The Less I Trade

Weekly Note 11.20.26



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NOV 20, 2026

Happy Friday. I'm going write today about a concept that seems counter-intuitive and which is definitely sacrilege amongst my industry to put in writing. Price analysis at the bottom, as always.

> The Less I Trade, The More I Make

The general idea is that those that place trades intentionally but less often will make more than those who are constantly involved in the market.

In the world of big time advising services telling clients to continually roll put options into oblivion, this would not be a popular take. Most services prefer to give consistent information that invites the creation of an account that then churns income for the firm. Then, they have an intern answer your phone call who tells you what your margin call is and explains that 'yeah the market is crazy right now' or 'We put out a buy signal the other day,' all while giving you little to no actionable knowledge on what is really going on with price.

You are in a pool of a bunch of other people doing the exact same thing. When it works it works for everyone, when it doesn't everyone fails the same way. Sounds a lot like Ag in general does it not? A bunch of people all doing the same thing?

The model is: get your information from us, keep your trades with us, and join the your neighbors in doing so. You are simultaneously told you are special, while receiving nothing special at all.

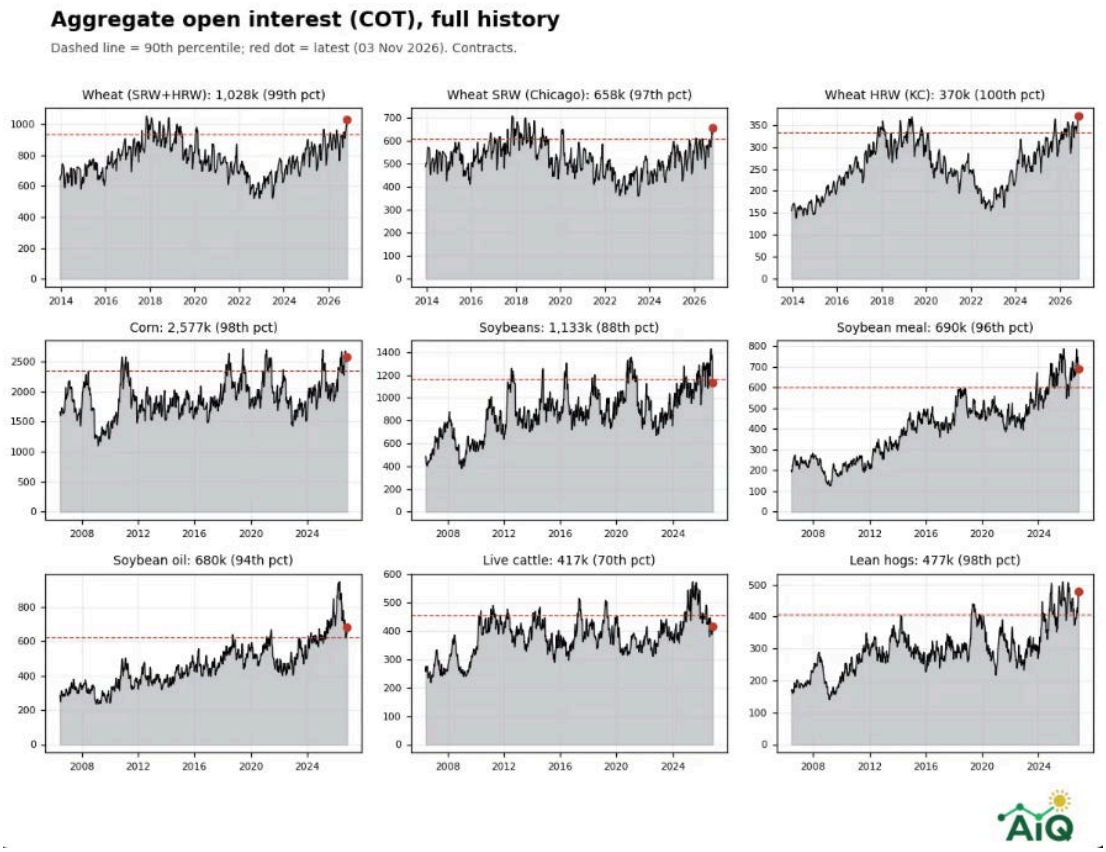
When it comes time for that option to expire you are put on a spreadsheet where brokers go down the list and call producers explaining that the firm is rolling options and you should too. Then your name gets marked off after you roll and the broker goes for a power lunch. Just another day in paradise.

