Midweek saw Egypt's GASC secure a further 290,000 mt of wheat in their latest tender, reported prices were some $2.30/mt higher than their last tender at $221.60 basis C&F. Russia sold the majority of the tonnage, 180,000 mt with Ukraine selling the 115,000 mt balance. Egypt appears to be catching up slightly on last year's purchasing pace.

Other news, aside from last night's WASDE release, includes some slightly positive Brexit news as Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar "see a pathway to a deal", which boosted £Stg although EU Council president Donald Tusk said the UK had still not delivered anything "workable" after the Brussels talks broke up. Clearly 31 October is getting closer whilst agreement and a way forward seems as far away as ever. Pulling rabbits out of a hat seems to be an easy task compared with negotiating a UK/EU agreement.

US politics remain (almost) equally turbulent as President Trump announced a withdrawal of US troops from Syria, which led Turkish President Erdogan to launch a cross border attack with the objective of "preventing the creation of a terror corridor" on the border. Turkey said its plan was to create a "safe zone" cleared of Kurdish militias which will also house Syrian refugees. In addition, impeachment proceedings against President Trump continue with a request for a deposition from Bill Taylor, the top US diplomat in Ukraine. It seems this story is destined to hang around for some time yet.

Headlines from the October WASDE release suggested that the report was, generally speaking, bearish grains and bullish soybeans. Corn yield at 168.4 bushels/acre (0.2 bu higher than September) took traders off-guard with a cut of as much as 2 bushels/acre widely anticipated. It should not be forgotten that corn maturity rates stands close to record slow and yield certainty will consequently be delayed. Planted and harvested corn acres, production and exports all lower combined with the changes to old crop stocks from the end of September will leave projected end stocks for the 2019/20 season somewhat lower but not sufficient to create a bullish scenario.

Soybean data saw yield reduced 1 bushels/acre to 46.9 with planted and harvested acres similarly lower leaving production some 83 million bu down and end stocks at 460 million bu vs 640 million last month. The data was moderately bullish but not sufficient, in our view, to see significant price upside.

Wheat data released showed global stocks increase a million as Australian losses were offset by EU increases. Global trade continues to remain stagnant to some degree and we would not be surprised to see Russian output increased by as much as 4 million mt in coming releases adding to global supply pressures.

Yesterday's news is now just that, trade continues rangebound for now and we continue to hold to our belief that both price downside and upside remains limited.