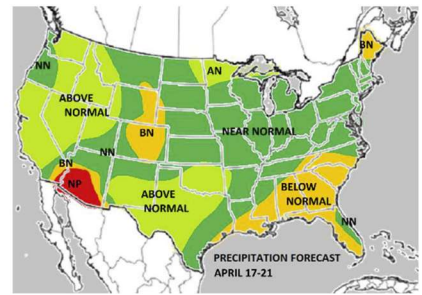
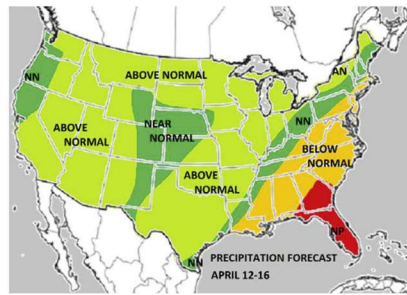
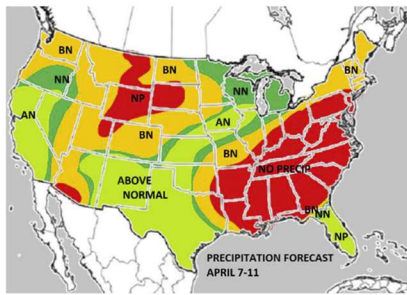
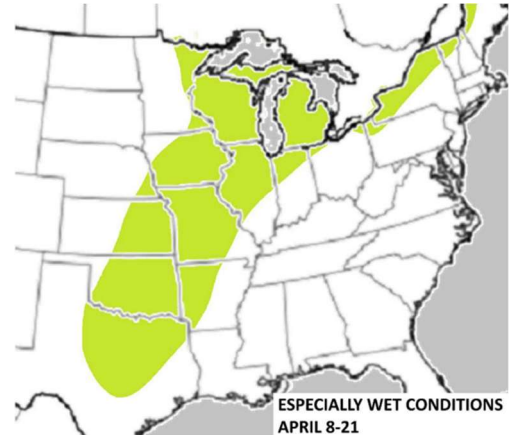


## Weather

A volatile temperature gradient is currently impacting the US Corn Belt, with an immediate freeze threat present today for early-emerged crops and advanced winter wheat as sub-freezing temperatures dominate areas north of Interstate 70 and freeze warnings encompass the eastern Corn Belt. This initial cold shock and localized snow in southwestern Iowa will quickly be replaced by a much warmer pattern beginning Wednesday, which should accelerate soil warming and planting progress. Accompanying this warming trend, a highly active precipitation pattern will establish itself across the Corn Belt and the Hard Red Winter wheat areas of the Southern Plains starting Wednesday night and extending into the 11-15 day period, delivering widespread rainfall totals of one to four inches that will significantly improve soil moisture profiles. Conversely, the Mid-South and Southeast face a concerning short-term deficit, as the forecast remains completely dry for at least another week, likely allowing rapid fieldwork but stalling early crop development due to the lack of moisture.

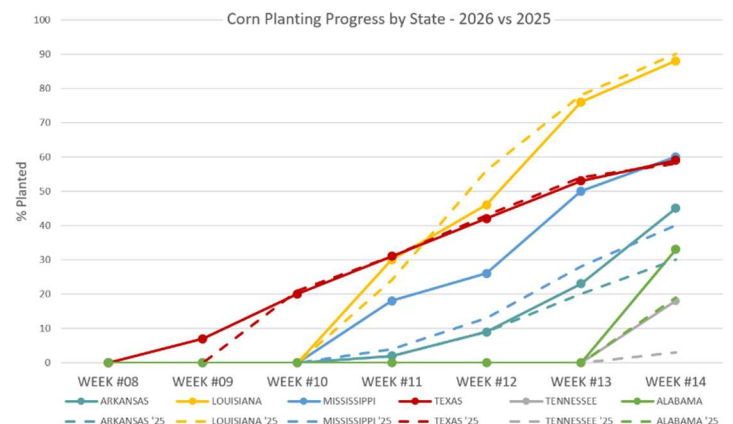


## Grains

The past few weeks we've been looking at state-level planting progress and crop conditions, with the takeaway of the South and Delta were running well ahead of pace across corn, soybeans, and cotton. The first national Crop Progress report of the 2026 crop year dropped yesterday afternoon and confirmed that setup, while also giving a better look at how poor winter wheat conditions have become.

