



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 8/26/2004

GAIN Report Number: EZ4020

Czech Republic

Grain and Feed

Crop Situation Update

2004

Approved by:

Sarah Hanson
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Petra Choteborska

Report Highlights:

The Czech Ministry of Agriculture forecasts this year's grain production to be slightly above average at around 8 million MT (this compares to last year's below-average production of 5.7 million MT). Yields will be above average. Grain and oilseed quality will be good except for low protein content. Due to cold weather in the spring, corn planting was delayed. Although yield is expected to be good, harvested area will be somewhat smaller than planted area, and corn will be imported from Hungary. Most Czech grains will be sold at EU intervention prices in the fall.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Vienna [AU1]
[EZ]

The Czech Ministry of Agriculture forecasts this year's grain harvest to be slightly above average at around 8 million MT (this compares to last year's below-average production of 5.7 million MT). Yields are expected to be above average.

Crop area, yield, production and harvest (as of August 9, 2004)

Crop	Area in hectares	% harvested by August 9	Yield	Average yield 1999 – 20003	Estimated Production in 1,000 MT
Wheat winter	801,719	30%	5.72	4.57	4,586
Wheat spring	61,440	3%	4.38	3.38	269
Barley winter	115,605	96%	5.19	3.82	600
Barley spring	353,391	34%	5.29	3.66	1,870
Rye	59,209	12%	4.29	3.60	254
Oats	58,570	2%	3.6	2.93	211
Triticale	62,776	--	4.64	3.81	291
Corn	85,000	--	7.05	--	600
Grain total	1,519,428	32%	5.37	--	8,159
Rapeseed	259,460	60%	3.5	2.39	908

Source: Agrarian Chamber

Grains

The production share of winter wheat will return to its usual 50% after dropping in 2003 to about 35% due to a wet fall in 2002. The quality of grains is expected to be good except for low protein content.

Due to cold weather in the spring, corn planting was delayed. Although yield is expected to be good, harvested area will be somewhat smaller than planted area. Corn will also be imported from Hungary.

The majority of grains produced in the Czech Republic will be sold at EU intervention prices in the fall.

Rapeseed

Rapeseed production will be more than double compared to last year due to both increased area and better yield. This year's yield may reach 3.5 MT/ha (although the Ministry of Agriculture is less optimistic than the Agrarian Chamber and estimates 2.84 MT/ha). This compared to last year's yield at 1.55 MT/ha. Soil fertility contributed to the strong yield this year. The quality of rapeseed is expected to be good except for lower protein content.

At present, there is no program supporting production of methyl-ester from rapeseed for use in bio fuel. However, according to the EU's Biofuel regulation in 2005, 5% of methyl-ester will have to be added to mineral oils for gas production. This measure will support increased production of rapeseed.

EU Accession

According to Ministry of Agriculture officials, the EU accession will not have a big impact on crop structure. Farmers will base their planting decisions on the market situation and world prices. In the long-term, an increase in grains and rapeseed production and a drop in potato and sugar beet production can be expected.