

General News

Ukraine - Black Sea Grain Deal Ended

July 17, 2023, Russia said it was ending its participation in an agreement in operation since 2022 which allowed Ukraine to export its grain by sea via the Black Sea ports. The EU, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Croatia immediately announced that they would work to increase their transport infrastructure and assistance to allow the Ukraine to continue to export North to the Baltic ports and South through the Danube ports (Reni, Izmail and UST-Dunaysk). The complications for the Danube ports are, there is limited access by road, and it is extremely dangerous. It is, however, possible to load and unload barges using the Danube River, but this will need to be coordinated with Romania. Ukrainian canals are also shallow and warehouse capacity and loading facilities are limited along the river routes and in these Danube ports.

July 24, 2023, Russia followed up with strikes on the port of Reni and Izmail. These ports are 200 metres from the Romanian border, and this may also deter commercial activity due to a lack of shipping insurance for the region.

See graphic [here](#) which shows that the Danube ports have since March become increasingly important since the “go slow and blockage” of the Odesa ports by Russia had strangled the flow of grain. The question remains, can these alternative routes handle the extra capacity required to keep Ukrainian supplies flowing to the world markets.

Crop Market Observatory

July 7, 2023, the 21st meeting of the EU Crops Market Observatory was held. According to the International Grains Council, cereal production is projected to increase globally. China and Egypt are expected to be the largest importers of wheat. Drought conditions are expected to result in a 34 million metric ton reduction in maize production in the US, and similar production cuts (19MT) are expected to be observed in Europe. Trade 2022/2023 is projected to decline as Ukraine is expected to export only 18 million metric tons compared to 32 million metric tons in 2021/2022. Argentina’s maize harvest is 47% down with crop forecast at 34.0m t (-18m y/y) while Brazil expects record corn production at 125,7 MT (previous year 113 MT). Weather conditions, including drought and rain, could impact the market, with potential effects on grain quality in the US.

FEFAC shared with DG AGRI the latest data on industrial compound feed production in 2023, now forecasted at 144.2mt, i.e., 1,1% less compared to 2022 which was 145.9mt. The European Biodiesel Board presented the latest development in biodiesel production. Today, the EU is a world leader in the production and use of biodiesel in transport. The biodiesel demand is expected to rise in the coming years due to the push from the “Fit for 55” package which aims at reducing EU GHG emissions through the support towards renewable fuels in transport. The feedstock composition for biodiesel production in the EU in 2022 was rapeseed oil 40%, Palm oil 26%, Annex IX (algae, husk, straw, animal manure, animal fats....) 24%, Soybean oil 7%, Sunflower oil 3% and other 0,5%. Official meeting reports will be available [here](#).

Agricultural Outlook 2023–2032

The OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) have published their latest [Outlook Report](#). It looks at the challenges and uncertainties facing the agricultural sector amidst economic risks, high energy prices and evolving geopolitical dynamics over the next decade. Highlights include.

- World milk production is projected to grow at 1.5% annually over the next decade, with more than half the increase coming from India and Pakistan, which together will account

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RASFF ‘S JULY 2023

Total Food & Feed	394
Total Feed	17
Feed Materials	11
Pet Food	1
Compound Feed	3
Feed Additives	2
read more	

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for almost a third of global milk output in 2032. Milk production in the European Union is projected to decline slightly due to the ongoing transition towards more environmentally sustainable production systems.

- Global production of livestock and fish is projected to expand by 1.3% annually over the next decade, slower than seen in the recent past. Poultry meat is projected to account for almost half the increase in total meat production through 2032.
- Global trade in agri commodities covered in the Outlook is projected to expand by 1.3% annually, half the pace recorded in the past decade due mostly to slower growth in demand by middle-income countries. Maize, wheat and soybeans contributed the most to the overall agri trade growth in the past decade, but they are projected to experience the biggest drop in trade growth over the next 10 years.
- After becoming a net importer of agri commodities in recent years, South and Southeast Asia's net imports are projected to increase further, driven mainly by continuing strong demand growth within the subregion.
- GHG emissions from agriculture are expected to increase by 7.5% in the next decade – just less than half the projected output growth – indicating a significant fall in the carbon intensity of agricultural production. The livestock sector is projected to account for 86% of the increased emissions.

Teagasc Fodder Survey & Tillage Update - NFFSC Meeting July 19, 2023

The National Fodder and Food Security Committee (NFFSC) is tasked by government with preparing an industry response, contingency plans, and advice to assist farmers in managing their farm enterprises through a period of high input price inflation and potential supply pressures. A Teagasc fodder survey was presented at the most recent meeting see [Teagasc Fodder Survey July 2023](#). You can also download Teagasc Joe Patton et al presentation on the fodder survey [here](#) and Teagasc Michael Hennessy tillage update presentation [here](#).

