

Institute of Supply Management

Managing Your Commodity Input Costs

*Dave Reeble
President
Moving Parts L.L.C.*

Commodity

(Merriam-Webster online)

Main Entry: **com·mod·i·ty**

Pronunciation: k&-'mä-d&-tE

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *commoditee*, from Middle French *commodité*,
from Latin *commoditat-*, *commoditas*, from *commodus*

an economic good: as

a : a product of agriculture or mining

b : an article of [commerce](#) especially when delivered for
shipment <*commodities futures*>

c : a mass-produced unspecialized product

Commodity (My definition!)



Are you in the “Commodity” business?

- Meat
 - Chicken, pork, beef
- Salad Dressings, Sauces & Shortening
- Bread Products, Wraps & Buns
- Packaging
- Manufacturing Facilities
- Transportation

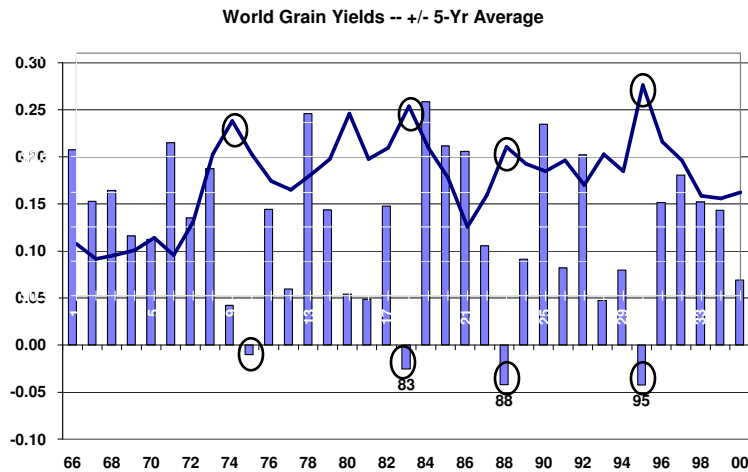
Are you in the “Commodity” business?

- Meat
 - Chicken, pork, beef
- Salad Dressing
 - Vegetable Oil
- Bread Products
 - Wheat Flour
- Packaging
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
 - Energy

What is “Commodity Risk Management”?

- A disciplined approach to preserving our business/product margins by:
 - *Understanding our product risk profile.*
 - *Determining what we can't afford to have happen!*
 - *Determining our risk tolerance.*
 - *Utilizing available “tools” to place unwanted risk.*
 - *Measuring our results.*

“Commodity Risk Management” is
NOT
 out-guessing the market!



Why is Commodity Risk Management Important?

- **Margin & Profit**

- “Commodity’s Wallop Kraft”

- Motley Fool July 19,2004

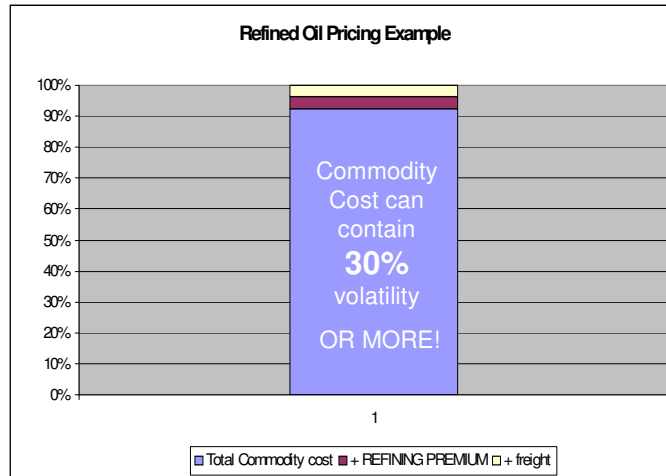
- “Food Maker Lowers Full Year Outlook”

