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Russia’s Record Oilseed Output and Shifting Grain Exports Mark a Transformative Week in Global Agriculture

Grains Sector

Russia’s 2025 grain harvest forecast remains unchanged at 135 million tons, with 130 million tons already gathered—representing 90% of the harvested area.

Agriculture Minister Dmitry Patrushev announced a reduction in Russian grain exports amid persistently low global prices.

The Grain Union attributed the low yields in southern regions to violations of sowing technology. Despite the weaker harvest, wheat prices in the South are expected to decline further. Meanwhile, wheat exports from the Krasnodar region dropped 1.5 times year-on-year in the first eight months of 2025.

Stavropol currently leads Russia’s harvest volumes, largely due to the effective use of artificial rainfall technologies.

Oilseeds Sector

Russia achieved a record oilseed harvest, exceeding 19.5 million tons of sunflower and higher output of soybeans. However, sunflower yields declined 12% year-on-year. As of early October 2025, the soybean harvest continues to advance steadily.

Siberia recorded sharp growth in oilseed exports, with sunflower shipments up 46% and soybeans up 43% since January.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also approved a potential increase in the 2026 grain export quota. The State Variety Commission reported an expansion in sunflower variety testing, while the Oil and Fat Union expects an increase in export duties on flax.

Fertilizer Market

PhosAgro anticipates that high phosphate fertilizer prices will persist through 2026. The Agriculture Ministry emphasized the need to maintain regulatory oversight in the fertilizer market to protect domestic agriculture.

Regulatory Developments

The Ministry of Agriculture has released updated official export duty rates. The State Duma will soon review several agricultural support bills, according to Vladimir Plotnikov.
The Cabinet has introduced a 10% export duty on oil flax seeds, while Leonid Slutsky proposed fuel cost compensation for farmers.

Authorities lifted the state of emergency in Omsk region following excessive soil moisture. A new digital land selection service for agricultural use is set to launch soon, and work on establishing a BRICS grain exchange will begin later this year. The Ministry of Agriculture also pledged a 30% reduction in insurance tariffs for agricultural producers.

Agricultural Challenges

Winter crop sowing has fallen slightly behind schedule due to unfavorable weather, according to Deputy Minister Lut.

Additionally, mouse-like rodent infestations threaten sowing progress in Stavropol.

Global Trade and Markets

The United States will impose 100% tariffs on selected Chinese goods starting November 1. China has tripled its imports of Russian corn in both volume and value since the beginning of 2025. Turkey's import demand for sunflower oil is projected to rise nearly 25% in the 2025/26 season. Kazakhstan expects an 89% surge in rapeseed output, reaching record export levels. Saudi Arabia secured nearly 0.5 million tons of wheat through a new tender, while Indonesia's dependence on Russian wheat continues to deepen.

In South America, Brazil is on track to achieve record soybean exports, benefiting from the U.S. market withdrawal.

Russia's November Sunflower Oil Export Duty Expected to Fall to 7,623 RUB/t — OleoScope

Analysts from OleoScope have released preliminary estimates for November's export duties on sunflower oil and meal.

According to data from the Moscow Commodity Exchange, the indicative price for sunflower oil used in the November calculation stands at $1,140.3 per ton, or 93,390 rubles per ton based on the current exchange rate of ₽81.9 per dollar. This implies a preliminary export duty of 7,623 rubles per ton, which is 424 rubles lower than the October rate.

OleoScope notes that if the dollar fluctuates between ₽81–83, the duty could range from 6,905 to 8,501 rubles per ton, with each one-ruble change in the exchange rate adjusting the duty by approximately 798 rubles.

For reference, the Russian Ministry of Agriculture set the official export duty for October at 8,047.3 rubles per ton, based on an indicative price of $1,126.7 (₽93,996 per ton).

As for sunflower meal, the indicative price for November is calculated at $215.6, or 17,658 rubles per ton, resulting in a provisional export duty of 1,248 rubles per ton—a 160-ruble decrease from October.

Within the same currency range of ₽81–83 per dollar, the duty on meal could vary between 1,112 and 1,414 rubles per ton, with each ruble shift in the exchange rate altering the rate by approximately 151 rubles.

Currently, the October duty on meal stands at 1,408 rubles per ton, calculated from an indicative price of $214.4 (₽17,887 per ton).

Feed grains: Logistics woes support Ukraine corn

Corn deliveries from Ukraine to the country's Black Sea ports face further delays following damage to key railway infrastructure, a development that could lend additional support to domestic and export prices. The disruption compounds an already slow harvest pace this season.

The most affected areas include Ukraine's top corn-producing northern regions — Chernihiv and Sumy — which together account for over 20% of national corn output, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The transport bottlenecks are making it difficult to move harvested volumes south to port terminals, potentially delaying deliveries of already-sold grain. Traders at ports may respond by raising bids to secure replacement volumes.

