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Farm Input Expenses for 2026 and Projected Breakeven Analysis



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Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

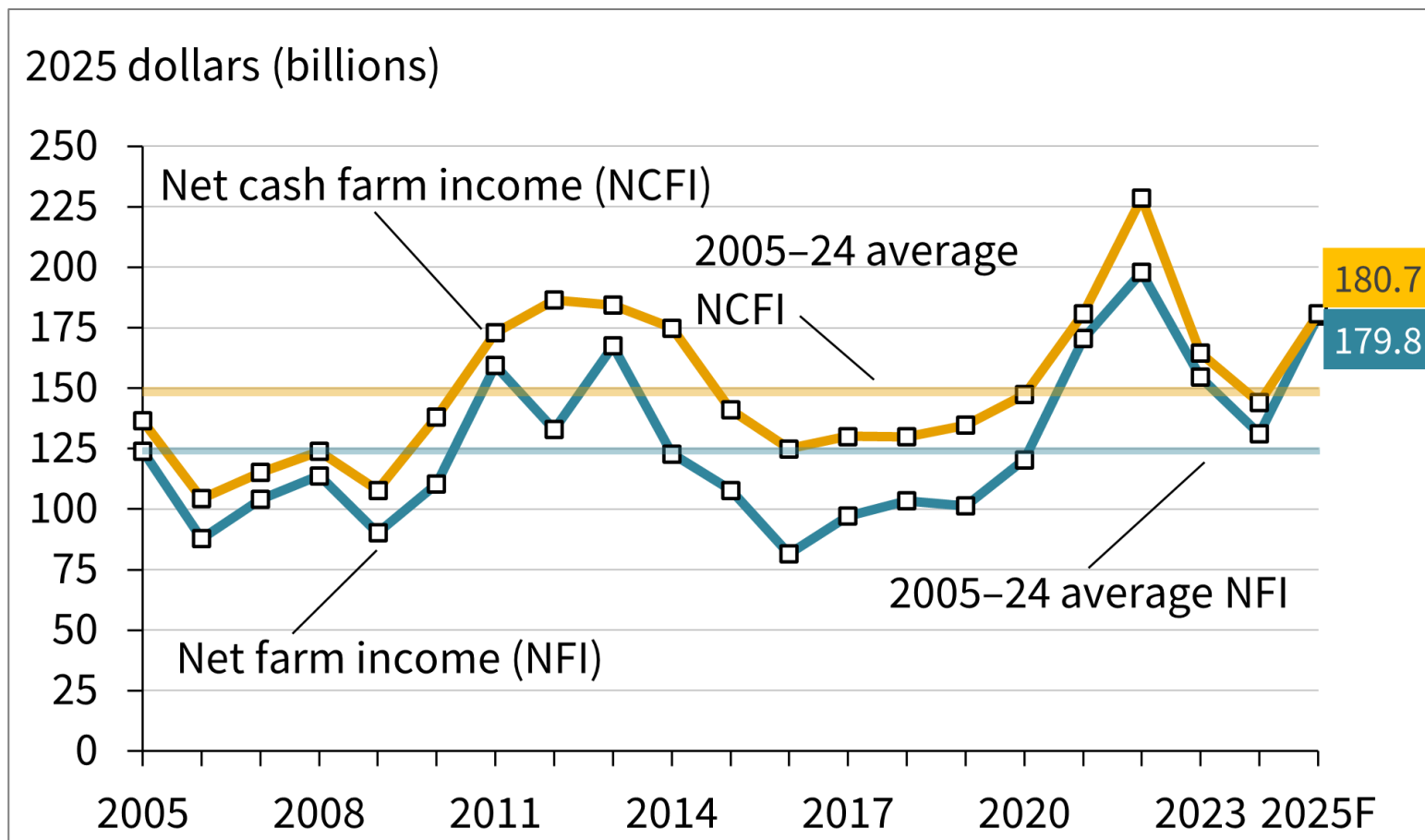
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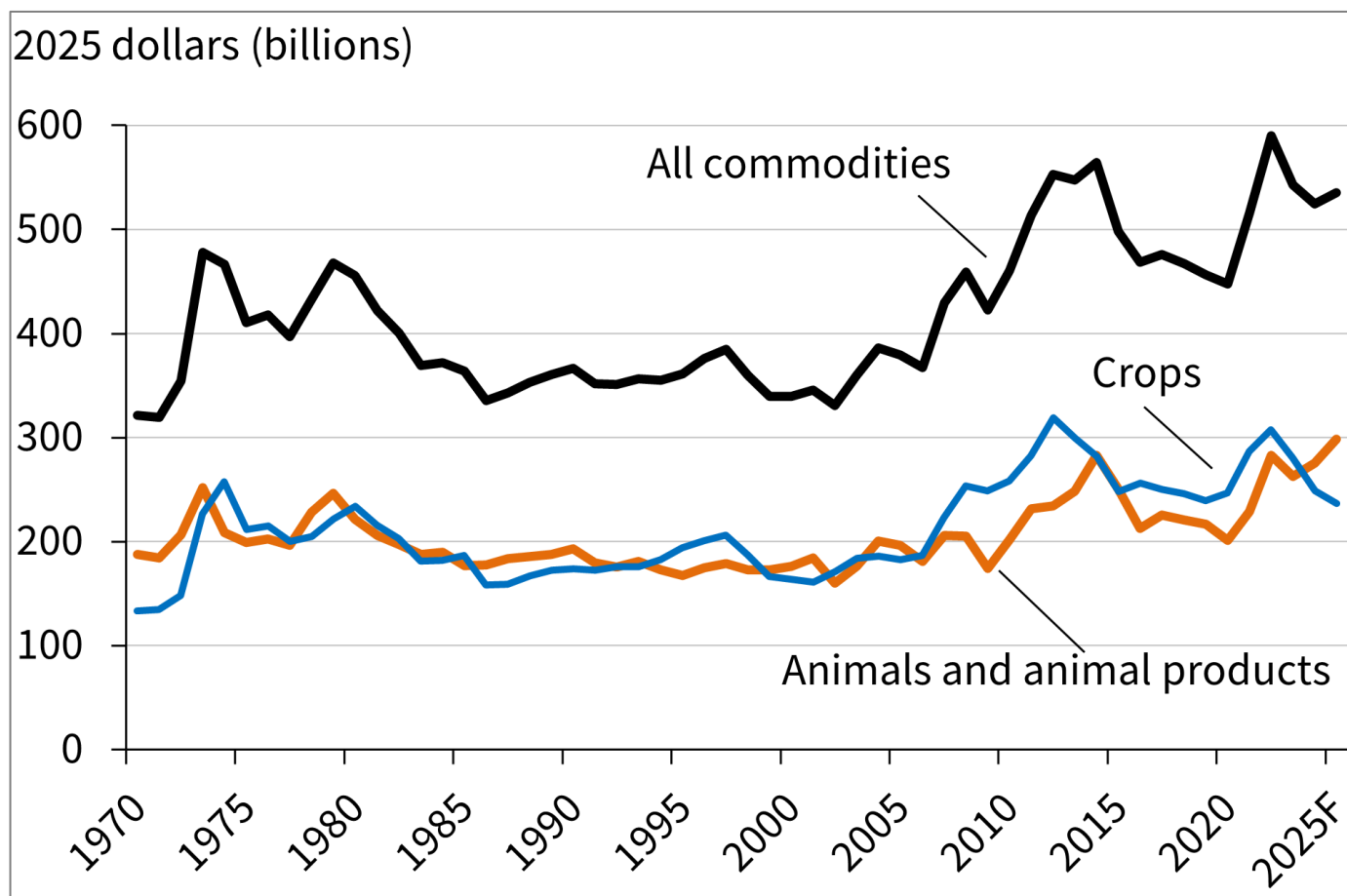
U.S. Net Farm Income and Net Cash Farm Income

Previous 20-years



U.S. Farm Sector Cash Receipts for Crops and Animals

Previous 20-years



Source: USDA ERS.