- WSJ, July 19,2004

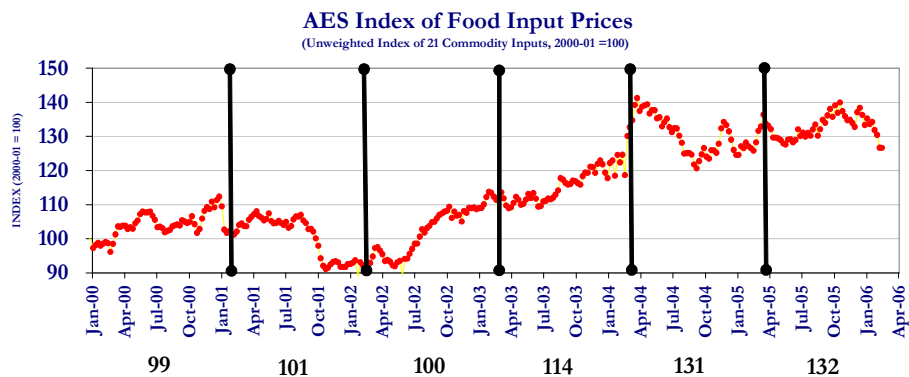
- “P&G, Unilever Facing Rising Prices”

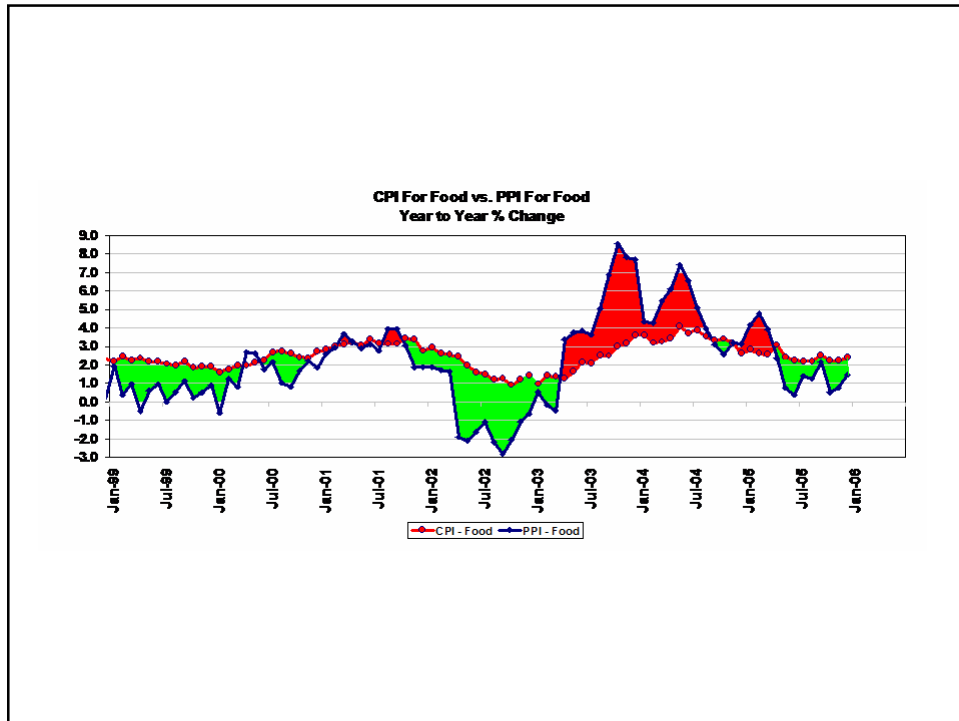
- AP, Oct 27,2004

.....and it is the largest and most volatile price component in many of the items you buy!



Cost Increases: *Very Painful*





Impact of Higher Costs On A Restaurant

- Gross Margins of Typical Restaurant 5-10%
- Inputs Equal 25-30% of Revenue
- 28% Rise In Input Costs = 7-8% of Revenue
- ***Higher costs in 2003-04 Equal to More than Annual Gross Margin***

Developing and Deploying Risk Management Strategies

CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY ABOUT MARKET RISK

- Identify Risk
- Risk Tolerance
- What can we NOT afford to have happen?

