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Austria

Agricultural Situation

What's New in Central Europe

2006

Approved by:

Sarah Hanson
U.S Embassy

Prepared by:

Jana Mikulosava

Report Highlights:

This newsletter provides an update on upcoming market promotions and an overview of recent market trends and trade policy issues for the countries of Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Slovakia. Avian influenza was found in wild fowl in all countries in our region since last fall. In Austria, the H5N1 virus was also found in cats. On April 4-6, 2006, the European Commission and the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture as part of its EU Presidency hosted a conference on coexistence. On April 18-19, the Austrian EU Presidency hosted an experts meeting on the precautionary principle. The Czech Republic lowered its coexistence distances and Bt corn plantings will expand. The Slovak Government approved a new Coexistence Act, and Slovak farmers will also start growing corn MON810 commercially.

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



WHAT'S NEW IN CENTRAL EUROPE

AGRICULTURE – POLICY – TRADE

Newsletter covers:

? Austria ? Bosnia –Herzegovina ? Czech Republic ? Croatia ? Hungary ? Slovakia

"YOU DO THE BUSINESS, WE KEEP YOU INFORMED"

NEWS

Avian Influenza

Avian influenza was found in wild fowl in all countries in our region since last fall. In Austria, the H5N1 virus was also found in cats. For more information on the AI cases in individual countries, see the following GAINS reports:

- AU6005 1st Case of AI, AU6006 H5N1 Found in Three Cats in Styria, AU6007 Avian Flu Update
- BK6001 1st Case of Avian Flu
- EZ6002 1st Case of AI in Dead Swan in Czech Republic, EZ6003 2nd Case of H5 Avian Influenza in a Dead Swan, EZ6004 AI 3rd Case, EZ6006 7th AI Case
- HR6002 2nd AI Case Croatia, HR6003 3rd Case AI
- HU6001 1st Case of Avian Flu in Hungary
- LO6002 Avian Flu 1st and 2nd Case in Slovakia
- SI6001 1st AI Case in Slovenia

Reports are available on-line at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp>.

Biotechnology

On April 4–6, 2006, the European Commission and the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture as part of its EU Presidency hosted a conference on coexistence, and on April 18-19, the Austrian EU Presidency hosted an experts meeting on the precautionary principle in the context of agricultural biotechnology. Other conferences on biotechnologies took place Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic lowered its coexistence distances and Bt corn plantings will expand. The Slovak Government approved a new Coexistence Act, and Slovak farmers will also start growing corn MON810 commercially. However, the initial production area is still not very large.

For additional information on the conferences or the biotech situations, please contact post directly.

Crop Situation Updates & Other Issues

For additional information on the crop situations in our counties, see the following:

- BK6004 Bosnia Crop Update, HR6005 Croatia Crop Update, EZ6007 Czech Crop Update, For an update on the BSE situation in Croatia, see the following:
 - HR6003 Croatia BSE Update

➡ Current information on all agriculture-related topics can be found at website of Foreign Agricultural Service U.S. Mission to the European Union located in Brussels. Website is accessible from <http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/usda.html>.

*EVENTS and VISITORS**? Austria*

June 21 U.S. President Bush to Attend U.S.-E.U. Summit in Vienna

? Bosnia –Herzegovina

July 10-18 International Cooperation and Development (ICD) Expert Team to conduct Food Safety and Animal and Plant Health Country Assessment.

? Czech Republic

May 12-16 Alaska Seafood Institute Visit
June 12-13 Jim Dever (FAS) Supervisory Visit
Sept. 28 SUSTA Gourmet Festival of Southern United States

? Croatia

June 5-8 International Feed Conference KRMIVA
June 19-22 Southeast Europe SPS Coordination Working Group Meeting in Dubrovnik
September Cochran Fellowship Program Reunion Reception

? Hungary

May 10-12 International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC)/ COCERAL Annual Congress
May 30-June 1 Eastern Biofuels Conference & Expo II
May 25-28 American Farm Bureau Federation Visit
June 8-9 Jim Dever (FAS) Supervisory Visit
Sept. 12 FAS Sponsored Dried Fruits and Nuts Workshop

? Slovakia

September Dried Fruits and Nuts Trade Mission

? Slovenia

September FAS/State sponsored Coexistence Seminar for Farm Community

CONTACT US

Austria

Office of Agricultural Affairs
American Embassy
Boltzmanngasse 16
A-1090 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43-1-31339-2249
Fax: +43-1-3108208
Email: agvienna@usda.gov
<http://www.usembassy.at/en/usda>

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Office of Agricultural Affairs
American Embassy
U.S. Embassy
Ali Pasina 43
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Tel: +387-33-445-700, x 2099
Fax: +387-33-212-692
E-mail: Sanela.Stanojcic-Eminagic@usda.gov

Czech Republic

Office of Agricultural Affairs
American Embassy
Trziste 15
11801 Prague, Czech Republic
Tel: +420-257-022-026
Fax: +420-257-022-803
Email: Petra.Choteborska@usda.gov
Email: Jana.Mikulasova@usda.gov

Croatia

Office of Agricultural Affairs
U.S. Embassy
Thomas Jefferson 2
1010 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385-1-611-2467
Fax: +385-1-665-8950
Email: Andreja.Misir@usda.gov

Hungary

Office of Agricultural Affairs
Bank Center Building
Szabadsag Ter 7
H-1054 Budapest, Hungary
Tel: +36-1-475-4162
Fax: +36-1-475-4676
Email: Ferenc.Nemes@usda.gov
Email: agbudapest@mail.datanet.hu

Slovakia, Slovenia

For information about Slovakia, please contact our Austrian or Czech office. For Slovenia, please contact our Croatian office.

➡ **Visit our website:** at <http://www.usembassy.at/en/usda/> which provides a broad range of useful information on the Austrian and Central European food market, trade, import rules, and other useful information.