Global buyers continue to show firm demand for Brazilian corn, particularly for North African destinations, while interest from China's feed sector may strengthen due to quality concerns in the domestic crop following recent wet weather.

Within Brazil, limited domestic demand could prompt higher export availability, as local sellers look to overseas markets to absorb the surplus.

In the global barley market, Australia is expected to emerge as a key competitor in the coming months, with its 2025–26 bumper harvest set to begin shipments around December. Market participants note that barley and canola may take priority in port loadings, potentially reducing export capacity for wheat.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian barley sellers in the Black Sea region raised their fob offers by $1–2/t from the previous session, reflecting firming sentiment amid the regional logistics challenges.

Ukraine grain exports rise on week, lag on year

Ukraine's exports of wheat, barley, and corn increased in the week to 13 October, though they continue to lag behind year-earlier volumes, according to customs data.

The country shipped 384,000 tons of wheat in the latest week, up from 363,000 tons a week earlier, bringing total wheat exports for the 2025-26 marketing year (from 1 July) to 5.18 million tons, below 6.62 million tons at the same point last year.

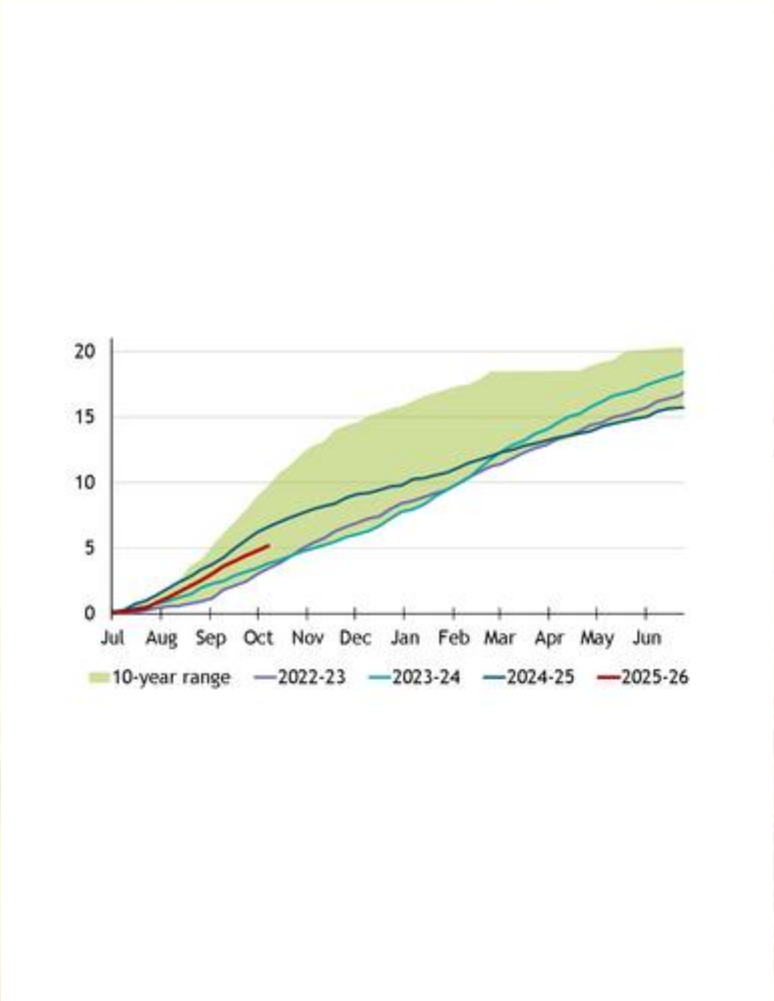
Barley exports rose slightly to 72,000 tons, compared with 68,000 tons the previous week. Total barley shipments since 1 June reached 939,000 tons, down from 1.45 million tons a year earlier.

Corn exports reached 93,000 tons in the reporting week, bringing cumulative shipments since the start of the 2025-26 season on 1 October to 125,000 tons, the lowest level for this period since

2021-22. The decline is linked to harvest delays, with Ukrainian farmers having harvested only 3.5 million tons of corn from 638,000 hectares by 9 October, compared with 10.6 million tons from 1.96 million hectares a year earlier.

The slower corn harvest is expected to significantly limit exports in October, keeping shipments well below last year's pace.

Ukraine's cumulative wheat exports mn t



Mongolia Temporarily Lifts Import Duties on Russian Flour and Feed Amid Rising Prices

Mongolia will temporarily remove import duties on wheat flour, animal feed, and feed additives entering through its western border checkpoints with Russia and China, the government's press service announced. The measure will be in effect from October 16, 2025, to April 10, 2026.