Commodity and Financial Market Price Changes

December 2024 to December 2025

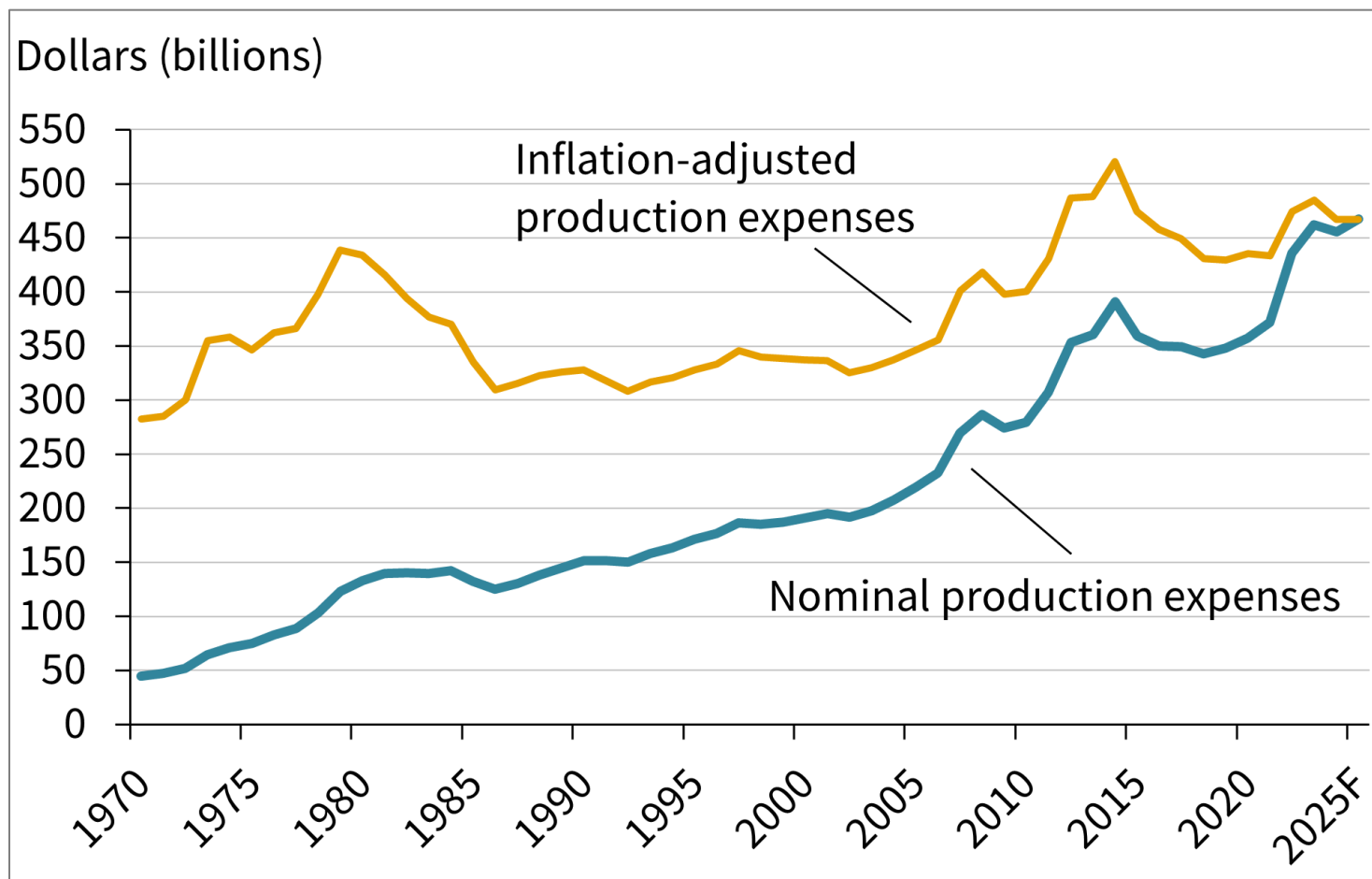
Commodity & Financial Market Price Changes							
	12/5/2024	12/18/2025	Percent Change		12/5/2024	12/18/2025	Percent Change
Grains Oilseeds and Fiber				Energy and Metals			
Corn (Central IL, \$/bu)	4.01	4.19	+4.3%	Crude Oil (Brent Futures, \$/barrell)	68.61	59.82	-14.7%
Soybeans (Central IL, \$/bu)	9.60	10.24	+6.3%	Fuel Oil (Futures, No. 2, NY, \$/gal)	2.16	2.13	-1.4%
Hard Red Winter Wheat (CME futures, \$/bu)	5.45	5.17	-5.4%	Natural Gas (Henry Hub, \$/Mmbtu)	3.08	3.92	+21.4%
Soybean Meal (CME futures, \$/ton)	290	302	+4.0%	Ehtanol (FOB Chicago, \$/gal)	1.59	1.6	+0.6%
Soybean Oil (CME futures, ¢/lb)	42.0	48.8	+13.9%	Spot Silver (\$/oz)	31.59	66.50	+52.5%
Cotton (North Delta, \$/lb)	68.00	61.26	-11.0%	Spot Gold (\$/oz)	2,018	4,365	+53.8%
Rice (Long Grain Milled, White, AR, \$/cwt)	35.25	30.25	-16.5%	Aluminum (CME, \$/metric ton)	2,460	2,847	+13.6%
Sorghum (#1, TX panhandle, \$/bu)	4.29	3.97	-8.1%	Copper (CME, \$/lb)	4.19	5.37	+22.0%
Thomson Reuters CRM Total Return Index	285	258	-10.5%	Steel (HRC, FOB U.S. Midwest Mills, \$/ton)	725	935	+22.5%
Livestock, Food and Dairy				Financial			
Eggs (\$/dozen, Lg grade A whls., Midwest)	4.16	3.63	-14.6%	U.S. Dollar Index	105.90	98.09	-8.0%
Broilers (\$/lb, Nat'l Composite, ¢/lb)	128	108	-18.5%	U.S. Prime Rate	7.75%	6.75%	-14.8%
Milk (Class III futures, \$/cwt)	19.08	15.61	-22.2%	U.S. 10-year Treasury Note Price	111.00	112.24	+1.1%
Butter (CME futures, \$/lb)	2.60	1.52	-71.1%	S&P 500	6,095	6,777	+10.1%
Coffee (CME futures \$/lb)	3.13	3.45	+9.3%	NASDAQ Composite	19,700	23,006	+14.4%
Flour (Whiter, all purpose, \$/lb)	0.55	0.563	+2.7%	Fertilizer, Transportation, Lumber			
Hogs (CME Lean Hog Futures, \$/cwt)	86.38	84.12	-2.7%	Anhydrous Ammonia (IL, retail, \$/ton)	685	843	+18.7%
Steer/heifer ave, (5-area, dressed, \$/cwt)	291.00	352.12	+17.4%	Baltic Dry Index (Ocean Freight Index)	1,180	2,071	+43.0%
Feeder Cattle (CME Feeder Cattle Index \$/cwt)	259.82	340.28	+23.6%	Lumber (\$1,000 bd. Feet)	579	557	-3.9%

Source: CME, USDA, DYN PRORIX, FRED

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U.S. Farm Production Expenses