Developing and Deploying Risk Management Strategies

CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY

Controls

- Risk Reporting
- Benchmarking results
- Systems
- PPV
- FASB-133

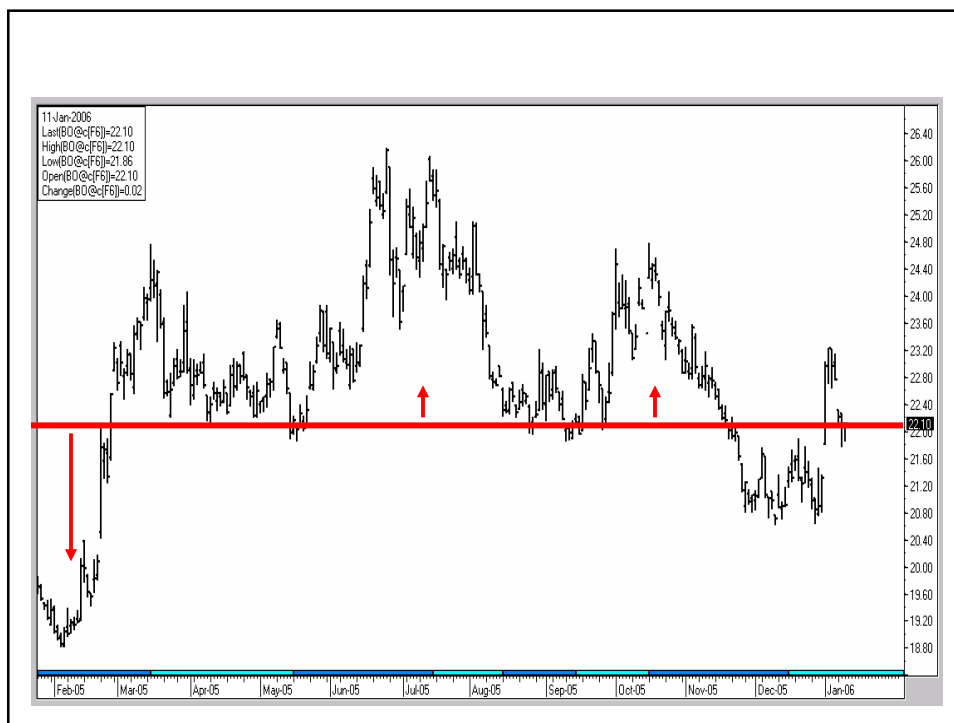
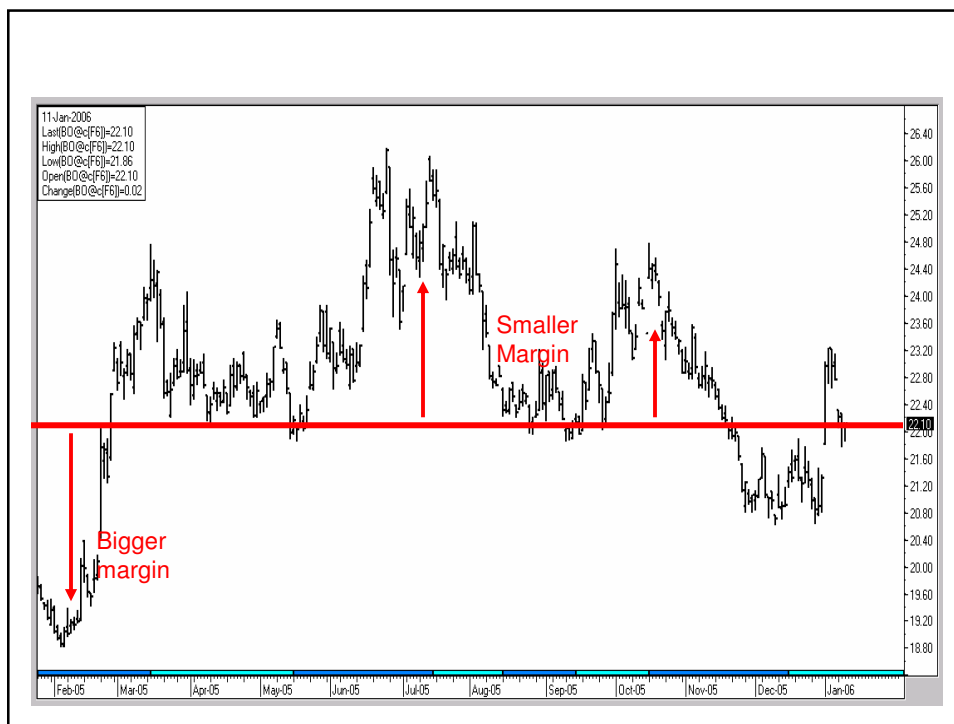
Developing and Deploying Risk Management Strategies

