



# CSI Daily News

*25.08.2025*



# **Review of Russia's agricultural news from August 18 to 24**

The Russian government has allocated an additional 2 billion rubles to provide farmers with preferential loans.

Russia has harvested over 85 million tons of grain so far, including 64 million tons of wheat — sufficient to fully cover domestic demand.

This year's potato harvest is projected to reach around 7.5–7.6 million tons.

Farmers remain the primary consumers of breeding innovations and advancements.

Starting in 2026, subsidies for elite seed production will be granted exclusively to seeds developed through Russian breeding programs.

Harvesting of pome fruits is actively underway, with more than 85,000 tons of apples already collected.

At Timiryazevka, researchers have developed a “genetic platform” aimed at creating rapeseed varieties resistant to diseases.

## **Russia's wheat harvest nears completion as U.S. eyes export opportunities**

### **Russia's Wheat Harvest Nears Completion**

Russia's wheat harvest is close to wrapping up, with exports expected to rise as fresh supplies hit the market. According to Marex's Charlie Sernatinger, U.S. wheat may have a better chance of competing with Russian exports this year compared to previous seasons. However, he expects U.S. wheat futures to remain under pressure for another week before likely rebounding, projecting potential seasonal lows by next Friday.

### **EPA Grants Unexpected Refinery Exemptions**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved more small refinery exemptions from renewable fuel blending requirements than the market anticipated. AgResource noted that exemptions were granted to 63 applicants, with some receiving partial waivers. While this initially weighed on grain sentiment, speculation about new regulatory measures later helped stabilize CBOT grain prices.

### **Pro Farmer Projects Record Yields**

Following the Pro Farmer Crop Tour, the group forecast record U.S. yields for both corn and soybeans. National corn yields are projected at 182.7 bushels per acre, and soybean yields at 53 bushels per acre — both record highs if realized. However, Pro Farmer cautioned that upcoming weather conditions will be critical to achieving these estimates.



## Powell Signals Possible Rate Cuts

At the Jackson Hole Symposium, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell expressed concern over weakening U.S. employment trends, hinting at a potential interest rate cut next month. A weaker U.S. dollar resulting from lower rates would make American grain exports more competitive globally, providing some support for prices.

## Commodity auctions: results for 25.08.2025

### Purchase

OOO Resurs Agro Trading

Wheat class 4, 12.5% (with VAT) | 18,300 P/t | 300 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat class 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,250 P/t | 300 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat class 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,650 P/t | 300 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat class 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,500 P/t | 279 t

OZK Trading LLC

Wheat 4th grade, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,475 P/t | 300 t

## Wheat: Black Sea 11.5pc under pressure

Prices of 11.5% protein milling wheat from Ukraine, Romania, and Bulgaria slipped at the end of the week as weak demand and ongoing harvests weighed on the market.

In Ukraine, bids for FOB Pivdennyi/Odesa/Chornomorsk (POC) ports mostly held around \$232/t, but some buyers reduced offers into the \$220s/t for September–October positions. Sellers were divided — some matched lower bids, while others kept offers in the mid-to-high \$230s/t. Ukraine's



2025-26 wheat harvest progressed rapidly in the week to 21 August, adding further downward pressure on prices.

For Romanian and Bulgarian wheat, FOB Constanta-Varna-Burgas (CVB) prices also slipped by about €2/t against Euronext December futures, but demand dried up almost completely by Friday.

Meanwhile, some Russian 12.5% wheat sellers re-entered the CIF Egypt market, offering Handysize shipments for late September–early October. However, Egyptian demand remained muted as many importers had already secured their short-term needs and expected delivered prices to fall further in September when more FOB supplies become available. Over 10 vessels carrying milling wheat are due to arrive at Egyptian ports by 24 August.

In China, there were market rumours of possible demand for U.S. wheat, but participants were largely sceptical due to ongoing trade tensions and China's import quota restrictions, which make significant U.S. purchases unlikely before 2026.

### **CVB 12.5pc rationale**

The Argus 12.5% CVB spot price remained steady on Friday, closing at \$238.50/t FOB. Several sellers maintained their offers at \$240/t FOB, while buyer activity was largely absent toward the end of the week.

