

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 11/19/2014

GAIN Report Number: RS1486

Russian Federation

Post: Moscow

Russian Agricultural Policy and Situation Bi-Weekly Update 21

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture in the News

Approved By:

Robin Gray

Prepared By:

Staff

Report Highlights:

Valentin Valenik Appointed Head of the Federal Forestry Service . . . Russian Winter Grains Sown . . .
Russia Plans to Import Fish from Iran and South African Republic . . . Reallocation of 2014 Federal
Agricultural Subsidies . . . VPSS Clarified its Temporary Phytosanitary Bans . . . Russia Acceded to the
International Fund for Agricultural Development . . . Russia's 2014 Grain Exports Surpass 2013
Exports . . . VPSS Ban on Georgian Dry Fruit and Herb Imports Lifted . . . Russian Imports of
Agricultural and Food Products Up . . . Aquaculture Centers to Stimulate Aquaculture Development . .
. Russia Reviews Policy on Marine Catch . . . Russian Law on Determination of Fish Breeding Sites . . .
Observer Status for Peru in the Eurasian Economic Union Discussed . . . Kyrgyzstan to Complete
Internal Procedures on CU/SES Accession by Year-End

General Information:

Welcome to the Russian Agricultural Policy and Situation Bi-Weekly Update, a summary of issues of interest to the U. S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within Russia, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included and summarized in this report. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office. Minor grammatical changes have been made for clarification.

DISCLAIMER: Any press summary contained herein does NOT reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. government agency's point of view or official policy.

Valentin Valenik Appointed Head of the Federal Forestry Service: On October 27, 2014, Chairman of the Russian Government, Dmitriy Medvedev, signed a resolution nominating Valentin Valentik as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, (Federal Forestry Agency). Prior to this appointment, Mr. Valentik was the Head of the Department of State Policy and Regulation of Forestry Resources at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology. Between 2011- February 2014, Valentin Valentik served as the Head of the Office of State Forestry Control and Forest Fire Surveillance, where hee oversaw implementation of forestry policy in the regions of the Russian Federation. <http://www.rosleshoz.gov.ru/media/news/2137>, <http://government.ru/docs/15416/>

Russian Winter Grains Sown: As of November 6, 2014, Russian farmers planted 16.43 million hectares with winter grains. Plantings cover 99.6 percent of planned area and 1.89 million hectares more than on the same date last year. The total planned winter grain area this year is 16.5 million hectares, 0.5 million hectares more than sown in winter grains in fall 2013. <http://www.mcx.ru/news/news/show/30984.355.htm>

Russia Plans to Import Fish from Iran and South African Republic: The Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) approved more than 20 Iranian enterprises to supply fish to Russia. It is expected that imports from Iran will consist primarily of products of aquaculture. VPSS inspectors also checked fish enterprises in the South African Republic and, according to S. Dankvert, the Head of VPSS, South Africa may soon begin exporting fish to Russia. <http://www.agronews.ru/news/detail/137277/>, <http://www.mcx.ru/news/news/show/30842.355.htm>.

Reallocation of 2014 Federal Agricultural Subsidies: The Government of Russia recently reallocated 2014 federal agricultural subsidies to increase support to economically important regional crop production programs. GOR Order No. 2153-p of October 29, 2014 approved the Ministry of Agriculture's scheme for support of crop production between provinces. The funds are reallocated from the sub-program "Implementation of the State Program" to support of regional economically important programs in the sphere of plant production. <http://www.mcx.ru/news/news/show/30840.355.htm>

VPSS Clarified its Temporary Phytosanitary Bans: VPSS banned imports of potato and planting materials from the EU beginning July 1, 2013; imports of fruits and vegetables from Poland beginning

August 1, 2014; imports of fruits from Moldova beginning July 21, 2014; and imports of various plant products from Ukraine, including table potato, soybean, sunflower seeds, corn flakes and soybean meal. Temporary restrictions on imports of plant products from Ukraine were introduced gradually beginning June 16, 2014 through October 22, 2014 when VPSS banned imports of all plant products of high phytosanitary risk from Ukraine. <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/actual-fito-restrictions.html>

Russia Acceded to the International Fund for Agricultural Development: Russian President Vladimir Putin signed Federal Law No. 323-FZ of November 4, 2014, on Russia's accession to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, (IFAD). IFAD was created in Rome on June 3, 1976, and is a major international institution which finances projects designed to combat poverty in countries facing food shortages. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/46929>

