

# OUTLOOK

Q3 2025

**Build Resilience  
Against Extreme  
Weather**

**Dip into a Deepening  
Labor Pool this Summer**

**Agricultural  
Commodities  
Outlook**

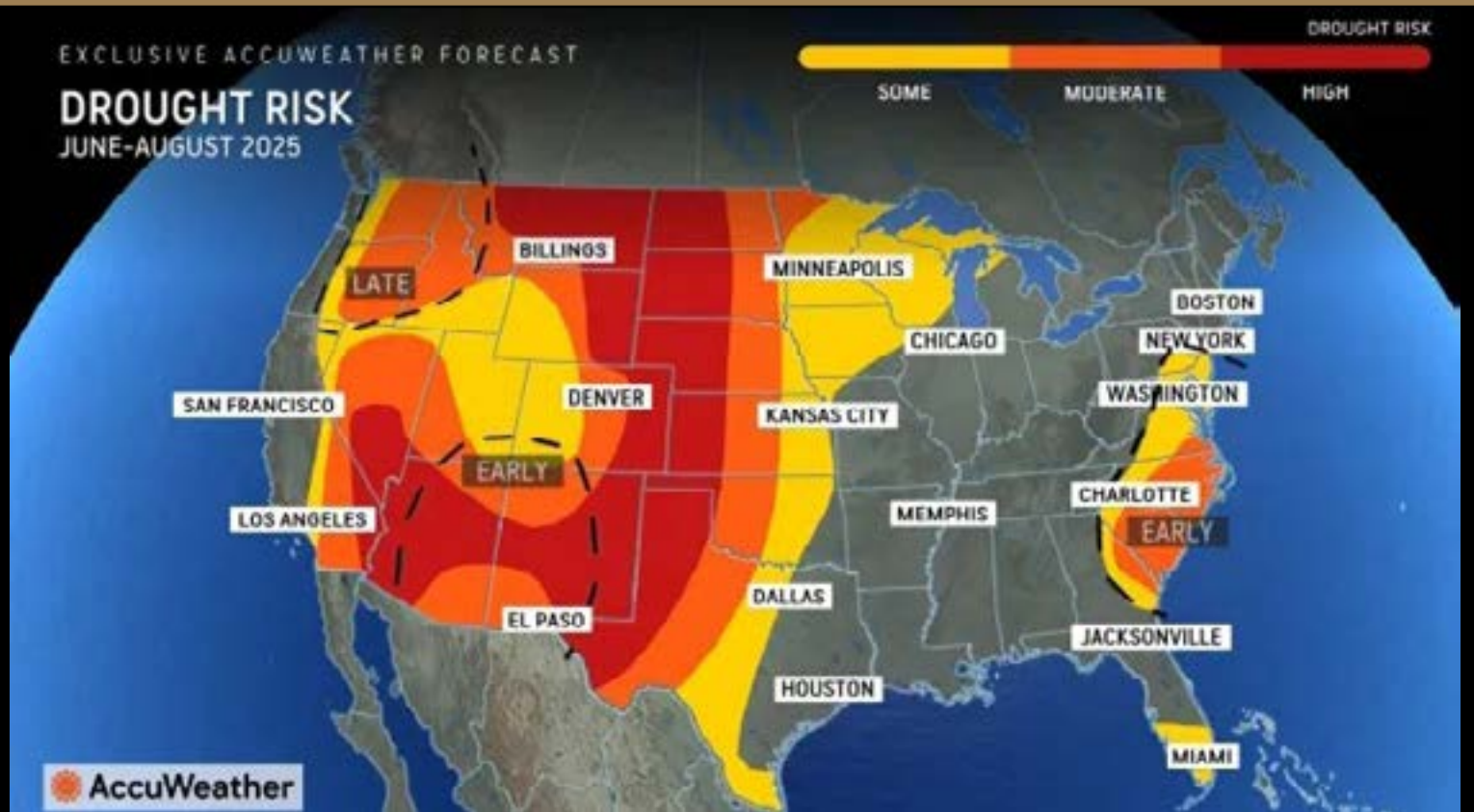


## Build Resilience Against Extreme Weather

This summer's weather outlook presents both challenges and opportunities for foodservice operators. According to the latest data from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, the United States is likely to experience above-average temperatures across much of the country, coupled with uneven rainfall patterns and localized weather hazards. These conditions have the potential to disrupt ingredient sourcing, impact pricing, and strain day-to-day operations.

One of the most significant concerns is the anticipated heat. Forecasts suggest that much of the Central Plains, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic will experience extended periods of extreme temperatures, with some areas likely to hit or exceed the 90th percentile for heat. This not only raises utility costs for cooling but also increases demand for cold beverages and lighter, heat-friendly menu items. Staff health and kitchen comfort also become more pressing issues during prolonged heatwaves.