## **European rapeseed oil: Prices diverge**

Ukraine's winter crop harvest is almost complete, and farmers have begun the first cuts of sunflower and soybean crops, according to preliminary data from the agriculture ministry.

By 21 August, farmers had harvested 21 million tonnes of wheat from 4.87 million hectares, covering over 90 percent of planned areas. The harvested area increased by nearly 477,000 hectares during the week, keeping pace with last year's 4.86 million hectares at the same point. However, total wheat output was down from 21.74 million tonnes last year due to lower yields caused by less favorable weather.

Barley harvesting reached 4.97 million tonnes from 1.3 million hectares, also over 90 percent of the planned area. Weekly progress added 57,400 hectares, though both area and yields remain below last year's levels.

All planned rapeseed areas were harvested in the week to 21 August, producing 3.16 million tonnes. While the pace exceeded last year's, lower yields led to a decline from 3.36 million tonnes in 2024.

Harvesting of sunflowers has started in southern and central Ukraine, covering about 3,200 hectares, and soybean harvesting has just begun.

## **China corn outlook uncertain on weather conditions**

Favorable weather supported spring corn growth in most of China's major producing regions, but heavy rains in parts of northeastern China and drought in the North China Plain (NCP) have raised concerns over final yields.



According to the National Meteorological Center (NMC), overall weather conditions were “suitable” in most spring corn areas and “very suitable” in Jilin province — China’s second-largest corn producer, contributing 12% of national output — thanks to sufficient rainfall and above-average temperatures.

However, Liaoning province experienced 80-100mm of rainfall on 19 and 21 August, leading to flooding and crop lodging, which could reduce yields.

In contrast, the NCP faced severe drought after 15 August, driven by extreme heat that worsened soil moisture deficits. As of 24 August, 18-32% of arable land in the NCP was affected, up from 10-18% a week earlier. Henan province, supplying about 8% of China’s corn, saw drought-affected acreage rise 14.2 percentage points compared to last year.

Crop development is at a critical stage: in northeastern China, 31% of spring corn has entered the silking stage and 29% the milking phase. In the NCP, 76% of summer corn is in silking, while 13% has started milking as of 23 August.

## **Asia-Pacific spec tanker rates climb in summer**

Specialised tanker freight rates in the Asia-Pacific region rebounded in June and July after months of declines, driven by stronger biofuels trading and a surge in palm oil demand. Earlier in the year, from January to May, rates had fallen due to shrinking exports of biofuels and renewable feedstocks, which increased competition among shipowners.

The downturn was influenced by regulatory shifts in the EU and US:

- EU anti-dumping duties on Chinese Ucome and HVO came into effect in August 2024, cutting flows to Europe and reducing demand for IMO2 tankers. Chinese biofuel exports dropped 59% YoY in Q2 to 185,000t, freeing up vessels and pressuring rates.
- In the US, the new 45Z tax policy replaced the blenders credit, making HVO and SAF from Singapore less competitive and halting most UCO-based biofuel shipments from China. Additional US import tariffs introduced in April further disrupted flows and reduced demand.

Freight rates temporarily spiked in February as shippers rushed to move cargoes before US tariffs began in April, but fell again until May, when renewed European demand for UCO and biofuels drove exports higher. At the same time, booming palm oil exports from Indonesia and Malaysia — supported by competitive prices and strong demand from India and China — tightened vessel supply. India’s palm oil imports rose 22% YoY in June to 950,000t, boosted by a cut in crude edible oil import duties.

Looking ahead, freight rates may continue rising into Q4 as European blenders typically boost purchases to meet year-end mandates. Elevated UCO and HVO prices in the ARA region are supporting Asian exports, while Indian buying remains strong ahead of holidays. However, rates are unlikely to return to 2024 highs, given lower Chinese exports and reduced US-bound flows.



Meanwhile, the outlook for the Asia-Pacific clean petroleum product (CPP) freight market is mixed. While many MR freight rates weakened late in 2024, Australian refinery maintenance, higher mining activity, and increased Chinese jet fuel exports could support tanker demand. A more active CPP market could also pull some vessels away from specialised biofuels cargoes, indirectly supporting specialised freight rates.

