

# SOYBEAN NOTES ECONOMICS SECTION

December 29, 2017

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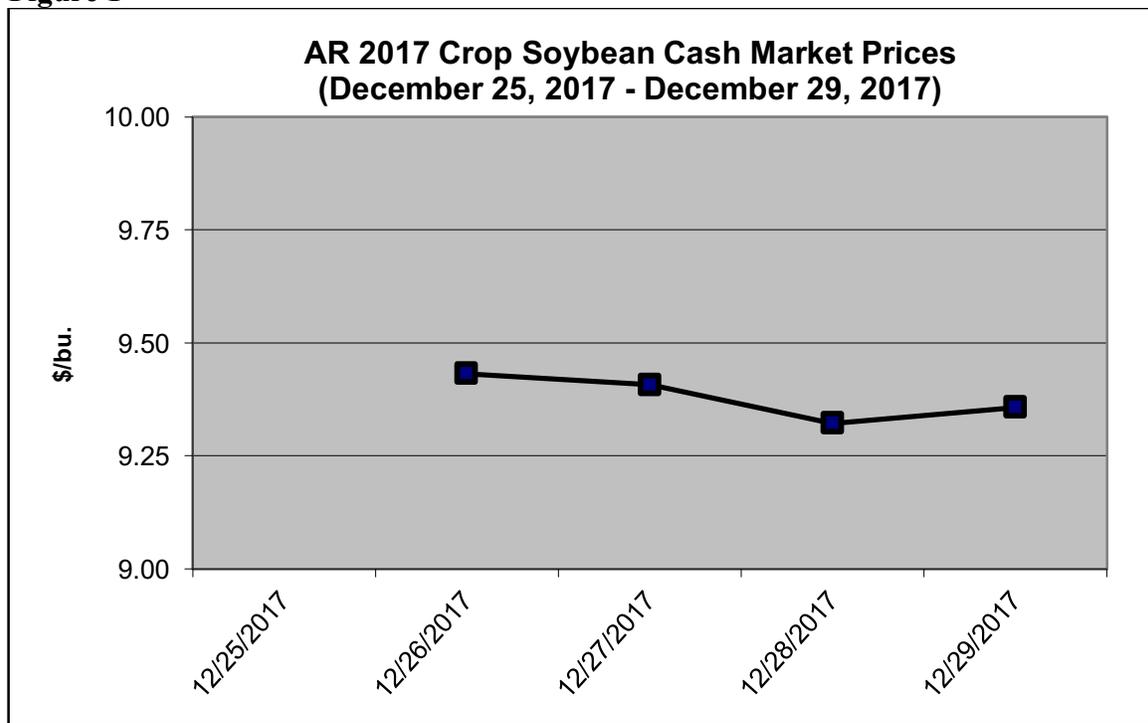
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SOYBEAN NOTES is a weekly newsletter focusing on all aspects of Arkansas soybean news. This market economics component looks at cash market & forward pricing quotes from selected markets as reported to National Agricultural Statistics Service in Arkansas.

