Commodities Special International

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APK weekly digest (September 22–28)

Russian farmers have harvested more than 120mn t of grain from the new crop, with the full-season forecast maintained at 135mn t.

The government's draft budget for next year allocates over 540bn rubles for agricultural support measures.

Starting in 2026, the agriculture ministry will back the launch of family-run bakeries.

Russia's milk and dairy output continues to expand this year.

The ministry also plans to provide support for projects focused on enzymes, amino acids, and food additives.

From 2026, teachers in rural settlements will be eligible to purchase housing at just 1pc of its cost.

Russian wheat exporters confront rising global competition

The Russian wheat market is facing mounting competition from international suppliers, particularly European producers, experts noted at the *Agroinvestor: PRO Crop Production* conference.

Russian wheat prices, which climbed steadily through late 2024, have since retreated under pressure from increased European supply, especially from Black Sea exporters. Despite a stronger ruble, average prices in September hovered around $229/t.

The International Grains Council (IGC) forecasts higher global wheat production and consumption this season, driving an expansion in world trade. Analysts warn that this dynamic will challenge Russian exporters as Europe regains market share, strengthening its position in key Middle Eastern and African markets.

Meanwhile, shipments from Australia, Argentina, and the US are also set to increase, though their influence remains less pronounced than Europe's surge in supply.

Federal state of emergency declared in Rostov region after severe weather losses

The Rostov region has been placed under a federal state of emergency following abnormal weather conditions that have devastated local agriculture. According to regional authorities, nearly 1 million hectares of crops have been affected this year, with 203,000 hectares completely lost.

A state of emergency was introduced in 43 districts due to frost and in 27 districts due to drought. Preliminary estimates from the Russian Ministry of Agriculture put the total damage at almost 4 billion rubles. Assessments continue in five additional districts where emergencies were declared in September, meaning the final figure could rise further.

Russian Grain Export Tax Announced for October 1–7, 2025

The Russian Ministry has set the grain export tax rates for the period of October 1–7, 2025 as follows:

Wheat: 617.7 rubles per ton (down from 655.6 rubles, a decrease of 37.9 rubles)

Barley: 0.0 rubles per ton (no change)

Corn: 716.9 rubles per ton (down from 743.1 rubles, a decrease of 26.2 rubles)

Commodity auctions: results for 29/09/2025

Purchase

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,000 ₽/t | 300 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean DV 39 (incl. VAT) | 29,500 ₽/t | 5,000 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 40 (incl. VAT) | 37,500 ₽/t | 100 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 39 (incl. VAT) | 37,000 ₽/t | 500 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 37 (incl. VAT) | 35,500 ₽/t | 300 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,000 ₽/t | 600 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,883 ₽/t | 279 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,925 ₽/t | 1,200 tons

European rapeseed oil: Prices fell

Fob Dutch mill rapeseed oil (RSO) values ended lower, pressured by weaker Euronext rapeseed futures, with only the November-December-January (NDJ) strip posting a modest gain.

The 5-40 days loading assessment dropped by €4/t to €1,099/t, reflecting October buying interest at €1,085-1,120/t and November at €1,075-1,081/t at Friday's close. NDJ inched up by €1/t to €1,066/t, the level at which it traded.

Further forward positions weakened: February-March-April (FMA) declined by €3/t to €1,041/t, while May-June-July (MJJ) slipped €4/t to €1,033.50/t, with bids closing at €1,032/t and offers at €1,035/t.

Despite firmer crude oil and a rebound in CBOT soybean oil (SBO) futures following the expiry of Argentina's export tax holiday, Paris-listed rapeseed futures extended losses, keeping pressure on RSO values.

In Canada, canola harvest progress in top producer Saskatchewan continued to lag. As of 22 September, harvesting stood at 42pc, down from 56pc a year earlier and below the five-year average. The province typically accounts for more than half of national output.

Black sea milling wheat prices steady amid slow farmer selling

Spot fob milling wheat values in the Black Sea region held largely steady on Friday, with muted trade activity driven by slow farmer selling, firmer freight rates and expectations of strong harvests in the southern hemisphere.

Offers for spot 12.5pc protein milling wheat cargoes loading at Constanta, Varna and Burgas (CVB) remained unchanged, while bids and offers for Russian 12.5pc protein wheat on a fob Novorossiysk basis also saw little movement. Market participants noted that potential disruptions to logistics at Russia's Black Sea ports could lend support to prices in the days ahead.