Apac rates August 2025



## US corn futures recover from Wasde dip

US corn futures on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) have rebounded by about 3.2% in August after initially falling on record-high production forecasts.

On 12 August, the December CBOT corn contract dropped to \$3.9450/bu, down \$0.1325 from the previous day, following USDA's projection of a record 2025-26 corn output at 425.3mn t. Since then, prices recovered, reaching \$4.1150/bu by 22 August, slightly above their 11 August level.

The recovery was supported by lower yield projections from the ProFarmer crop tour, which covered seven key producing states. Yield estimates in five states came in below USDA forecasts, mainly due to disease pressure. The tour's final yield projection was 182.7 bu/acre, about 6.1 bu/acre lower than USDA's WASDE forecast and also below pre-WASDE industry expectations.

While the lower yield outlook is expected to support prices, some market participants still view the overall corn market as bearish, given the record production forecasts.



## **Delays at W Australian grain ports to ease from Sep**

Exporters in Western Australia have faced significant delays at the state's main bulk grain terminals due to port congestion and unexpected demand, though conditions are expected to improve from September. In July, vessel turnarounds at some ports extended up to three weeks or more, leading to potential demurrage and penalties. CBH's Geraldton port saw the longest delays, averaging over 22 days for six vessels, with one ship, the 76,000 dwt Kea, waiting more than 40 days to load 51,000t of wheat. Other CBH ports performed faster: Albany averaged 12 days, while Kwinana and Esperance managed around five and four days, respectively. Looking ahead, vessels arriving from September are projected to have an average turnaround of six days, compared to 14 days for earlier arrivals. Geraldton is closed for the latter half of August, and Kwinana is scheduled for a shut down in early September.

## **Feed grains: Brazil corn sellers stick to higher offers**

International demand for Brazilian corn was muted on Friday as sellers maintained high offer prices, while many buyers shifted focus to more competitive US supplies.

US December CBOT corn futures hit their highest level since July on Thursday, which usually prompts Brazilian sellers to lower port differentials, but adjustments have been minimal as many anticipate strong domestic demand.

In the US, forward corn sales for the week ending 14 August reached 2.86mn t — the fourth-highest on record — with an additional 260,000t of new-crop corn sold to Spain and Costa Rica, according to the USDA.

In Argentina, farmers are expected to expand corn planting areas by nearly 10% for the 2025-26 season, per the Buenos Aires grain exchange (Bage).

In China, truck deliveries of corn to processors in Shandong province — which accounts for 10% of national output — increased sharply, signaling the arrival of new-crop supplies and prompting traders to accelerate old-crop sales. Meanwhile, in Xinjiang, corn prices are falling due to a larger planted area and expectations of a bumper harvest, though higher freight costs may limit price competitiveness compared with other regions.

## **BR weather: Dry weather in main producing regions**

Dry weather dominated Brazil's main grain-producing regions this week, with rainfall mostly limited to 5mm, according to NOAA.

In Matopiba — spanning Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí, and Bahia — precipitation ranged 5-25mm, mainly concentrated in Bahia and Maranhão. Most of the south stayed dry, except Rio Grande do Sul, which recorded up to 25mm. The southeast and center-west also remained largely dry, with Paraná's coast receiving up to 5mm.



For next week, NOAA forecasts heavier rains in the south, with 25-45mm expected across the region and up to 75mm in Rio Grande do Sul. Mato Grosso do Sul could see 5-15mm, while other producing regions are likely to stay dry.

## **Rains boost 2025-26 Argentina wheat, corn outlooks**

Argentina's 2025-26 wheat and corn crops have benefited from heavy rainfall last week, which significantly improved soil moisture across the main agricultural regions. By 21 August, the core grain belt received an average of 72mm of rain—more than double the typical monthly total, with some areas exceeding five times the norm, according to the Rosario Board of Trade (BCR).