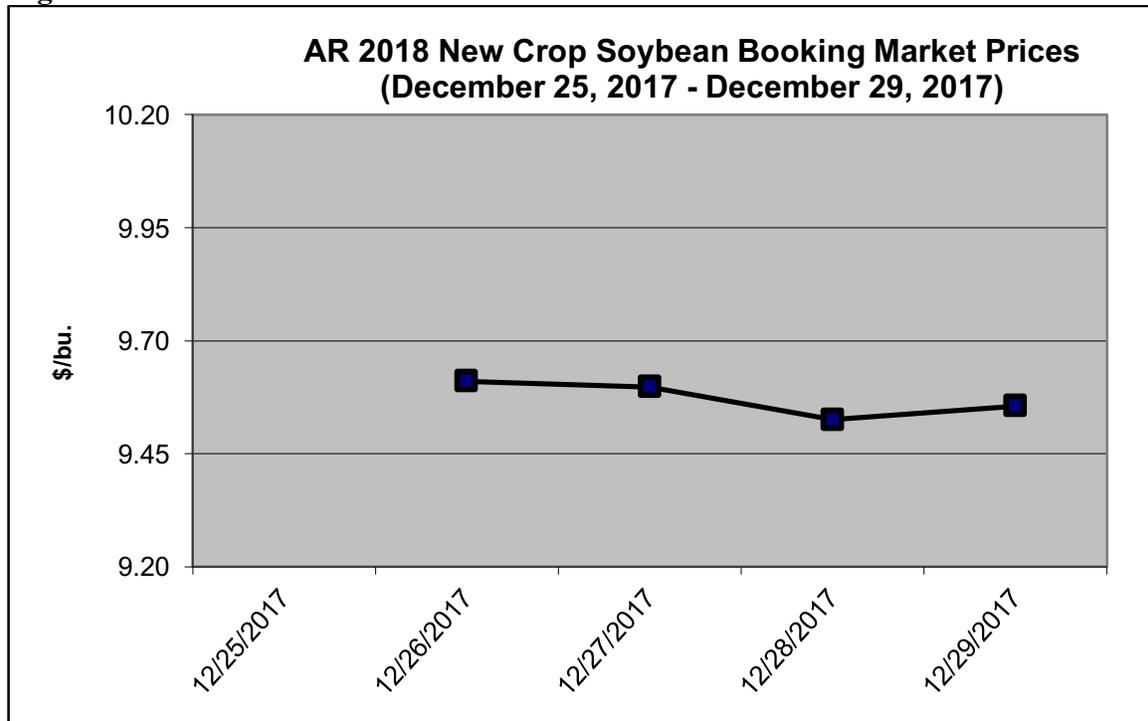
Figure 1



The Christmas holiday weekend gave a 10 cent boost to the Arkansas 2017 Crop Soybean Cash Market. The Tuesday statewide average showed beans opening the week at \$9.43, unchanged from the previous Monday opening price. The market proceeded lower through most of the week before a partial recovery on Friday that put the statewide average at \$9.36, 3 cents above the previous week closing price (Figure 1). High daily individual market price over the past week was \$9.66 at Helena on Tuesday. The low quote of the week was \$9.11 at Jonesboro and Des Arc on Thursday. End-of-the-week quotes saw Friday closing day prices ranging from a \$9.17 low at Jonesboro and Des Arc to a high of \$9.61 at Blytheville. The ending quotes represented a range of 44 cents, a 2 cent widening from the previous week closing range. Twelve individual markets

provided price quotations to close out the year as West Memphis failed to provide a price quote on Friday.

