

# *CSI DAILY NEWS*



*27.03.2026*



## **Preferential financing for agro projects approved by EAEU Council**

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin announced new preferential support measures for agro-industrial projects within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The statement was made during an extended session of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.

According to Mishustin, amendments have been introduced to the regulations governing the EAEU budget, enabling targeted financial support for agricultural initiatives across member states. The move is expected to strengthen cooperation in the agro-industrial sector and enhance food security within the union. <sup>4</sup>

## **Russia proposes market-based VAT calculation for EAEU imports**

The Russian Ministry of Finance has proposed a new approach to calculating VAT on goods imported from the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Under the initiative, VAT would no longer be based solely on the contract price, but instead on the market value of the goods, if it exceeds the declared contract price.

The proposed changes are expected to be introduced through a new Article 54.2 of the Russian Tax Code. The rules would apply specifically to goods subject to mandatory labeling and those included in the national traceability system.

Under the new calculation mechanism, if the contract price falls below the minimum established market value, VAT will be assessed based on this higher benchmark.

In addition, the proposal предусматривает expanded authority for regulatory bodies. Authorities would be allowed to request supporting documentation — including invoices, contracts, and shipping documents — even outside formal audit procedures, if there are suspicions of potential violations.

The Ministry of Finance states that the initiative aims to improve import transparency and increase tax revenues. For businesses engaged in foreign trade, this would require stricter price justification, enhanced transaction transparency, and well-prepared documentation confirming market value levels. <sup>6</sup>

## **Russian wheat prices hold steady at \$240/t FOB**

Russian wheat export prices remained stable during the period from March 18 to 24. Wheat with 12.5% protein for March–April delivery was quoted at \$240 per tonne FOB, according to data from AC Russagrotrans.

At the same time, French wheat prices declined to \$239 per tonne, falling below Russian levels by \$4 per tonne. US wheat was priced at \$257 per tonne, down \$5 per tonne over the week. Ukrainian

wheat (11.5% protein) decreased slightly to \$235 per tonne, while Romanian wheat dropped to \$240.5 per tonne, down \$4 per tonne. <sup>5</sup>

## **From reform to expansion: Russia's transformation before 1861**

The review of Russia's foreign trade progresses from 1844 to the next key milestone — 1861. The analysis focuses on export and import dynamics of agricultural products, based on data from the yearbook "State Foreign Trade in its Various Forms."

The period between 1844 and 1861 was marked by significant political, economic, and technological transformations in the Russian Empire.

In 1849, Russian troops intervened in Hungary to suppress the revolution, reinforcing political stability in Europe. In 1851, the first railway line between St. Petersburg and Moscow was launched, marking a major step in infrastructure development. The same year, Russia participated in the World Exhibition in London, showcasing agricultural and industrial products, with several food items receiving awards.

The Crimean War (1853–1856) became a defining geopolitical event, concluding with the Paris Peace Treaty. During this time, the defense of Sevastopol (1854–1855) stood out as a key military episode.

The accession of Alexander II in 1855 initiated a shift in both foreign policy and economic direction. Reforms began to take shape, including the establishment of the Secret Committee on Peasant Affairs in 1857. Territorial expansion also continued, with the Treaty of Aigun in 1858 securing the Amur region.

A turning point came in 1861 with the emancipation reform. The imperial manifesto granted serfs personal freedom and civil rights, including property ownership, marriage without landlord consent, access to education, and participation in local governance. However, land ownership required redemption payments rather than being granted free of charge.

Further analysis will examine agricultural price levels in 1861 and assess the purchasing power of the ruble during that period. <sup>3</sup>

## **Russia boosts sunflower oil output while margarine production declines**

Russia's oil and fat industry increased crude sunflower oil production to 1.3 million tonnes in January–February, up 3.2% compared to the same period in 2025, according to Finmarket citing Rosstat data.

In February alone, output reached 0.7 million tonnes, marking a 13% year-on-year increase and a 1.5% rise compared to January.

In contrast, margarine production showed a significant decline. Output in the first two months of the year fell by 19.7% to 68,500 tonnes. In February, production dropped by 20.5% year-on-year to 37,600 tonnes, although it increased by 15.5% compared to January. apk

## **Russian farmers warn of rising fertilizer prices and supply shortages**

Russian agricultural producers have raised concerns over rising fertilizer prices, warning of potential risks to crop yields and sector profitability. The Association of Agricultural Producers “People’s Farmer” has appealed to the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the situation.

