Weekly Market Watch Assignment

Objectives

- Identify what factors shape agricultural markets
- Learn where to find market information and analysis
- Develop critical thinking skills when studying market information
- Use information and analysis to evaluate marketing decisions.

- Choose and follow a commodity each week throughout the semester.
  - Corn, Soybeans, Cattle, Feeder Cattle, or Hogs
  - We will track both cash and futures price
  - 10 points per week

- Due each Tuesday
  - Brief (one-half to one page) analysis of factors that impacted the market the previous Monday – Friday
  - Calculate your margin account based on Friday’s close.

- Cash market information
  - [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/notes/display.aspx?catID=100](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/notes/display.aspx?catID=100)

- Futures information

- Analysis (examples)
  - [http://www.lmic.info/memberspublic/membersreports.html](http://www.lmic.info/memberspublic/membersreports.html)
  - [http://www.econ.iastate.edu/faculty/wisner/](http://www.econ.iastate.edu/faculty/wisner/)

- Due Tuesday January 17
  - Pick a commodity
  - Define the cash market and report the price.
  - Find and report the futures price for the same commodity for Friday.
    - Choose a contract month that expires after the end of the class.
    - July or later for corn, wheat, or soybeans
    - June or later for cattle, feeder cattle and hogs
    - Don’t worry about margin account yet