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Wheat: Russian fob market firms on logistical issues

Black Sea Region

- Buyers increased bids for Russian 12.5% protein wheat FOB Novorossiysk to $240/t for September loadings, up $2/t, driven by vessel hull inspections in the Kerch Strait causing port delays.
- Sellers were mixed — some kept prices unchanged, others sought increases.

Ukraine & Egypt

- Egyptian importers raised bids for Ukrainian 11.5% wheat to $252/t CIF for September shipments (**+ $5/t** this week).
- Ukrainian sellers held back due to firmer Russian FOB prices, preferring to wait.

Tunisia

- Tunisia's ODC bought 75,000t of optional-origin milling wheat.
- Traders may turn to Romanian wheat, as Tunisia's specs are more flexible on dough strength (W). Romanian/Bulgarian 12.5% wheat with sub-standard W is cheaper than the standard 180W grade but still seeing weak demand.

Ukraine Weather Impact

- Heavy July–August rains may lower Ukraine's milling-to-feed wheat ratio from the forecast 80:20 to about 50:50.

North America

- US lower-protein milling wheat remains competitive in Southeast Asia but is now slightly undercut by Black Sea 11.5%. US advantage may fade once harvest pressure eases.
- In Canada, September CWRS wheat is about 10¢/bu more expensive than October cargoes, but demand for September is absent. October bids and offers are just 10¢/bu apart.

CVB 12.5pc rationale

The Argus 12.5% CVB spot price strengthened by week's end, finishing at $246/t FOB. Some sellers raised offers to $250/t FOB for second-half September loadings, while others maintained fair value estimates in the mid-$240s/t FOB range.

Russian wheat prices firm on Kerch strait bottleneck

Russian FOB Wheat Market

- Spot bids and offers are climbing as vessel inspection delays in the Kerch Strait worsen an already tight supply caused by a late harvest and slow farmer selling.

- For the first time in the 2025–26 marketing year, bids for Russian 12.5% wheat exceeded $240/t FOB Novorossiysk, reaching $241/t for August loadings. September bids also rose but stayed below August levels.
- Demand is strong from Russian exporters, who face higher origination costs.

Cause of Tight Supply

- New Russian rules require all vessels to have hull inspections by divers, creating a backlog in the Kerch Strait.
- This congestion has raised freight rates for coaster vessels in the Azov Sea and affected larger bulk segments.
- Shipowners now pay significant fees for inspections, increasing traders' grain procurement costs.

Regulatory Changes

- Inspections began at Ust-Luga in mid-July and later extended to all Russian Black Sea ports.
- As of a 21 July presidential decree, vessels arriving from overseas need clearance from the port captain and the FSB, plus a civil liability insurance policy from a Russian insurer.

Freight rates rise

Freight Market

- Handysize rates have risen across all export routes due to strong demand.
- Prolonged delays at Novorossiysk — over a week in some cases — are creating a backlog of bulk carriers.

Port Entry Rules

- To enter Novorossiysk, shipowners must provide details of the vessel's last 10 loading ports and crew information.
- The FSB may then require a hull inspection.
- Charter parties now include a clause allowing cancellations without claims if the FSB denies port entry.

Regional Impact

- Vessel shortages in the Black Sea and Mediterranean have also boosted Supramax front-haul rates, with potential for further increases in September.

Export prices for Russian wheat remain at $237/t

Russian Wheat & Barley Prices

- Russian 12.5% protein wheat for August delivery held steady for the second week at $237/t FOB.
- Deep-water port prices remain at 16,800–17,000 RUB/t (ex-VAT).
- Barley export prices rose to $221/t FOB (+ $6/t), with deep-water port prices up to 16,000–16,200 RUB/t (ex-VAT), an increase of 300 RUB/t week-on-week.

Tenders

- Tunisia bought three lots of 11.5% protein soft wheat at $262.6/t (CIF) for late September delivery.
- The estimated FOB Novorossiysk equivalent is about $231.2/t, which is below Russia's current market level of around $234/t.

Russia – Agriculture & Food Sector Highlights

- Putin highlighted the growing prestige of agriculture-related professions.
- Agriculture Minister Patrushev said Russia is prepared to expand global food exports.
- Domestic agricultural machinery offerings continue to grow annually.
- Winter crop area this year will be about 20 million hectares, with autumn sowing already underway in some regions.
- Russia's first State Technical Supervision MFC opened in Moscow, with plans to expand nationwide.
- The 12th Open Russian Plowing Championship concludes today in the Leningrad region.
- Fish & seafood exports rose 13% year-on-year in January–July.
- Farmer's School training was completed by 300 veterans of the special military operation and their families.
- Cheese exports increased 20% in the first half of 2025.

Feed grains: Ukraine feed wheat sellers resist pressure

Ukraine's feed wheat market remained stable on Friday despite increased supply putting downward pressure on prices. Sellers kept offers unchanged on an FOB Pivdennyi-Odesa-Chornomorsk basis for August–September loadings, while Russian 10.5% wheat for September was at least $2/t cheaper. Buyer interest was limited. Heavy rains in July and early August have significantly impacted quality, with feed wheat potentially making up 50% of Ukraine's new-crop production, compared with earlier expectations of 20%. Some traders have even discussed prices for wheat falling below feed-grade standards.

In forward markets, Ukrainian sellers offered the low-$260s/t CIF for December delivery to Spanish and Italian ports, but Spanish buyers are unlikely to purchase due to EU tariff-rate quotas restricting Ukrainian imports. They may instead turn to France or the Baltics, where recent rainfall could also boost feed wheat availability.

In the wider market, US sellers have recently secured sales to Asian feed buyers, with South Korea's Nofi purchasing 65,000t for mid-November arrival, likely from the US—its second such purchase in a week. Meanwhile, Brazilian farmers are holding back on selling safrinha corn, keeping export prices high and discouraging buyer engagement despite the seasonal export peak.

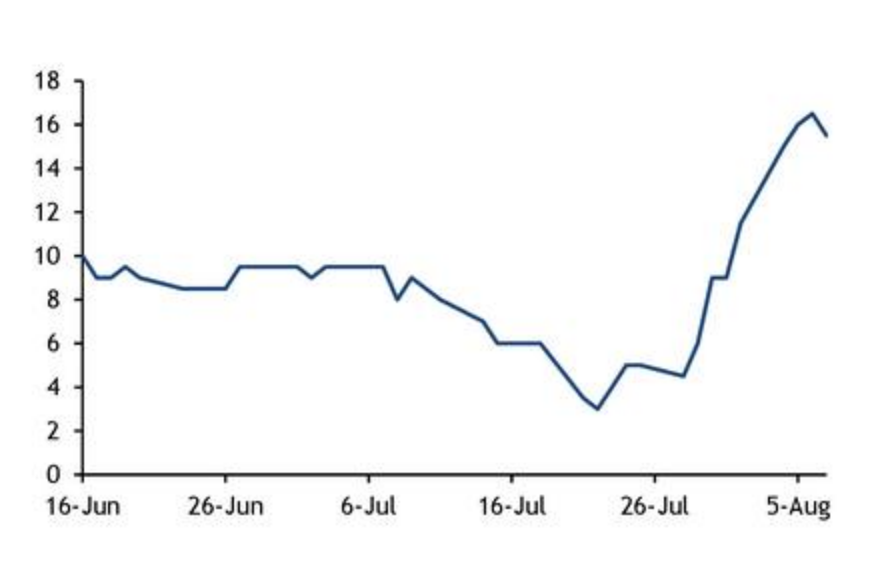
Heavy rains degrade Ukrainian wheat quality

Prolonged heavy rains in July and early August have sharply worsened quality expectations for Ukraine's wheat crop, widening the price gap between milling and feed grades. At Pivdennyi-Odesa-Chornomorsk ports, the CPT price spread reached $16.50/t this week, the highest so far in the 2025–26 marketing year, compared with just $3/t on 22 July. An even deeper discount is being seen for "substandard" wheat that does not meet feed-grade standards.