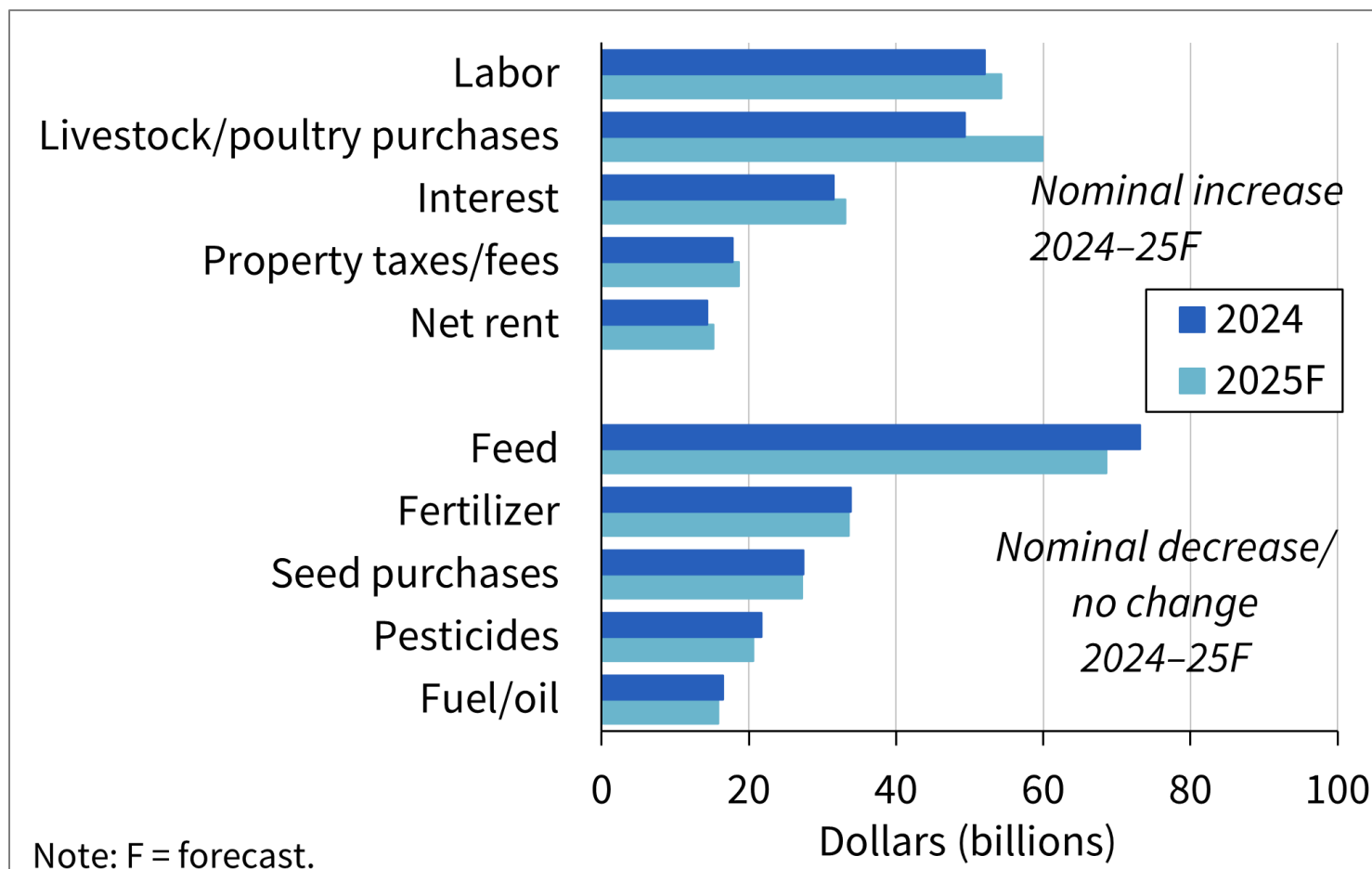
Historical comparison



Source: USDA ERS.

