OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT 2010 NOU 16 PM 3 33



November 16, 2010

Mr. David Stawick
Office of the Secretariat
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20581

RE: Strike Price Generation Procedures for CBOT Grain and Oilseed

options.

**CBOT Submission No. 10-329** 

Dear Mr. Stawick:

The Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, Inc. ("CBOT" or "Exchange"), plans to change the rules for strike price generation for CBOT Corn, Soybean, Soybean Oil, Soybean Meal, Wheat, Oats, and Rough Rice options effective 12/2/2010.

In April 2008, because of higher prices and increased volatility, the CBOT expanded the strikes generated in grain and oilseed options to be approximately 50 percent above and below the atthe-money strike. However, at that time the generator used to create strikes in CME Clearing could not calculate and generate strikes each day based on percentages. Instead, the generation rule was updated to calculate the number of strikes that would represent strikes 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike quarterly, and that number of strikes would be used for the remainder of the quarter to approximate the 50 percent goal.

CME Clearing's strike price generator now has the ability to create strikes on a daily basis. Thus, the option rules have been amended so that all strikes 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike are generated each trading day rather than quarterly.

The Exchange certifies that this action complies with the Commodity Exchange Act and regulations thereunder.

If you require any additional information regarding this action, please contact Fred Seamon, at 312-634-1587 or via e-mail at <a href="mailto:Fred.Seamon@CMEGroup.com">Fred.Seamon@CMEGroup.com</a> or me at 212-299-2200. Please reference our CBOT Submission No.10-329 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher K. Bowen Managing Director, Chief Regulatory Counsel Mr. David Stawick November 16, 2010 Page 2 of 7

### Additions are bold and underlined

[Deletions are bracketed with strikethrough]

## Chapter 10A Options on Corn Futures

#### 10A01.E. Exercise Prices

Trading shall be conducted for put and call options with striking prices in integral multiples of five (5) cents and ten (10) cents per bushel per Corn futures contract as follows:

[A referencing price shall be determined each quarter on the first business day in March, July, September, and December and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring Corn futures contract. The referencing price shall be multiplied by 50 percent and divided by 10 without remainder to determine the reference number of 10 cent strikes. The reference number of 5 cent strikes.]

- 1.
- a. At the commencement of trading for each option contract, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Corn futures contract (the at-themoney strike), and [the reference number of 10 cent] strikes in integral multiples of ten cents in a range of 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two.
- b. Over time, new ten cent strikes will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 10 cent strikes above and below] 50 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures contract are listed.
- 2.
- a. At the commencement of trading for options that are traded in months in which Corn futures are not traded, and for standard option months the business day they become the second listed month, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Corn futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the reference number of 5 cent] strikes in integral multiples of five cents in a range of 25 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two. For example, five-cent strike price intervals for the September contract would be added on the first business day after the expiration of the July options contract.
- b. Over time, new five-cent strike prices will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 5 cent strikes above and below] 25 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures are listed.
- 3. All strikes will be listed prior to the opening of trading on the following business day. Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range strike prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis. The Exchange may modify the procedures for the introduction of strikes as it deems appropriate in order to respond to market conditions. As new [reference-numbers-of] 5 and 10 cent strikes are [determined each quarter] added, existing strikes outside the newly determined strike ranges without open interest may be de-listed.

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## Chapter 11A Options on Soybean Futures

#### 11A01.E. Exercise Prices

Trading shall be conducted for put and call options with striking prices in integral multiples of ten (10) cents and twenty (20) cents per bushel per Soybean futures contract as follows:

[A referencing price shall be determined each quarter on the first business day in March, July, September, and December and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring Soybean futures contract. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 50 percent and divided by 20 without remainder to determine the reference number of 20 cent strikes. The chosen reference number of 10 cent strikes.]

- 1.
- a. At the commencement of trading for each option contract, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Soybean futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the reference number of 20 cent] strikes in integral multiples of twenty cents in a range of 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two.
- b. Over time, new twenty cent strikes will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 20 cent strikes above and below] 50 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures contract are listed.
- 2.
- a. At the commencement of trading for options that are traded in months in which Soybean futures are not traded, and for standard option months the business day they become the second listed month, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Soybean futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the-reference number of 10 cent strikes] strikes in integral multiples of ten cents in a range of 25 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two. For example, tencent strike price intervals for the September contract would be added on the first business day after the expiration of the July options contract.
- b. Over time, new ten-cent strike prices will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 10 cent strikes above and below] 25 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures are listed.
- 3. All strikes will be listed prior to the opening of trading on the following business day. Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range strike prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis. The Exchange may modify the procedures for the introduction of strikes as it deems appropriate in order to respond to market conditions. As new [reference numbers of] 10 and 20 cent strikes are [determined-each-quarter] added, existing strikes outside the newly determined strike ranges without open interest may be de-listed.

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## Chapter 14A Options on Wheat Futures

### 14A01.E. Exercise Prices

Trading shall be conducted for put and call options with striking prices in integral multiples of five (5) cents and ten (10) cents per bushel per Wheat futures contract as follows:

[A referencing price shall be determined each quarter on the first business day in March, July, September, and December and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring Wheat futures contract. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 50 percent and divided by 10 without remainder to determine the reference number of 10 cent strikes. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 25 percent and divided by 5 without remainder to determine the reference number of 5 cent strikes.]