Authorities expect conditions to support a strong wheat harvest, though the wet fields have also raised the risk of disease, with some wheat rust cases reported in Córdoba. Flooding could threaten production in certain areas, so a pause in rainfall would be helpful. Currently, 95% of wheat-planted areas are rated very good to excellent, and the remaining 5% as good, with moisture levels now sufficient to support high yields.

### **Corn yields**

Corn planting in Argentina for the 2025-26 season is expected to start in early to mid-September, with projected yields in the core region of 10–12 t/ha. Last season, farmers averaged 7.1 t/ha—the highest in four years. About 90% of the planted area will feature early-maturing varieties to take advantage of favorable soil moisture.

The total corn area is forecast to expand nearly 10% year-on-year to 7.8 million hectares, up from 7.1 million in 2024-25, according to Bage. Meanwhile, the 2024-25 harvest is almost complete at 95.9%, with production estimates holding steady at 49 million tonnes.

### **Barley**

Barley planting for Argentina's 2025-26 season was completed by 20 August, according to Bage. In Buenos Aires province, the country's largest barley-growing region, 98% of the crop is reported in normal-to-excellent condition, with development progressing well across the province. Soil moisture is generally favorable, though the southwest may need rainfall soon to support good yields. In wetter areas, there is a risk of fungal growth, but producers are closely monitoring conditions, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (SAGyP) said.

## **Vegetable oil market commentary**

### **Soybean**

Brazilian soybean oil prices climbed significantly over the past week. In South America, Bunge rerouted Argentina's first soybean meal shipment originally bound for China to Vietnam, citing commercial reasons. The move highlights ongoing volatility in Argentine exports despite recent clearance for the Chinese market and follows concerns over quality. In the U.S., the ProFarmer Crop Tour reported generally strong soybean prospects, though sudden death syndrome in Iowa could cut yields by up to 10%.



## **Sunflower**

Sunflower output in the Black Sea region is facing significant uncertainty. Bulgaria could see a strong harvest, though quality issues remain, while drought is weighing on yields in Ukraine and Russia. These factors are fueling continued volatility in sunflower oil prices.

## **Canola**

China has imposed a provisional 75.8% anti-dumping duty on Canadian canola imports, effective August 14, 2025, escalating the trade dispute that started last August over Canadian tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. As the largest global importer of canola oil, China's move could have major market impacts.

## **Palm Oil**

Malaysia's palm oil stocks are projected to increase for the fifth straight month in July, reaching nearly a two-year high, driven by higher production and adjusted domestic consumption. Despite strong market activity, the sector faces competition from abundant soybean oil supplies from South America and the Black Sea. In contrast, Indonesia saw a sharp rise in June exports to 3.606 million tons, while domestic stocks fell to 2.53 million tons due to higher biodiesel demand. Malaysian exports to the U.S. remain limited but steady, with little impact expected from U.S. sustainability-related restrictions.

## Price and Data

<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>PRICE</i>	<i>DATE</i>
<b><i>CORN UKRAINE CPT POC SPOT</i></b>	USD/t	242-	22.08.2025
<b><i>WHEAT 11.5PC UKRAINE FOB POC SPOT</i></b>	USD/t	233↓	22.08.2025
<b><i>WHEAT 12.5PC RUSSIA FOB NOVOROSIYSK SPOT</i></b>	USD/t	234↓	22.08.2025
<b><i>SOYBEAN OIL ARGENTINA WATERBORNE FOB UPRIVER USD/T MONTH 1 – HOUSTON CLOSE</i></b>	USD/t	1.145,08↑	22.08.2025
<b><i>RAPSEED OIL FOB DUTCH MILL RSO - LONDON CLOSE</i></b>	USD/t	1.038↓	22.08.2025
<b><i>SUNFLOWER OIL FOB NORTHWEST EUROPE 6 PORTS SPOT - LONDON CLOSE</i></b>	USD/t	1.296,25↑	22.08.2025

↓ Price dropped in comparison to last report.

↑ Price raised in comparison to last report.

-Price has not changed.

## References:

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Rus Grain Union Telegram Channel

NAMEX Telegram Channel

Official Channel of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia

Soyabrokers Market Daily Report

Grain SA Vegetable Oil Market Commentary



Picture from [www.joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu](http://www.joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu)

