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Voluntary Public

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Russia Restricts Imports of US Corn and Soybeans

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

Oilseeds and Products

Trade Policy Monitoring

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On February 11, 2016, the Russian Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) officially notified that: starting February 15, 2016, VPSS will impose temporarily restrictions on corn and soybeans originating from the United States of America to the Russian Federation as a result of violations of international and Russian phytosanitary requirements.

Post provides an unofficial translation of the announcement.

General Information:

Summary

On February 11, 2016, the Russian Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) officially notified that: starting February 15, 2016, VPSS will impose temporarily restrictions on corn and soybeans originating from the United States of America to the Russian Federation as a result of violations of international and Russian phytosanitary requirements.

Post provides an unofficial translation of the announcement.

An unofficial English translation of the announcement can be found below.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS), per the results of phone negotiations with the United States conducted on February 9, 2016 regarding violations of international and Russian phytosanitary requirements in shipments of corn and soybeans to the territory of the Russian Federation, informs that, unfortunately, the U.S. side did not undertake effective measures for preventing delivery of mentioned quarantined products contaminated with quarantine pests to the territory of the Russian Federation.

In this situation, VPSS is forced to impose temporary restrictions on the import, including transit through third countries, of corn and soybeans originating from the United States of America to the Russian Federation, starting February 15, 2016, taking into account the lack of appropriate system of phytosanitary control of corn and soybeans in the U.S. with regard to shipments intended for Russia, in order to protect the territory of the Russian Federation from the entry of quarantine pests, which are absent in Russia, in compliance with the International Plant Protection Convention and the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

TRADE IMPLICATIONS

Untouched by Russia's food import embargo, soybeans were the number one U.S. agricultural export to Russia in 2015, reaching nearly \$190 million, the highest export level since 1970. The growth of U.S. soy exports has been largely attributable to Russia's efforts to grow its modern poultry and livestock industries. The United States is currently ranked Russia's third supplier, after Paraguay and Brazil. Russia will allow shipments that have been loaded to enter Russia, subject to increased inspection. U.S. soybean exports to Russia typically occur from October to February of the marketing year.

U.S. popcorn exports to Russia were valued at nearly \$6 million in 2014 and have dropped

approximately 30% in 2015.