Environment News

New EU Food Waste Reduction Targets 2030

The Commission has proposed setting legally binding food waste reduction targets for Member States to achieve by 2030 as part of the [revision of the Waste Framework Directive](#). The proposed targets include a 10% reduction in processing and manufacturing and a 30% reduction (per capita) in retail and consumption (restaurants, food services, and households) combined. The legislative proposal also includes provisions for a formal review of progress by Member States by the end of 2027. Using former feedstuffs for animal feed is not a central theme in the new proposals and under Article 9a on the Prevention of Food Waste, item (c) says that measures to prevent food waste shall include 'encouraging food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.' However, animal feed solutions that might help contribute to the national reduction targets are likely to feature in the discussions as the debate continues on the final content of the proposal.

Climate Change and Livestock Numbers

With the ongoing discussions in many Member States about the need to reduce livestock numbers to help tackle climate change, various commentators have expressed strong views on both sides of the argument. FEFAC recently highlighted a view from Giuseppe Pulina, President of the Association for Science and Animal Production (ASPA), Full Professor of Ethics and Sustainability of Farming at the Department of Agriculture of the University of Sassari, Italy. Fuller details [here](#) but some excerpts below

The EU Inventory 2021 informs us that the leading sector in terms of emissions is energy (27% of the EU total), followed by transport (22.5%), while agriculture ranks fifth with 11%. If the balance from carbon sequestration in rural areas (amounting to 230 million tCO₂e) is considered, it drops to only 4%.

The most important aspect is that, in its desire to force a reduction in the number of cattle farms, the EU does not take into account the already successful reductions in emissions from European livestock farming, which fell by 23% between 1990 and 2020 (from 317 to 245 million tonnes of CO₂e), or the reduction in enteric methane (-22%), a gas that is also criticised as highly polluting. Taking into account not only carbon sequestration but also the new metrics proposed by the Oxford atmospheric physicists and the FAO, which consider methane to be a short-lived gas and therefore not measurable in terms of CO₂e (CO₂ is a long-lived gas), EU livestock farming, by reducing methane emissions, rather than warming the atmosphere actually contributed to cooling it by a total of -2.9 billion CO₂e, a reduction comparable to 1/3 of that achieved by carbon sequestration via soil and vegetation over the same period. The forced reduction of livestock farming will not only reduce the EU's supply of high-quality proteins to below a strategic reserve level but will increase imports of meat and milk from third countries. This will merely shift the problem to areas where the efficiency of livestock farming is lower than in Europe. This would mean the climate impact per unit of imported protein would be higher.

Abandonment of pastures (important CO₂ absorbers), the reduction in organic matter available for organic farming and the reduction in the availability of raw materials for artisanal products with protected designations of origin would also form part of the collateral damage. There is no need to create such complicated scenarios. By simply observing reality, policymakers will realise that European

Animal Health

Avian Influenza (bird flu)

July 6, 2023, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in a captive bird (a flamingo) in Dublin Zoo. The enclosed habitat in which the flamingo was kept has been closed. Dublin Zoo is actively supporting DAFM and HSE with the investigation of this case. Farmers are urged to remain vigilant for signs of disease in their flocks and maintain high biosecurity standards. Read latest update issued July 14, 2023, by DAFM [here](#).

Technical News

Webinar On Notification to Poison Center

The CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 is a horizontal piece of legislation covering substances and mixtures in general. Under this regulation there are obligations for manufacturers, importers, and downstream users to **Classify, Label and Package** substances and mixtures placed on the EU market. Feeding stuffs 'intended to be used by the final users' (animals), i.e., to be fed directly to animals, such as feed material, complete and complementary feeding stuffs are exempted from the scope of CLP, provided they are in the finished state (see ECHA [Q/A](#)). Therefore, CLP applies to only all additives and premixtures.

From 1 January 2024, under CLP regulation Article 45 (1) mixtures classified as hazardous for Physical and Health hazards will be subject to a new format of mandatory notification to poison centres. This would affect around $\frac{2}{3}$ of the types of premixtures produced in the EU. To help premixture producers prepare for this new legal requirement, FEFAC representing European Feed Manufacturers joined forces with FEFANA representing European feed additive and premixture manufacturers and organised a webinar to share best practices. More than 150 participants attended the webinar on 11 July 2023. The webinar is accessible via the following [link](#). A Q&A based on the questions raised during the webinar via the chat room will be released within the next weeks and we will make it available in the next Feed Issues.

SCoPAFF 4-5 July 2023

Cobalt The SCoPAFF Section Animal Nutrition held its last meeting on 4-5 July 2023. The Committee voted positively with a very large majority on the temporary authorization of the 4 cobalt salts 3b301, 3B302, 3B303 and 3b305 based on Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 (animal welfare). The regulation was published on is available to download [here](#). This urgent authorisation is in effect for maximum of five years or until a decision on the application for their authorisation submitted in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 is taken.

