

2026 ARC AND PLC SIGNUP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WISCONSIN FARMERS

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<https://aae.wisc.edu/pdmitchell/extension/arc-plc-signup/>



Topics Covered

- Part 1: Introduction and Clarifications for 2026
- Part 2: Recommendations for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, and Oats
- Part 3: Recommendations for Barley, Sunflowers, and Sorghum
- Not Covered
 - Recommendations for ARC-IC
 - SCO and ECO crop insurance options

Clarifications

2025 Crop Year

- Signed up by April 15, 2025 (late): You chose ARC-CO or PLC
- July 4, 2025: OBBD: Farmers to receive maximum of ARC-CO and PLC
- 2025 payments coming in October of 2026

2026 Crop Year

- Signup deadline normally March 15, 2026, but **Delayed to add Base Acres**
- Signup opened Sep 16, 2026, Deadline is Dec 11, 2026
- Payments if due will come in October of 2027

2027 Crop Year

- Signup runs Nov 2, 2026 until March 15, 2027
- Payments if due will come in October of 2028

ARC and PLC Signup Deadline: Dec 11, 2026

- Farmers choose PLC or ARC-CO (or ARC-IC) for their base acres
 - Can now buy SCO crop insurance option if choose ARC-CO
- Can mix and match across farms and crops
 - Use PLC for your corn base and ARC-CO for your soybean base
 - Use PLC for corn base on one farm, ARC-CO for corn base on another
- Current signup is only for 2026 crops
 - Payments based on marketing year average prices
 - Corn and Soybeans: Sep 1, 2026 to Aug 31, 2027
 - Wheat and Oats: June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027
 - Payments, if triggered, will be made in Oct of 2027

ARC and PLC: Reminder of how they work

- PLC: Pays if the national marketing year average price falls below the Effective Reference Price (PLC Trigger)
 - $85\% \times \text{Base Acres} \times \text{Program Yield} \times \text{PLC Payment Rate}$
- ARC: Pays if actual county revenue below county revenue guarantee
 - County Revenue Guarantee = **90%** of Benchmark Price $\times$ County Benchmark Yield
 - Actual County Revenue = National MYA Price $\times$ FSA County Yield
 - $85\% \times \text{Base Acres} \times \text{ARC Payment Rate}$
 - Database of county yields and guarantees:
 - Wisconsin: <https://aae.wisc.edu/pdmitchell/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2026/09/2026-Price-County-Data-Post.xlsx>
 - All US Counties and Crops: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/documents/arcco-2026-data-2026-01-16>

ARC Price Trigger and ARC Yield Trigger

- **ARC Price Trigger**: Fix County Yield at its average (Benchmark Yield) and look at the Price needed to trigger an ARC payment
 - Price that triggers ARC payment if county yield equals Benchmark
= 90% of the ARC Benchmark Price
- **ARC Yield Trigger**: Fix Price at the Projected Price and calculate the % County Yield change needed to trigger an ARC payment
 - County Yield % change from County Benchmark Yield that triggers ARC payments if price equals the Projected Price
= $90\% \times (\text{Benchmark Price} / \text{Projected Price}) - 100\%$

ARC and PLC Recommendations for 2026

- **For 2026: ARC-CO for Corn, Soybeans & Oats and PLC for Wheat**
- **For 2026: ARC-CO for Barley, Sunflower Seed, and Sorghum**
- Starting in 2026, can choose ARC-CO and buy SCO crop insurance option
- You have until **Dec 11th** to make your election
- 2025 elections do not transfer automatically: **File the 2026 election form!!!**
 - You can update before deadline if you change your mind
 - I will monitor conditions and update my recommendations as the sign-up period progresses, but I do not anticipate changing my recommendations
 - You may have more base acres
- All producers with interest in the cropland must sign, like in past years
- Contact your local office for paperwork options: in-person and online

2026 Effective Reference Prices and Projected Prices

PLC Trigger

Crop	2026 Effective Reference Price	Projected 2026 Price
Corn	\$4.42	\$4.70
Soybeans	\$10.71	\$12.00
Wheat	\$6.35	\$6.30
Oats	\$3.05	\$3.35

- Effective Reference Prices: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/documents/2026-erp-pdf>
- Projected 2026 Farm Prices: WASDE **(Oct 9, 2026)**
- <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-chief-economist/commodity-markets/wasde-report>

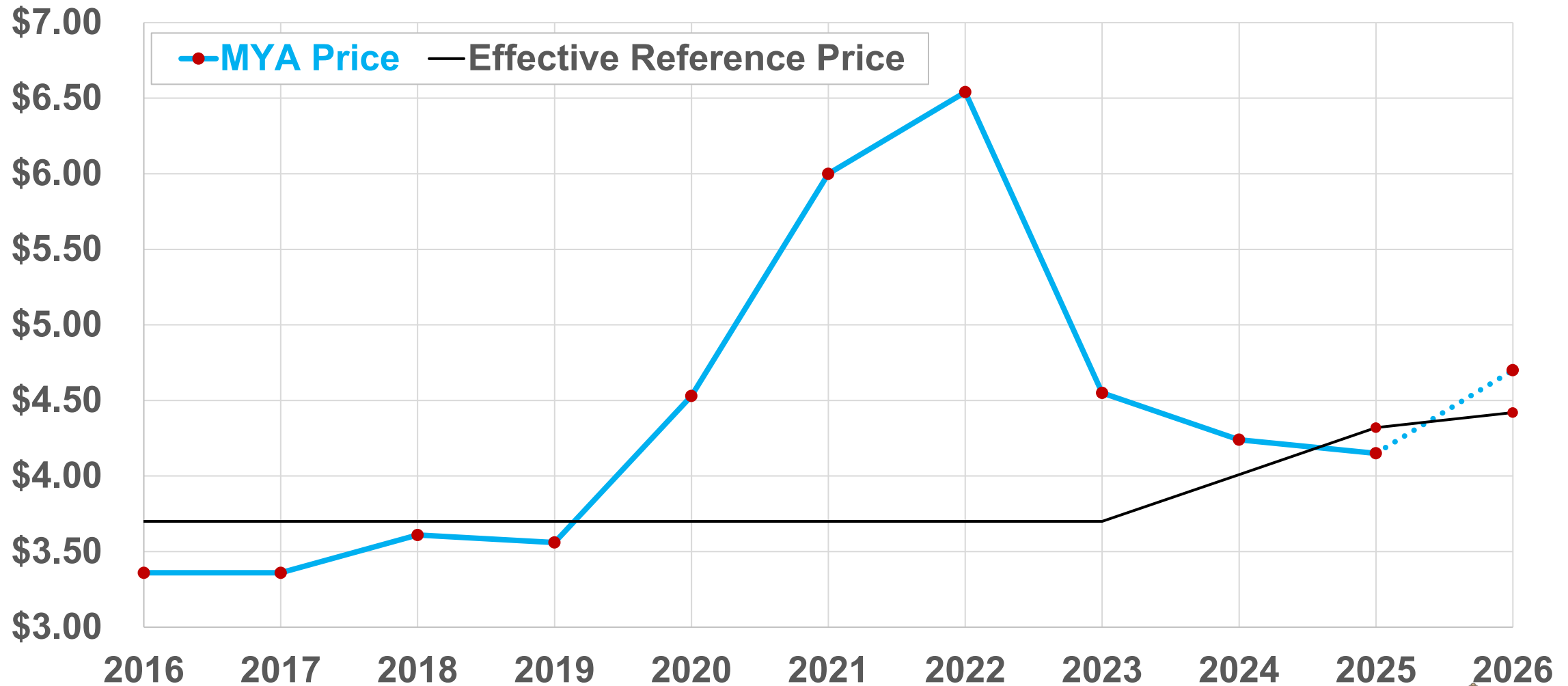
2026 Effective Reference Prices and Projected Prices