If that is something you desire, to be like everyone else. ‘Turn-key’ marketing. I would recommend not subscribing to this publication or opening an account with WICLLC.

There is no such thing as ‘Turn-Key’ marketing. Marketing grain, like trading in general, is a full contact sport. We ain't playing golf.

Which is why you will always hear me ask what price means to you and take a price-first approach. My goal is to be the bridge between noise and reality for the benefit of my clients. I am constantly searching for what is truly driving price, and how I may be able to exploit what I find. I do not care what everyone else thinks. I do not care what the ‘chief strategists’ are saying. I care more about the relationships between movement and price.

Open interest in futures markets is at an all time high right now.



Source: ArchAIQ

That is just the Ag markets. There are more contracts being traded on these exchanges than ever before.

The exchanges are making record profits.

More and more of it is being done via robots than ever before. AI adaptation only accelerates this trend.

This all tells me that there are avenues for exploitation. Somehow, somewhere. **At a time where trust in institutions is at an all time low, why would I ever want to join everyone else's approach and be at the mercy of everyone else's fate?**

Back to my original point: my goal is not to be involved or keep you involved constantly. My goal is to search for opportunities where

involvement has a higher likelihood for position benefit.

It should also be stated that straight up hedging is a completely different approach. The textbook approach to keeping you in business has not changed in 100 years, given that you make decisions on what price means to you.

I believe that there are ever changing ways we can focus on profitability while also believing that good grain marketing is a choice. There are little things we can do every single year that can put us in a better position to succeed. Those things are not overly complicated, and do not require you to be constantly involved in the market.

Everyone's situation is different, so I would rather my consistency come from helping many people throughout the year than from constant involvement of the few. I hope that makes sense.

I recognize that this approach is not for everyone, and I'm okay with that. If you are looking for someone to tell you where the market is going, I would point you towards the chief economists. They'll be a lot more entertaining.

