

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

Federal Law on Amendments to the Land Code of the Russian Federation - By the End of June 2014,
Russian Farmers Bought Back 50 Percent of Wheat Sold to the Grain Intervention Fund in Fall 2013 -
EU Asks WTO to Rule on Russian Pork Import Restrictions - Armenia Not Yet Ready for Eurasian
Economic Union Accession - Kyrgyzstan Begins Talks with WTO Members on its EEU Accession

General Information:

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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.

Federal Law on Amendments to the Land Code of the Russian Federation

On June 24, 2014, Vladimir Putin signed a Federal Law No. 171-FZ "On Amendments to the Land Code of the Russian Federation and some legislative acts of the Russian Federation". The amendments concern mechanisms of transfer of land property rights, and re-distribution of lands in the state and municipal ownership. The amendments do not directly concern agricultural lands, but may increase the possibility of giving land plots to households in areas with abundant lands under state or municipal ownership. Analysts envisage that re-distribution of small plots of land in dacha cooperatives may also become easier. Agricultural production in households, and even dachas, still play a significant role in production of potato, vegetables, and even some animal products.

<http://kremlin.ru/acts/46038>; <http://agronews.ru/news/detail/134042/>

By the end of June 2014, Russian Farmers Bought Back 50 Percent of Wheat Sold to the Grain Intervention Fund in Fall 2013

In 2014, Russian farmers used the opportunity to buy 2013 grain back from the state Intervention Fund. By end of June 2014, they purchased back 229,000 metric tons of grain, almost half of the 536,000 metric tons that they sold to the Intervention Fund in the fall 2013. The current market price of grain is 1,500 - 1,800 rubles higher than the price that farmers sold their grain in the fall 2013 to the Intervention Fund, minus the cost of storage, insurance and taxes. <http://agronews.ru/news/detail/134082/>

EU Asks WTO to Rule on Russian Pork Import Restrictions

The European Commission (EC) reported that the EU had requested the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva to rule over a dispute concerning the Russian ban on imports of pigs and their genetic material, fresh pork and certain other pig products from the EU. According to the EC, at the EU's request, and as part of the initial stages of the dispute, consultations were held on April 30 and May 1, 2014 between Russia and the EU. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-755_en.htm

Armenia Not Yet Ready for Eurasian Economic Union Accession

According to Asbarez.com, Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian appeared to have acknowledged a delay in Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan when asked about the bloc's anticipated failure to draft an accession treaty with Armenia by July 1. The deadline was set by the Presidents of the three EEU member states at a summit held in the Kazakh capital of Astana on May 29th. <http://asbarez.com/124502/yerevan->

[admits-problems-in-eurasian-union-admission/](#)

Kyrgyzstan Begins Talks with WTO Members on its EEU Accession

News agency 24.kg cited Kyrgyz Deputy Minister of Economy Danil Ibrayev as saying that Kyrgyzstan was launching negotiations with the WTO member on its accession to the EEU. According to Danil Ibrayev, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy has approved a working group which will separately negotiate with WTO members.

<http://www.eng.24.kg/community/171093-news24.html>