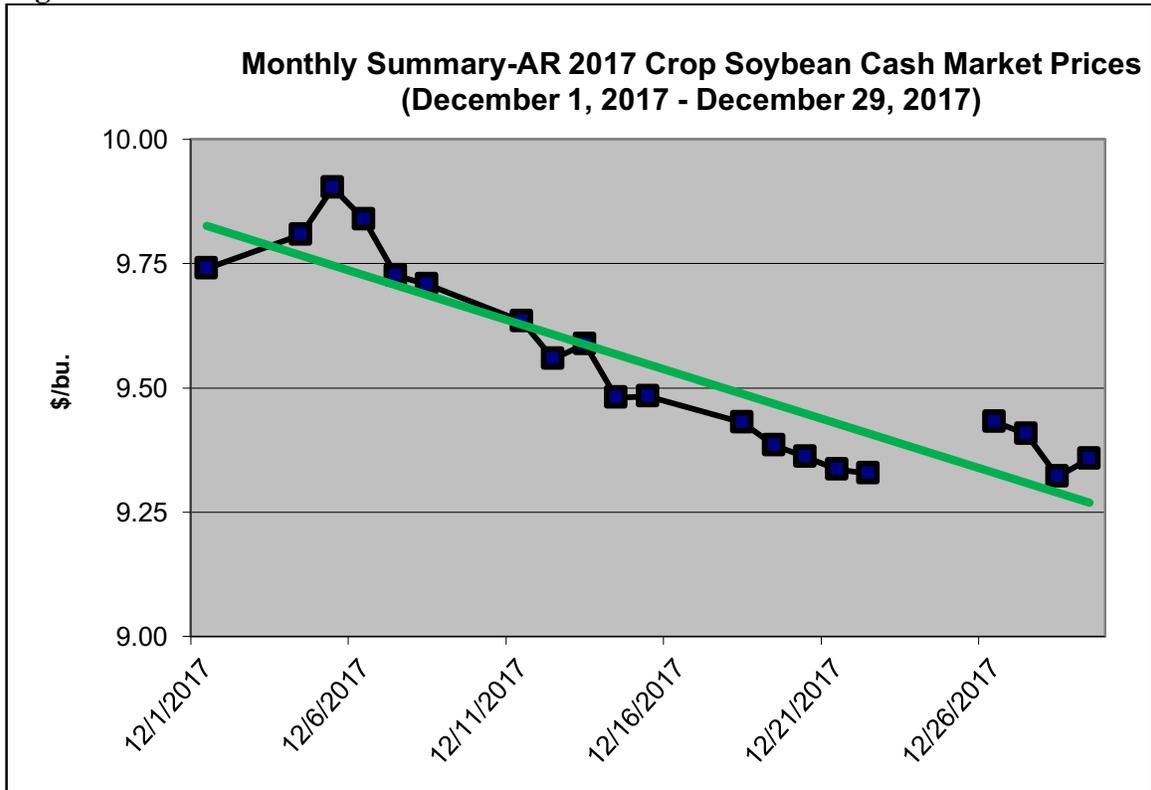
**Figure 2**



The Arkansas 2018 New Crop Soybean market moved upward with the old crop, but could only gain 8 cents over the Christmas weekend. New crop beans opened on the past Tuesday at \$9.61, 1 cent under the previous Monday opening price. The market moved generally lower through Thursday before making a small recovery on Friday. Trading closed the week on Friday at a \$9.56 statewide average, 3 cents above the previous week closing price (Figure 2). New crop booking price for the 2018 crop remained exactly 20 cents above the 2017 old crop cash market price. High daily individual market price over the past week for the 2018 crop was \$9.77 at Osceola on Tuesday. Low quote of the week was \$9.39 at both Jonesboro and Des Arc on Thursday. End-of-the-week quotes saw the Friday closing day prices ranging from a low of \$9.42 at Jonesboro and Des Arc to a high of \$9.72 at Osceola. The ending quotes represented a 30 cent range, regaining the single cent lost over the previous week. Nine markets finished the year providing booking price quotations on 2018 soybeans.

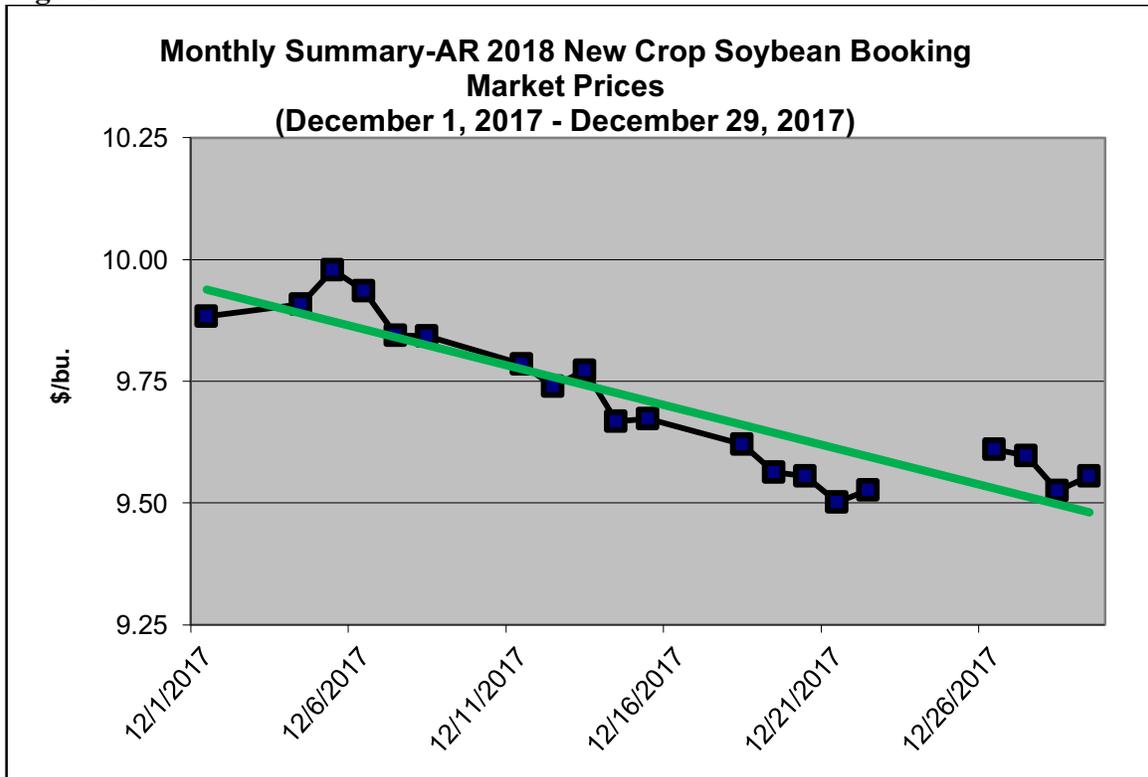
## December 2017 Monthly Summaries

Figure 3



December cash trading in 2017 crop soybeans began the month with a 12 cent increase from the last November trading day price to open at \$9.74. The market showed some early strength, moving to its monthly high of \$9.90 on December 5 before entering a decline that basically extended throughout the whole month. A small, post-Christmas gain was quickly lost and price finished the month at a statewide daily average of \$9.36 on December 29 for an overall 26 cent loss over the month. The high individual daily market quote of the month was \$10.07 and occurred on December 4 at Osceola and on December 5 at Helena. The low individual daily market quote was \$9.11 at both Jonesboro and Des Arc on December 28. The overall statewide average for December was \$9.54 for the 2017 crop soybeans, a 3 cent decline compared to November.

