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Russia Inspects Over 76 Mln Tonnes of Wheat in 2025 Quality Check

The Russian Ministry of Agriculture has released the results of its 2025 state monitoring program assessing wheat grain quality. The inspection was carried out by laboratories of the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Rosselkhozcenter" and affiliated institutions under Rosselkhoznadzor.

According to the report, specialists examined 74.4 million tons of soft wheat and 1.9 million tons of durum wheat as part of the nationwide quality assessment campaign. [5]

Russia Allocates 20 Million-Ton Grain Export Quota for 2026

The Russian Ministry of Agriculture has distributed the majority of the 2026 grain export quota among 213 companies. The largest allocation — nearly 3.6 million tons — was awarded to Grain Gates. Aston received more than 2 million tons, while OZK Trading secured 1.12 million tons.

The total export quota for wheat, rye, barley, and corn shipped outside the Eurasian Economic Union amounts to 20 million tons and will be in force from February 15 to June 30, 2026. The rye export quota has been set at zero.

Grain exports for international humanitarian aid under government decisions are exempt from quota restrictions. Shipments exceeding the quota will face an export duty of 50%, but not less than €100 per ton.

The Ministry estimates Russia's grain export potential for the 2025/26 agricultural season (July–June) at 55 million tons.

Under current regulations introduced in 2024, 90% of the quota is distributed based on historical export performance, adjusted by a reduction factor reflecting prior quota utilization. Exporters may voluntarily renounce all or part of their allocation between April 1 and April 20.

The remaining 10%, along with volumes released through reduction factors or renunciations, will form an additional quota pool available to eligible exporters.

Analysts note that the significant increase in the quota — compared to 10.6 million tons in 2025, which covered only wheat and rye — aims to support exports amid a record grain harvest estimated at 137 million tons. [4]

Russia Doubles Linseed Oil Exports in 2025

Russia significantly increased its linseed oil exports in 2025, with shipment value reaching $12 million — 2.2 times higher than in 2024. In physical terms, exports rose 1.9-fold to 10,000 tons, according to market estimates.

China remained the largest importer of Russian linseed oil, with supplies growing 33% year-on-year to $5.4 million. For the first time since 2021, Russia resumed shipments to Chile, exporting $5.3 million worth of product, making it the second-largest destination in 2025.

Other key markets included Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Turkey.

In addition to linseed oil, Russia also expanded overall flaxseed oil exports. Shipments totaled 1.2 million tons in 2025, up 9% compared to the previous year, with export revenue exceeding $590 million. China led among buyers with $439 million worth of imports (+45% year-on-year), followed by Belgium at $55 million (-58%) and Belarus at $41 million, more than doubling compared to 2024.

According to Ilya Ilyushin, head of Agroexport, linseed oil remains one of the most promising segments of Russian agricultural exports. He noted that Russia has maintained its position as the world's largest producer and exporter of flaxseed, significantly ahead of Kazakhstan and Canada, and is now increasingly focusing on higher value-added processed products. With new flaxseed processing facilities coming online, exports of linseed oil are expected to grow several-fold in the near future. [7]

Taman Grain Terminal Cuts Exports by 57% in 2025

Taman Grain Terminal Complex (TGTK), part of Demetra Holding, reduced grain transshipment volumes for export by 56.8% in 2025 to 2.42 million tons, the company's press service reported. In total, the terminal handled 72 vessels and processed approximately 81,000 truck deliveries over the year.

The company linked the decline to a significant reduction in the grain export quota during the first half of 2025. The quota stood at 10.6 million tons, compared with 29 million tons in the same period a year earlier. In 2024, the terminal's export transshipment volume reached 5.6 million tons.

Despite lower throughput, the complex continued modernization and maintenance of its port infrastructure, maintaining high loading efficiency and improving truck processing speeds.