In Ukraine, Argus-assessed spot prices for 11.5pc protein milling wheat edged slightly lower on a fob Pivdennyi-Odesa-Chornomorsk (POC) basis. In the cpt POC market, buyer activity increased, though the top bids remained unchanged.

In Argentina, spot fob upriver wheat values may see some upward pressure after export taxes were reinstated on Wednesday, ending a brief holiday earlier in the week. Exporters registered 3.1mn t of wheat sales during the tax-free period, including 1.3mn t for November-December loading, according to the economy ministry. But prices could still face pressure as these volumes are expected to meet a large share of near-term demand. Southeast Asia's November-shipment needs for low-protein wheat are likely to be met largely by Argentinian supply, traders said.

Looking further ahead, Argentina's 2025-26 wheat crop is expected to achieve above-average yields, with 97pc rated in normal-to-excellent condition as of 24 September, the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange reported.

CVB 12.5pc rationale

The Argus-assessed 12.5pc protein milling wheat price at Constanta-Varna-Burgas (CVB) closed unchanged at $235/t fob on Friday. Sellers maintained offers at $238/t fob for spot-loading, standard specification volumes, while buyer interest remained limited. Market participants continued to view fair value at around $235/t.

China RSO shortage to lend brief lift to EU market

China could turn to European rapeseed oil (RSO) in the coming months amid an anticipated domestic shortage, but traders expect the impact on EU markets to be limited as the country is likely to meet most of its needs with cheaper soybean oil (SBO).

In the near term, potential Chinese buying interest could lend support to fob Dutch mill RSO values, with European supplies already tight through year-end. Strong biodiesel demand, underpinned by robust esterification margins, has absorbed much of the region's available RSO, and consumption is expected to remain firm during the northern hemisphere winter.

Additional supply pressure stems from Ukraine's introduction of rapeseed export duties in early September, which has curbed flows into the EU. Farmers within Europe have also held back sales in anticipation of higher prices, further constraining seed availability for crushers and limiting RSO output.

Still, market participants largely view any China-driven demand as short-lived. European RSO remains more expensive than alternative origins and competing vegetable oils, reducing the likelihood of substantial Chinese imports.

Earlier this month, China secured small volumes of crude RSO from Russia and the UAE for October-November and January delivery. But these shipments require refining and fall short of meeting overall demand, suggesting China will increasingly substitute with other oils in the months ahead.

More SBO to replace RSO

Chinese buyers are expected to favor soybean oil (SBO) over rapeseed oil (RSO) if supplies of the former remain ample, potentially offsetting a significant portion of RSO demand.

The recent suspension of Argentina's export taxes on agricultural products, including soybeans and their derivatives, spurred a surge in Chinese purchases. Over the short-lived tax holiday, which lasted less than 72 hours, China booked approximately 35 cargoes of Argentinian soybeans, primarily for near-curve shipments, according to market sources.

With South American soybeans set to arrive in China, SBO supplies are projected to increase toward the end of 2025 and into early 2026, reversing prior expectations of tightening availability and supporting the substitution of RSO demand.

China's RSO deficit

China is set to face a rapeseed oil (RSO) shortfall in the fourth quarter of 2025 amid disruptions to Canadian canola imports, which have historically supplied the bulk of the country's needs. Attempts to offset the gap with Australian seeds are unlikely to provide immediate relief, as the first new-crop shipments are expected only in early 2026, followed by time for unloading and processing.

Tighter domestic RSO stocks have pushed futures on the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange (ZCE) to their highest levels since the start of the year, driving traders to seek alternatives to local rapeseed oil.

China soybeans: Soy buying hits three-month high

China's soybean buying jumped to a three-month high last week, boosted by a temporary suspension of Argentinian export taxes, though activity is expected to ease during the country's week-long holidays from late September to early October.

Between 22–26 September, Chinese buyers booked more than 45 cargoes, the largest weekly volume since early July, with Argentinian shipments accounting for about 40 cargoes, including near-term and new-crop deliveries. The brief tax suspension, which reached Argentina's $7 billion limit within 72 hours, drove much of the surge.

Crushers also secured Brazilian beans for November delivery, despite higher premiums, to blend with Argentinian supplies and maintain protein levels in soybean meal while managing costs. November-loading Argentinian cargoes carried premiums of 220–245¢/bushel, compared with 290–295¢/bushel for Brazilian beans, and importers largely paused purchases after covering near-term needs ahead of the holidays.

Rain to slow north China grain harvest

Heavy rainfall is expected across China's key grain-producing regions this week, potentially slowing autumn grain harvests during the upcoming National Day holiday period.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), farmers in southwest China have harvested nearly 80% of their autumn grains—including corn, paddy, and soybeans—while the Yangtze River basin is about 20% complete. In northeast China and the North China Plain (NCP), which accounts for roughly 75% of the country's corn output, harvesting has just begun.

The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) forecasts moderate to heavy rain in Henan and Shandong provinces on 28–29 September, with a short pause on 30 September before rainfall resumes over the holiday period. Total precipitation is expected to reach 50–90 mm across most NCP regions and 100–200 mm in parts, potentially delaying harvests and adding costs for crop drying, while supporting corn prices.

The wet conditions will also boost soil moisture, benefiting upcoming winter wheat planting in the NCP. In northeast China, Liaoning province has completed about 10% of its paddy harvest, while corn harvesting is just starting. Heilongjiang, the country's largest autumn grain supplier, is expected to begin harvesting in early October.

Canada's canola exports forecast to fall in 2025-26

Canada's canola exports are projected to decline in the 2025-26 marketing year, even as domestic crushing is set to reach a record high, according to the latest outlook from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

The report forecasts Canada's canola crush to hit a record 11.8 million tonnes in 2025-26, up 3% from last year and 15% above the five-year average of 10.3 million tonnes, driven by rising domestic demand and the potential full operation of new crushing facilities.

Exports for the 2024-25 marketing year were revised down by 200,000 t to 9.3 million t, still a 40% increase year-on-year and representing around 41% of the country's supply. For 2025-26, exports are expected to fall further to 7 million t, assuming China's preliminary anti-dumping duty remains in effect.

Canada's canola production estimate for 2024-25 was slightly raised to 19.2 million t, while the 2025-26 forecast was lowered marginally to 20 million t.

Wheat exports revised up

Canada's wheat (excluding durum) export forecast for the current marketing year has been raised by 400,000 t to 23.4 million t, marking a 7% increase from 2023-24 and the highest level since 1991-92.

The outlook for 2025-26 was also revised upward by 900,000 t to 22 million t, with Indonesia emerging as the top export destination, accounting for 11% of shipments.

Canada's wheat production is forecast to grow 2% in 2024-25 to 29.6 million t, while the 2025-26 estimate rose to 30.1 million t, reflecting continued expansion in output.

Argentina wheat gains from weekend rain

Argentina's 2025-26 wheat crop has benefited from weekend rains on 21-22 September, leaving generally favorable soil conditions across most regions. However, some low-lying areas remain waterlogged, raising concerns about fungal infections.

According to the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (Bage), nearly 82% of planted areas had adequate-to-optimum soil moisture as of 24 September, down from around 89% the previous week despite recent rainfall. Crop conditions were rated normal to excellent in approximately 97% of the area, slightly lower than the prior week. Reports indicate an uptick in fungal infections, and waterlogged zones in Buenos Aires province are hindering the application of fertilizers and fungicides.

Nevertheless, optimism remains high among wheat producers. The Rosario Board of Commerce (BCR) described the crop as "the best looking in at least four years," with average yields expected between 5 and 6.5 metric tonnes per hectare. In some areas, yields could reach up to 8t/ha, significantly higher than last year's average of 3t/ha.

Corn planting progresses

Favorable soil moisture has supported progress in Argentina's corn planting, with the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (Bage) reporting that planting more than doubled over the past week, reaching 12.3% complete as of 24 September—around 1 million hectares, up from 700,000 ha at the same time last year.

However, heavy rains last week slowed planting in parts of Buenos Aires province, where some towns received up to 60mm of precipitation, the Rosario Board of Commerce (BCR) said. Growers warned that additional rainfall could further delay early corn sowing.

Some newly planted areas were also affected by hail over the weekend, causing localized crop damage. The abundant rainfall has raised concerns over potential fungal infections, particularly in waterlogged fields in Buenos Aires province, BCR added.

Sunflowers, barley

Sunflower planting for the 2025-26 season advanced 5.4 percentage points in the week ending 24 September, reaching 31% completion, the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (Bage) reported—nearly 13 points above the five-year average for this stage.

Bage noted that the crop remains in 100% normal-to-excellent condition. According to Argentina's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (SAGyP), weekend rains improved soil moisture in some areas of Buenos Aires province but left other fields waterlogged. SAGyP also reported that most of the country's barley crop is in good-to-very good condition.

USDA issues famer aid from ECAP funds

US farmers are now eligible for further financial support as the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) released an additional 14% of the $10 billion Economic Assistance Payment to Agricultural Producers (ECAP) fund established earlier this year.