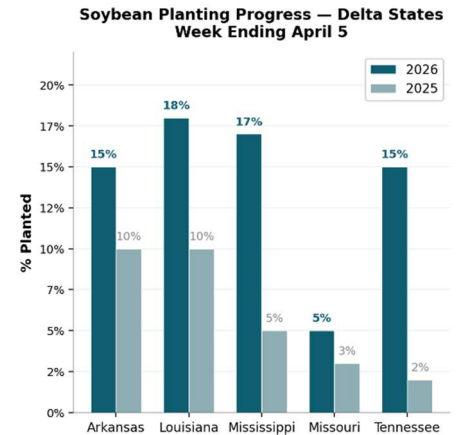
Winter wheat nationally came in at just 35% Good/Excellent, down sharply from 48% a year ago, with 31% rated Poor or Very Poor versus 21% last year. The deterioration is concentrated exactly where you'd expect given the drought conditions we've been tracking across the southern Plains: Oklahoma is at just 12% G/E, Colorado 12%, Texas 17%, and Nebraska 19%. These are the heart of HRW wheat country, and these conditions at this point in the season set a low baseline for yield potential heading into the critical jointing and heading stages. The contrast with the Pacific Northwest is stark — Washington at 86% G/E, Idaho 85%, California 95% — but those states don't move the needle on the national HRW crop. The Plains drought that state-level reports have been flagging since March now has a conditions number attached to it, and it isn't pretty.

On the planting side, the national corn number came in at 3% versus 2% last year and a 2% five-year average — modestly ahead but unremarkable at the headline level. The real story is still the state-by-state detail underneath



it. Mississippi jumped to 60% planted versus a 35% average, Arkansas surged to 45% versus 17%, and Tennessee – reporting for the first time this season – came in at 18% versus a 3% average. Alabama debuted at 33% versus 19%. These are enormous spreads over historical norms, and they represent a meaningful acceleration from even last week's already-fast state data. Louisiana is essentially wrapping up at 88%, and Texas is on pace at 59%. The Corn Belt proper – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota – is still sitting at 0-1%, which is normal for early April and a reminder that ~75-80% of the national crop hasn't even started yet.

Soybeans might be the quieter but more notable story. Delta planting continues to run at multiples of historical averages: Mississippi is at 17% versus a 4% five-year average, Tennessee 15% versus 1%, Arkansas 15% versus 5%, and Louisiana 18% versus 9%. Those aren't modest leads – they're three to fifteen times the normal pace. Rice is telling the same story, with the six reporting states at 30% planted versus an 18% average. The early-season window across the lower Mississippi Valley has been wide open, and farmers have clearly been making the most of it across every crop that's in the ground.



The first Crop Progress report of the year gives us two narratives running in opposite directions: a favorable planting window in the South and Delta, and a wheat crop that's starting the season in rough shape across the Plains. Cotton is on pace nationally at 5%, nothing to read into yet. The next few weeks are where this gets more interesting: the Corn Belt states will start reporting meaningful progress, and that's where the national acreage picture actually takes shape. For wheat, the question is whether spring moisture can stabilize conditions or whether the drought tightens its grip heading into May.

Grains commentary provided by Zachary Davis. For questions or comments, Zachary can be reached by email at [zdavis@nesvick.com](mailto:zdavis@nesvick.com) or on Trillian at [zdavis@nesvick.com](mailto:zdavis@nesvick.com).