PLC Trigger

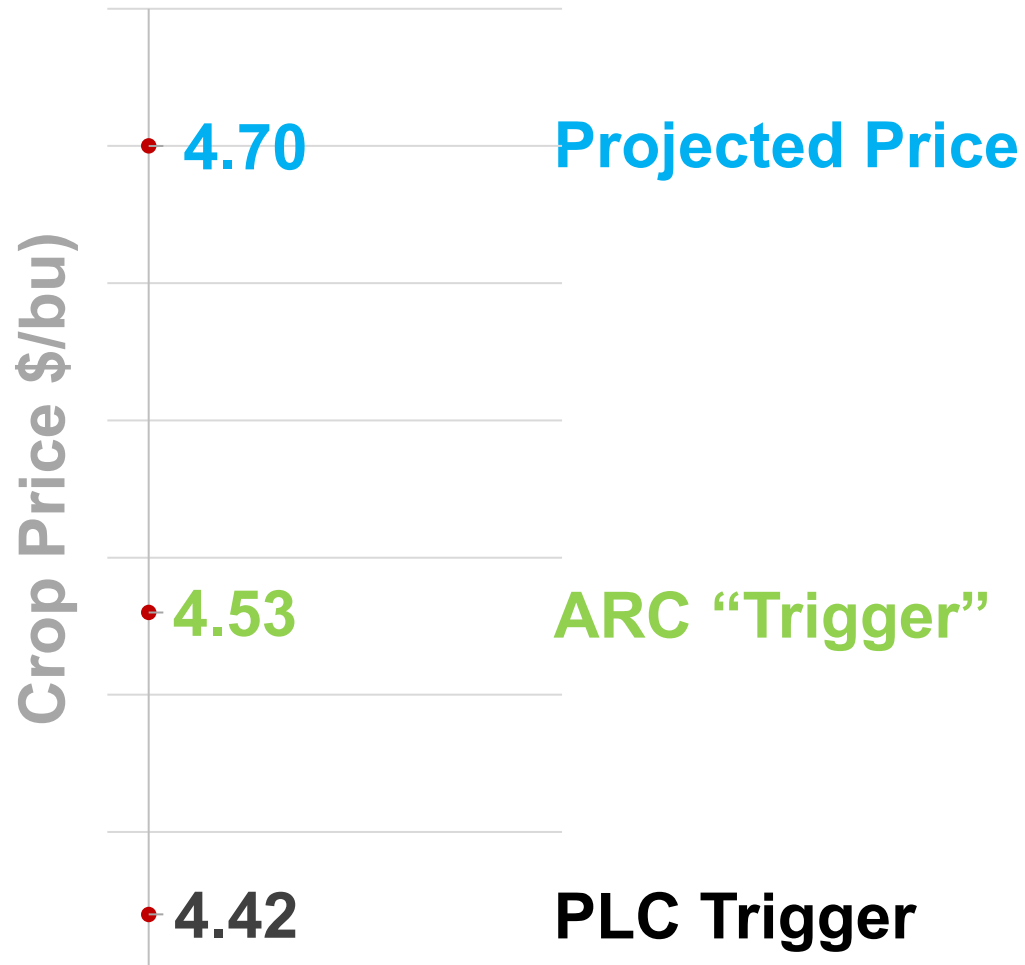
Crop	2026 Effective Reference Price	Projected 2026 Price	ARC Price “Trigger”	ARC Yield “Trigger”
Corn	\$4.42	\$4.70	\$4.53	−3.7%
Soybeans	\$10.71	\$12.00	\$10.95	−8.7%
Wheat	\$6.35	\$6.30	\$6.28	−0.3%
Oats	\$3.05	\$3.35	\$3.55	+5.9%

- Effective Reference Prices: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/documents/2026-erp-pdf>
- Projected 2026 Farm Prices: WASDE (**Oct 9, 2026**)
- <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-chief-economist/commodity-markets/wasde-report>
- ARC Price “Trigger”: Price needed to trigger ARC payment if county yield = county benchmark
- ARC Yield “Trigger”: % county yield change from county benchmark to trigger ARC payment if price = projected price

Corn Average Prices and Effective Reference Prices

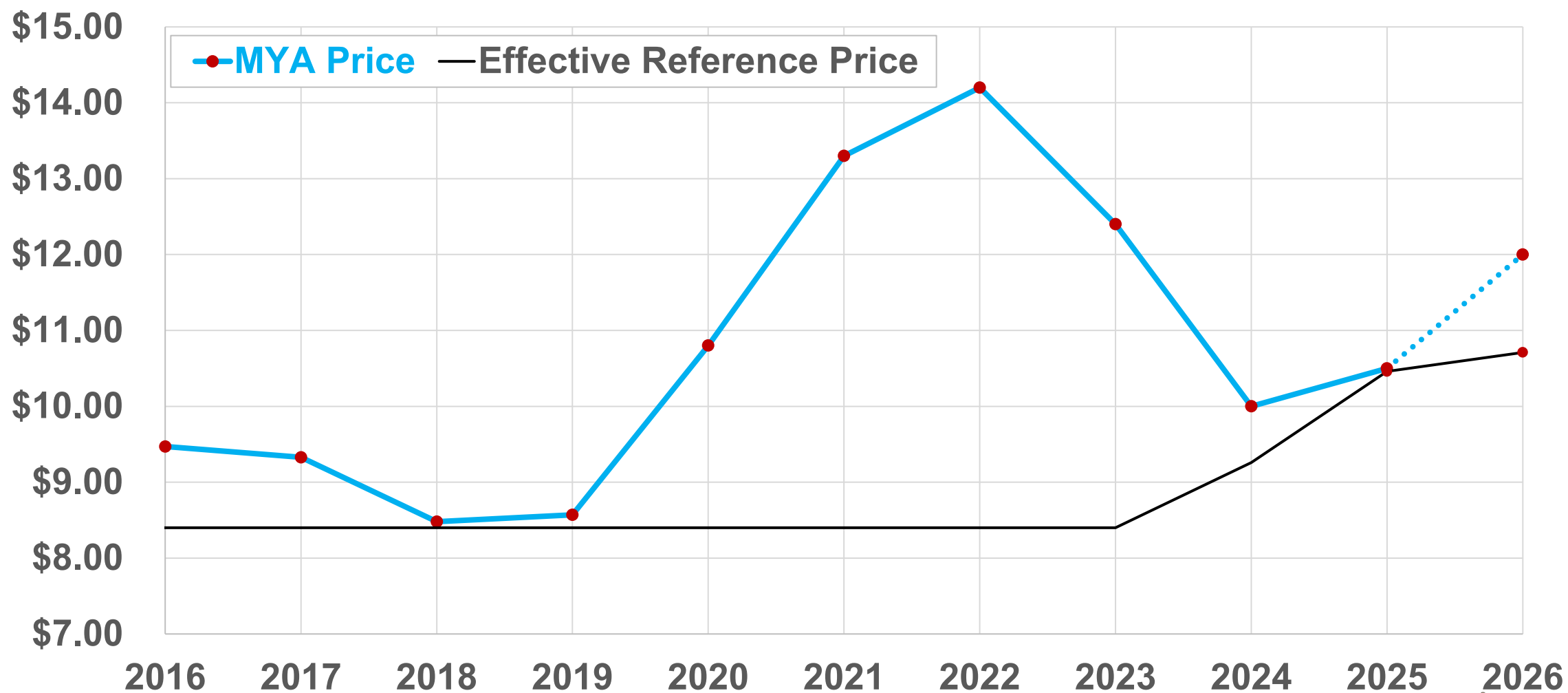


Corn



- **Recommendation: choose ARC**
- Projected Price 17¢ above the ARC Trigger and 28¢ above the PLC Trigger
- Low price is unlikely to trigger ARC or PLC payments, but a low county yield could trigger ARC payments
- ARC Yield Trigger = -3.7% , so if the projected price occurs, your county needs a yield decline of 3.7% to trigger ARC payments in your county
 - WI yield estimate is 182 bu/ac, +1.3% from the 5-year average