Currently, the terminal is implementing a large-scale expansion program, including the construction of railway unloading facilities and additional grain storage silos, reconstruction of berth structures and dredging works, development of an extra unloading line, and reinforcement of the existing access ramp. The completion of the investment project is scheduled for 2028.[3]

Soybean Prices Rise in Ukraine Amid Export-Processor Competition

Strong competition between exporters and domestic processors continues to drive soybean prices higher in Ukraine. Weather disruptions, including frosts and heavy snowfall in December and January, constrained deliveries to ports, prompting exporters to raise bid prices for GMO soybeans to $435–440 per ton (UAH 19,400–19,600/t). These levels are now close to demand prices for non-GMO soybeans at $440–445 per ton (UAH 19,500–20,000/t).

The sharp rise in sunflower prices has also encouraged some processors to increase soybean purchases and partially switch to soybean meal in feed and production formulas. Over the past week, processors lifted procurement prices for GMO soybeans by an additional UAH 300–500/t to UAH 19,000–20,000/t delivered to plant, while prices for non-GMO soybeans remained at UAH 19,500–20,000/t. Market participants note that EU buyers are reluctant to pay higher prices amid growing supplies of competitively priced soybean meal from South America.

Between February 1 and 11, Ukraine exported around 90,000 tons of soybeans, including 51,000 tons to Turkey, which remains the key destination. However, traders warn that lower-priced Brazilian soybeans could displace Ukrainian origin on the Turkish market, similar to how U.S. soybeans previously replaced Ukrainian supplies in Egypt.

Soybean exports from Brazil reached 1.9 million tons in January, compared to 1.1 million tons a year earlier. In February, shipments are projected by Brazilian National Association of Grain Exporters (ANEC) to total 11.42–11.71 million tons, significantly above the 9.7 million tons exported in February last year. According to AgRural, soybean harvesting in Brazil was 21% complete as of February 12, compared to 24% a year earlier, with persistent rainfall slowing fieldwork, although about half of the crop has already been harvested in the state of Mato Grosso.

On global markets, March soybean futures on the Chicago Board of Trade rose 0.9% during the week to $416.7 per ton, up 7.6% month-on-month, despite record January processing data in the United States.

According to the monthly report from the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA), U.S. soybean crush in January totaled 6.03 million tons, down 1.5% from December but 10.6% higher year-on-year, marking a record for the month. Processing growth has been driven by expanded capacity and rising demand for soybean oil from biofuel producers. Soybean oil inventories at NOPA member plants climbed to 862,600 tons as of January 31 — the highest level since April 2023 — up 15.7% from December and 49.1% above January 2026 levels.

Market participants are now awaiting the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum on February 19–20, where the first projections for U.S. planted area are expected to be released. Analysts anticipate soybean acreage could increase by 3.8 million acres to 85 million acres, with production rising by 4.6 million tons to 120.5 million tons, potentially influencing both soybean and corn markets. [1]

Ukrainian Agriculture Seeks Transition Period for EU Standards

European and Ukrainian agricultural producers must strengthen communication and foster partnership rather than rivalry, according to Oleh Khomenko, CEO of the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB), in comments to Table.Briefings cited by the association’s press service.

Khomenko emphasized that Ukraine represents a significant market for European and global agricultural input suppliers, meaning the EU farming sector could benefit from Ukraine’s gradual integration into the bloc.

Despite ongoing wartime challenges, Ukraine's agricultural sector is actively preparing to align with EU standards. This process requires restructuring governance systems and establishing new control mechanisms — a complex and costly undertaking amid heightened production risks and rising costs over the past four years.

He noted that adaptation will vary considerably across Ukraine's highly diverse farm structure. While some large enterprises already export to the EU and meet its regulatory requirements, many small farms and household producers will need substantial adjustments to comply with European rules.

Khomenko also highlighted additional pressures facing the sector, including labor shortages, rural depopulation, and climate change impacts such as prolonged droughts in recent years.

Plant protection standards remain one of the most sensitive areas in the harmonization process. According to Khomenko, implementing EU regulations in this field could raise Ukrainian production costs by approximately 30%, posing significant economic challenges. He expressed hope that Ukraine will be granted sufficient transition time, similar to the gradual adaptation period EU producers experienced over the past two decades. [2]

Weather Risks Keep European Rapeseed Market Firm

European rapeseed futures posted mixed movements, with the May contract rising from €485.75 to €488.00 per tonne, up €2.25 on the session. The August contract edged slightly lower from €466.75 to €466.00, reflecting minor corrective pressure.