## Livestock

Totals by Origin	This Week's Data							YOY Comparison			3 Week Avg			YTD		
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5YR Avr	WOW	YOY	vs 5Yr	3Wk	3Wk LY	YOY	YTD 25	YTD 26	YOY
Australia	2,734	1,533	2,353	4,757	6,270	11,158	3,529	61%	78%	216%	7,978	6,943	15%	106,605	114,001	7%
New Zealand	3,864	3,235	4,059	3,715	3,917	4,514	3,758	-17%	15%	20%	5,249	4,958	6%	54,849	53,908	-2%
Canada	6,209	7,332	7,413	8,323	7,496	6,426	7,355	8%	-14%	-13%	6,178	6,327	-2%	78,041	75,668	-3%
Mexico	4,512	6,589	5,762	4,282	4,668	5,510	5,163	5%	18%	7%	5,597	4,278	31%	55,710	65,763	18%
Top 4	17,319	18,689	19,587	21,077	22,351	27,608	19,805	17%	24%	39%	25,001	22,506	11%	295,205	309,340	5%
Non Top 4	5,033	7,362	6,808	5,514	12,261	16,121	7,396	-10%	31%	118%	17,441	11,656	50%	128,260	175,070	36%
Brazil	1,524	4,481	3,665	2,878	6,017	10,049	3,713	-7%	67%	171%	10,606	6,383	66%	68,853	93,525	36%
Uruguay	1,151	617	1,545	1,001	2,946	2,972	1,452	-28%	1%	105%	3,709	2,390	55%	30,657	39,415	29%
Nicaragua	1,794	1,356	844	875	1,708	1,538	1,315	7%	-10%	17%	1,442	1,460	-1%	13,067	17,405	33%
Costa Rica	223	100	219	65	208	240	163	21%	15%	47%	311	338	-8%	4,021	3,623	-10%
Japan	24	14	30	27	46	655	28	1184%	1324%	2223%	260	61	324%	1,123	1,769	58%
Argentina	96	493	480	521	1,261	1,210	570	-9%	-4%	112%	1,257	959	31%	9,428	19,235	104%
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	19	0				6	0		0	42	
Other*	221	301	25	147	75	-562	154	-1271%	-849%	-465%	-149	65	-331%	0	0	
Total	22,352	26,051	26,395	26,591	34,612	43,729	27,200	5%	26%	61%	42,442	34,163	24%	423,465	484,410	14%
Total South Am	4,788	7047	6753	5340	12140	16028	7,214	-10%	32%	122%	17,330	11,530	50%	126,026	173,245	37%

There is a big difference “inside” the imported beef flows as we compare volumes, tariffs, and emotions, which affected 2025 vs 2026. 2025 was driven by hoarding and excessive buying regardless of price from late February through all of May, as fears of and actual tariffs on beef imports into the US made imported prices move from \$3.00/lbs to \$5.40/lbs as of June. This was followed by collapsing volumes in the second half of the year. These import tariffs were removed in late 2025 and, as a result, are not an issue for 2026. The result has been a constant and persistent offer for beef imports into the US, not only from Brazil but from Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico. These imports are expected to

continue well into the summer or until imported prices converge with US prices, which today is a \$0.35 discount to US prices at \$4.40. This surge in imports in 2026 is not only for lean trimmings but also for steak cuts as well. This is changing the packers' leverage with retailers and QSR's as buyers increase their volumes with importers. Based on continued strong imports, as well as the Greeley plant coming back online, it might be possible that beef prices have made their seasonal high for 2026, 2 months early?



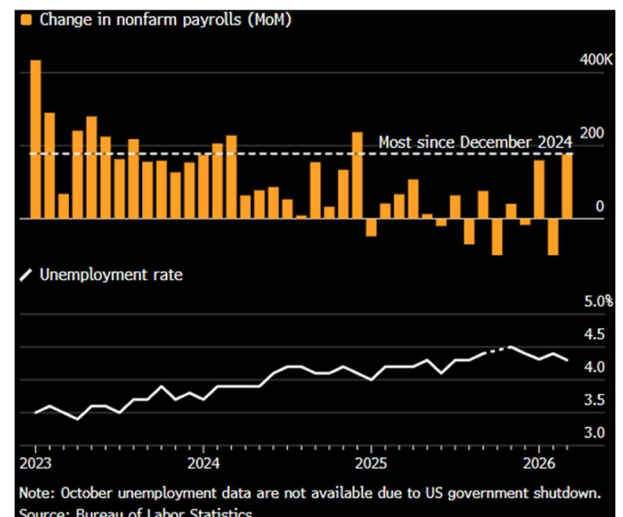
Livestock commentary provided by Scott Shepard. For questions or comments, Scott can be reached by email at [scott@mnrcapital.us](mailto:scott@mnrcapital.us) or on Trillian at [scott@nesvick.com](mailto:scott@nesvick.com).

