

Hog Prices: ↑ Soymeal: ↓
Corn: ↑ CDN Dollar: ↓

US Slaughter	
407,000	Last Week
0	Year Ago
Daily Prices	
W. Corn Belt	\$45.85
National	\$56.22
Iowa/S. MN.	\$45.81
ML Signature 5	\$125.40
HyLife (prev. day)	\$134.95
TCP/BP2	\$125.40
BoC Rate (Noon) prev. day \$1.3642 CAD / \$0.7330 USD	
Cash Prices Week Ending December 29th, 2018	
Signature 3	109.94/49.87
Signature 4	136.66/61.99
Signature 5 Brandon	123.30/55.93
h@ms Cash	134.49/61.00
HyLife	135.99/61.68
TCP/BP2	124.54/56.49
Moose Jaw/Langley	
2018 Top-Up Estimate	
\$6.51 ckg (call for details)	
ISO Weans \$66.67 US Avg.	
Feeder Pigs \$70.72 US Avg.	

Forward contract prices opened higher this morning. US cash markets are starting the first marketing day in the new year off on a mixed note with ISM and WCB higher by \$0.88 and \$0.93 USD/cwt. respectively while the National reporting region is lower by \$0.81 USD. The inconsistency between the regions has been typical over the past couple weeks and can be partially attributed to the performances of price action between contract hogs and uncommitted hogs. The pork cut-out came in lower over the previous session although bellies came in \$3.26 USD/cwt. higher on the day, keeping the downside in check. Lean hog futures have started 2019 with strength and all futures contracts are higher at the open. Fundamentally, nothing has changed meaning the move likely stems from massive speculation on developments that took place over the New Year holiday. According to sources, one of the largest hog operations contracted African Swine Fever and the news was exacerbated by reports of a dead pig washing up on the shores of an island governed by Taiwan. ASF is suspected, but not confirmed. Regardless the market move represents an approximate \$3.00 CAD/kg move over some forward contract prices this morning relative to the values seen at the end of 2018.

Canadian delivered soymeal prices opened lower this morning. US soybean futures are starting 2019 off on a stronger tone despite weak fundamental indicators that are even more difficult to monitor due to the ongoing US government shutdown. Daily and weekly export sales are cancelled due to the ongoing shutdown meaning the private-system that monitors export inspections (and therefore actual movements) is the only proxy for activity. Soybean inspections came in at 677,679 MT which was a bit less than the market was hoping for and a bit less than what is seasonally seen at this time of year. New year could represent new money entering commodities because it appears there is no specific event or rationale for the move this morning.

US corn futures opened higher this morning. US corn futures are following beans higher, also in the absence of a fundamental smoking gun, which usually points to large fund or managed money repositioning for big moves higher or lower without a 'big news' event. Commitments of Traders reports, however, are cancelled during the US government shutdown (as are a number of USDA reports) meaning fundamental and other information will be a bit more difficult to source until the US federal government resumes normal operation. In the meantime, the market could see some uncertainty in the absence of real-time information.

Forward Range (at opening)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Maple Leaf Sig. #5		146.16 149.59	149.96 155.71	157.80 165.41	167.86 180.45	183.40 196.58	190.85 193.58	181.82 195.29	163.81 171.08	157.02 160.75
Soymeal Wpg/S.Man	469	468	466	472	472	480				

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