Soybean Average Prices and Effective Reference Prices

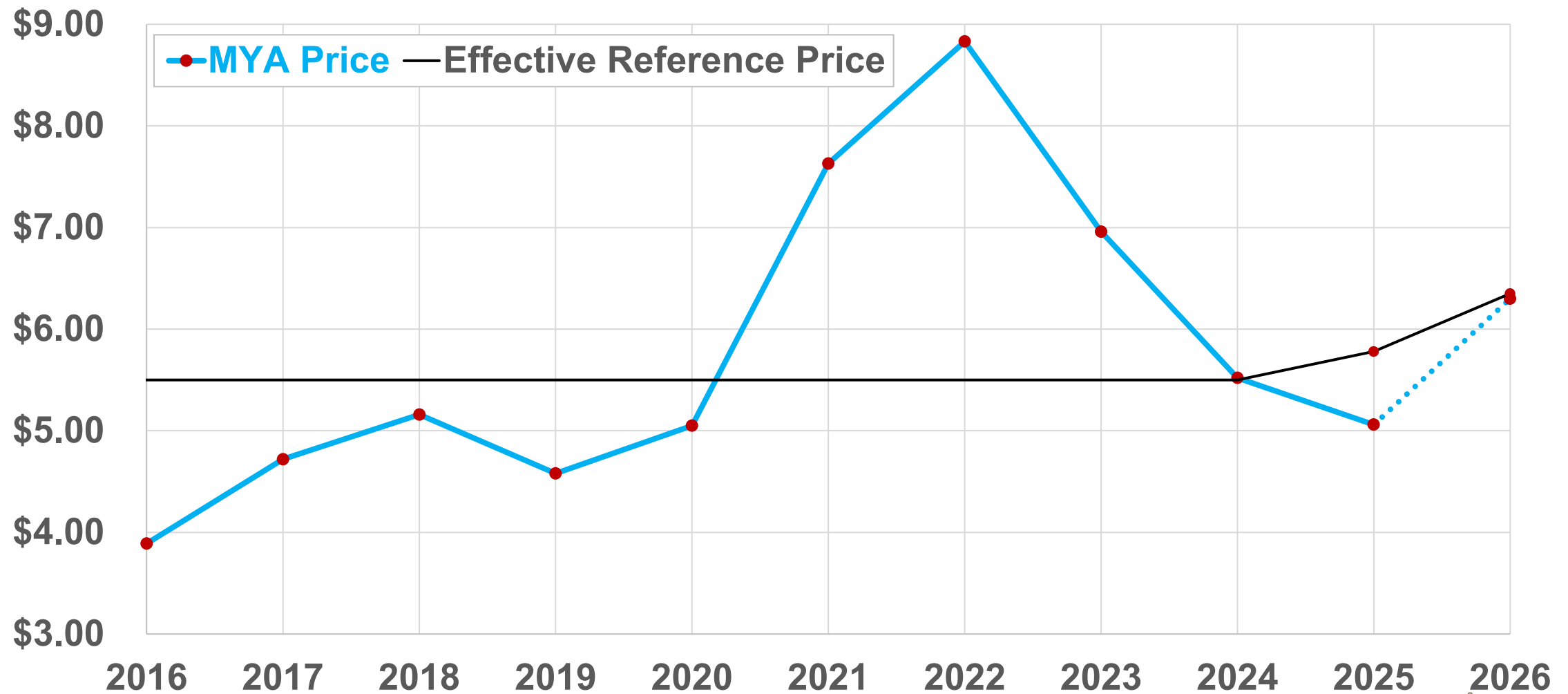


Soybeans



- **Recommendation: choose ARC**
- Projected Price \$1.05 above the ARC Trigger and \$1.29 above the PLC Trigger
- Low price is unlikely to trigger ARC or PLC payments, but a low county yield could trigger ARC payments
- ARC Yield Trigger = -8.7% , so if the projected price occurs, your county needs a yield decline of 8.7% to trigger ARC payments in your county
 - WI yield estimate is 54 bu/ac, +3.8% from 5-year average