## Macro/Financials

Despite the markets being closed on 4/6 for Good Friday, the BLS still dropped the March jobs report, so I figured it was worth a quick discussion. The +178,000 headline number was a big beat against the 59,000 consensus, but before anyone gets too excited about a labor market revival, though, it's worth pulling this number apart, because the story underneath is a lot less impressive than the print suggests.

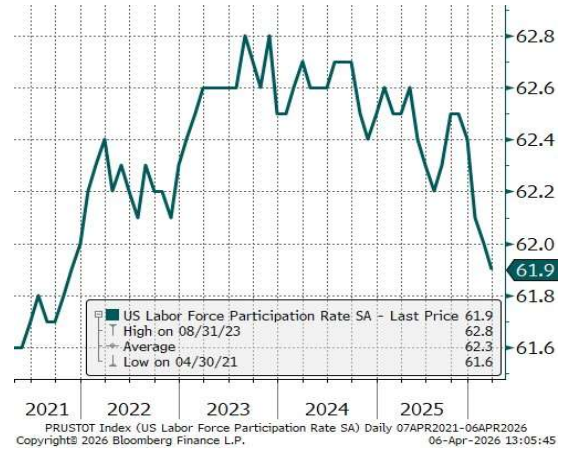
Healthcare added 76,000 jobs in March, but roughly half of that came from Kaiser Permanente nurses in California and Hawaii returning from a strike that dragged February's numbers into negative territory. Additionally, construction bounced back 26,000 after getting hammered by winter weather. Strip out the mechanical snapbacks and you're left with a much thinner gain – a three-month average of ~68,000, which is barely enough to keep up with population growth under normal conditions. However, the St. Louis Fed recently estimated that as few as 15,000 jobs per month could hold the unemployment rate steady, which tells you something about how dramatically labor supply growth has slowed – deportations and a participation rate at 61.9% (lowest since late 2021) are shrinking the denominator quickly.

The unemployment rate did tick down to 4.3%, but that's also not as positive when you look at the data. The household survey showed 64,000 fewer people holding jobs, and 396,000 people dropped out of the labor force entirely. The U-6, the BLS's broadest measure of labor underutilization, edged up to 8%, and wage growth came in soft at 0.2% M/m and



3.5% Y/y; this is the weakest annual pace since May 2021. Workers who do have jobs are seeing their real purchasing power squeezed even before the war-driven energy spike fully hits consumer prices.

And that's the real question hanging over all of this: March's survey week was right after the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran on Feb. 28. Oil is up 50%+, gasoline just cleared \$4/gallon nationally for the first time in three years, and the war wiped ~\$3.2 trillion off equities in March alone. None of that has had time to show up in hiring decisions yet. JPMorgan is already warning that negative payroll prints could become routine, and economists broadly expect April and May data to tell a much uglier story. The Fed, for its part, has been given a strong reason to hold rates for the time being, with CME FedWatch shows virtually zero probability of action at the April FOMC and a ~78% chance they hold all year. We're stuck in a "low-hire, low-layoff" equilibrium that's uncomfortable but not yet bad enough to force the Fed's hand.



*Macro/Financials commentary provided by Zachary Davis. For questions or comments, Zachary can be reached by email at [zdavis@nesvick.com](mailto:zdavis@nesvick.com) or on Trillian at [zdavis@nesvick.com](mailto:zdavis@nesvick.com).*

### Today's Calendar (all times Central)

- ADP Weekly Employment Change – 7:15 AM
- Durable/Cap Goods – 7:30 AM
- Purdue Ag Sentiment – 8:30 AM

Thanks for reading,

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