From a technical perspective, the market remains in consolidation above the €480 level, with potential to test the €495–500 range should weather-related risks in the EU persist.

In the physical European market, rapeseed oil prices recorded stronger gains. FOB Dutch mill quotations for March increased by €17 to €1,087 per tonne, while May shipments rose €7 to €1,075 per tonne. The upward movement underscores steady demand from the biodiesel industry and refining sector.

Meanwhile in Ukraine, old-crop rapeseed supplies are gradually tightening, with spot volumes becoming increasingly limited. Market attention is shifting toward the new harvest, where prices are forming at a premium to MATIF futures amid concerns over overwintering conditions and weather-related risks.[1]

France Leads Soft Wheat Exports to Morocco in 2025/26

Grain production in Morocco could nearly double in 2026, supported by abundant winter rainfall, market participants told Reuters, as reported by Asharq Al Awsat.

Total grain output is projected at 8–9 million tonnes, including around 5 million tonnes of soft wheat. This would mark a sharp recovery from the previous season, when the harvest reached just 4.4 million tonnes, including 2.4 million tonnes of soft wheat.

Despite the improved production outlook, imports remained strong earlier in the marketing year. Between June 2025 and January 2026, Morocco imported approximately 7 million tonnes of grain, up 12% compared to the same period a year earlier. Soft wheat accounted for 3.2 million tonnes of the total.

The main suppliers of soft wheat during the period were:

- France — 2.2 million tonnes
- Argentina — 233,000 tonnes
- Russia — 227,000 tonnes
- Germany — 120,000 tonnes
- United States — 94,000 tonnes [6]

Bulgaria to Import 400,000 Tonnes of Argentine Sunflower

Bulgaria is set to import up to 400,000 tonnes of sunflower from Argentina in the coming weeks, attracted by competitive pricing. The volume would represent roughly a quarter of Bulgaria's annual sunflower harvest and is expected to significantly reshape the raw material balance in the Balkan region.

According to market sources, the first vessel carrying approximately 40,000 tonnes is currently off the coast of Morocco and is scheduled to arrive in Bulgaria around March 1. Nine additional vessels are planned for shipment to Bulgaria, while three more cargoes are destined for Romania, one of which has already departed.

In total, imports into the Balkans could exceed 500,000 tonnes, adding substantial supply to the region's leading producers and processors.

With Bulgaria's domestic sunflower output estimated at around 1.5 million tonnes, the projected import volume would account for approximately 26–27% of national production — a significant factor for the country's crushing and processing sector.

Market participants note that local farmers have been reluctant to sell sunflower stocks, anticipating potential price increases following a disappointing domestic harvest. A similar holding strategy has also been observed in Romania, tightening near-term supply and increasing the attractiveness of imported product. [3]

South Korea Nearly Doubles Wheat Imports from Russia in January

South Korea nearly doubled its wheat imports from Russia in January compared with the same month a year earlier, according to calculations by RIA Novosti based on data from South Korea's statistical service.

Imports of Russian wheat totaled $10.7 million in January, up from $6.2 million a year earlier, marking an almost twofold increase in value terms.

As a result, Russia ranked as South Korea's third-largest wheat supplier during the month, accounting for 15.6% of total wheat imports. The United States remained the leading supplier with a 53.9% share, followed by Australia at 22.1%.[3]

Martial Law Slows China–Ukraine Agricultural Trade

Despite signing a phytosanitary protocol in 2025, China has yet to begin imports of peas from Ukraine. The delay is linked to martial law in Ukraine, which prevented Chinese inspectors from conducting on-site audits of production fields, storage facilities, processing plants, ports, and the national control system.

To move the process forward, the two sides agreed to conduct inspections remotely via video format. Specialists from the State Consumer Service, together with the Ukrainian Legumes and Soybean Association, prepared and submitted the necessary documentation to Chinese authorities. An official conclusion from Beijing is still pending.