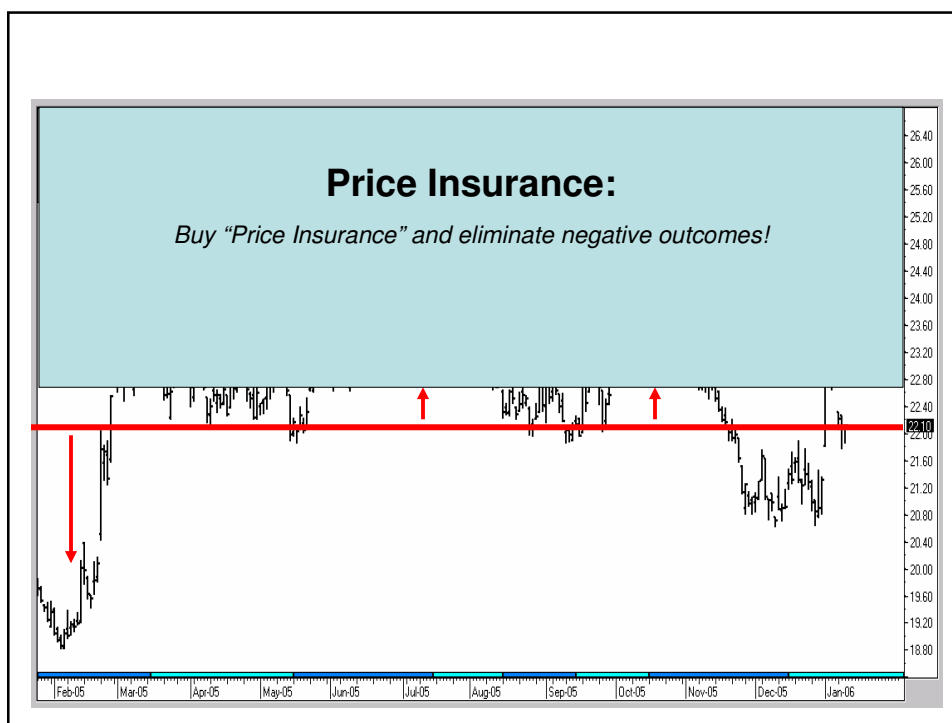


How do I manage these commodity costs?

Risk Management Toolbox

- Physical Purchase contract
- Inventory
- Exchange traded “Futures” contracts
- Exchange traded “Options” contracts
- “Over-the-counter” instruments