Russia's 2014 Grain Exports Surpass 2013 Exports: According to Russia's preliminary Customs data, from July through October 2014, Russia exported nearly 15 million metric tons (MMT) of grain, including 12.14 MMT of wheat, 1.83 MMT of barley, 0.56 MMT of corn, and almost 0.12 MMT of other grains and pulses. Exports are 31 percent higher than in the same period last year. <http://www.agronews.ru/news/detail/137371/>

VPSS Ban on Georgian Dry Fruit and Herb Imports Lifted: At the request of Russian importers, and based on phytosanitary guarantees provided by the Georgian Phytosanitary Service, VPSS lifted its ban on imports from Georgia of dry fruit (HS number 0813) and herbs (HS number 1211) to Russia beginning November 10, 2014. <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/print/news/11569.html>

Russian Imports of Agricultural and Food Products Up: The Russian Federal Customs Service (RFCS) reported that imports of food products and raw material increased 14.1 percent month-on-month in October, reaching \$2,886 billion. The agency states that imports of vegetables increased by 85.6 percent, grains by 54 percent, dairy products by 44.7 percent, fish by 36.7 percent, vegetable oil by 34.4 percent, fruit by 17.5 percent; meat and products by 11.4 percent, and alcohol and non-alcohol beverages by 9.3 percent. <http://www.agronews.ru/news/detail/137459/>

Aquaculture Centers to Stimulate Aquaculture Development: The Head of the Russian Fishery Agency (Rosrybolovstvo), Ilya Shestakov, stated that newly developed aquaculture centers could implement scientific and consultative support for businesses and projects in developing aquaculture. According to Shestakov, "in the past, businesses did not have any scientific and consultative support from the research institutions; however, this is what businesses need now." <http://ria.ru/economy/20141106/1031984196.html>

Russia Reviews Policy on Marine Catch: The Russian Ministry of Agriculture, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Igor Manylov, held a working group meeting to review veterinary control practices with respect to catch of marine biological resources and their products. The participants discussed the need to establish a clear, legal definition of "safe areas of fisheries in relation to animal health." Additionally, they discussed the need to establish a legal basis for the issuance of accompanying veterinary documents for aquatic biological resources, based on the results of monitoring catch areas without additional laboratory tests. To this end, the meeting participants prepared amendments to the legislation of the Russian Federation in the field of veterinary medicine, particularly the implementation of regulatory veterinary control in respect to catch of marine

biological resources, and their products. The amendment establishes veterinary control on the basis of the principles stated in the Animal Health Code; aquatic animal health, including establishment mechanisms for safety monitoring; the use of risk profiles for mandatory laboratory testing of catch of live aquatic resources and their products; and the introduction of a closed list for such research.

<http://mcx.ru/news/news/show/31237.355.htm>

Russian Law on Determination of Fish Breeding Sites: On November 11th 2014, the government of the Russian Federation approved Resolution #1183, stating the rules for delimitations of water objects and (or) its parts, parts of continental shelf of the Russian Federation, and areas in an exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, accepted as fish-breeding areas. Delimitation of fish-breeding areas is implemented by the Federal Fishery Agency, territorial offices of the Federal Fishery Agency and bodies of executive authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation. When determining boundaries of fish breeding areas, the government bodies take into account suggestions from individuals, public organizations, legal entities, farms and entrepreneurs, municipal organizations, as well as conclusions of scientific organizations. The government bodies publish information on the boundaries of fish breeding areas on their official web-sites. http://government.ru/dep_news/15650/

Observer Status for Peru in the Eurasian Economic Union Discussed: The Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) reported that Chairman of the EEC Collegium, Viktor Khristenko, and the President of Peru, Ollanta Humala, discussed the potential for the Republic of Peru to obtain observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Opportunities for trade and economic cooperation were also discussed at the meeting, and the parties agreed to start preparations for signing a memorandum of understanding between the EEU and the Government of the Republic of Peru.

https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=y&prev=_t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eurasiancommission.org%2Fru%2Fnae%2Fnews%2FPages%2F07-11-2014-3.aspx&edit-text=, http://eng.belta.by/all_news/politics/Peru-to-get-observer-status-in-EEU_i_77141.html

Kyrgyzstan to Complete Internal Procedures on CU/SES Accession by Year-End: According to AKIpress news agency, the Kyrgyz government expects to complete internal procedures and to submit a draft agreement on Kyrgyzstan's accession to the Customs Union and Single Economic Space for consideration of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council by late December this year.

<http://www.akipress.com/news:551396>