.
- Safeguards definition in the reporting: tools include **import quotas, suspending tariff reductions, and restoring prior tax levels** <sup>35</sup>.

#### **Brazil rice: commercialization support tied to falling prices**

- Conab announced releasing **R\$73M+** to support rice commercialization for the **2025/26** crop, with an estimate that it could support around

<sup>32</sup>Caminhões enfrentam filas para descarregar soja em Miritituba

<sup>33</sup>Chuvas acima da média em MT causam estragos e prejudicam a safra

<sup>34</sup>Uruguai é o primeiro país a aprovar acordo Mercosul-UE; Brasil aguarda ratificação do Senado

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**300,000 tons** depending on premium size; **R\$61.3M** was allocated to **Rio Grande do Sul**, linked to moving about **250,000 tons** <sup>36</sup>.

#### **Animal health trade impact: Argentina avian influenza**

- Argentina’s SENASA confirmed a **highly pathogenic avian influenza** case in **Buenos Aires province**, triggering quarantine/disinfection/culling and a suspension of poultry product exports to trading partners <sup>37</sup>.

#### **U.S. conditions watch: moisture + animal health**

- Iowa drought: **moderate drought** was reported to jump from **11% to 25%** in a week (February U.S. Drought Monitor framing) as planting season approaches <sup>38</sup>.
- Iowa poultry: the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship reported **two HPAI cases** in flocks in **Keokuk** and **Van Buren** counties <sup>39</sup>.

#### **Soft commodities: Ghana cocoa financing stress**

- A Reddit post flagged reports that Ghana cocoa buyers may owe banks up to **\$750M**, framed as financing stress that could tighten forward selling/hedging capacity and exporter liquidity, with potential price impacts showing up with a lag <sup>4041</sup>.

## **4) Best Practices**

### **Weed control in tight spring windows (no-till burndown)**

- **Timing priority under cold/wet conditions:** in a Q&A, the guidance was to prioritize **weed size and forecast** (treated as “one and one”) ahead of other factors when windows are tight <sup>42</sup>.
- **Species-specific timing examples:** ryegrass control was framed as best at the **1–2 leaf stage**, while henbit can be controlled later (up to bloom) <sup>43</sup>.
- **Spray setup details cited:** increase carrier volume to **15–20 GPA**, use a **full MSO load (1% v/v)**, and avoid large-droplet nozzles—using

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<sup>36</sup>MT em estado de alerta para escoamento de soja em pico da colheita | Rural Notícias - 26/02/2026

<sup>37</sup>Seara se torna pioneira ao atingir 100% de gestação coletiva em granjas integradas

<sup>38</sup> post by @SuccessfulFarm

<sup>39</sup> post by @SuccessfulFarm

<sup>40</sup>r/AgriTech post by u/LMtrades

<sup>41</sup>r/AgriTech post by u/LMtrades

<sup>42</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

<sup>43</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

smaller droplet sizing such as a **flat-fan nozzle** in residue/cool conditions<sup>44</sup>.

### Balancing burndown timing with soil biology (cover crops)

- A no-till training emphasized that **burn down timing “really does matter”** because when living roots disappear, microbial activity can drop quickly; later termination was framed as supporting nutrient cycling closer to crop demand and reducing erosion risk on highly erodible soils<sup>45</sup>.

### Winter grazing systems: stockpiling and targeted hay “unrolling”

- A Missouri grazing strategy described using **“one bite and leave”** through the season to thicken the grass sward and stockpile the **entire farm** by fall<sup>46</sup>.
- Winter management included rotating **twice daily** on stockpiled forage (rain-dependent), and using purchased hay placed strategically so not all of it is eaten—leaving some residue for soil microbes<sup>4748</sup>.

### Pastured poultry: reducing predation pressure with layered defenses

- Practical tactics cited included **guard animals** (including aggressive geese)<sup>49</sup>, **moving** egg mobiles/netting to disrupt predator routines<sup>50</sup>, and **electric netting** paired with short-grass “DMZ” zones to deter smaller predators<sup>51</sup>.