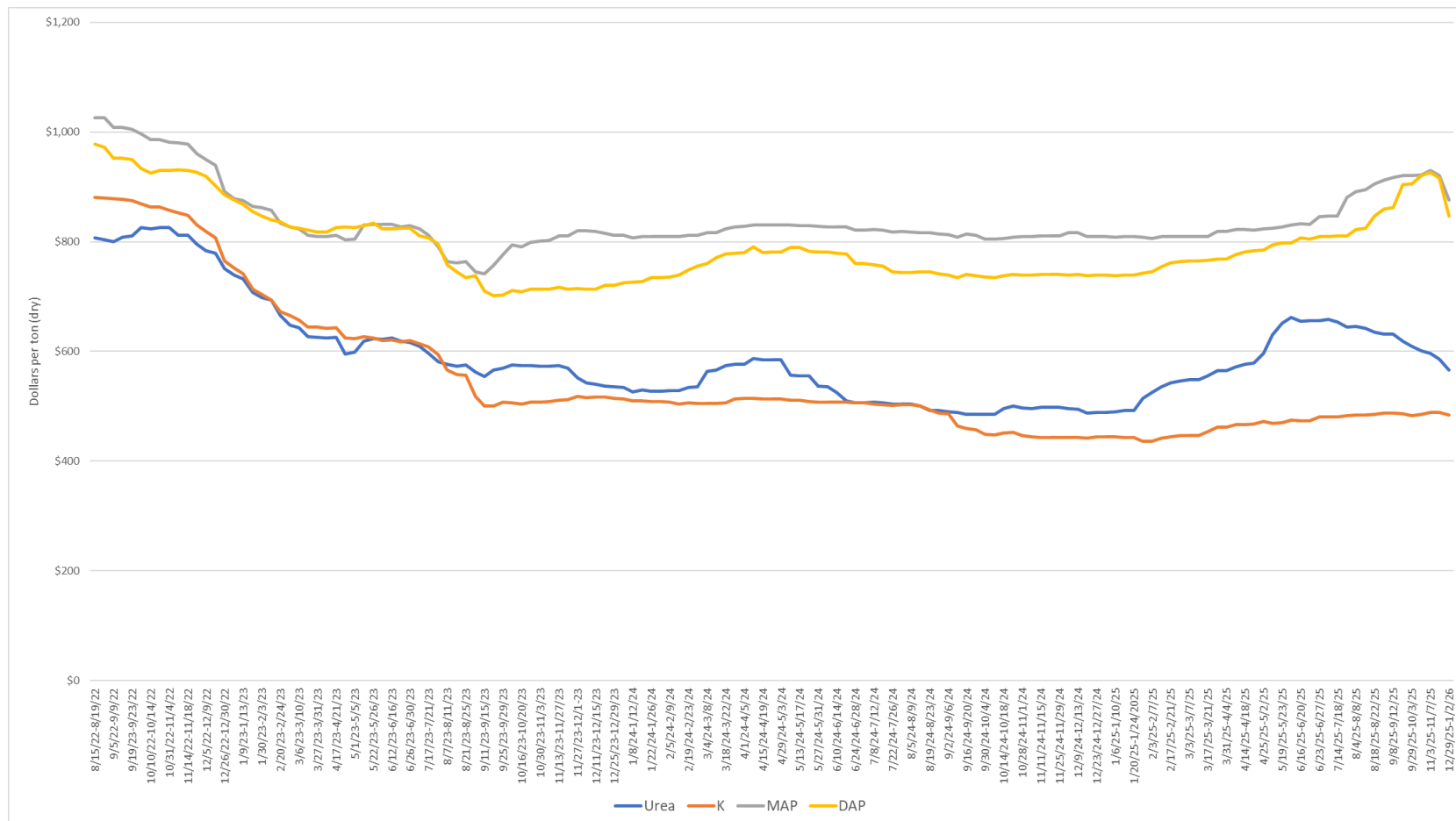
U.S. Farm Production Expenses

Selected comparison of expenses for 2024 versus 2025



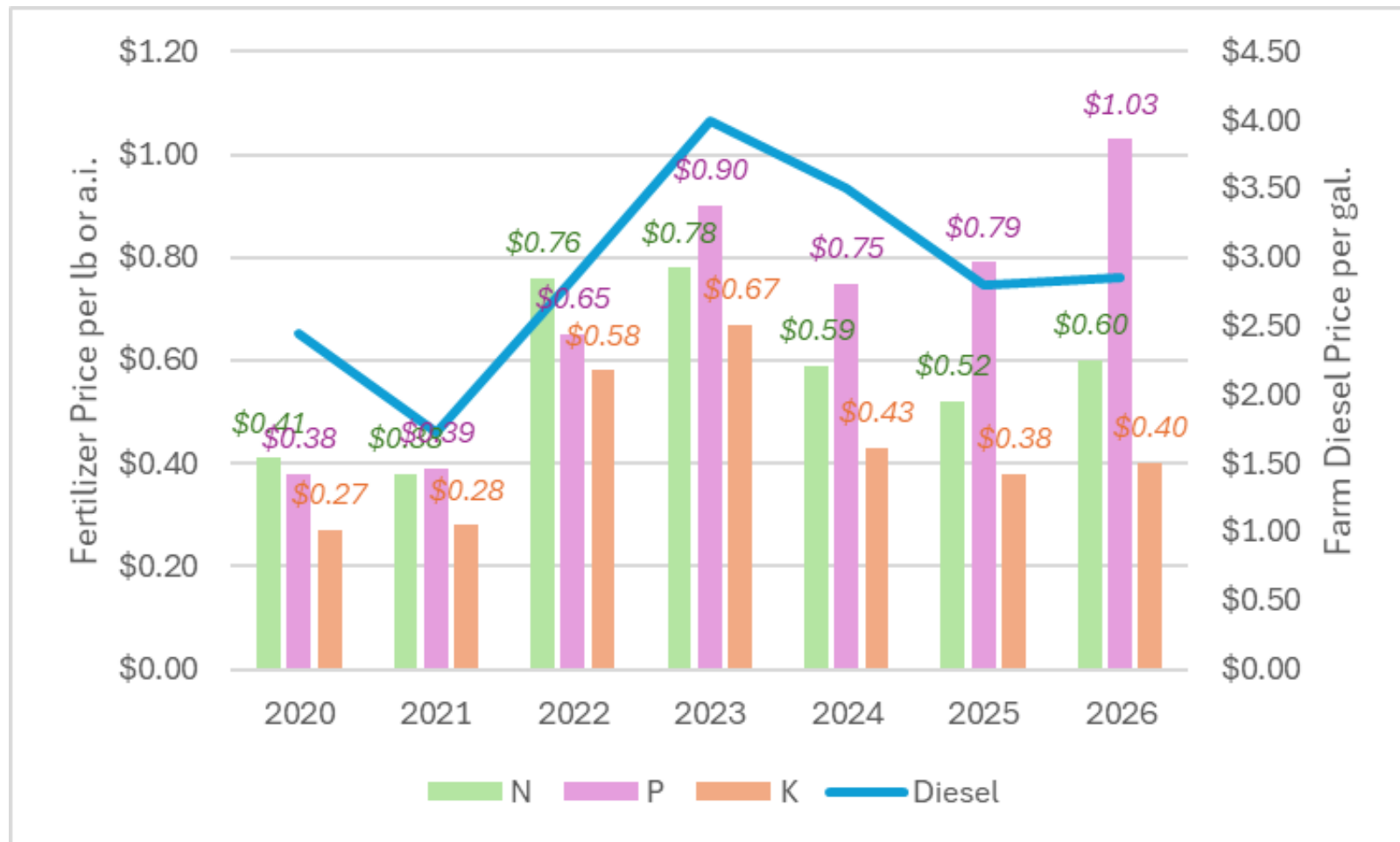
U.S. Retail Fertilizer Prices

Survey of retailer price quotes from August 2022 to December 2024



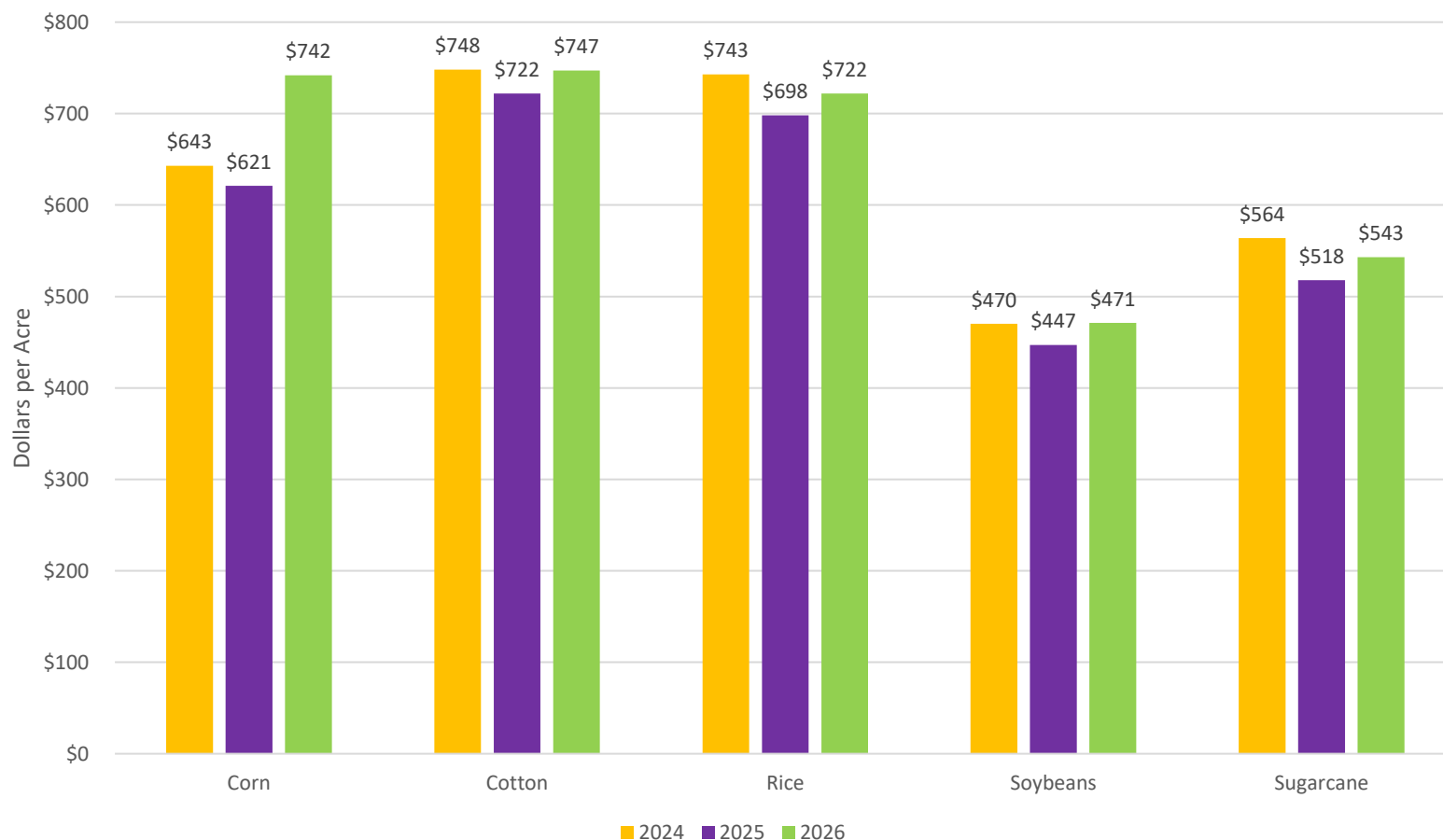
Fertilizer and Fuel Input Prices in Louisiana