Undesirable Substances There was no real progress reported regarding the amendment of undesirable substances Directive 2002/32. The discussions on mycotoxins (i.e., keeping guidance values for compound feed or switching to maximum limits) that were suspended due to the war in Ukraine, should resume on 11 September ahead of a meeting of the Expert Group Animal Nutrition.

Glyphosate Update

The approval of glyphosate for use in the EU was extended for one year until December 15, 2023. This means glyphosate can be used as an active substance in pesticide products until that date, subject to each product being authorised by national authorities following a safety evaluation. The continued approval of glyphosate has been the topic of debate in Brussels for many years and the commission and member states need to decide whether to keep glyphosate on the EU list of approved pesticide active substances. To this end EFSA and EU Member States carried out a risk assessment and peer review for glyphosate and at the start of July released their findings.

Glyphosate peer review in numbers



EFSA published a factsheet and a press release, summarising the conclusions of this process. It indicates that 'EFSA did not identify any critical areas of concern in its peer review of the risk assessment of the active substance glyphosate in relation to the risk it poses to humans and animals or the environment'. However, some outstanding issues were identified, including the assessment of one of the impurities in glyphosate, the consumer dietary risk assessment, and the assessment

of risks to aquatic plants. On biodiversity, experts recognised that the risks associated with the representative uses of glyphosate are complex and depend on multiple factors. The conclusions and outstanding issues will now have to be considered and discussed by the commission and member states. These results will be vital to help them decide on whether to keep glyphosate on the EU list of approved pesticide active substances before the current approval runs out on December 15, 2023.

New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) – New EU Proposed Regulation

July 5, 2023, the Commission published the long-awaited proposed regulation on new genomic techniques (NGTs). This proposal only concerns plants produced by

1. **targeted mutagenesis** - induces mutations in the genome without insertion of foreign genetic material (e.g., changes are made within the same plant species)
2. **cisgenesis** - is an insertion of genetic material into a recipient organism from a donor that is sexually compatible with the recipient organism (e.g., changes are made between naturally compatible plants).

The scope of this initiative is plants produced by the above, products containing or consisting of these plants and food and feed containing, consisting, or produced from these plants. The proposal doesn't include plants obtained by NGTs that introduce genetic material from a non-crossable species (transgenesis). Such techniques are still subject to existing GMO legislation.

The Commission highlights that this new proposal 'can help increase the sustainability and resilience of our food system' as 'they allow precise and efficient development of improved plant varieties that can be climate resilient, pest resistant, require less fertilisers and pesticides, or ensure higher yields. In most cases, these new techniques lead to more targeted, precise, and faster changes than conventional breeding or established genomic techniques.' To better reflect the different risk profiles of NGT plants, the proposal creates two distinct pathways for NGT plants to be placed on the market:

Category 1 - NGT plants that could also occur naturally or by conventional breeding will be subject to a verification procedure, based on criteria set in the proposal. These NGTs are treated like conventional plants and therefore exempted from the requirements of the GMO legislation i.e., no risk assessment necessary, and they can be labelled in the same way as conventional plants.

Category 2 - For all other NGT plants, the requirements of the current GMO legislation would apply, including labelling. They are subject to risk assessments conducted by EFSA and can only be put on the market following the existing EU GMO authorisation procedure. For these plants, there will be adapted detection methods and tailored monitoring requirements.

The European Farmers' Organisation has welcomed the proposal as breeders will now be able to "speed up their breeding programmes and bring faster and better plant varieties to the market, helping farmers who face many challenges including the acceleration of climate change." FEFAC also welcomes the differentiation of conventional-like NGTs from classical GMOs and the exemption from authorisation and labelling requirements for those NGT plants from category 1. However, FEFAC has raised concerns about the practical enforcement of the proposed measures for category 2 plants. NGTs has been controversial topic in Brussels for many years and this proposed regulation is likely to be discussed and debated at length over the coming years. Full details including a Q&A document are available [here](#).

Possible Ban on the Use of Anticoagulants Rodenticides

This issue was highlighted in last month's Feed Issues and it was expected that a draft decision on whether to prolong the derogation for the use of anticoagulants rodenticides would be taken at a recent Standing Committee on Biocides. Instead, a "note for discussion" was submitted by the Commission. This has led some to interpret that the Commission itself is not comfortable with the recommendation of the ECHA Committee on Biocidal Products to lift the derogation due to the existence of effective alternative tools. The decision has now been postponed until September. Postponing the decision will give Member States more time to provide their comments to the Commission services and stakeholders more opportunity to discuss the issue with national governments.

Other News

Pigeon Management in Feed Stores

In the modern supply chain, HACCP requirements and food safety concerns demand that pest and bird infestations are kept to a minimum. Their nests attract ticks and mites and sometimes rats. Their droppings can damage block vents in buildings and cause odour issues in grain stores. Pigeon infestations are a source of nuisance, fouling, but most importantly, can impact human and animal health through the transmission of diseases such as Salmonella. IGFA has prepared a briefing for members on possible control options [here](#).