The decision aims to stabilize prices in western provinces that have faced sharp increases in flour and feed costs due to drought-related crop losses and potentially harsh winter conditions. Many of these regions are located far from the capital, Ulaanbaatar, where logistics challenges have compounded supply issues.

Duty-free imports will be allowed through the Tsagaannuur, Borshoo, and Arts-Suur checkpoints on Mongolia's western frontier.

According to government data, the majority of goods imported from Russia pass through this corridor — roughly 60% are fuel products, 25% are food and other consumer goods, and the remaining 15% consist of animal feed.

Officials said the temporary suspension of duties is expected to ease supply constraints and improve access to essential commodities during the upcoming winter period.

European rapeseed oil: Prices flat

Fob Dutch mill rapeseed oil (RSO) prices ended the week largely unchanged after a midweek rally, with trading activity slowing toward Friday.

The November–December–January (NDJ) contract held steady at €1,080/t, with closing bids at €1,075/t and offers at €1,085/t. The 5–40 days loading assessment mirrored this, remaining at €1,097.50/t. The spot market remained illiquid, with a wide bid-offer spread limiting transactions. Market interest was seen for October at €1,110–1,160/t and for November at €1,090–1,140/t.

Forward contracts for February–March–April (FMA) and May–June–July (MJJ) were also flat at €1,070/t and €1,051/t, respectively. Closing bids and offers for FMA were €1,068/t and €1,072/t, while MJJ closed at €1,046/t–€1,056/t.

Prices came under pressure from weaker Euronext rapeseed futures and declining soybean oil futures, partly due to concerns over a potential escalation in the US-China trade dispute. However, news that German authorities will remove double-counting for advanced biofuels next year provided some support by narrowing the competitive edge of waste biofuels.

In Canada, the canola harvest progressed in major producing provinces. In Saskatchewan, harvest advanced by 18 percentage points in the week to 6 October, reaching 89% complete, though still below last year's 94% by the same period. Alberta reported harvest ahead of last year, with 77% of crops cut as of 29 September, almost 6 percentage points higher than the previous year. Saskatchewan and Alberta together account for more than half of Canada's canola output.

Malaysian palm oil stocks near 2-year high in September

Malaysia's palm oil stocks climbed for a seventh consecutive month in September, reaching the highest level in nearly two years, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB).

Stocks rose 7.2% month-on-month, totaling 2.36 million tons by the end of September. Market participants closely monitor Malaysian stock data, which is generally considered more reliable than

Indonesia’s, to gauge global supply and demand trends. Malaysia is the world’s second-largest palm oil producer after Indonesia.

Crude palm oil (CPO) production edged slightly lower to 1.84 million tons in September from 1.85 million tons in August. Palm kernel oil (PKO) production also declined, with overall PKO output falling to 432,000 tons from 443,000 tons, and crude PKO production down to 197,000 tons from 209,000 tons month-on-month.

Meanwhile, exports showed solid growth. Malaysia shipped 1.43 million tons of CPO in September, up 7.7% from August’s 1.33 million tons. PKO exports rose 6.5% to 117,000 tons, while biodiesel exports jumped 13% to 35,000 tons. Oleochemical exports increased modestly, up 1.6% to 235,000 tons.

The data signals a robust export demand despite slightly weaker domestic production, supporting Malaysia’s role as a key player in the global palm oil market.

China soybeans: Imports continue to rise

China’s soybean arrivals continued to rise in September, supported by robust demand and ongoing shipments from South American suppliers, preliminary customs data show.

The country received 12.87 million tons of soybeans last month, exceeding both last year’s level and the five-year average for the fifth consecutive month. Total imports from January to September reached 86.19 million tons, marking the highest recorded volume for this period.

Typically, China’s imports slow after September as the Brazilian export season—its largest soybean supplier—ends in July and shipping times create a natural downtrend. However, this year, China has maintained strong purchasing from South America due to the absence of US soybeans and higher Brazilian output, suggesting imports may remain robust through October and possibly November, according to Kpler.

Meanwhile, on 10 October, Beijing announced port fees for US-owned or operated vessels calling at Chinese ports in retaliation to similar US measures. This could increase costs for US-origin soybeans and Brazilian shipments transported on US-owned vessels. Market liquidity remained limited, with premiums along the delivery curve largely flat as traders assessed the impact of these new measures.

China completes over 50pc of autumn grain harvest

China has harvested more than half of its autumn grain crops as of 10 October, but rainy conditions in the North China Plain (NCP) have slowed overall progress, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

By 10 October, around 50% of corn acreage and 55% of soybean fields had been harvested. Harvesting advanced nearly 10 percentage points over the previous two days.

Persistent humid weather in major producing regions—including Henan, Shandong, and Hebei—has hampered field operations. Between 5–11 October, these provinces experienced 3–6 rainy days, leaving 53.9–76.5% of arable land over-saturated, according to the National Meteorological Centre (NMC).