Continuous rain across Ukraine's western, central, and northern regions over the past five weeks has increased the share of feed wheat in this year's harvest, lowering protein and gluten levels and causing fungal infections. The weather has also delayed harvesting, with about half the crop still in the fields when the rains began, potentially shifting the milling-to-feed ratio from an expected 80:20 to around 50:50.

Market perception may be distorted, as farmers are reportedly holding back high-quality wheat while selling lower-grade grain, creating a temporary oversupply of feed wheat. Harvest progress remains behind last year, with 14.9mn t collected from 3.7mn ha as of 7 August, compared with 20.9mn t from 4.7mn ha at the same time in 2024.

Ukraine cpt POC MW 11.5pc - FW spread $/t



Tunisia books milling wheat in tender

On 7 August, Tunisia's state grain agency ODC purchased at least 75,000t of milling wheat at $262.50–262.57/t CFR after receiving offers from 16 trading companies in its tender. The deal covers at least three 25,000t cargoes for shipment between 10 September and 20 October, depending on origin. LDC sold at least two cargoes at $262.50/t CFR, while Raya sold one at $262.57/t CFR. The purchase price is slightly below ODC's late July tender average of $262.83/t CFR. According to the USDA, Tunisia is expected to import 1.8mn t of wheat in 2025–26, down from 2.1mn t in 2024–25.

Grains, oilseeds and veg oils tenders

Buyer	Issued	Closes	Status	Cargo	Shipment/ delivery	Price	Seller	Note
Jordan's MIT	7-Aug	13-Aug	Open	100,000-120,000t milling wheat	2H Sep-1H Nov			cfr
Jordan's MIT	6-Aug	12-Aug	Open	100,000-120,000t milling wheat	Oct-Nov			cfr
South Korea's Nofi		7-Aug	Closed	65,000t feed wheat	Oct	$262.94/t		cfr, volumes likely to be sourced from the US
Tunisia's ODC	6-Aug	7-Aug	Closed	At least 75,000t	10 Sept-20 Oct	$262.50-262.57/t	LDC, Raya	cfr Tunisia
Japan's MAFF	5-Aug	7-Aug	Closed	119,726t milling wheat	Oct-Nov			60,570t US, 33,176t Canada, 25,980t Australia
Jordan's MIT	24-Jul	6-Aug	Cancelled	100,000-120,000t feed barley	2H Sep-1H Nov			cfr
Jordan's MIT	30-Jul	5-Aug	Cancelled	100,000-120,000t milling wheat	2H Sep-1H Nov			cfr

Malaysian palm oil stocks extend rise to 19-month high

Malaysia’s palm oil stocks rose for the fifth month in a row in July, reaching 2.1mn t, the highest in 19 months, according to MPOB data. Supplies increased by 4% from June as production outpaced exports, driven by a 14% monthly rise in Peninsular Malaysia’s output to 1.1mn t, which offset declines in Sabah and Sarawak. Total CPO production reached 1.8mn t in July, up 7% from June but 2% lower year-on-year.

Exports totaled 1.3mn t, down 23% from a year earlier but 4% higher than in June. All palm product export categories rose month-on-month, with biodiesel shipments jumping to a 21-month high of 49,000t from just 3,000t in June, and oleochemical exports increasing 22% to 249,000t. Active third-month CPO futures averaged 4,194 ringgit/t ($991/t) in July, compared with 3,962 ringgit/t a year earlier. Malaysia remains the world’s second-largest palm oil producer after Indonesia.