Long term trend denotes the implied volatility



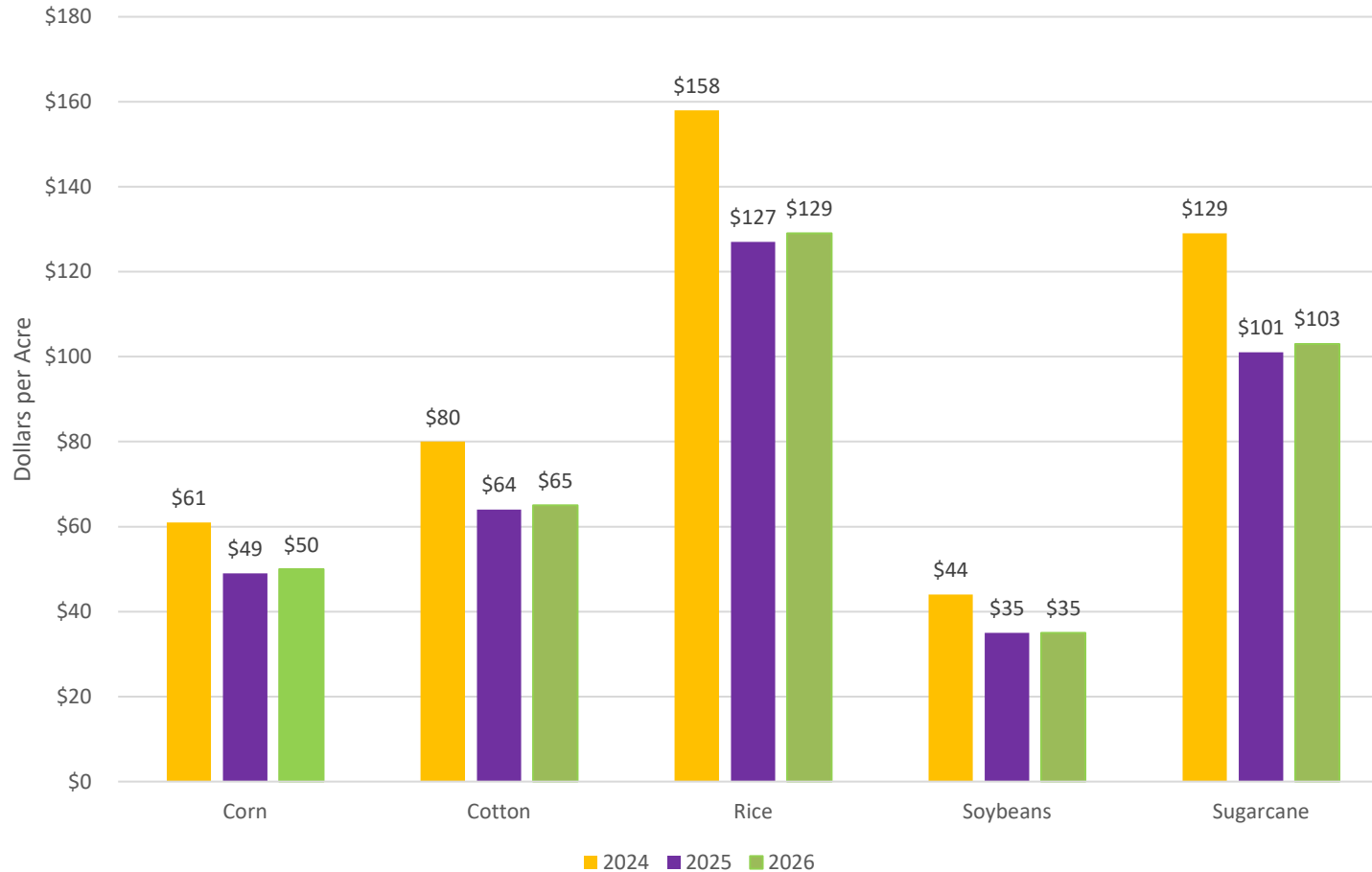
Fertilizer Costs for Selected Row Crops

Three-year summary of total fertilizer costs per acre



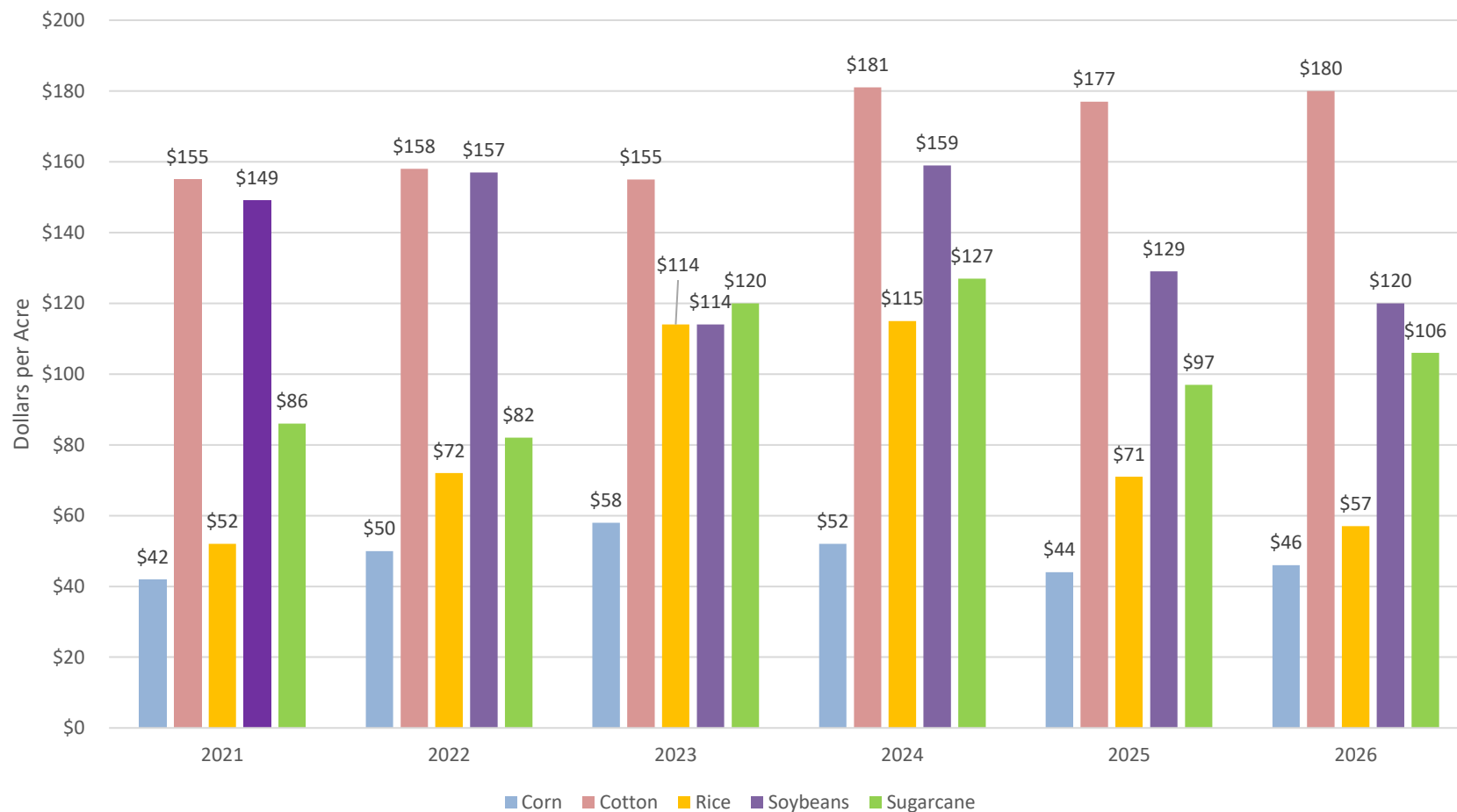
Fuel Costs for Selected Row Crops

Three-year summary of total fertilizer costs per acre



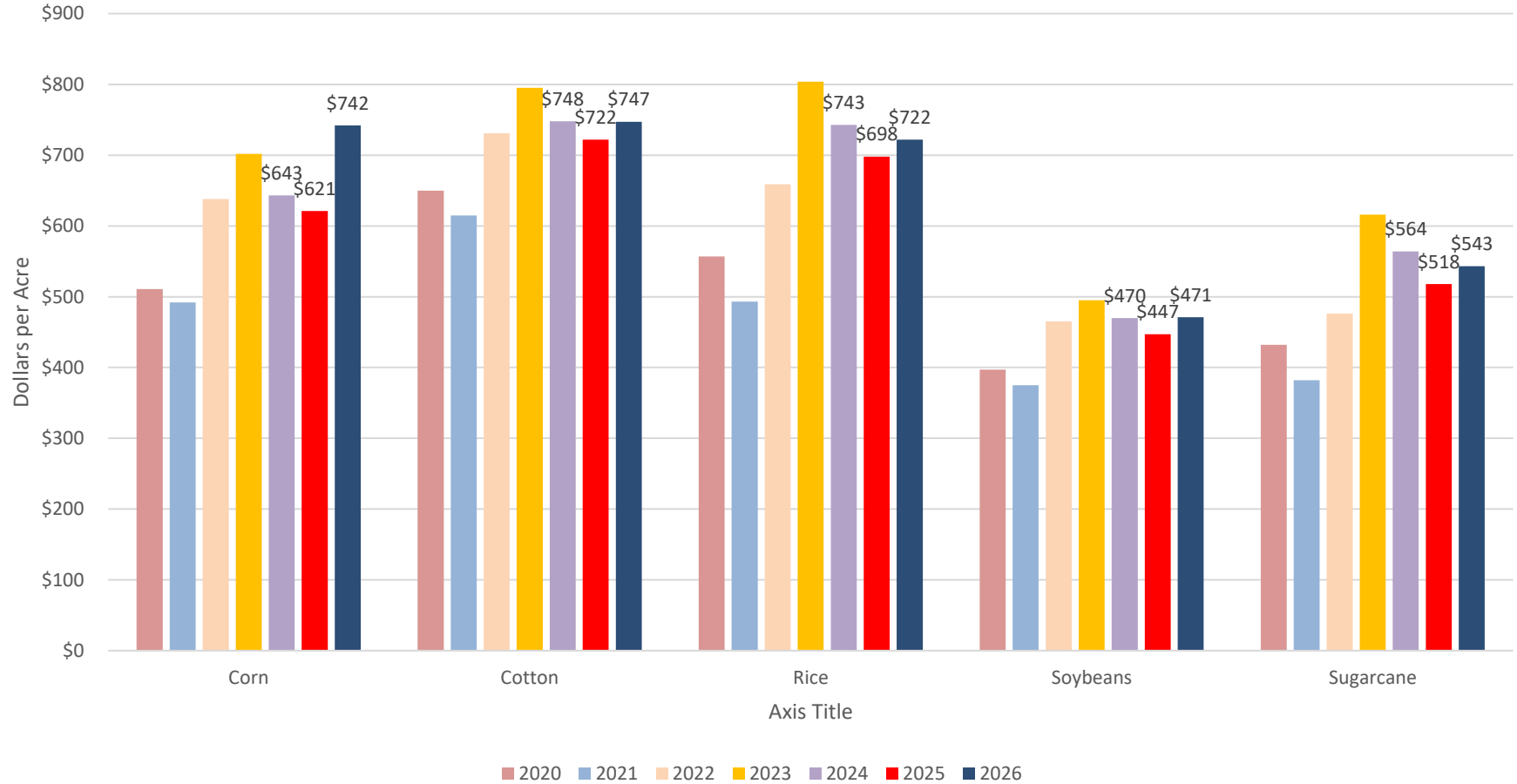
Chemical Costs for Selected Row Crops

Obtained from the AgCenter's projected commodity cost and returns



Estimated Production Costs for Louisiana Crops

Direct expenses are expected to slightly increase in 2026



Breakeven Analysis for Louisiana Crops

An early look at 2026...

Crop	Expected Yield per acre	Expected Var. Costs per acre	BE price need to Cover Var. Costs ONLY	Expected Fixed Costs per acre	BE price need to Cover Total Costs
Corn	200 bu	\$742	\$3.71	\$163	\$4.53
Soybeans	60 bu	\$471	\$7.85	\$147	\$10.30
Cotton	1,100 lbs.	\$747	\$0.68	\$283	\$0.94
Rice	77.00 cwt	\$722	\$9.38	\$135	\$11.13

The breakeven (BE) price estimates do not include land rent, overhead, or family living expenses.

Breakeven Analysis for Louisiana Crops

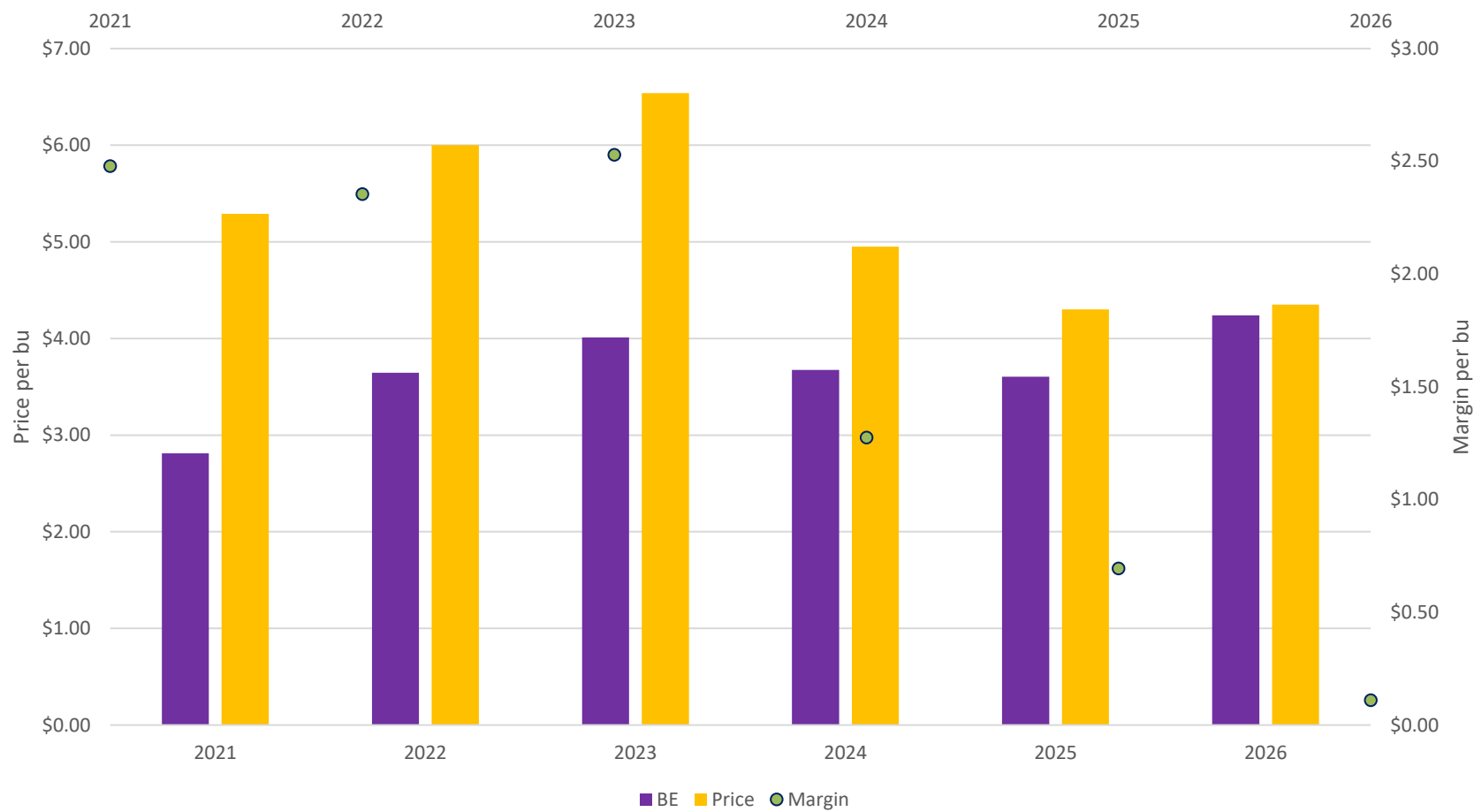
An early look at 2026...

Crop	Expected Yield per acre	Expected Var. Costs per acre	Expected Fixed Costs per acre	Expected Cash Rent	BE price need to Cover Total Costs
Corn	200 bu	\$742	\$163	\$100	\$5.03
Soybeans	60 bu	\$471	\$147	\$100	\$11.97
Cotton	1,100 lbs.	\$747	\$283	\$100	\$1.03
Rice	77.00 cwt	\$722	\$135	\$100	\$12.43
Raw Sugar	7,700 lbs.	\$543	\$269	1/6 th share	\$0.273

The breakeven (BE) price estimates do not include overhead or family living expenses.

Estimated Breakeven and Margin for LA Corn

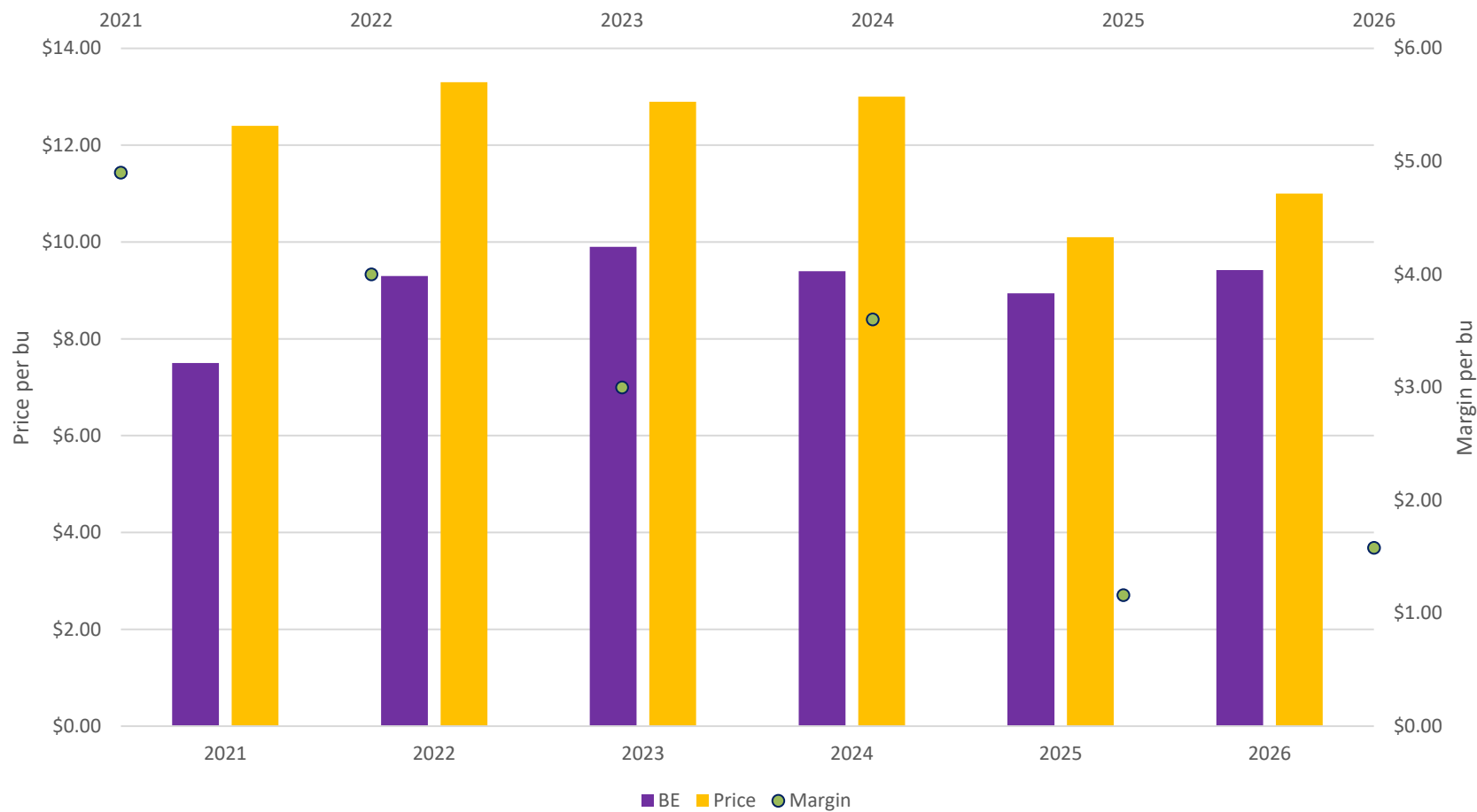
Historical breakeven C.O.P, price, and margin (NRAVC) per unit



estimates assumes yield of 175 bu/ac and \$742 per acre direct cost estimate for 2026.

Estimated Breakeven and Margin for LA Soybeans

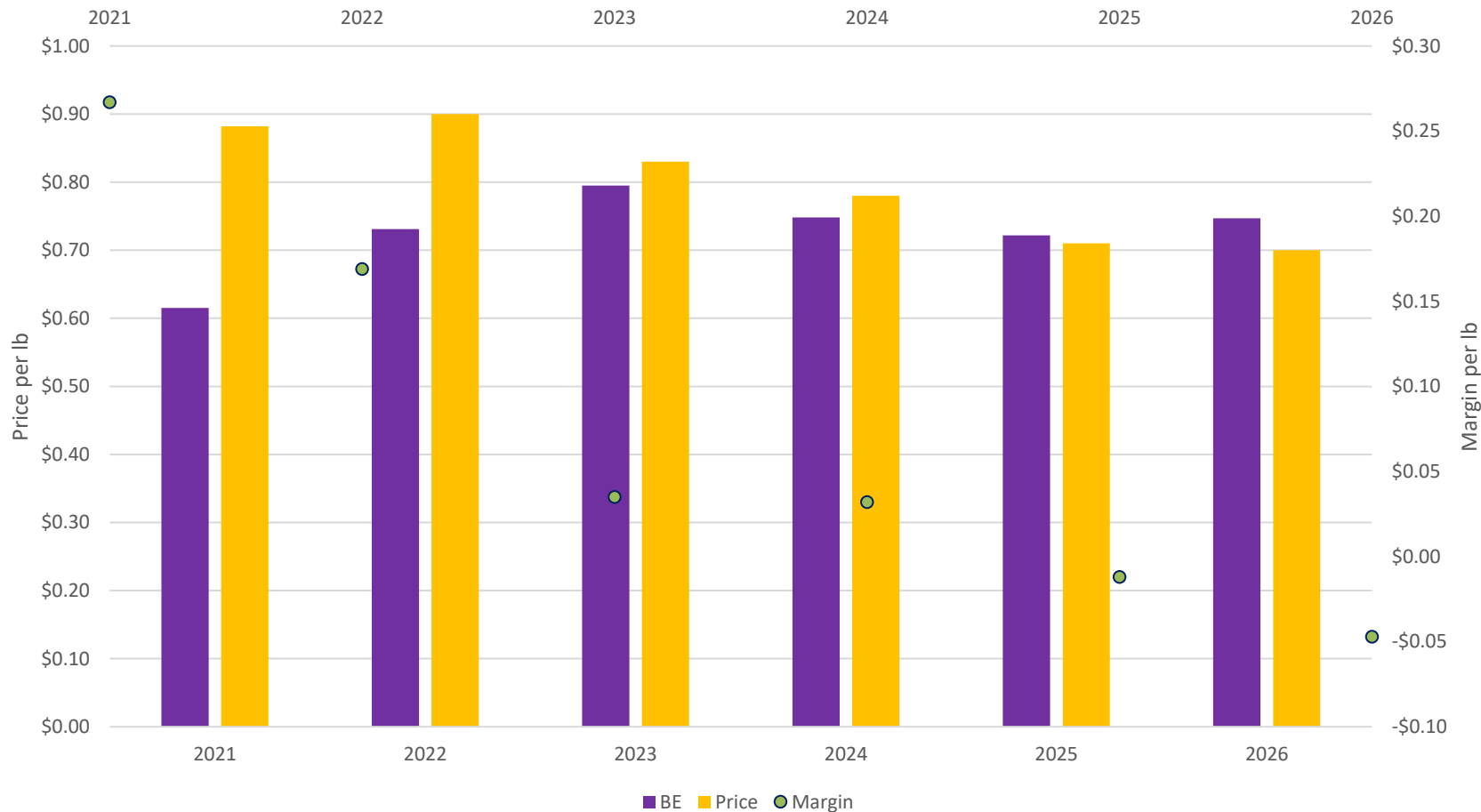
Historical breakeven C.O.P, price, and margin (NRAVC) per unit



estimates assumes yield of 50 bu/ac and a \$471 direct cost estimate for 2026.