Wheat Average Prices and Effective Reference Prices

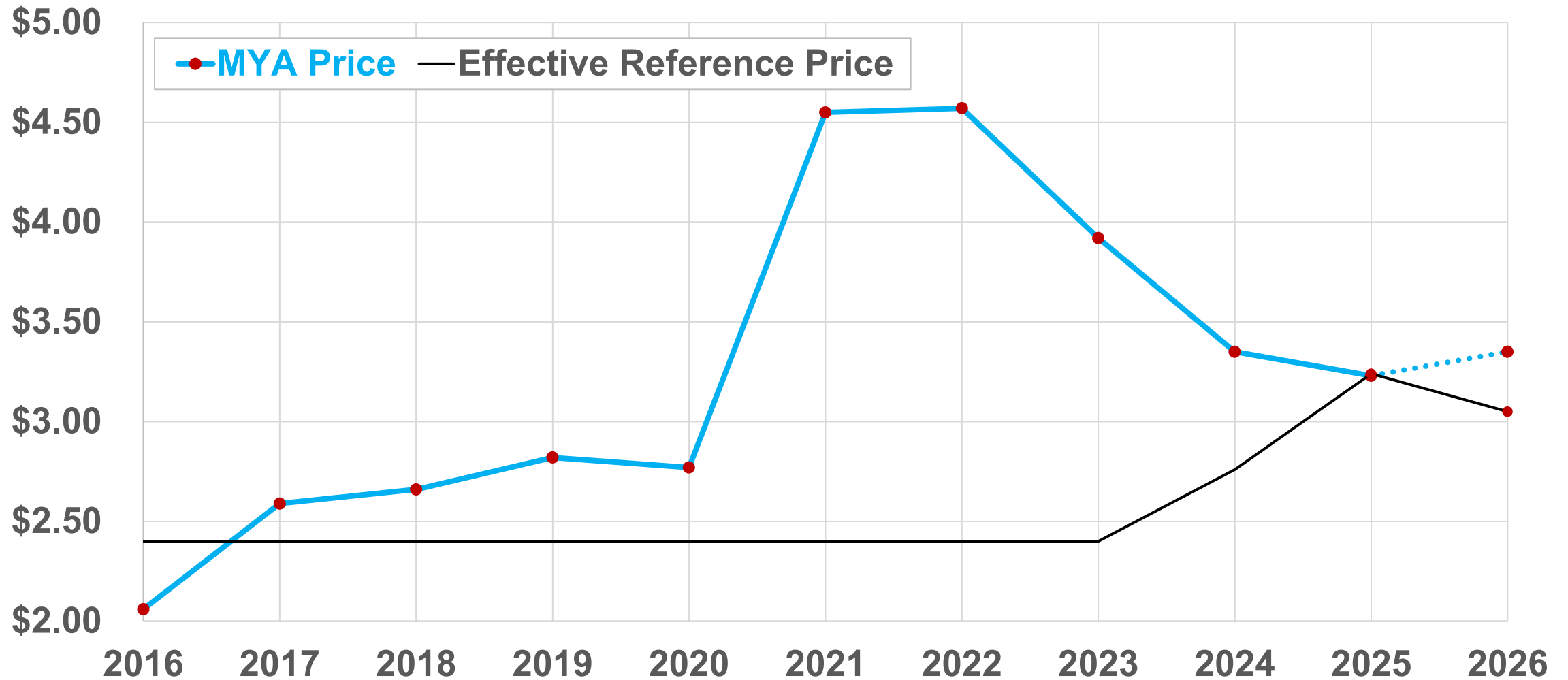


Wheat

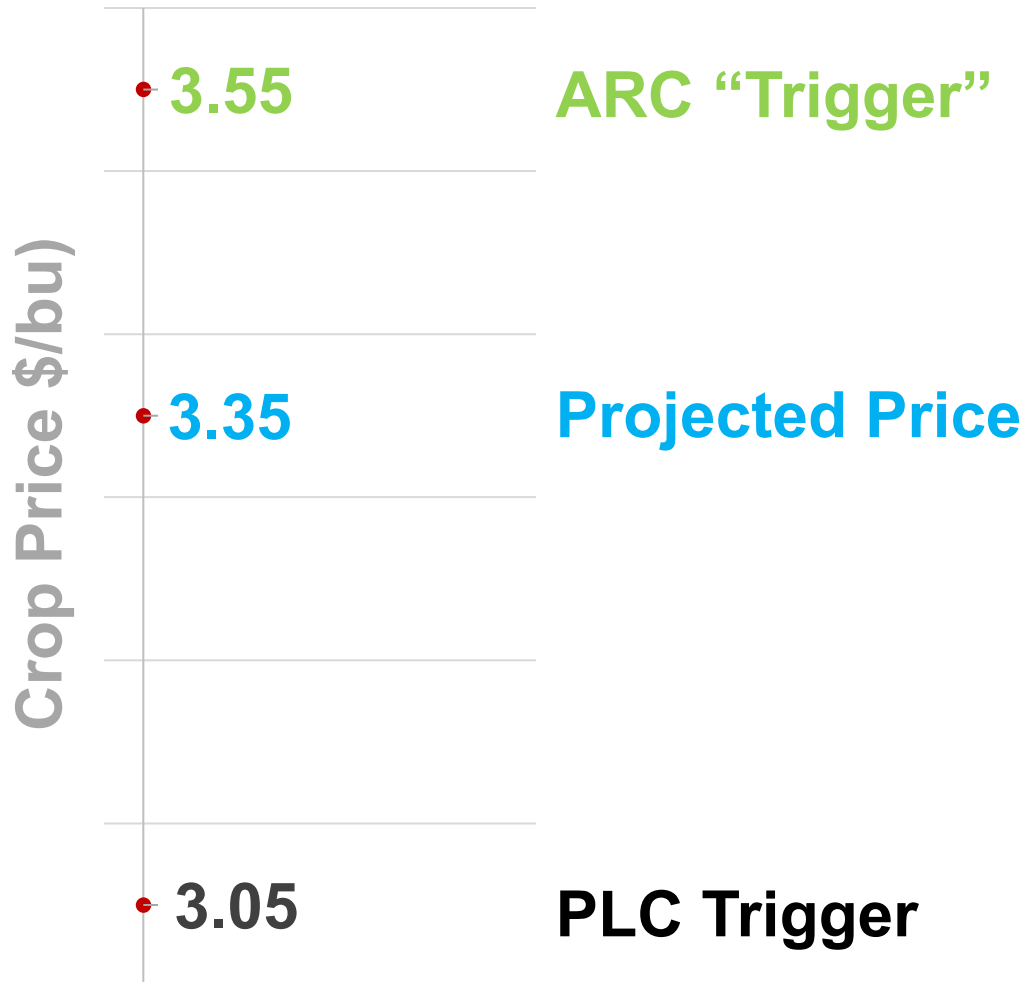


- **Recommendation: choose PLC**
- Projected Price 5¢ below the PLC Trigger and 2¢ above the ARC Trigger
- Low price is likely to trigger PLC payments, but need a low county yield or lower price to trigger ARC payments
- ARC Yield Trigger = -0.3% , so if the projected price occurs, your county needs a yield decline of 0.3% to trigger ARC payments in your county
 - WI yield estimate is 83 bu/ac, +7.2% above 5-year average

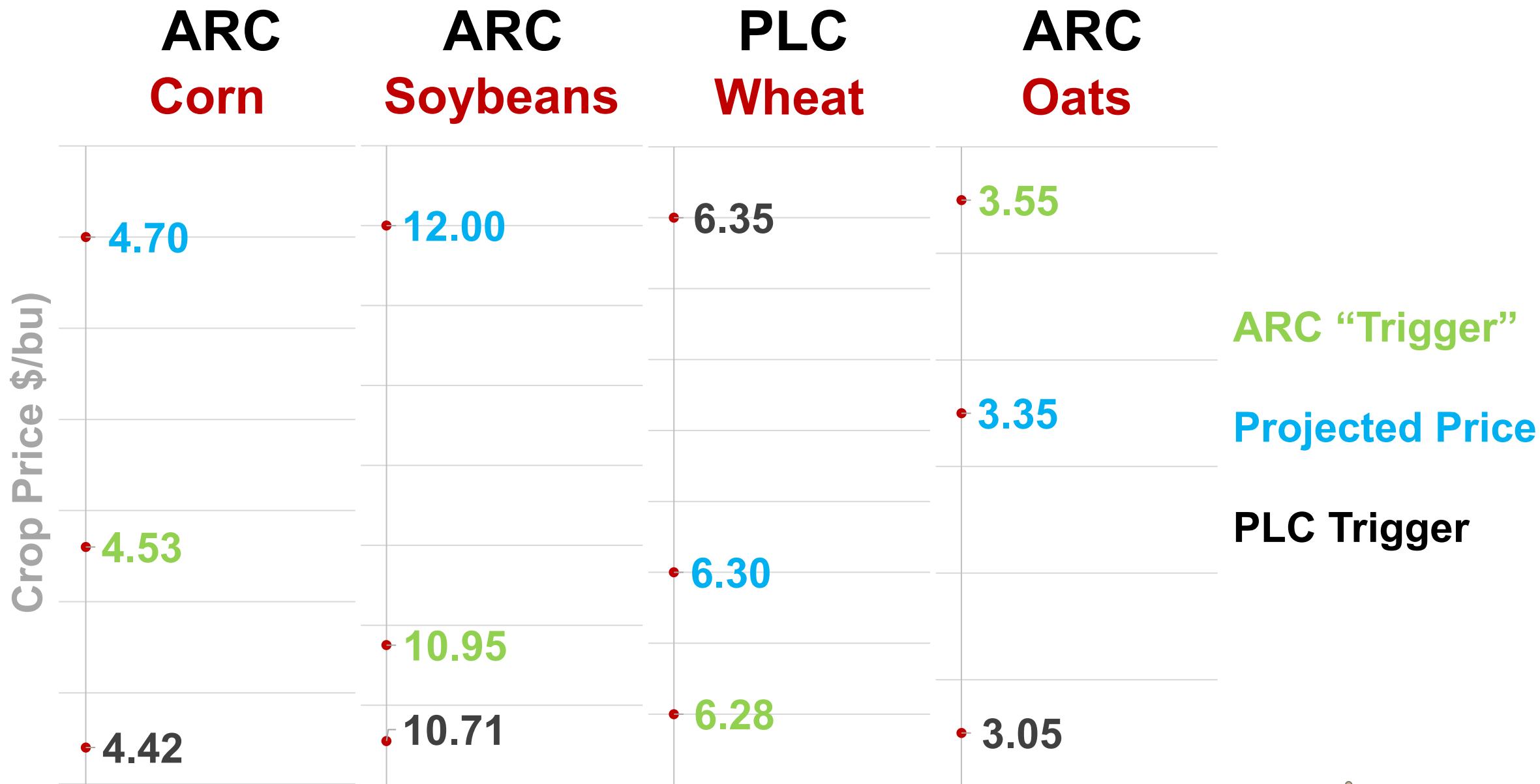
Oat Average Prices and Effective Reference Prices