(Continued on page 3)



Accuweather anticipates these weather risks across the U.S. in the coming months.

## Weather

*From page 2*

Rainfall, on the other hand, will be less predictable. The southern Plains and Gulf Coast are likely to see above-normal precipitation, which could benefit pastures and some crops. However, the same conditions heighten the risk of flooding, especially in the Mississippi Valley. Flooded fields, road closures, and transportation delays could complicate deliveries of fresh produce, meat and dairy – leading to potential shortages and price volatility.

While the current ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) status remains neutral – meaning no clear signal of widespread wet or dry trends –region-by-region variability is what foodservice operators need to watch closely. Drought conditions in parts of the West and heavy rainfall elsewhere will influence where and how ingredients are produced and delivered.

At a time when extreme weather is becoming increasingly common, taking a step back to anticipate risks can provide a little room for flexibility. To stay ahead of risks, operators can try to identify potential regional bottlenecks, review delivery schedules to avoid high-risk windows, ensure refrigeration and HVAC systems are heat-ready, and monitor weekly climate forecasts to mitigate risk. Having plans in place to help manage potential interruptions can improve your options, regardless of what happens outside.



## Outlook for U.S. Agriculture

U.S. agriculture is entering the third quarter with a mix of record harvests and tightening supplies. While bumper crops of corn and soybeans promise ample availability, livestock markets – especially beef and pork – face supply constraints and rising prices. Here is the outlook for key agricultural commodities, based on the most recent data published by the USDA:

**Wheat:** The USDA's May 2025 outlook forecasts U.S. wheat ending stocks for the 2025-26 marketing year at 923 million bushels – up 10 percent from last year and the highest level in six years. Supplies are up slightly despite lower overall production, thanks to larger opening stocks and winter wheat gains. Exports are expected to fall to 800 million bushels, as competitors like the EU, Argentina, and Russia step up. With ample supplies and strong corn available, farm prices will soften to around \$5.30/bushel – or \$0.20 below last year.

**Corn:** The USDA's first outlook for the 2025-26 corn season shows a record-setting U.S. crop of about 15.8 billion bushels, fueled by more acreage and a projected yield of 181 bushels per acre. Domestic use – including feed and ethanol – is forecast to rise slightly, while exports are expected to increase, though U.S. farmers will face stiff competition from South American rivals. Despite the bumper harvest, global inventories are predicted to shrink to their lowest level in over a decade, keeping prices under pressure until weather and demand trends become clearer.

(Continued on page 5)