- 1.
- a. At the commencement of trading for each option contract, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Wheat futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the reference number of 10 cent] strikes in integral multiples of ten cents <u>in a range of</u> <u>50 percent</u> above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two.
- b. Over time, new ten cent strikes will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 10 cent strikes above and below] 50 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures contract are listed.
- 2.
- a. At the commencement of trading for options that are traded in months in which Wheat futures are not traded, and for standard option months the business day they become the second listed month, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Wheat futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the reference number of 5 cent] strikes in integral multiples of five cents in a range of 25 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two. For example, five-cent strike price intervals for the September contract would be added on the first business day after the expiration of the July options contract.
- b. Over time, new five-cent strike prices will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 5 cent strikes above and below] 25 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures are listed.
- 3. All strikes will be listed prior to the opening of trading on the following business day. Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range strike prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis. The Exchange may modify the procedures for the introduction of strikes as it deems appropriate in order to respond to market conditions. As new [reference numbers of] 5 and 10 cent strikes are [determined each quarter] added, existing strikes outside the newly determined strike ranges without open interest may be de-listed.

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## Chapter 12A Options on Soybean Oil Futures

#### 12A01.E. Exercise Prices

Trading shall be conducted for put and call options with striking prices (the "strikes") in integral multiples of one half cent per pound per Soybean Oil futures contract as follows:

[A referencing price shall be determined each quarter on the first business day in March, July, September, and December and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring Soybean Oil futures contract. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 50 percent and divided by .5 without remainder to determine the reference number of one half cent strikes.]

- 1.
- a. At the commencement of trading for each option contract, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Soybean Oil futures contract (the at-themoney strike), and [the reference number of one half cent] strikes in a range of 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two.
- b. Over time, strikes shall be added as necessary to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of one half cent strikes above and below] 50 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures contract are listed.
- 2. All strikes will be listed prior to the opening of trading on the following business day. Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range strike prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis. The Exchange may modify the procedures for the introduction of strikes as it deems appropriate in order to respond to market conditions. As [a] new [reference number of] one half cent strikes [is] are added [determined each quarter], existing strikes outside the newly determined strike ranges without open interest may be de-listed.

## Chapter 13A Options on Soybean Meal Futures

### 13A01.E. Exercise Prices

Trading shall be conducted for put and call options with striking prices (the "strikes") in integral multiples of five (5) dollars per ton per Soybean Meal futures contract for all strikes less than two hundred dollars and in integral multiples of ten (10) dollars per ton per Soybean Meal futures contract for all strikes greater than or equal to two hundred dollars as follows:

[A referencing price-shall be determined each quarter on the first business day in March, July, September, and December and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring Soybean Meal futures contract. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 50 percent and divided by 10 without remainder to determine the reference number of strikes.]

- 1.
- a. At the commencement of trading for each option contract, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Soybean Meal futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the reference number of] strikes in a range of 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two.

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- b. Over time, strikes shall be added as necessary to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of strikes above and below] 50 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures are listed.
- 2. All strikes will be listed prior to the opening of trading on the following business day. Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range strike prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis. The Exchange may modify the procedures for the introduction of strikes as it deems appropriate in order to respond to market conditions. As [a] new [reference number of] strikes [is determined each quarter] are added, existing strikes outside the newly determined strike ranges without open interest may be de-listed.

# Chapter 15A Options on Oat Futures

### 15A01.E. Exercise Prices

Trading shall be conducted for put and call options with striking prices in integral multiples of five (5) cents and ten (10) cents per bushel per Oat futures contract as follows:

[A referencing price shall be determined each quarter on the first business day in March, July, September, and December and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring Oat futures contract. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 50 percent and divided by 10 without remainder to determine the reference number of 10 cent strikes. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 25 percent and divided by 5 without remainder to determine the reference number of 5 cent strikes.]

- 1.
- a. At the commencement of trading for each option contract, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Oat futures contract (the at-the-money strike, and [the reference number of 10 cent] strikes in integral multiples of ten cents in a range of 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two.
- b. Over time, new ten cent strikes will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 10 cent strikes above and below] 50 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures contract are listed.
- 2.
- a. At the commencement of trading for options that are traded in months in which Oat futures are not traded, and for standard option months the business day they become the second listed month, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Oat futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the reference number of 5 cent] strikes in integral multiples of five cents in a range of 25 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two. For example, five-cent strike price intervals for the September contract would be added on the first business day after the expiration of the July options contract.
- b. Over time, new five-cent strike prices will be added to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of 5 cent strikes above and below] 25 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures are listed.

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3. All strikes will be listed prior to the opening of trading on the following business day. Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range strike prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis. The Exchange may modify the procedures for the introduction of strikes as it deems appropriate in order to respond to market conditions. As new [reference numbers of] 5 and 10 cent strikes are [determined each quarter] added, existing strikes outside the newly determined strike ranges without open interest may be de-listed.

# Chapter 17A Options on Rough Rice Futures

### 17A01.E. Exercise Prices

Trading shall be conducted for put and call options with striking prices in integral multiples of twenty (20) cents per hundredweight per Rough Rice futures contract as follows:

[A referencing price shall be determined each quarter on the first business day in March, July, September, and December and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring Rough Rice futures contract. The chosen referencing price shall be multiplied by 50 percent and divided by 0.20 without remainder to determine the reference number of 20 cent strikes.]

- 1.
  a. At the commencement of trading for each option contract, the Exchange shall list a strike closest to the previous day's settlement price of the underlying Rough Rice futures contract (the at-the-money strike), and [the reference number of] strikes in a range of 50 percent above and below the at-the-money strike. If the previous day's settlement price is midway between two strikes, the at-the-money strike shall be the larger of the two.
- b. Over time, strikes shall be added as necessary to ensure that all strikes within [the reference number of strikes above and below] 50 percent of the previous day's settlement price in the underlying futures contract are listed.
- 2. All strikes will be listed prior to the opening of trading on the following business day. Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range strike prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis. The Exchange may modify the procedures for the introduction of strikes as it deems appropriate in order to respond to market conditions. As [a] new [reference number of] strikes [is determined each quarter] are added, existing strikes outside the newly determined strike ranges without open interest may be de-listed.