Oats



- **Recommendation: choose ARC**
- Projected Price is 20¢ below the ARC Trigger and 30¢ above the PLC Trigger
- Low price is unlikely to trigger PLC payments, but a low price or low county yield could trigger ARC payments
- ARC Yield Trigger = +5.9%, so if the projected price occurs, your county yield must be less than 5.9% above average to trigger ARC payments in your county
 - WI yield estimate is 74 bu/ac, +12.8% above 5-year average



2026 ARC/PLC Recommendations

- Signup deadline is **Dec 11, 2026**
- Unlike past years, 2025 elections do not transfer automatically: **File the form!**
- **Corn, Soybeans & Oats : Choose ARC-CO:**
- Low prices are unlikely to trigger ARC or PLC payments, but a low county yield could trigger ARC payments
- **Wheat: Choose PLC:**
- Low price is likely to trigger PLC payments, but expected high county yields are not likely to trigger ARC payments, even with the projected price

ARC and PLC Recommendations for 2026

- **For 2026: ARC-CO for Barley, Sunflower Seed, and Sorghum**
- You have until **Dec 11th** to make your election
- **File the election forms now!!! FSA form CCC-866 for 2026**
- Unlike past years, 2025 elections do not transfer automatically: **File the form!**
 - You can update before deadline if you change your mind
 - I will monitor conditions and update my recommendations as the sign-up period progresses, but I do not anticipate changing my recommendations
 - You may have more base acres
- All producers with interest in the cropland must sign, like in past years
- Contact your local office for paperwork options: in-person and online

2026 Effective Prices and Farm Price Projections

PLC Trigger

Crop	2026 Effective Reference Price	Projected 2026 Price
Barley	\$5.58	\$5.70
Sunflower	\$23.75	\$24.70
Sorghum	\$4.67	\$4.50

- Effective Reference Prices: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/documents/2026-erp-pdf>
- Projected 2026 Farm Prices for Barley and Sorghum: WASDE **(Oct 9, 2026)**
- <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-chief-economist/commodity-markets/wasde-report>
- Projected 2026 Farm Prices for Sunflower Seed **(Sep 11, 2026)**: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/documents/2026-arc-co>

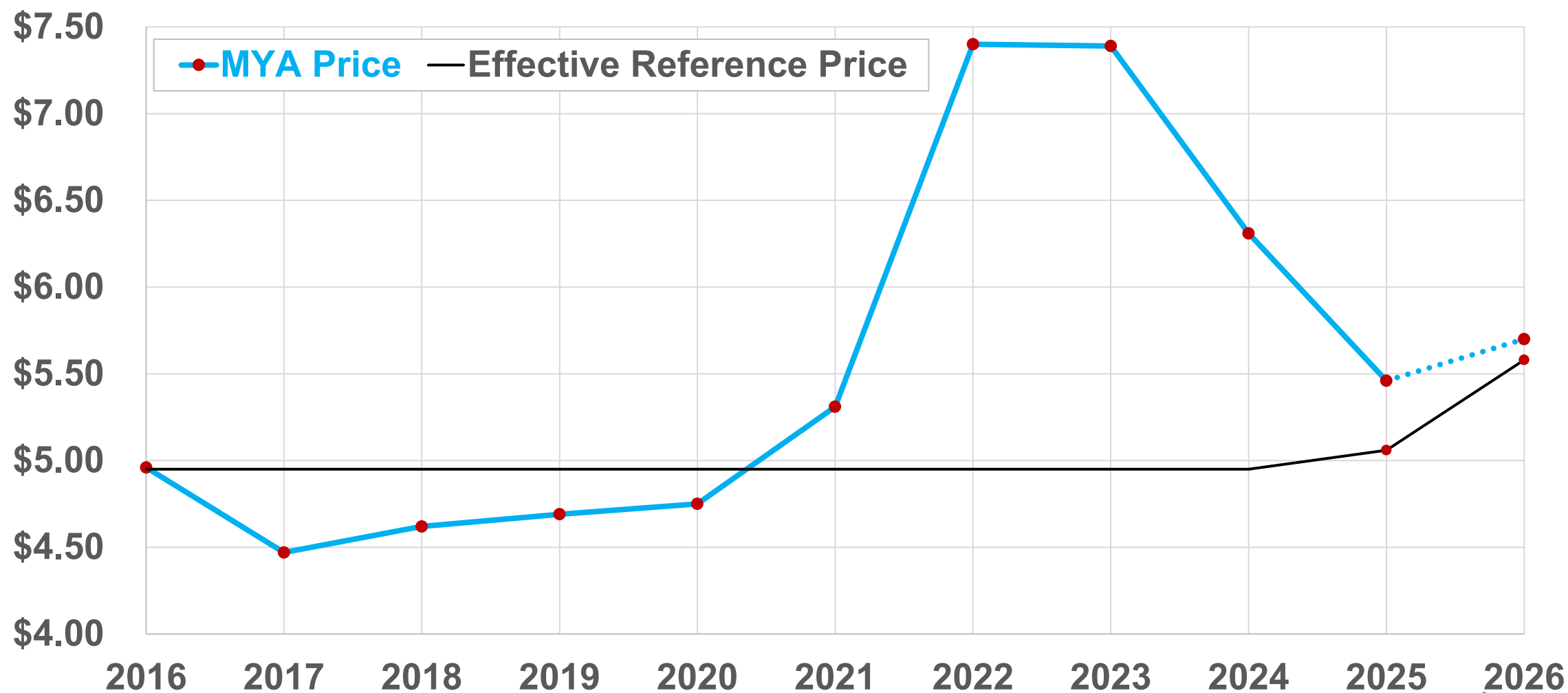
2026 Effective Prices and Farm Price Projections

