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# GAIN Report

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## Poland

### Agricultural Situation

### 2006 Crop Conditions in Poland Less Favorable than Year Ago

#### 2006

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**Report Highlights:**

Favorable spring weather during May and early June will only partly compensate for a three-week delay in spring weather, severe conditions during last winter and poor crop development last fall. Consequently, grain and rapeseed crop production prospects are lower than a year ago, 3 percent lower for grain production according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Warsaw [PL1]  
[PL]

At the end of May, the Main Statistical Office of Poland (GUS) published its mid-May crop evaluation results. Based on this evaluation and current weather patterns, 2006 Polish crop prospects are lower than they were in 2005. The Ministry of Agriculture recently estimated Poland's total 2006 grain crop at 26.2 MMT or 3% lower than last year's crop of nearly 27 MMT. This forecast is close to the latest Institute of Agricultural Economics forecast of 26.0 – 26.5 MMT and slightly lower than Ag/Warsaw's current estimate of 27 MMT.

Current weather developments can be considered as favorable for grains and oilseeds and seem to be partly compensating for the three week delay in spring weather. Relatively low temperatures with sufficient moisture conditions in May and early June were ideal conditions for the development of most crops after poor conditions last fall and an unusually long and severe winter.

According to GUS, final winter losses are estimated higher than a year ago. As a result of winter kill, 86,400 hectares of all grains or nearly 2 percent of total winter grain acreage had to be plowed under due to winter-kill. A year ago that acreage was only 20,200 hectares or about 0.4 percent of total winter grain acreage. Per crop losses are estimated at: wheat - 29,200 hectares (7,900 in 2005); rye - 20,600 hectares (4,000 in 2005); winter barley - 7,600 hectares (800 in 2005); and triticale - 27,800 hectares (7,400 in 2005). Rapeseed losses are placed at 15,000 hectares or nearly 3 percent of winter planted rapeseed (6,400 in 2005). Considering last winter's conditions, estimated rapeseed losses seem very low, as that crop is far more sensitive to low temperatures than other crops.

GUS estimates total 2006 grain acreage at slightly below 8 million hectares, slightly more than a year ago. That assumes smaller winter grain planting and larger spring planting. Spring planting was reported on 3.4 million hectares, 2.2 percent more than last year. Sugar beet acreage is estimated as 2.4 percent larger than last year. Total rapeseed acreage will be smaller than last year's high acreage. Winter rapeseed planting was smaller due to less favorable conditions, higher winter losses and smaller spring planting due to delayed spring weather.

Crop evaluations made in the middle of May were lower, mainly reflecting poor crop development last fall, severe winter conditions and delayed spring weather. The following table presents winter crop evaluations made this spring.

Year	wheat	rye	barley	triticale	rapeseed
2006	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.3
2005	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5
2004	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7
2003	3.1	3.3	2.9	3.3	2.6

Degree 5 – very good evaluation; degree 1 – very poor, disaster.

The evaluation for wheat as well as other winter crops was 0.3 points lower than last year's but, somewhat better than the evaluation for 2003, which was a disastrous year for Polish grains. The current evaluation for most of crops was 0.2 points lower than the average evaluation for the period 1991-1995.

Spring-sown grain evaluations were the same as a year ago for wheat, barley and mixed grains and 0.1 lower for oats and triticale.