Estimated Breakeven and Margin for LA Cotton

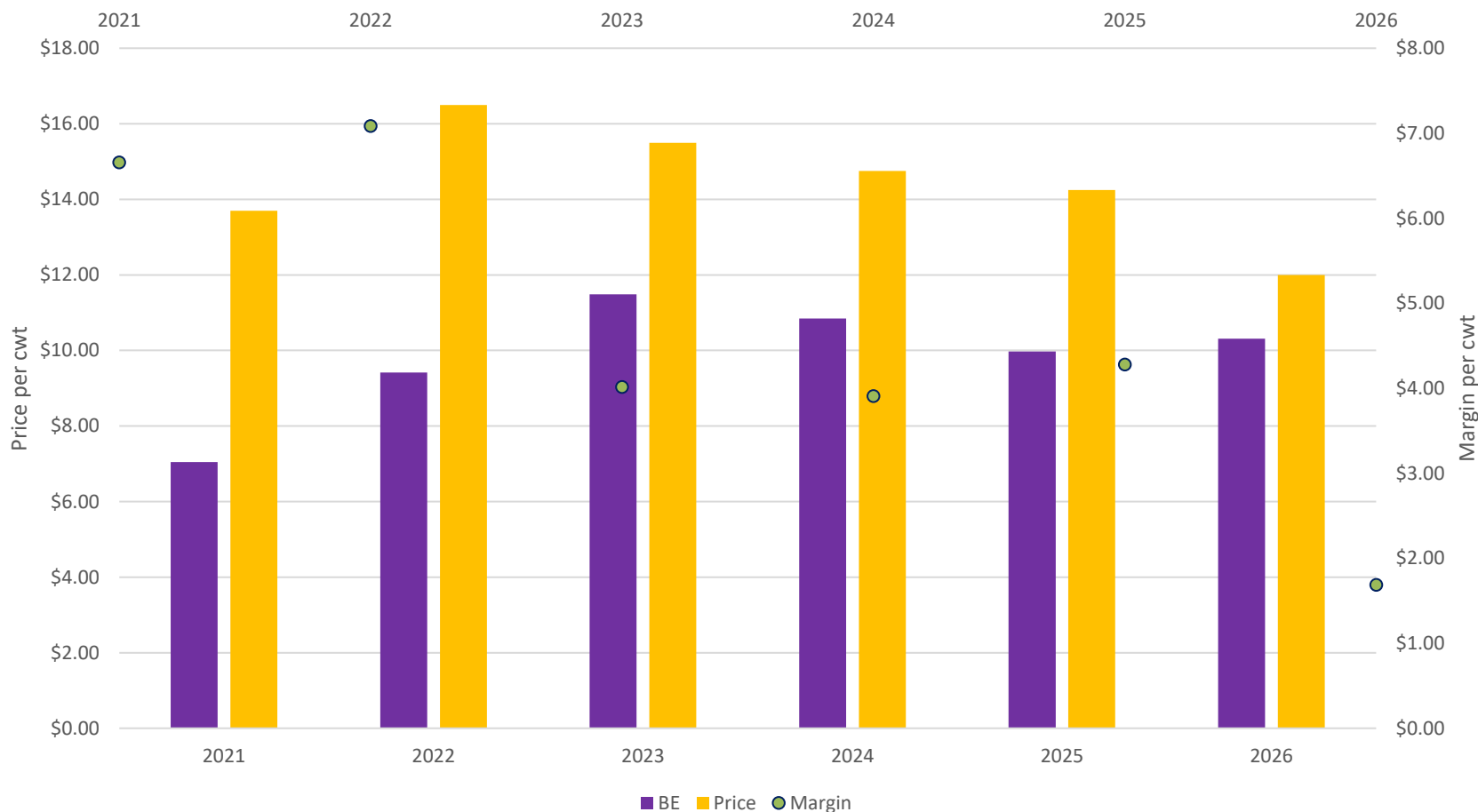
Historical breakeven C.O.P, price, and margin (NRAVC) per unit



estimates assumes yield of 1,000 lbs./ac and a \$747 direct cost estimate for 2026.

Estimated Breakeven and Margin for LA Rice

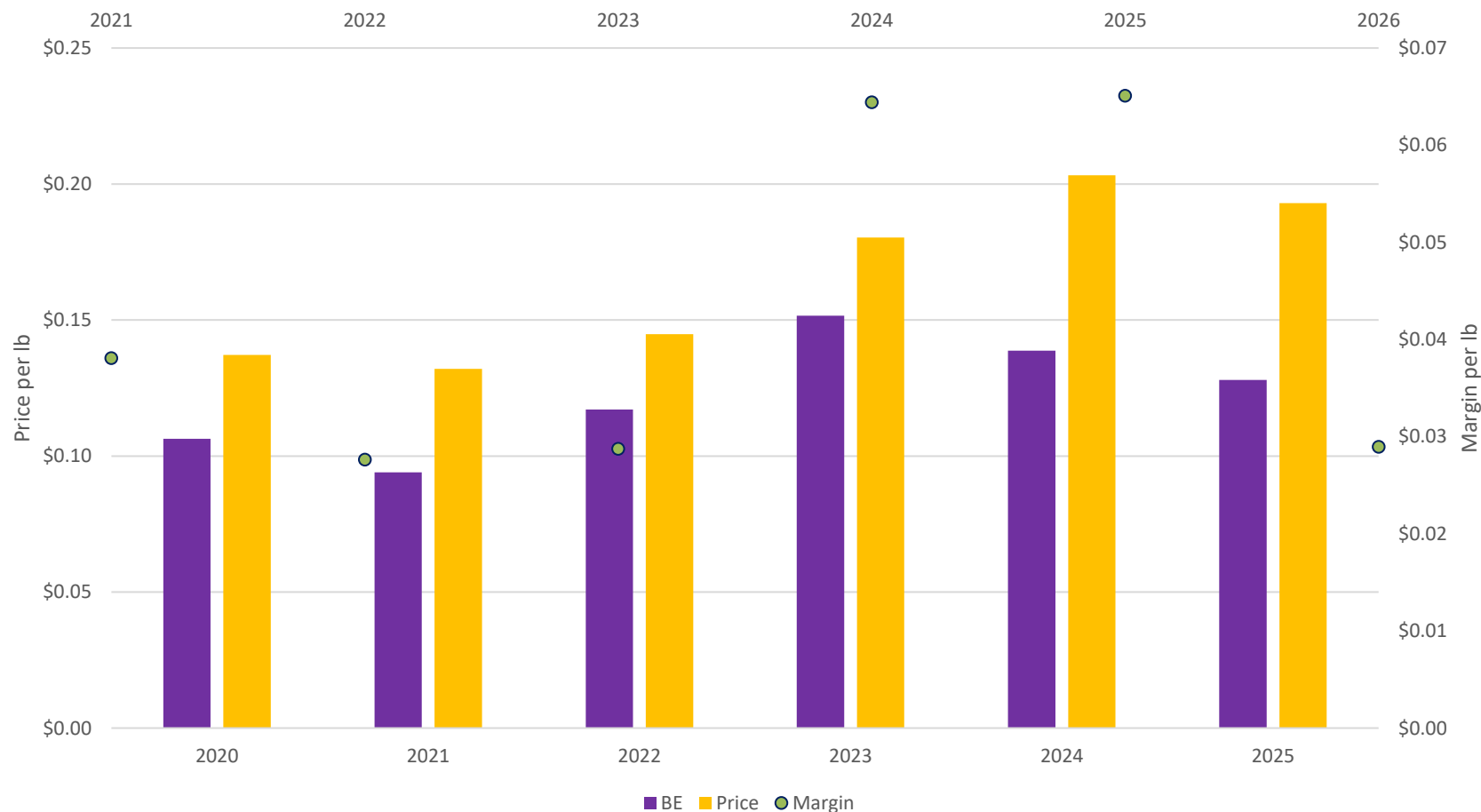
Historical breakeven C.O.P, price, and margin (NRAVC) per unit



estimates assume yield of 70 cwt/ac and a direct cost estimate of \$722 per acre in 2026.

Estimated Breakeven and Margin for LA Sugarcane

Historical breakeven C.O.P, price, and margin (NRAVC) per unit



Estimates assumes yield of 8,000 lbs./ac and a 1/6 share rent reflects grower's (GRW) share of raw sugar price. Reflects a \$543 weighted farm direct cost per are for 2026.

Farm and Risk Management Tools

Decision support aids developed by the LSU AgCenter

- Enterprise Budgets
 - PDF and Microsoft® Excel
- Farm Financial Benchmarking
 - Excel spreadsheets for multiple crops and rent
- ARC/PLC Farm Program Payment Matrices
 - Excel spreadsheets by crop, practice, parish
- Crop Insurance

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/crops>

https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/ag-economics-agribusiness/extension_outreach



Appreciation is extended to the following organizations for their support of this applied ag economic research.



Cotton
Incorporated



Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station / Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

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