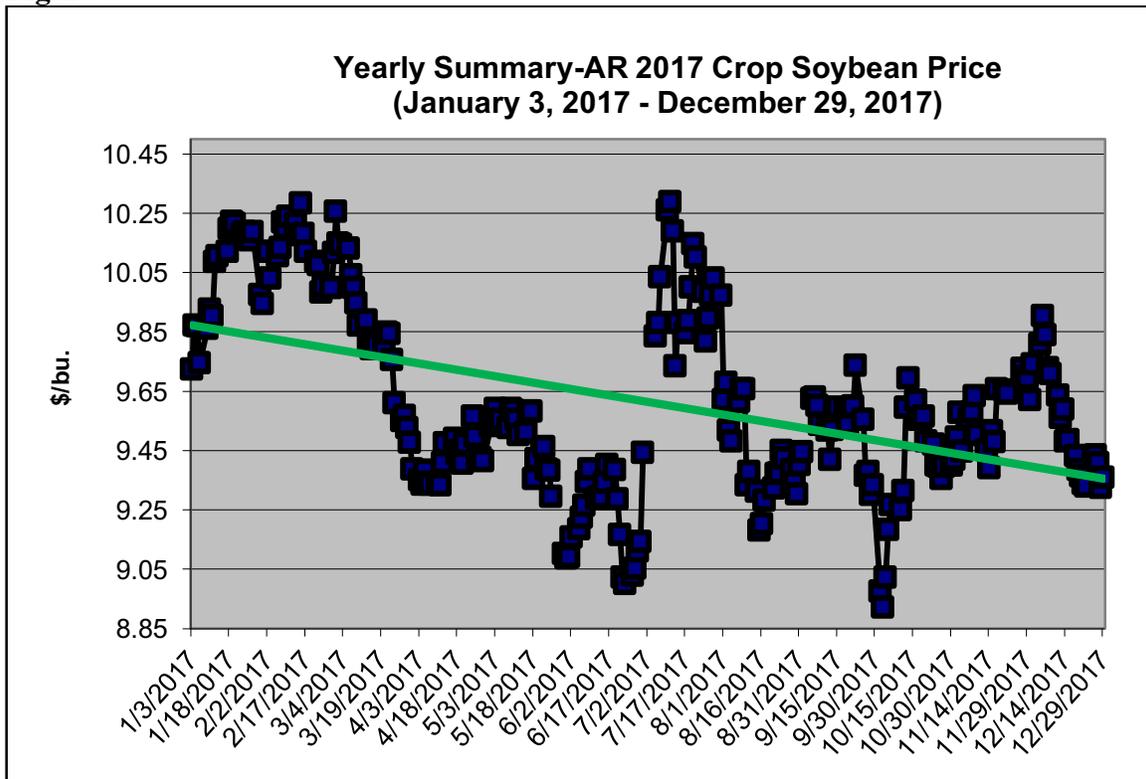
Figure 4



December trading in the 2018 New Crop Soybean Booking Market represented the first full month of trading. The market generally followed the cash market trends beginning the month with an 8 cent increase from the last November trading day price to open at \$9.88. Price moved to a monthly high on December 5 at \$9.98 before entering a steady downward trend for the remainder of the month. A brief post-Christmas gain was quickly lost and the market ended the month at a statewide daily average of \$9.56 on December 29 for an overall 24 cent loss over the month. The high individual daily market quote of the month was \$10.13 and occurred on December 5 at Osceola. The low individual daily market quote was \$9.37 at both Jonesboro and Des Arc on December 21. The overall statewide average for December was \$9.70 for the 2018 New Crop Booking Market, an 8 cent decline from the last half of November when price quotes began.