PLC Trigger

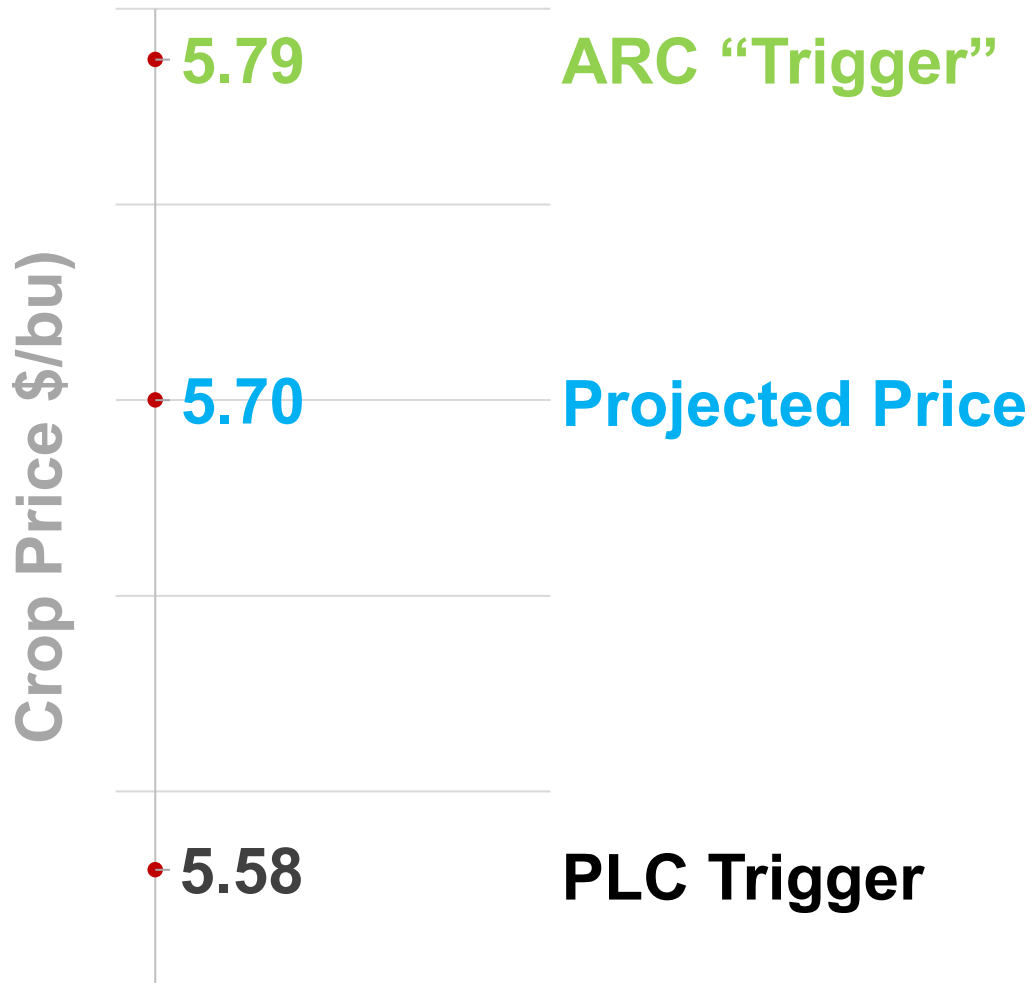
Crop	2026 Effective Reference Price	Projected 2026 Price	ARC Price “Trigger”	ARC Yield “Trigger”
Barley	\$5.58	\$5.70	\$5.79	+1.5%
Sunflower	\$23.75	\$24.70	\$22.61	−8.5%
Sorghum	\$4.67	\$4.50	\$4.77	+6.0%

- Effective Reference Prices: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/documents/2026-erp-pdf>
- Projected 2026 Farm Prices for Barely and Sorghum: WASDE **(Oct 9, 2026)**
- <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-chief-economist/commodity-markets/wasde-report>
- Projected 2026 Farm Prices for Sunflower Seed **(Sep 11, 2026)**: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/documents/2026-arc-co>
- ARC Price “Trigger”: Price needed to trigger ARC payment if county yield = county benchmark
- ARC Yield “Trigger”: % county yield change from county benchmark to trigger ARC payment if price = projected price