Following the abolition of export duties from January 1, 2025, domestic fertilizer prices have effectively aligned with global market levels. Farmers report difficulties in purchasing fertilizers due to both high prices and limited availability.

Producers warn that reduced fertilizer application could significantly impact yields, potentially leading to declining profitability and, in extreme cases, bankruptcies within the sector.

Earlier, authorities introduced a temporary suspension on ammonium nitrate exports in an effort to stabilize the domestic market. Rus grain

## **Soybean prices in Ukraine stabilize as global competition intensifies**

Strong domestic demand for soybeans persists in Ukraine, driven by processors shifting toward soybean meal production for the livestock sector. However, export prices at ports and along the western border have stabilized and slightly declined after reaching recent highs, amid intensifying competition from South American supply.

Rising sunflower prices continue to provide indirect support to the soybean market, as steady demand for meal sustains processing activity. Over the past week, processors increased purchase prices for GM soybeans by UAH 300–500/t to UAH 20,300–20,500/t (approximately \$405–410/t excluding VAT, delivered to plant). Prices for non-GM soybeans remained stable at UAH 20,500–20,700/t, reflecting reduced competitiveness in the EU soybean meal market.

On the export side, demand weakened slightly. Prices for GM soybeans fell by \$5/t to \$435–445/t delivered to ports, as the number of active buyers declined due to limited supply. Non-GM soybean prices held steady at around \$460/t to ports and \$460–465/t to the western border.

From September 1 to March 25, 2026, Ukraine exported approximately 1.5 million tonnes of soybeans. Of this volume, 960,000 tonnes were shipped duty-free, while 550,000 tonnes were exported with duties, generating nearly UAH 760 million in budget revenues. However, the introduction of export duties has resulted in estimated producer losses of around \$200 million this season.

Out of a total soybean harvest of 5 million tonnes, an estimated 2.9–3 million tonnes will be directed toward domestic processing — a 50% increase compared to the previous season — while exports are projected to remain within 2–2.2 million tonnes.

Global market pressure continues to weigh on Ukrainian prices. Increased availability of competitively priced Brazilian soybeans and declining Chicago futures have dampened demand. Traders expect limited growth in Chinese purchases of US soybeans, contributing to downward price movement. May soybean futures in Chicago traded at approximately \$430/t, down 4% from levels seen two weeks earlier.

In the United States, rising soybean oil inventories point to weaker biodiesel demand despite increased domestic processing. Export shipments remain sluggish, reaching only 29.2 million tonnes so far this season, significantly below the USDA forecast of 43 million tonnes.

In Brazil, soybean harvesting has reached 68% of the planted area as of March 19, compared to 80% at the same time last year. Persistent rainfall has slowed progress but improved conditions for the second corn crop. Brazilian soybean prices are currently in the range of \$420–430/t FOB. However, higher freight costs to China — rising from \$40/t to \$50–55/t — combined with port congestion from a record harvest, are adding pressure to export prices. <sup>1</sup>

## **Grain and meal shipments rise overall despite regional declines**

In March, Ukraine saw a shift in rail grain export flows, with shipments declining at the borders with Hungary and Romania, while volumes directed to Poland increased, according to Valerii Tkachev of Ukrzaliznytsia.

As of March 25, average daily grain shipments to Hungary — previously the leading route in January and February — dropped to 46.6 wagons, down by 18.3 wagons compared to February. Shipments toward Romania also decreased, averaging just 1.3 wagons per day, a decline of 3.7 wagons.

In contrast, rail exports to Poland showed strong growth. Average daily volumes increased by 15 wagons to reach 29.6 wagons per day. Shipments to Slovakia remained largely stable at 26.3 wagons per day, showing minimal change from February levels.

Overall, the combined average daily transfer of grain and meal reached 180 wagons as of March 25, representing an increase of 16 wagons per day, or 10%, compared to the end of February. <sup>2</sup>

## **French farmers shift from corn to sunflower amid rising costs**

French farmers are increasingly considering switching from corn to sunflower cultivation amid rising fertilizer costs, according to the head of the grain association Intercéréales.