Commodity Price Risk

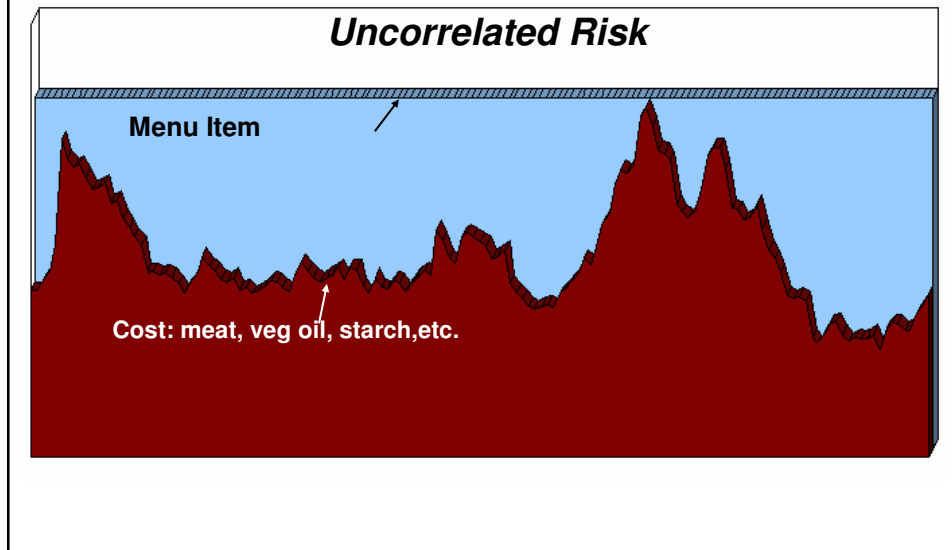
Different Sizes, Shapes & Flavors

Different Types of Risk & Different Market Conditions Require Different Strategies!

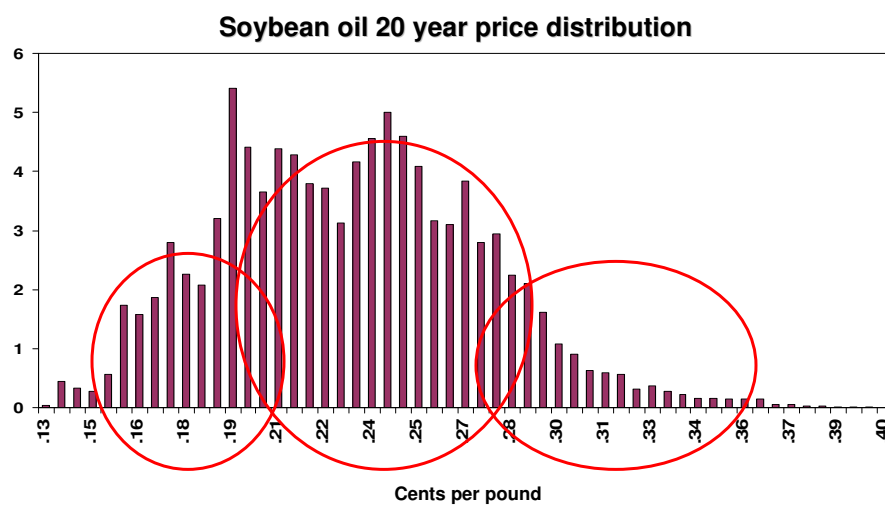
“How do commodity price moves affect your profitability?”

“Do you have a strategy in place to protect yourself?”

Different Types of Risk & Different Market Conditions Require Different Strategies!



Strategy to Manage Uncorrelated Risk



Strategy Considerations for *Uncorrelated Risk*
The “First Circle”: Capture Your Margin!

- Lower end of the historical price range.
 - Aggressively protect your margin.
 - Extend coverage
 - If prices continue to decline – BUY MORE!
 - Limit/eliminate price “insurance” spend.

Strategy Considerations for *Uncorrelated Risk*
The “Second Circle”: Protect Your Earnings!

- Middle of the historical price range.
 - “Hold back the wave”, but allow for prices to decline.
 - Use contracts containing price “insurance”.
 - MAX Price
 - Boundary
 - Convertible
 - Limit actual coverage.

Strategy Considerations for *Uncorrelated Risk*
The “Third Circle”: Don’t make a bad situation worse!

- Upper end of the historical price range.
 - “Houston we have a problem!”
 - If we have to make a move – STAY SPOT!
- **Primary Objective:** *Not have to make a decision in this circle!*

Margin Management

vs

Market Based Strategy

- Market based buyers:
 - Wait on lower markets
 - “Bet” their product/business margins on an unpredictable event (in this case weather).
 - Routinely accepts “open-ended” market risk.
- Risk Managers:
 - Protects business/product margin FIRST!
 - Relies on market intell for timing and strategy development; NOT market entry!
 - Accepts ONLY quantifiable risk.

Margin Management vs Market Based Strategy



Risk Management vs Market Based Strategy



In summary.....

- You probably ARE in the commodity biz!
 - Like it or NOT!
- Components of an effective RM Strategy!
 - Identify & quantify risk
 - Implement systems to monitor risk
 - Use your toolbox wisely!
 - Measure your results - Benchmarks
- Be a manager NOT a commodity trader!