Meanwhile, China has significantly increased pea imports from the Russia following the introduction of duties on Canadian peas starting March 20, 2025. Russia's share of Chinese yellow pea imports rose from 37% in 2023 to 48% in 2024, and further to 66% between January and November 2025.

Ukraine harvested a record pea crop in 2025, prompting expectations of strong exports and higher prices. At harvest, prices ranged between 14,000–15,000 UAH per tonne. However, many farmers held back sales in anticipation of prices reaching 20,000 UAH per tonne. Exports ultimately totaled only about 200,000 tonnes, while carry-over stocks increased to 250,000–300,000 tonnes. As a result, domestic prices fell to 11,000–12,000 UAH per tonne, according to Latifundist.

Global pea prices have also been pressured by several factors, including India's partial refund of a 30% import duty, Turkey's shift toward Russian suppliers, increased EU production, and a global surplus as both Canada and Russia exported 3–4 million tonnes each.

Even if China resumes imports of Ukrainian peas, traders expect limited price recovery, given that Russian peas are currently offered at around $300 per tonne.

At the same time, domestic processing of peas in Ukraine is expanding rapidly — from bioglue production to plant protein manufacturing — a trend that could gradually reshape demand dynamics.[1]

Global Grain Trade Shifts: U.S. Leads in Corn, Brazil in Soybeans

Corn prices have started to recover following last month's sharp decline, despite record U.S. production levels, according to an economist at Iowa State University.

Chad Hart said stronger export demand is supporting the market. Data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicate that U.S. corn exports between September and January likely surpassed 1.3 billion bushels — 100 million bushels higher than projected a month earlier. The upward revision tightened projected ending stocks, lending support to futures prices.

"When the USDA raises export estimates, warehouse balances shrink, and that typically pushes prices higher — which is what we're seeing in the futures market," Hart explained.

Still, he cautioned that price gains are likely to remain limited. Rising prices tend to slow demand, preventing excessive rallies. "We're not talking about $5 corn," Hart said. "More likely, we're looking at around $4.50."

Domestic demand for feed remains strong, driven by high consumer appetite for protein, particularly beef and chicken. This trend is also evident globally, further underpinning feed grain demand and supporting U.S. corn exports.

Soybeans tell a different story. Prices jumped nearly 30 cents per bushel last week, largely on speculation that China may increase purchases of U.S. soybeans. However, the USDA's Feb. 10 report dismissed expectations of stronger global import demand, noting that overall trade projections remain largely unchanged. The department maintained its average farm price forecast for soybeans at $10.20 per bushel.

Hart noted that U.S. soybean producers face intense competition from Brazil, which harvested a record 6.6 billion bushels this season and benefits from lower production costs. As a result, many importing countries are increasingly sourcing soybeans from Brazil.

Global grain markets appear to be settling into a pattern in which Brazil dominates soybean exports, while the United States leads in corn production. Early USDA projections suggest that the 2026 U.S. corn crop could approach the record levels seen in 2025, with many farmers — particularly in Iowa — planning to allocate most of their acreage to corn once again.[1]

Canadian Grain Exports to EU at Risk From New Residue Standards

The Canadian Grains Council has raised concerns over the European Commission's plans to tighten controls on pesticide residues in agricultural products imported into the European Union.

According to the council, the proposed changes — including a reciprocity policy set to take effect in spring 2026 — could significantly disrupt Canadian grain shipments to the EU. Depending on how the measures are implemented and expanded, exports of grains, oilseeds and pulses from Canada could be restricted or even halted.

The European Commission recently announced the creation of a dedicated working group aimed at strengthening oversight of pesticide residue levels in imported goods.

The Canadian Grains Council warned that failure to address the issue could undermine Canada's broader trade diversification strategy, noting that EU regulatory standards often influence policies in other global markets.

The organization also expressed concern over what it described as the EU's increasingly cautious stance toward agricultural innovation. Such an approach, it argued, risks complicating global food trade and could limit Canada's ability to deploy productivity-enhancing technologies, particularly in crop protection.[1]

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