## 5) Input Markets

### Fertility cost pressure (Brazil): rising fertilizer costs vs. weaker soybean prices

- In Mato Grosso, one segment described fertilizer costs (N/P/K) running **~25% higher** versus the prior season, while soybean prices were described around **~R\$100/saca**, down from **R\$170–R\$180** during the pandemic period<sup>5253</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

<sup>45</sup>Agronomic Strategies for Clean Starts and Fast Plant Backs

<sup>46</sup>Winter Grazing Strategies with Greg Judy of Green Pastures Farm - Grazing Native Perennials

<sup>47</sup>Winter Grazing Strategies with Greg Judy of Green Pastures Farm - Grazing Native Perennials

<sup>48</sup>Winter Grazing Strategies with Greg Judy of Green Pastures Farm - Grazing Native Perennials

<sup>49</sup>Protecting Your Chickens From Predators

<sup>50</sup>Protecting Your Chickens From Predators

<sup>51</sup>Protecting Your Chickens From Predators

<sup>52</sup>‘Aumentar área nem sempre resolve’, afirma Antônio Galvan | Direto ao Ponto

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### **Biofuel-driven demand debates: soybean oil needs “clear” demand signals**

- One Farm Journal segment said crush pace has been **below** the pace needed for USDA’s forecast while **soy oil stocks climbed** for three straight months, arguing the market needs positive policy/demand news that prioritizes domestic feedstocks to help draw down inventories <sup>54</sup>.

### **Crop protection and trait positioning**

- Syngenta’s DuraStack trait technology was promoted as featuring three modes of action and a triple Bt protein stack for corn rootworm control, with rootworm costs cited at **up to \$1B/year** and availability framed for the **2027 season** <sup>55</sup>.

### **Feed manufacturing + quality variability**

- A sugar beet processing challenge was described: some areas saw very high tonnage (**30–40 tons/acre**) but low sugar (**15–16%**) versus a traditional **20%** sugar target, which was described as inefficient for co-ops processing beets <sup>56</sup>.

## **6) Forward Outlook**

### **Weather windows (Brazil): near-term fieldwork vs. incoming rains**

- Canal Rural weather coverage described the **Centro-Sul** as currently **hot/dry** (especially **Mato Grosso do Sul** and interior São Paulo), with more substantial rains expected from **next weekend** and stronger volumes in the **9–13 March** window for areas including Paraná, interior SP, and MS <sup>5758</sup>.
- The same coverage called out **>100 mm** rains forecast for parts of Brazil’s interior Northeast (BA/MA/PI/PE interior), framed as helpful for reversing water deficits <sup>59</sup>.

### **2026 acreage direction (U.S.): “soybean swing” vs. corn pullback**

- A Farm Journal discussion suggested that a **94M corn-acre** number would be viewed as “very friendly,” but argued corn acres likely back

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<sup>54</sup>Markets Now Early - 2/26 Can Soybeans Hit \$12, Corn \$5 With China Demand and Robust RVOs?

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<sup>56</sup>Art’s-Way Mfg- Building a Legacy in Farm Machinery with Jim Cronk

<sup>57</sup>Chuvas de quase 400 mm são registradas em Juiz de Fora e Ubá (MG)

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off from outlier years (with crop insurance economics still a factor) <sup>60</sup>.

- Another Farm Journal source forecasted **soybean acres at 86M** (vs. USDA's 85M and 81.2M last year) and **corn acres at 94M**, tied to price ratios, renewable fuel buildout expectations, and farmer-held unsold corn stocks <sup>61,62</sup>.

### Logistics as a continuing price/spread variable (Brazil)

- In Mato Grosso's northern route, one report warned harvest is still early—"not 5% of areas" have moved through the route yet—implying congestion risk remains as volumes build <sup>63</sup>.

### Items to monitor

- **China-driven soybean volatility:** the same factors that drove Feb 26's reversal (China concern + U.S. price competitiveness) remain a headline risk <sup>64,65</sup>.
- **Livestock disruption risk:** strike talk at major packing plants was framed as a sudden downside catalyst for cattle markets <sup>66</sup>.

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<sup>60</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

<sup>61</sup>Moving Iron: The Soybean Swing & Used Equipment Reality

<sup>62</sup>Moving Iron: The Soybean Swing & Used Equipment Reality

<sup>63</sup>MT-499 vira motivo de revolta em Mato Grosso | Patrulheiro Agro ep. 230

<sup>64</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

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<sup>66</sup>Markets Now Closes - 2/26 Soybeans Fall Fresh Highs on China Fears, Cattle on JBS Plant Strike Talk

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