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Grains

March Corn ~ Daily



January Soybeans ~ Daily

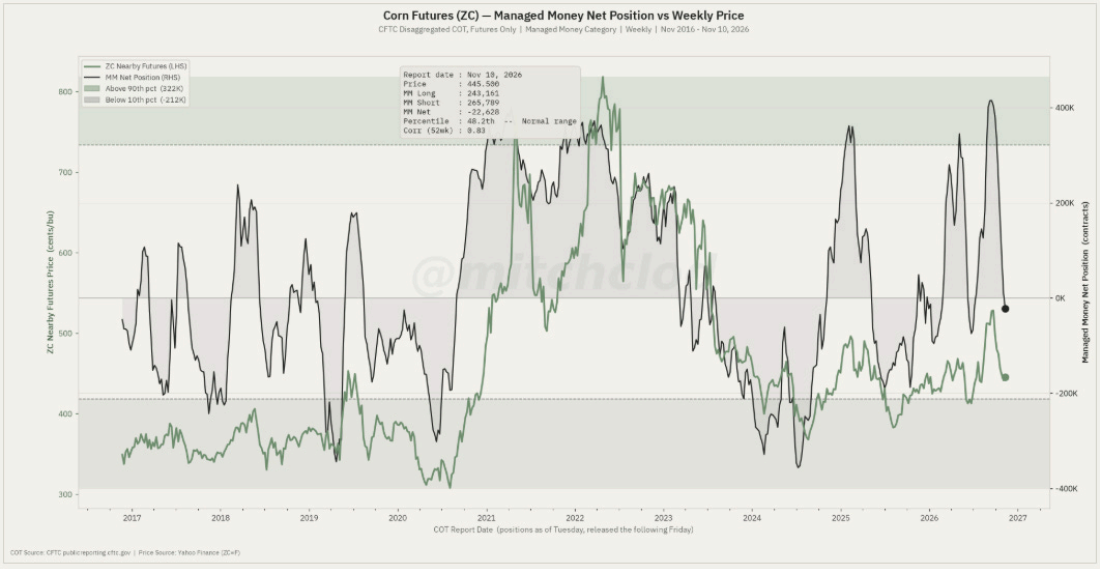


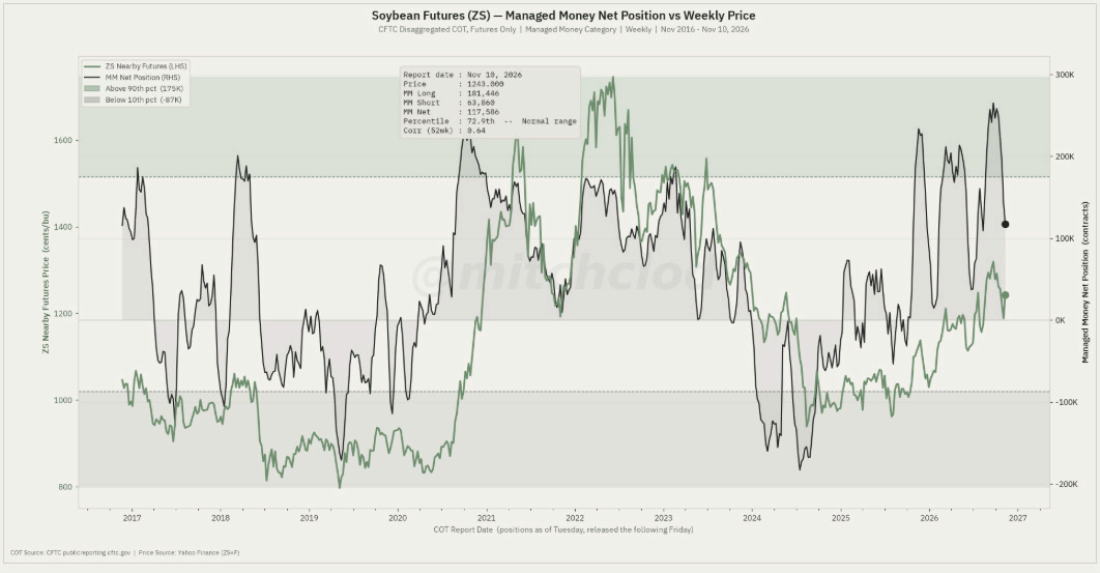
March Chi Wheat ~ Daily

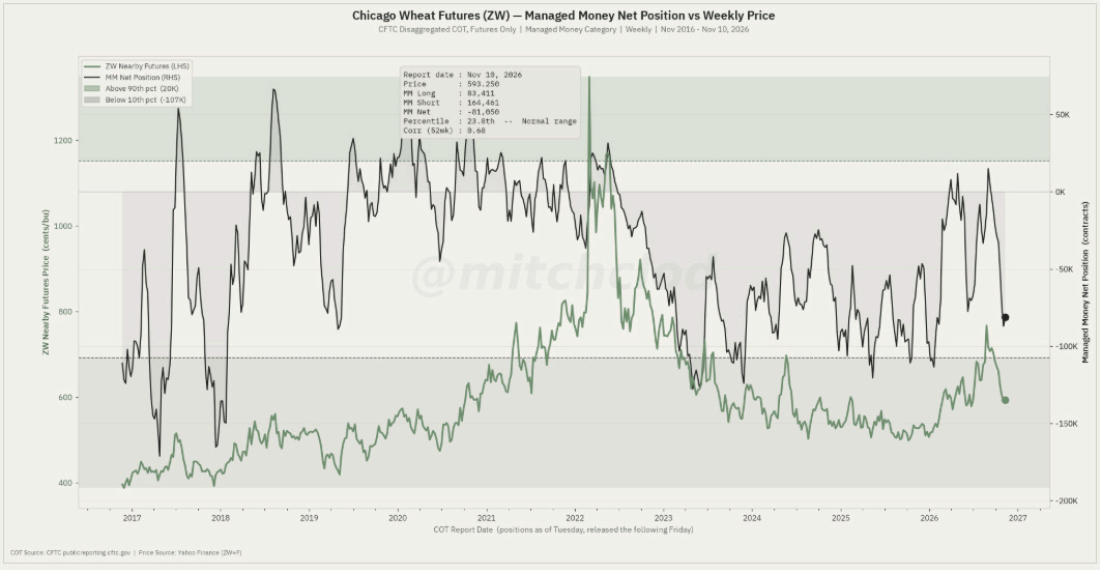


The last few weeks grains have performed the ‘picket fence’ maneuver which is why I don’t feel they warrant individual sections. Liquidation has slowed and given the unrest in the world, that is not too surprising. It suggests that traders may be keeping their ammo at rest until whatever is going to happen does happen. If that ‘thing’ is civil unrest like many believe, that liquidation could turn into quite the opportunity for food based indexes. Look at what happened in 2020. This is part of the reason I have been content with the positions I have on.

It is likely that they will bore most people out of positions until the day it turns.







