

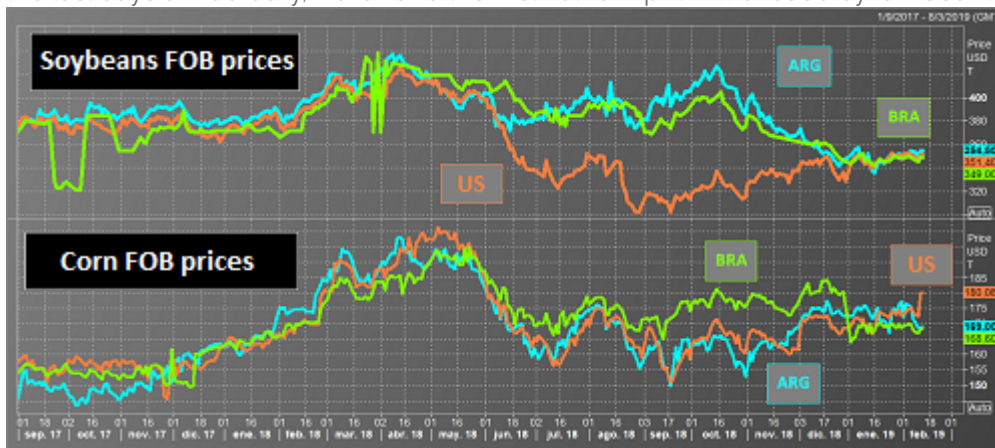
# First corn crop gains ground in Argentina as a record harvest opens the door to an outstanding export cycle

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First corn crop becomes more relevant to the Argentine production this year. By mid-November, Argentine farmers had planted 15% more corn than in the last 5 cycles' average.



BCR estimates a corn planted area in Argentina of 6.7 million hectares. This is 1.35 million hectares over the last 5-year average. As for the yields, they could be above the historical average around 130 bushel/acre (82 qq/ha). Therefore, since the greater planted area and the higher expected yields, Argentine corn crop would account for 46.5 million tons, 14 Mt more than the previous year and 6% above last month's projections. Therefore, corn arrivals at Rosario Hub's ports in the last days of February, March and the first half of April will exceed by far recent years' records.



In the spot market, corn price dropped sharply as the new crop became available. According to the Grain Arbitration Chamber (BCR), corn price in Rosario decreased by almost US\$ 9/t in the past week to 139.66 on June 14. The price for February/March corn was around US\$ 140/t. Meanwhile, Argentine corn FOB price gained competitiveness, encouraging export business.