China’s soybean meal futures fall after Trump comments

China’s soybean meal futures fell on 11 August after three straight days of gains, following comments from US president Donald Trump urging China to quadruple imports of US soybeans to ease expected supply tightness. The September Dalian Commodity Exchange contract dropped 26 yuan/t ($3.60/t) to 3,019 yuan/t compared with 8 August.

The prospect of increased US supply pressured prices, though China has not responded to Trump’s remarks. Market participants expect state-owned firms would need to act first before crushers commit to purchases, and any buying would depend on a bilateral agreement. China has not bought US soybeans since late February, with 2025–26 purchases still at zero as of 10 August, compared with 1.1mn t of outstanding sales at the same point last year.

Without resuming US imports, China faces tighter supplies after October despite boosting South American purchases. Renewed US-China trade could lift domestic soybean and meal availability in late 2025 and early 2026, while also likely pressuring Brazilian and Argentine soybean prices, which have been elevated in the absence of US competition. Lower global prices could encourage Chinese buyers to secure more volumes, further increasing domestic stocks.

US wheat sets low for Southeast Asia

US soft white wheat (SWW) has been the cheapest option for lower-protein milling wheat shipped to Indonesia, undercutting Black Sea and Australian supplies. September-shipment SWW traded at about $270/t cfr, with offers remaining a few dollars below Black Sea 11.5pc protein wheat.

The US advantage is driven by ongoing harvest pressure, which is expected to fade once harvesting ends. Unless prices reverse, Indonesian buyers are likely to favor SWW over Black Sea wheat.

Australian Standard White (ASW9) wheat has also been uncompetitive, but improved crop quality following heavy rains could boost its appeal after Australia’s harvest begins in October, when northern hemisphere harvest pressure subsides.

Favorable midwest weather supports U.S. corn and soybeans

Grain markets focused on next week’s USDA WASDE report, with expectations for higher yields and production compared to last month. Analysts see soybeans as the most likely to post a larger-than-expected gain, with Karen Braun of Zaner Ag Hedge noting the USDA has raised August soybean yield forecasts in eight of the past ten years.

Weather remains favorable for U.S. crops, as a cold front and high-pressure system will limit heat in the Midwest and bring rainfall, supporting corn and soybean growth.

In the Black Sea region, SovEcon cut its Russian wheat crop forecast by 300,000t to 83.3mn t due to deteriorating conditions in the south, though output is still 700,000t higher than last year.

China's soybean imports reached 11.7mn t in July, up 18% year-on-year, with January–July imports totaling 61mn t (+4.6% y/y). Brazil supplied 87% of June's imports, and U.S. sales are expected to remain limited this year.

The FAO food price index rose 1.6% in July from June to 130.1 points, driven by record-high meat prices (+1.2%) and a 7.1% surge in vegetable oil prices, despite declines in cereals, dairy, and sugar.

Argentina wheat planting ends on positive crop outlook

Argentinian farmers have completed wheat planting for the 2025–26 season, with only the final 1.7% of the planned area sown in the week ending 6 August, according to the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (BAGE). Soil moisture is adequate to optimal on 81.9% of the area, supporting expectations for an exceptional crop.

In the country's core farming region, the Rosario Board of Trade (RBT) reports 90% of wheat rated very good or excellent, 9% good, and only 1% regular — the best condition in at least six years. Farmers describe fields as "impressive" and "very, very good".

While the wet conditions raise the risk of crop diseases, including scattered early cases of yellow rust in Buenos Aires and Entre Rios provinces, the cold, dry weather forecast should help limit outbreaks, RBT and the Agriculture Secretariat (SAGyP) said. Overall, most of the crop remains in strong condition.

Corn harvest persists

Corn harvesting in Argentina reached 89.3% complete as of 6 August, advancing 1.3 percentage points in the week, according to the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (BAGE). Wet conditions in parts of Buenos Aires province continue to slow progress, but drier weather in major producing provinces such as Córdoba and Santa Fe has allowed work to move forward, the Agriculture Secretariat (SAGyP) said.