As a result, the harvest in Henan and Shandong stood at only 70% and 50% complete, respectively, well below the 90–95% average for this period in previous years.

The NMC forecasts a short pause in rain on 13–14 October, which may allow farmers to catch up. However, scattered showers are expected to return after 15 October, likely creating further challenges for both harvesting and winter wheat sowing, and posing potential quality risks for already-threshed autumn grain.

Weaker freight pressures US Gulf corn prices

The fob US Gulf corn basis eased during the week, pressured by falling Mississippi River barge freight rates.

After peaking at $0.96/bu over CBOT December corn futures on 6 October, the basis declined to $0.91/bu on 8 October and remained at that level through Thursday and Friday. Market participants cited ample barge capacity and a slower harvest pace as key factors behind the softening.

Freight rates along the Mississippi River fell throughout the week, with St. Louis barge rates for November, December, and January shipments dropping by as much as 25%.

USDA data show that as of 29 September, both corn and soybean harvests were one percentage point behind the five-year average. Dry weather since then may have allowed farmers to make up some ground, though updated crop progress figures for the week ending 6 October were unavailable due to the partial US government shutdown.

Soybeans, CBOT slide

The fob US Gulf soybean basis strengthened notably in the latter half of the week for November-loading cargoes, while December and January bases fluctuated but remained roughly steady from 3 October.

A proposed farmer bailout plan intended to assist soybean growers affected by the US-China trade war was not formally announced during the week, despite earlier indications from the administration. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had previously suggested the plan would be unveiled on 7 October.

Meanwhile, corn, soybean, and wheat prices at the US Gulf fell sharply on Friday following CBOT losses. A social media post by President Trump, casting doubt on a planned meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, triggered significant futures declines. The November and January soybean contracts fell by 1.49% and 1.42%, respectively, compared with the previous day.

BR agriculture: Rainfall guides soybean planting

Rain Supports Brazil's 2025-26 Soybean Sowing, but High Costs Weigh on Producers

Regular rainfall is aiding the 2025-26 soybean planting season in Brazil, yet farmers remain concerned about rising production costs, according to national supply company Conab.

By 4 October, 8.2% of the expected national soybean area had been planted, up nearly 5 percentage points from the previous week, as planting expanded to more states. The total area for the cycle is projected at 49 million hectares (490,000 km²).

Parana state is leading in field activities, with 31% of its 5.8 million hectares planted as of 6 October, according to the state's rural economy department Deral. Areas receiving consistent rainfall have seen crops emerge with strong vegetative vigor. However, weekly progress slowed to 5 percentage points from 13 percentage points between 29 September and 6 October, leaving total progress below the 33% sown at the same point in 2024—the first lag since planting began on 8 September.

Uneven rainfall in parts of Parana is delaying germination, while excessive moisture in other areas is hindering machinery movement and sowing. High input costs are also influencing farmers' decisions, leading some to shift acreage to sugarcane and cassava, which are expected to expand by 1% and 5%, respectively, this season.

In Mato Grosso, Brazil's largest soybean producer, planting is ahead of the five-year average, with 15% of the 13 million hectares sown by 3 October, compared with a 6.1% average. An early rainy season has provided ideal conditions in many areas, though dry pockets and high temperatures remain a concern. Rising costs—up nearly 5.5% from last year—combined with low soybean futures prices, high interest rates, and slow sales, are putting pressure on producer profitability.

In southern states like Rio Grande do Sul, sowing is currently limited to irrigated areas, with excessive rainfall delaying field work in the region projected to be the country's second-largest soybean producer this season.

Price and Data

Description	*Unit*	*Price*	*Date*
CORN UKRAİNE CPT POC SPOT	USD/t	204,50↑	10.10.2025
WHEAT 11.5PC UKRAİNE FOB POC SPOT	USD/t	228↓	10.10.2025
WHEAT 12.5PC RUSSİA FOB NOVOROSSİYSK SPOT	USD/t	231↓	10.10.2025
SOYBEAN OİL ARGENTİNA WATERBORNE FOB UPRİVER USD/T MONTH 1 – HOUSTON CLOSE	USD/t	1.081,81↓	10.10.2025
RAPESEED OİL FOB DUTCH MİLL RSO - LONDON CLOSE	USD/t	1.080-	10.10.2025
SUNFLOWER OİL FOB NORTHWEST ***EUROPE 6 PORTS SPOT - LONDON CLOSE***	USD/t	1.340↓	10.10.2025

↓ Price dropped in comparison to last report.

↑Price raised in comparison to last report.

-Price has not changed.

References:

www.direct.argusmedia.com

www.ksm-agro.com

Agro expert Telegram Channel

World Trading Telegram Channel

The Export Center Telegram Channel

Rus Grain Union Telegram Channel

Picture from www. cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu