

## Record ag exports forecast despite Gulf issues

BY DANIEL GRANT

FarmWeek

It could take weeks or even months to reopen most ag facilities at the Gulf impacted by Hurricane Ida last month.

But that shouldn't put a huge dent in export sales, despite weighing on the commodity markets in recent weeks. USDA forecast fiscal year 2021 ag exports could increase 24% to a record \$173.5 billion before possibly setting another record in 2022 of \$177.5 billion.

"America's farmers, ranchers and processors are the world's best and global demand for their products is a testament to their quality, safety and commitment to sustainability and has led to a projected new record in U.S. agricultural exports," said Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Key factors driving the stout export projections include record volume and value of corn exports, record volume of soybean exports, strong demand from China and

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USDA forecasts slightly higher yields as harvest begins. **PG. 3**

reduced foreign competition.

Exports to China are forecast to reach a record \$39 billion, keeping it the largest export market for the U.S., followed by Canada and Mexico.

Of course, infrastructure issues emerged in the wake

of the devastating Hurricane Ida. Dan Basse, president of AgResource Company, believes it could be October before 70-80% of export facilities are back online at the Gulf, where about 60% of U.S. ag exports exit the country after traversing the Mississippi River.

"The Gulf is kind of a mess," Basse told FarmWeek at the Land Pro fall seminar in Morris. "(Hurricane) Katrina in 2005, where we had levy failures, was easier to fix. This

is electrical and structural (damage to facilities)."

Ongoing supply chain issues initiated by the COVID pandemic also could impede the process of reopening Gulf facilities.

"We know the supply of building material and labor are tight," Basse said. "We'll have some elevators be out for months."

During that time, Basse looks for ag exports moving

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### TURN, TURN, TURN

Nearly a quarter of soybeans were turning color as of Sept. 7, three points behind the average pace, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service Illinois field office. Check crop updates from across the state on pages 6-7. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)

"This is an extremely harmful attack on private property rights in Illinois. IFB will continue to stand up for private property owners."  
 - Richard Guebert Jr., IFB president

## IFB urges Senate to reject energy deal

BY KAY SHIPMAN

FarmWeek

The Illinois Senate is to return Monday to consider a state energy plan passed in the House with an 83-33 vote Thursday. Illinois Farm Bureau is urging senators to vote against SB 2408 to protect private property rights and maintain an affordable, reliable electricity supply.

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, called senators back on Monday "to advance this vital proposal to the governor's desk so it can become law." Gov. J.B. Pritz-

ker said representatives' action put the state "one historic step closer to reaching a 100% clean energy future."

IFB President Richard Guebert Jr. said the legislation "will take away private property rights, significantly increase electric rates and put the reliability of our energy supply at risk."

"SB 2408 will allow a private company seeking to construct the Grain Belt Express transmission line to utilize eminent domain," Guebert continued. "This is an extremely harmful

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## IFB: Tax proposals put future of farms at risk

BY TAMMIE SLOUP

FarmWeek

Illinois Farm Bureau joined 45 other state Farm Bureaus and 280 organizations calling on federal legislators to maintain tax policies fundamental to the financial health of production agriculture.

The letter, sent as Congress began debating the proposed \$3.5 trillion federal spending plan, outlined four key tax provisions that make it possible for farmers and ranchers to survive and pass their businesses on to the next generation: estate taxes, stepped-up basis, 199A

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House Ag Committee includes biofuels funding in budget. **PG. 11**

small business deduction and like-kind exchanges.

"The policies Congress enacts now will determine agricultural producers'

ability to secure affordable land to start or expand their operations," the letter states. "Regardless of whether a business has already been passed down through multiple generations or is just starting out, the key to their longevity is a continued

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