# Commodities continued

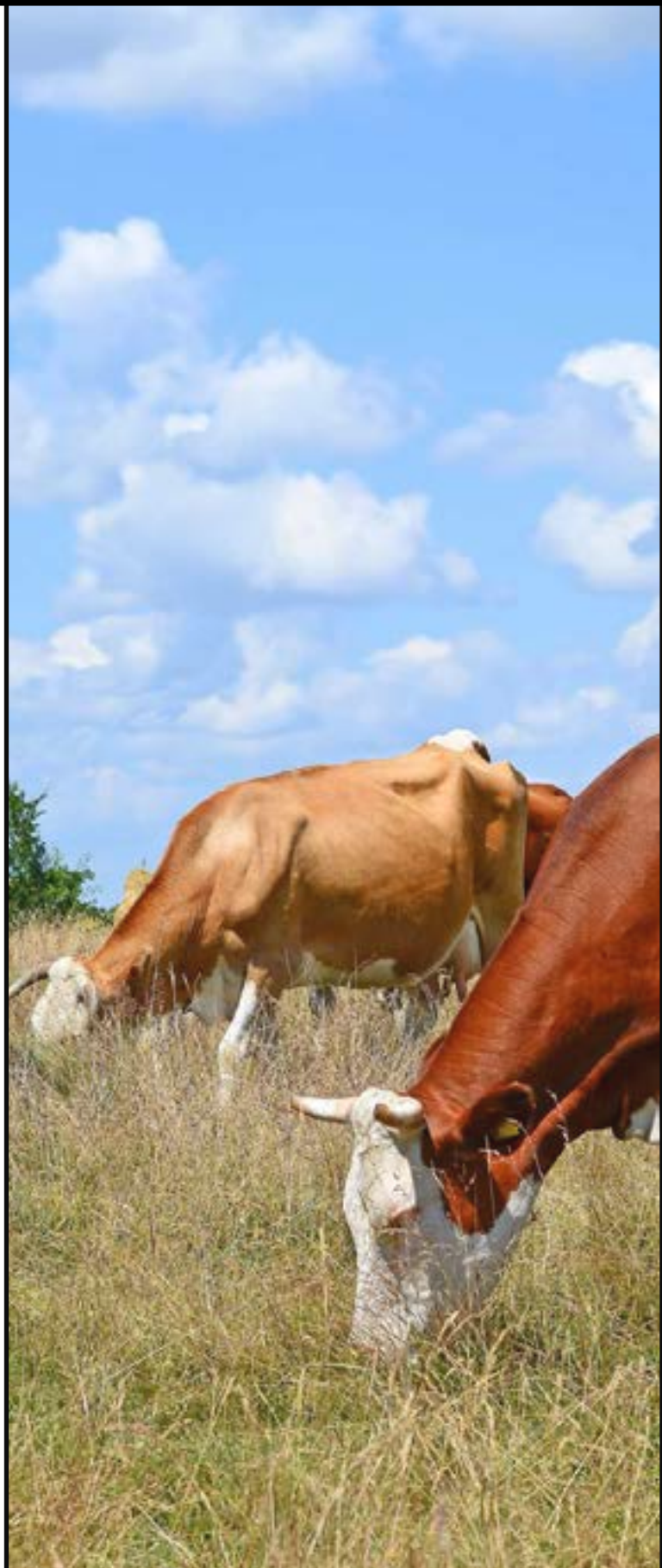
## Commodities

*From page 4*

**Soybeans:** The USDA projects U.S. soybean plantings to fall to 83.5 million acres for the 2025-26 season, with yields around 52.5 bushels per acre. That brings production slightly lower, but strong carry-in stocks keep total supply steady. Domestic crushing is set to hit a record 2.5 billion bushels, driven by rising demand for soybean meal and oil, including biofuel use, while exports dip to about 1.8 billion due to growing competition from South America. Ending stocks are forecast moderate, keeping prices around \$10.25 per bushel.

**Pork:** U.S. pork production in 2025 is expected to reach around 28.1 billion pounds – about 1.2 percent below previous forecasts – following lower hog inventories in the March report. April production showed a modest rise in slaughter numbers and heavier carcass weights, but wholesale pork values dipped about 5 percent year-over-year, with most cuts down and only pork bellies gaining. Exports are forecast near 7 billion pounds, flat to slightly lower, though 2026 may see a modest bump as hog prices ease and global buyers respond.

**Beef:** Beef production in the U.S. is expected to fall next year – dropping about 5 percent to roughly 25 billion pounds – due to fewer cattle entering feedlots and an ongoing ban on live cattle imports from Mexico. Production in 2025 was also trimmed to around 26.4 billion pounds, as ranchers hold cattle longer to offset supply constraints. Meanwhile, tighter supply is leading to stronger prices. Fed steer and feeder cattle prices are set to reach new highs in 2026. With less beef on store shelves and in restaurants, consumers may see smaller cuts and higher retail costs.



## Dip into a Deepening Labor Pool this Summer

This summer presents a big opportunity for foodservice operators. The National Restaurant Association projects the addition of approximately 490,000 seasonal roles in 2025 – a promising boost in operational capacity. While this figure is slightly below 2023’s seasonal hiring peak, it still represents a robust labor market.

These roles are crucial for meeting seasonal demand, particularly in regions with high tourism and travel, such as New York, California, and New Jersey, which are projected to lead hiring this summer. The influx of teenagers – who number over seven million in the workforce during peak season – and a rising cohort of older workers are deepening the labor pool for frontline service. Older workers are expected to represent a large and growing share of the labor market in the coming years. In April of this year, there were 11.7 million adults aged 65 or older in the labor force, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). That was up from 10.4 million in April 2019 and represented the highest April reading on record. A recent research report from the National Restaurant Association breaks down how that will impact the workforce in the coming years: “By 2023, BLS predicts there will be 14.8 million adults aged 65 or older in the labor force – an increase of more than 3 million above current levels.”

Operators can capitalize on this trend by creating flexible roles, offering seasonal benefits including on-the-spot bonuses, as well as promoting farther-looking retirement, healthcare and paid leave benefits. Demonstrating what a career path in your business looks like for workers at various stages can also encourage seasonal hires to think about employment with you beyond the summer months.

**Projected increase in restaurant jobs during the 2025 summer months**



Source: National Restaurant Association projections, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data  
Represents percent change from March to average employment levels in June-August

To find out how Team Four can help your business save money, contact us at:

1-888-891-3103 or visit our web site at [www.teamfourfoods.com](http://www.teamfourfoods.com)

©2025 Team Four Foodservice, all rights reserved