Barley Average Prices and Effective Reference Prices

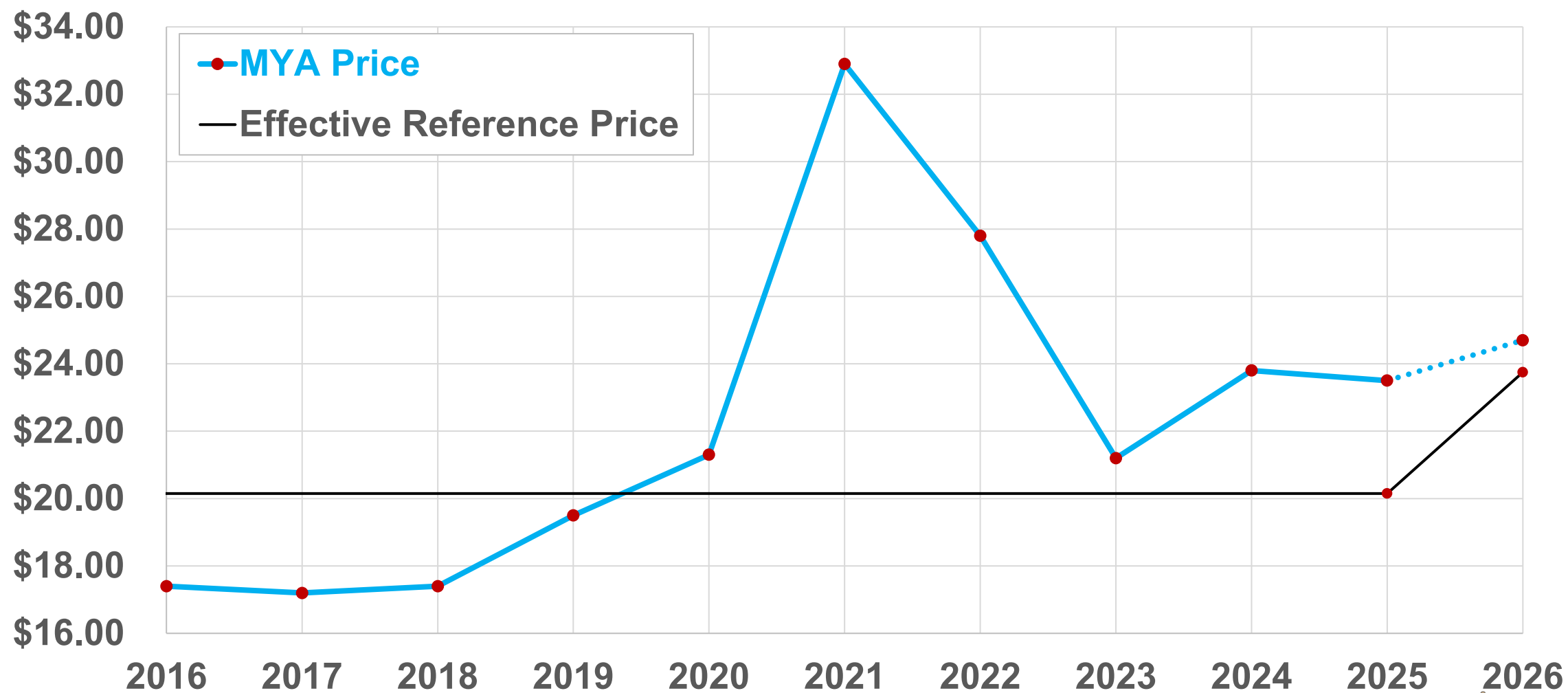


Barley

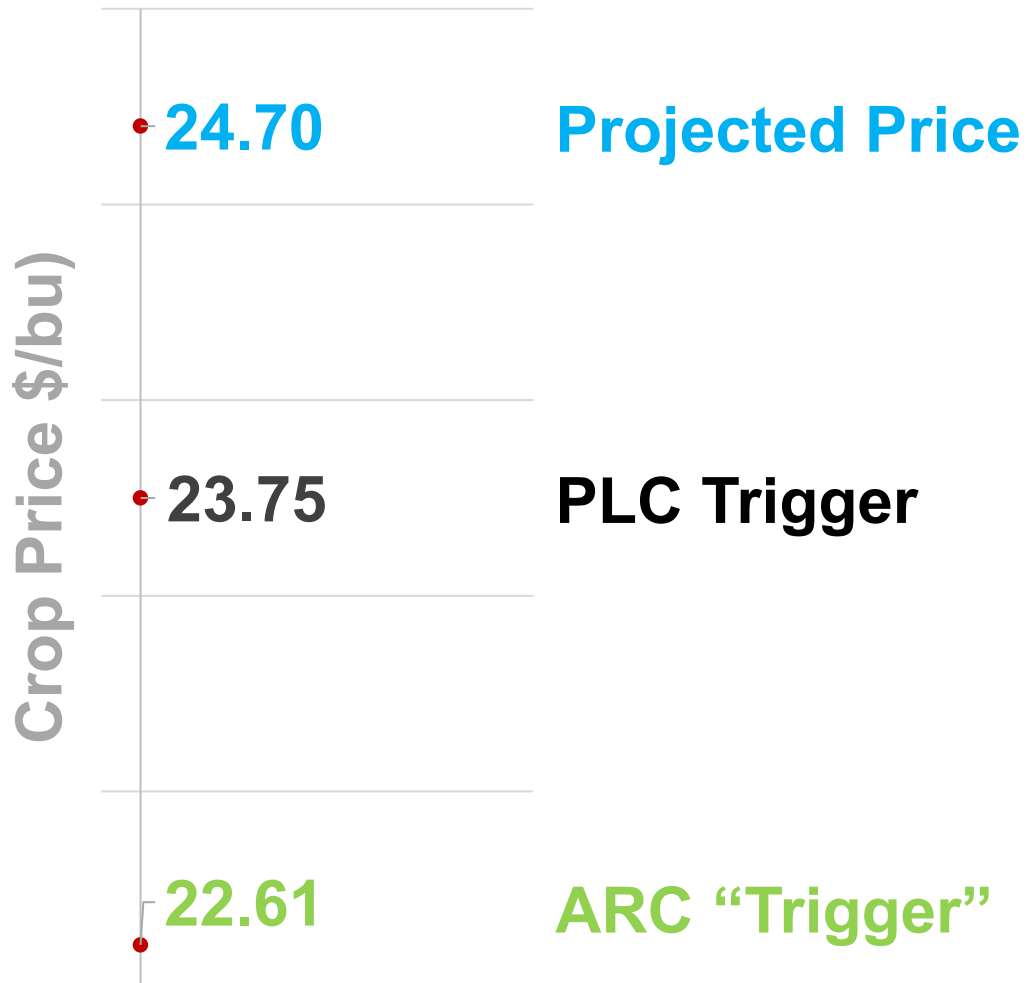


- **Recommendation: choose ARC**
- Projected Price 9¢ below the ARC Trigger and 12¢ above PLC Trigger
- Low price is unlikely to trigger PLC payments, but a low price or low county yield could trigger ARC payments
- ARC Yield Trigger = +1.5%, so if the projected price occurs, your county yield must be less than 1.5% above average to trigger ARC payments in your county
 - WI yield estimate is 62 bu/ac, +17.8% above 5-year average