Sunflower is viewed as a more cost-efficient alternative due to its lower fertilizer requirements. While the full extent of the shift is not yet clear, early indications suggest that the change in crop structure could be significant in the coming weeks. Corn sowing in France typically begins in April.

In a worst-case scenario, continued economic pressure could lead farmers to reduce grain planting next season or leave part of their land fallow, relying instead on EU subsidy support. <sup>7</sup>

## **Algeria buys 690,000 tonnes of wheat in major tender**

Algeria's state grain agency OAIC purchased approximately 690,000 tonnes of milling wheat in an international tender that closed on March 26, according to market sources. The volume significantly exceeded the typical minimum tender size of 50,000 tonnes.

The purchase price was estimated at around \$272 per tonne on a C&F basis. Traders indicated that a substantial portion of the wheat is expected to be sourced from the Black Sea region, particularly Ukraine, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Shipments under the tender are scheduled in two windows: June 1–15 and June 16–30. For supplies originating from South America or Australia, delivery is expected one month earlier. Final figures on volumes and origins may still be revised.

Algeria remains one of the largest wheat importers globally. While it has traditionally relied on European suppliers, especially France, Black Sea exporters have been steadily increasing their market share in recent years, amid a decline in French shipments linked to diplomatic tensions. <sup>1</sup>

## **New Chinese regulations reshape soybean and sunflower oil markets**

China will introduce updated national standards (GB/T) for four key edible vegetable oils — peanut, soybean, sunflower, and corn oil — starting August 1, 2026. The new rules will replace the 2017 version and apply to more than 70% of the country's vegetable oil consumption, aiming to enhance product safety, quality, and labeling transparency.

For soybean oil, the updated standards introduce, for the first time, a clear distinction between “pressed” and “extracted” production methods. This differentiation is expected to improve product classification and reduce market ambiguity.

In the sunflower oil segment, new categories will be established based on fatty acid composition, including linoleic type ( $\geq 65\%$  linoleic acid), oleic type ( $\geq 65\%$  oleic acid), and sunflower kernel oil. The standards will also distinguish between crude and refined oils, with refined oils further categorized by production method.

The overall grading system will be simplified, with most oil categories reduced from four quality levels to three. At the same time, quality requirements will be tightened, including stricter limits on acidity, peroxide values, and solvent residues, capped at 20 mg/kg for extracted oils.

Labeling requirements will also become more detailed, requiring disclosure of production method, fatty acid profile, GMO status, and shelf life after opening.

For exporters, particularly from Ukraine, the new standards will introduce stricter compliance requirements but also open opportunities in higher-value, premium segments focused on transparency and quality. A transition period will allow products produced under previous standards to remain on the market until their expiration. <sup>1</sup>

## **Bulgaria detects excessive pesticide levels in Argentine sunflower imports**

Bulgarian authorities have identified another case of excessive pesticide residues in imported Argentine sunflower seeds, this time in a fourth shipment. Laboratory tests revealed malathion levels approximately four times above the допустимый limit, while deltamethrin concentrations were nearly three times higher. Samples were collected by inspectors from the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) during import checks at the port.

So far, four shipments totaling more than 160,000 tonnes of Argentine sunflower seeds have arrived in Bulgaria. Port-based sampling prior to unloading has enabled authorities to promptly detect quality violations. Earlier tests on the first three vessels also showed pesticide residues exceeding regulatory thresholds by 2–5 times.

Regulators are closely tracking the movement of these imports across the entire supply chain, from storage at the port to processing and eventual sale or export. The контроля is being carried out in coordination with customs and other state bodies to ensure compliance with safety standards.

The importer has provided written guarantees that the processed products will not enter the EU food market. Instead, they will either be exported to third countries where such residue levels are permitted or used for technical applications, including biodiesel production. <sup>1</sup>

## References:

1. [www.apk-inform.com](http://www.apk-inform.com)
2. [www.foodtank.com](http://www.foodtank.com)
3. Agroexport Telegram Channel
4. Agroexpert Telegram Channel
5. Rus grain Union Telegram Channel
6. World Trade Telegram Channel
7. KSM Telegram Channel
8. Picture from [www.ukragroconsult.com](http://www.ukragroconsult.com)