BAGE kept its national production forecast at 49mn tonnes, with an average yield of 7.2 t/ha.

Barley, sunflowers

Barley planting in Argentina for the 2025–26 season is 98% complete, up 6.9 percentage points over the past two weeks, according to BAGE. Crop conditions are generally good, though yellow rust has been reported in some Buenos Aires province fields, the Agriculture Secretariat (SAGyP) noted.

Sunflower planting has also started, covering 7.2% of the planned 2.6mn hectares, BAGE said.

Market Commentary

Maize

Private exporters reported selling 4.9mn bushels of corn to unknown destinations for 2025–26 delivery. As the 2024–25 season ends, total corn export sales are projected at 2.6mn bushels (+25% y/y), with shipments reaching 2.476bn bushels by July 31.

Ahead of the USDA's next WASDE report, analysts expect U.S. corn yield estimates to rise from 181.0 to 184.3 bpa (range: 182.5–188.1 bpa), with production forecasts increasing from 15.705 to 15.979bn bushels.

On the CBOT, maize opened at $150.62/t.

Local market (SAFEX): Maize prices fell across all contracts.

- White maize spot: **–R98/t** to **R4 348/t**; Dec'25: **–R99/t** to **R4 432/t**.
- Yellow maize spot: **–R33/t** to **R3 923/t**; Dec'25: **–R48/t** to **R4 085/t**.
- Second-grade white maize spot: **–R26/t** to **R4 018/t**.
- Second-grade yellow maize Sept'25: **–R64/t** to **R3 810/t**.

Soybean

Analysts expect the USDA's August 12 WASDE report to show a modest rise in U.S. soybean yields from 52.5 to 52.9 bpa, lifting production estimates from 4.335 to 4.365bn bushels—almost matching last season's 4.366bn bushels.

On the CBOT, soybeans opened at $355.16/t.

Local market (SAFEX): Soybean prices were mixed. The spot contract rose R14/t to R7 194/t, while the Dec'25 contract fell R4/t to R7 399/t.

Wheat

Ahead of the August WASDE report, analysts see U.S. all-wheat production easing to 1.922bn bushels, 7mn below July's forecast. In contrast, EU wheat output is expected to rise to 4.88bn bushels (+77.2mn), with France—about 25% of the total—now forecast at 1.22bn bushels (+18mn), according to Expana.

On the CBOT, wheat opened at $190.41/t.

Local market (SAFEX): Wheat prices rose, with the spot contract at R6 696/t and Dec'25 at R6 345/t.

Price and Data

Description	*Unit*	*Price*	*Date*
CORN UKRAİNE CPT POC SPOT	USD/t	244↑	8.08.2025
WHEAT 11.5PC UKRAİNE FOB POC SPOT	USD/t	234,50-	8.08.2025
WHEAT 12.5PC RUSSİA FOB NOVOROSSİYSK SPOT	USD/t	241↑	8.08.2025
SOYBEAN OİL ARGENTİNA WATERBORNE FOB UPRİVER USD/T MONTH 1 – HOUSTON CLOSE	USD/t	1.078,28↓	8.08.2025
RAPESEED OİL FOB DUTCH MİLL RSO - LONDON CLOSE	USD/t	1.021,50↓	8.08.2025
SUNFLOWER OİL FOB NORTHWEST ***EUROPE 6 PORTS SPOT - LONDON CLOSE***	USD/t	1.267,50↑	8.08.2025

↓ Price dropped in comparison to last report.

↑Price raised in comparison to last report.

-Price has not changed.

References:

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www.agflow.com

Soybrokers Daily Soybean Market Report

Rus Grain Union Telegram Channel

Demetra Holdings Telegram Channel

Official Telegram Channel of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia

Grain SA

Picture from www.stockcake.com