Sunflower Seed Average Prices and Effective Reference Prices

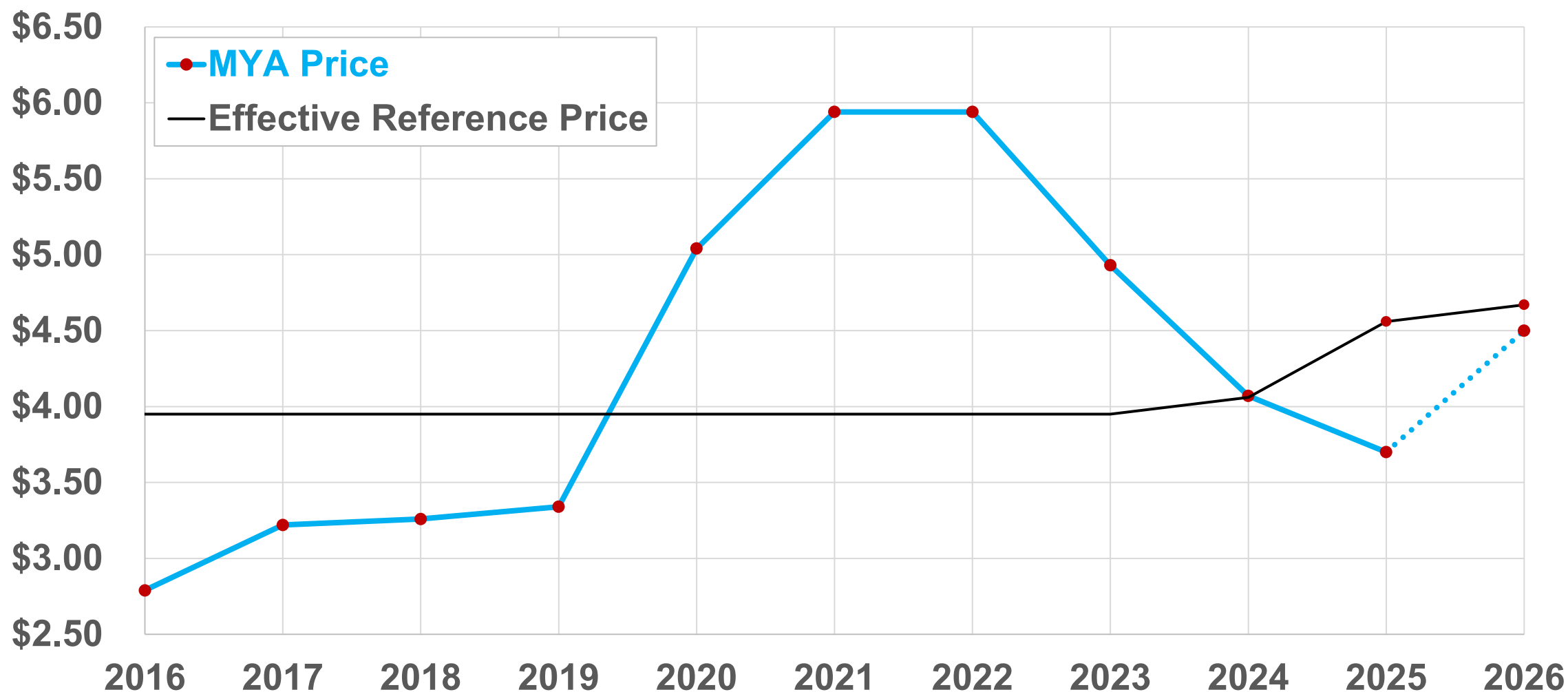


Sunflower

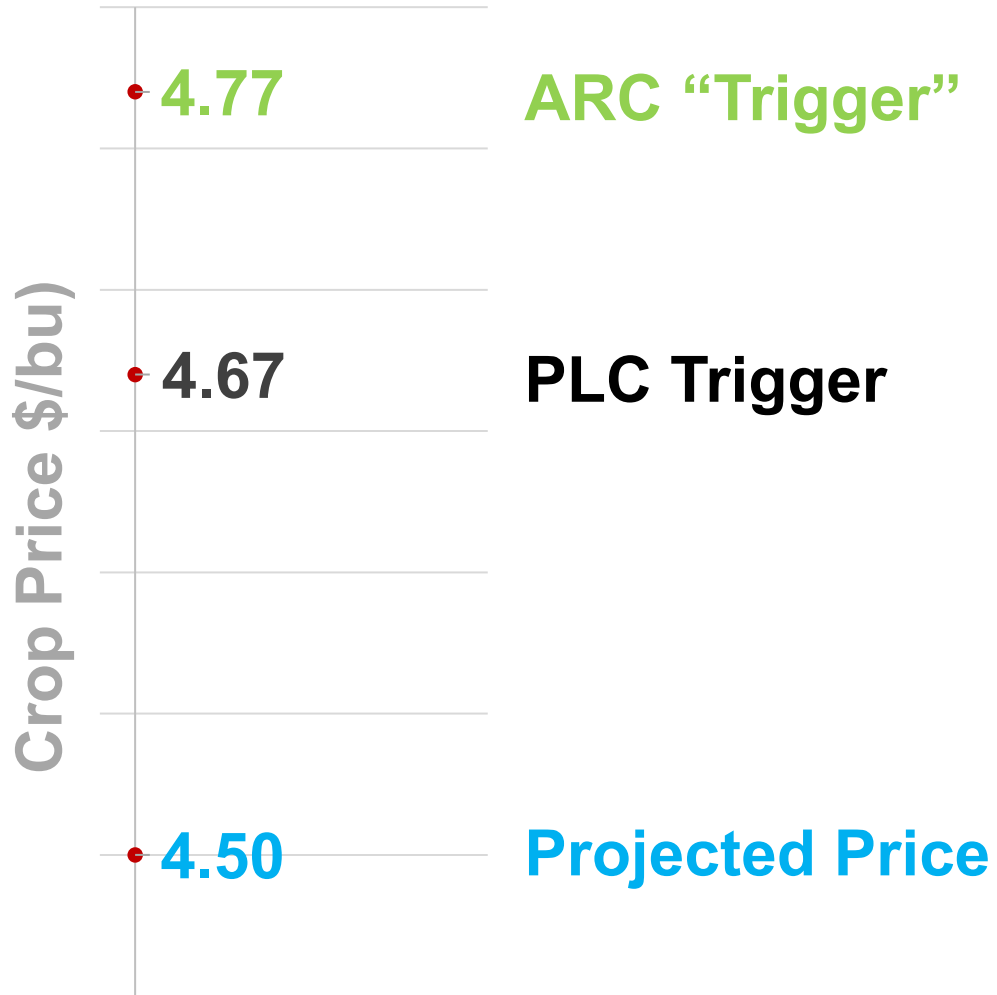


- **Recommendation: choose ARC**
- Projected Price 95¢ above the PLC Trigger and \$2.09 above the ARC Trigger
- Projected Price is far above the PLC Trigger, but low county level yield could trigger ARC payments
- ARC Yield Trigger = -8.5% , so if the projected price occurs, your county needs a yield decline of 8.5% to trigger ARC payments in your county
- Twice in last 5 years, WI sunflower yield has been more than 8.5% below the current county benchmark

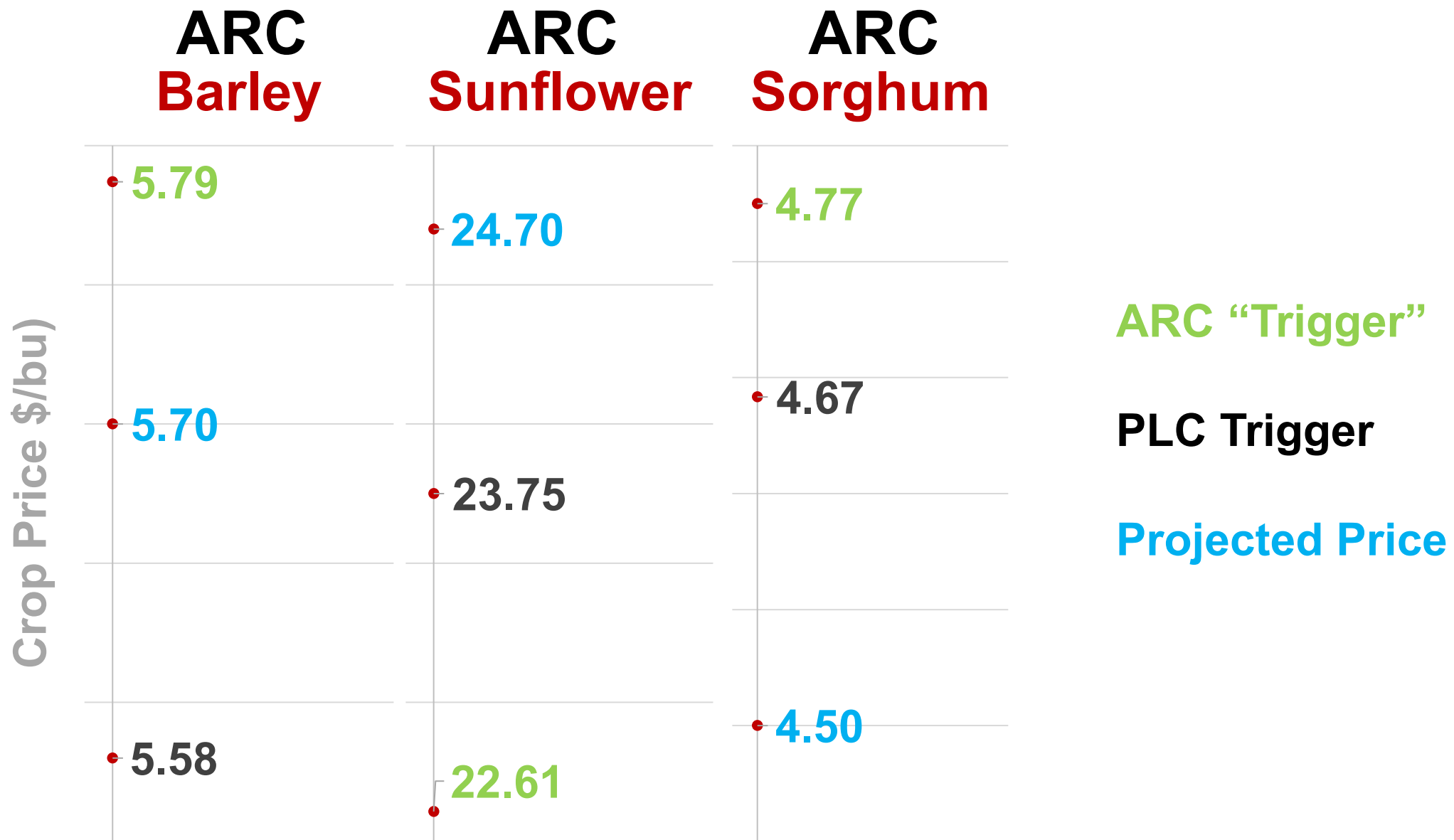
Sorghum Average Prices and Effective Reference Prices



Sorghum



- **Recommendation: choose ARC**
- Projected Price is 27¢ below the ARC Trigger and 17¢ below the PLC Trigger
- Low price is likely to trigger PLC payments, and a low price or low county yield is likely trigger ARC payments
- ARC Yield Trigger = +6.0%, so if the projected price occurs, your county yield must be less than 6.0% above average to trigger ARC payments in your county
- Four of last five years, WI sorghum yield has been less than 6.0% above the current county benchmark



2026 ARC/PLC Recommendations

- Signup deadline is **Dec 11, 2026**
- Unlike past years, 2025 elections do not transfer automatically: **File the form!**
- **Barley and Sunflower: Choose ARC-CO:**
- Low prices are unlikely to trigger ARC or PLC payments, but a low county yield could trigger ARC payments
- **Sorghum: Choose ARC-CO:**
- Low price is likely to trigger PLC payments, and a low price or low county yield is likely trigger ARC payments, but ARC payment should be larger