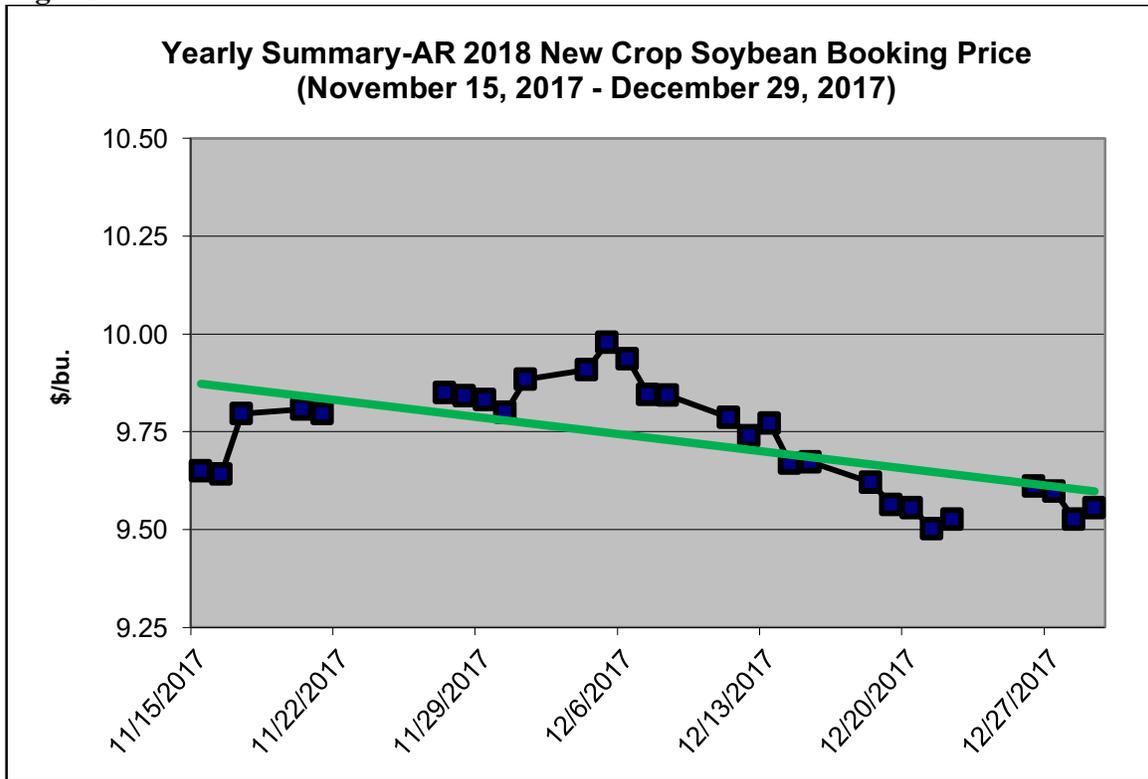
## 2017 Yearly Summaries

Figure 5



Annual trading in 2017 crop soybeans opened the year at \$9.72 and almost immediately posted quick gains to move to a high of \$10.28 on February 15. An equally sharp decline was seen from March 1 to June 23 where price fell \$1.25. The market turned around and regained \$1.29 by July 11 to a statewide average of \$10.29, the highest daily average of the year. Price quickly fell to \$9.20 by August 16 and showed some recovery through September 22, but then lost 81 cents by October 3 to reach its lowest price of the year, \$8.92. A 98 cent improvement was seen through December 5 before the last decline period that extended through the end of the year to a December 29 closing price of \$9.36. High daily individual market average of the year occurred on February 15 with Helena reporting \$10.46. The low individual daily market quote was \$8.73 at both Jonesboro and Des Arc on October 3. The overall statewide average for 2017 was \$9.62 for the 2017 crop soybeans.

**Figure 6**



2018 New Crop Soybean Booking Prices began on November 15, 2017 and continued through the remainder of the year. The market opened at \$9.65 and slowly moved higher through December 5 reaching a statewide average on that date of \$9.98, the highest of 2017. The market followed its period of gain with a month of steady decline, reaching the 2017 daily low of \$9.50 on December 21. A small, post-Christmas recovery mostly died and the market finished the year at a statewide daily average of \$9.56 on December 29. The high individual daily market quote of the one and one half month trading period was \$10.13 on December 5 at Osceola. The low individual daily market quote was \$9.37 at both Jonesboro and Des Arc on December 21. The overall statewide average for the period was \$9.73 for the 2018 New Crop Soybean Booking Prices with quotes continuing into 2018.

(Market average prices stated in this report are unweighted averages of the state markets surveyed by NASS. Price data was based on USDA LR GR111 Arkansas Daily Grain Reports.)