As of last week, managed money had not yet fallen below the 10th percentile of historic net long. In the world of extremes that means they could have every intention of doing so. Still, there is only so much suppression of a free market that can occur before that pendulum swings in the opposite direction. The breather that the markets have taken recently is not necessarily and indicator that the selloff is over.

For now patience is the name of the game if your positions give you the ability to be patient. Mine do.

Livestock

February Live Cattle ~ Daily



January Feeder Cattle ~ Daily



February Lean Hogs ~ Daily



The cattle market has enjoyed a good bounce ahead of holiday protein purchasing. Feeders and Lives have shown nice strength through daily resistence points. The GLP-1 craze keeps consumers buying beef, though I do believe beef prices are exposed to a broader scale economic drawdown. The powers that be will do everything they can to avoid that.



BOXED BEEF CUTOUT

USDA AMS Livestock Mandatory Reporting, LM_XB403 · National daily boxed beef cutout, afternoon · Report date Nov 19, 2026

Choice 600–900 lb	Select 600–900 lb	Choice/Select spread
$353.52	$341.97	$11.55
$/cwt	$/cwt	$/cwt, Choice minus Select

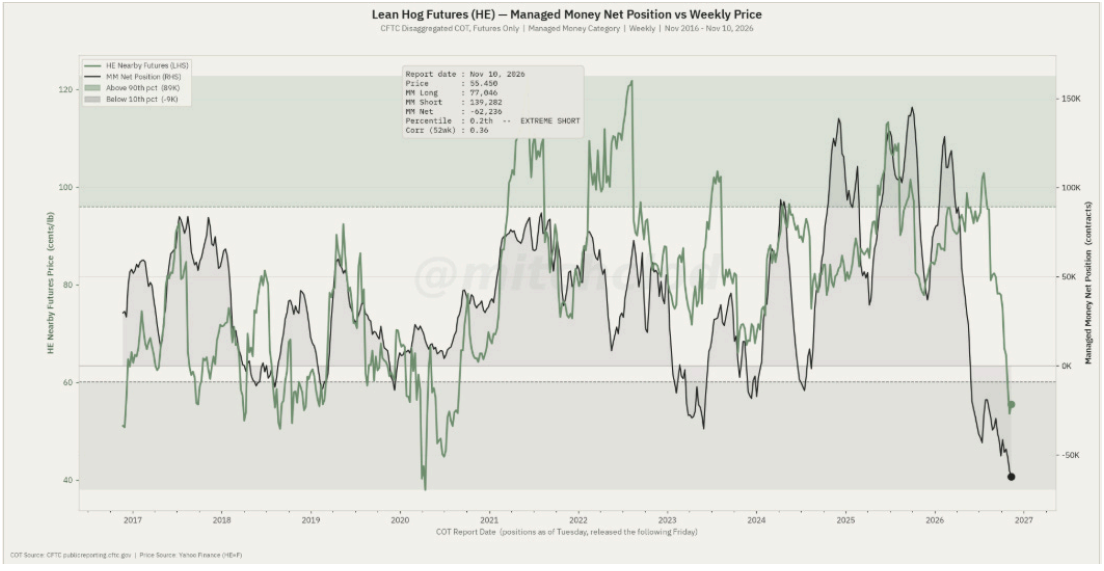
Primal	Choice	Select	Spread
Rib	682.28	625.07	57.21
Chuck	301.05	302.28	-1.23
Round	276.25	277.03	-0.78
Loin	432.56	408.49	24.07
Brisket	261.17	251.94	9.23
Plate	212.71	212.71	0.00
Flank	146.64	146.95	-0.31

The hog market has yet to enjoy any love and continues to impress me with its selloff. I have kept on the small long option position I have with no intention of adding to it. I am not in the business of picking bottoms. Remember our friend Carlos from a few weeks ago.

February Lean Hogs ~ Monthly Continuous



Just unprecedented action. There is nothing the market ‘has’ to do at this point. Markets can remain irrational longer than you can remain solvent.



Source : wicllc.org

Conclusion

In environments such as this it is prudent to remember why you entered a specific trade. If it was boredom, we're reminded why we shouldn't trade that way. Not every market deserves our participation. Have a process, have a plan.

If you find yourself in need of assistance with a position or strategy please reach out to mitch.clod@wicllc.org or give me a call at 815.626.0883. Call on a weekend if that is when you have time. If I miss you leave me a message. I will absolutely give you a call back.

Thank you for your support.

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Share

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