Speaking at the Agriculture Outlook Forum on 25 September, US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins emphasized the department's commitment to "ensuring the future viability of American agriculture," noting that ECAP payments, combined with international food assistance purchases, help producers manage market volatility and reduce debt for the 2024 crop year.

The USDA said up to $1.4 billion will be distributed to farmers based on planted acres for the 2024-25 crop year. ECAP payments are calculated on a per-acre basis, with the first release—covering 85% of the calculated value—providing $36.47 per acre for corn, $25.03 for soybeans, and $26.09 for wheat. The second release adds 14% of the calculated value, equating to $6.01 per acre for corn, $4.17 for soybeans, and $4.30 for wheat.

This second release brings total ECAP disbursements to 99% of eligible funds. However, further support could be forthcoming, as former US President Donald Trump has proposed providing additional aid to farms from this year's tariff revenues, though details on legality and distribution remain unclear.

Feed grains: Market moves on from Argentina tax break

Corn markets in the US and Brazil ended the week subdued, following a period of intense focus on Argentina, while Mediterranean barley trade remained slow.

Argentina's economy ministry reported that over 2 million tonnes of corn were contracted at zero export duty in just three days, with shipments scheduled over the coming months and into July 2026. However, activity in Argentina's FOB market stalled on Friday, with forward sales largely on hold as traders await the outcome of mid-term elections next month.

Brazilian competitors have largely receded from the market, and US exporters also saw a slowdown after a record-breaking week of corn sales in the seven days to 18 September. Domestic challenges may also emerge in the US, where heavy rains have slowed harvest progress and reduced deliveries from the inland Corn Belt to Gulf ports.

Looking ahead, US farmers may shift planting from soybeans to corn, with crop insurance decisions due in February. Soybean trade has already slowed amid ongoing US-China trade tensions.

Elsewhere, Europe and the Black Sea could face pressure if record corn supplies from the Americas materialize, as harvest delays and aflatoxin concerns have already limited trade.

Barley activity in the Black Sea and EU markets remained muted. Offers for October-November shipments to Saudi Arabia drew little interest, though prior transactions supported French domestic prices. Exporters quoted bids roughly €2 per tonne below December futures for deliveries to the port of Rouen, with two French barley cargoes scheduled to load for Saudi Arabia in the coming days.

Brazil corn: Lower offers spark deal

A single cargo of Brazilian corn scheduled for shipment in late November changed hands this Friday in the Santos/Tubarão market, following a slight reduction in offers after a prolonged period of weak demand.

Sources indicate the deal was concluded at a premium of 110–111¢/bushel over the CBOT benchmark, with the buyer's destination undisclosed. Despite the transaction, overall interest in Brazilian corn remains subdued, as many buyers anticipate further price declines amid abundant supply. Brazil's 2024–25 winter corn crop reached record levels, while the U.S. is in the process of harvesting an all-time high 2025–26 crop.

Domestic demand continues to dominate the market, with purchases from Brazil's corn ethanol and animal feed sectors keeping pace with seasonal expectations. This strong internal absorption has limited the competitiveness of exports, effectively sidelining the international market while leaving domestic availability tight.

Price and Data

Description	*Unit*	*Price*	*Date*
CORN UKRAİNE CPT POC SPOT	USD/t	210,50↓	26.09.2025
WHEAT 11.5PC UKRAİNE FOB POC SPOT	USD/t	227↓	26.09.2025
WHEAT 12.5PC RUSSİA FOB NOVOROSSİYSK SPOT	USD/t	230,50-	26.09.2025
SOYBEAN OİL ARGENTİNA WATERBORNE FOB UPRİVER USD/T MONTH 1 – HOUSTON CLOSE	USD/t	1.056,895↑	26.09.2025
RAPESEED OİL FOB DUTCH MİLL RSO - LONDON CLOSE	USD/t	1.066↑	26.09.2025
SUNFLOWER OİL FOB NORTHWEST EUROPE 6 PORTS SPOT - LONDON CLOSE	USD/t	1.295↓	26.09.2025

↓ Price dropped in comparison to last report.

↑Price raised in comparison to last report.

-Price has not changed.

References:

www.direct.argusmedia.com

www.donland.ru

Rus Grain Union Telegram Channel

Analytica KSM-agro telegram Channel

Agroexport Telegram Channel

Namex Telegram Channel

Official Channel of the Ministry of Agriculture

Picture from www.ukragroconsult.com