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## Russian Federation

### Agricultural Situation

### Ministry of Agriculture Authorities Redefined

## 2006

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**Report Highlights:**

The Government of the Russian Federation approved a new statement of authority of the Ministry of Agriculture after the ministry absorbed the Federal Agency for Agriculture at the end of 2005. An unofficial translation of the document is included. The ministry has also undergone continuous reorganization since April 2004, having added two deputy ministers and expanded the number of departments. This new statement of authority appears to reassert greater Ministerial oversight of the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service and the Agency for Fisheries.

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## Summary

Reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture began in April 2004 and has continued fitfully since then, with expansion from the original 8 departments to 14, doubling of the number of deputy ministers from 2 to 4, abolition of the Agency for Agriculture, and absorption of several inspection functions into the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS). The Government of the Russian Federation approved a resolution redefining Ministry of Agriculture's role on March 24, but the resolution was not made publicly available until Ministry of Agriculture structural changes were completed early in May 2006.

## Overview of Changes

Major changes include a strengthening of the policy role of the Ministry of Agriculture departments, intended under the government reorganization of 2004 but not fully implemented. As an example, veterinary functions were to be divided into policy (Ministry of Agriculture), enforcement (VPSS), and provision of veterinary services (Agency for Agriculture, now defunct). In reality, all veterinary functions remained in VPSS, including such policy tasks as drafting of legislation and regulations, because Ministry of Agriculture was not staffed to do them. That transition appears to be underway now with creation of a Ministry of Agriculture department for veterinary and livestock affairs that specifically will handle policy issues, leaving enforcement to VPSS.

The resolution realigns several important functions, notably control of biotechnology approvals (now the province of the Ministry of Agriculture rather than VPSS). It also clearly strengthens the hand of the Minister of Agriculture, for he now has the final say on the budgets, performance goals, and plans of work of VPSS and the Agency for Fisheries, and has limited authority to overturn decisions of VPSS and the Agency for Fisheries if they violate the law.

The incorporation of the functions of the Agency for Agriculture into Ministry of Agriculture caused the creation of two new departments within the ministry: the Department of Crop Production, Agricultural Chemicals, and Plant Protection, and the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Industries. The former Sectoral Department has been eliminated. Yet another department, for managing hunting and game preserves, may also be in the works, based on Minister of Agriculture Aleksey Gordeyev's recent statements.

The decree and its accompanying statement of authority do not define the number or functions of deputy ministers. At present there are four deputy ministers of agriculture, a doubling since the government reorganization of 2004. One of the new deputies, Vladimir Izmaylov, is in charge of fisheries issues. The other, Igor Rudenya, is also the ministry's state secretary and thus is in charge of legislative liaison and legislative initiatives.

Figure 1 (below) gives the current organizational structure of Ministry of Agriculture and names of the current department heads.

An unofficial translation of the resolution follows.

BEGIN TEXT.

**Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation, #164, March 24, 2006**

On the approval of the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture's (Ministry of Agriculture) legislative authority and on acknowledgement that some decisions of the Government of the Russian Federation (Government of the Russian Federation) cease to be in force:

The Government of the Russian Federation decrees the following:

1. To adopt the attached legislative authority of the Ministry of Agriculture;
2. The Ministry of Agriculture shall submit drafts of normative legal acts<sup>1</sup> designed to abolish superfluous authority envisaged by sub-paragraphs 5.2.1, 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.2.13, 5.5.4, 5.5.13, and 5.6.3 of the legislative authority of the Ministry of Agriculture (approved by the present resolution) by May 1, 2006;
3. Until changes are made in Government of the Russian Federation's approved list of organizations under Ministry of Agriculture supervision, the Ministry of Agriculture will incorporate organizations that were under Federal Agency for Agriculture supervision;
4. To acknowledge that the following documents cease to be in force:
  - Government of the Russian Federation resolution 315 of June 2004, "Approval of the legislative authority of Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation" (Code of Statutes of the Russian Federation, 2004, 27, Article 2778),
  - Government of the Russian Federation Resolution 328 of June 30, "Approval of the legislative authority of the Federal Agency for Agriculture" (Code of Statutes of the Russian Federation, 2004, 28, article 2903),
  - Point four of amendments introducing Government of the Russian Federation resolution 491 of August 2005, "On measures for provision of state control over quality and safety of grain, compound feeds and components for feeds production, and the by-products of grain processing" (Code of Statutes of the Russian Federation, 2005, 33, article 3421),
  - Government of the Russian Federation Resolution 598 of October 5, 2005, "On amendments to the legislative authority of the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, approved by Government of the Russian Federation resolution 315 on June 28, 2004" (Code of Statutes of the Russian Federation, 2005, 41, article 4148).

Chairman of the Government  
of the Russian Federation

M. Fradkov

**Authority of the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture**

Approved  
By Government of the Russian Federation Resolution 164  
March 24, 2006

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<sup>1</sup> "Normative legal acts" are the functional equivalent of Federal regulations in the United States.

## I. General provisions

1. The Ministry of Agriculture is a federal body of the executive branch that exercises the following functions:

1.1 Developing federal policy and legislative regulation in the agro-industrial sphere, including livestock, veterinary, plant cultivation, plant quarantine, land reclamation, soil productivity, agricultural raw material and foodstuffs market regulation, food and processing, ethyl alcohol production from food and non-food raw materials and handling, alcohol-containing products, alcohol and tobacco products, sustained rural development, fisheries, industrial activity on fishing fleet ships and in fishing ports under the jurisdiction of the Federal Fisheries Agency; conservation, research, maintenance, reproduction and utilization of animals classified as game species, of aquatic biological resource species (excluding species inhabiting specifically protected natural territories as well as species from the Red Book of the Russian Federation) as well as their habitats;

1.2 Providing federal services in the agro-industrial sphere, including sustained development of rural areas, management of federal property in territories under Ministry of Agriculture jurisdiction and in institutions under Ministry of Agriculture jurisdiction;

2. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation exercises coordination and control over activities of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) and the Federal Fisheries Agency (Rosrybolovstvo), which function under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Agriculture<sup>2</sup>;

3. In exercising its activities, the Ministry of Agriculture is guided by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional legislation, federal legislation, acts of the President of the Russian Federation and Government of the Russian Federation, international treaties of the Russian Federation as well as by this legislative authority;

4. Ministry of Agriculture exercises its activities in coordination with other federal bodies of the executive branch, with the bodies of the executive branch of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local authorities, public organizations and other organizations;

## II. Authorities

5. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation is empowered:

5.1. To introduce drafts of federal laws and legislative acts of the President of the Russian Federation and Government of the Russian Federation to the government that require a decision of Government of the Russian Federation, on issues relating to the established jurisdiction of Ministry of Agriculture and to the areas of competence of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo, as well as working program drafts and predicted indices of Ministry of Agriculture activities;

5.2. To issue independently the following normative legislative acts based on and in pursuant to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, acts of the President of the Russian Federation and Government of the Russian Federation:

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<sup>2</sup> This reference "which function under the jurisdiction of MinAg" follows each mention of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo, and is omitted hereafter in this informal translation to improve readability.

- 5.2.1. Rules on the utilization and protection of animal species classified as objects of hunting and fishing;
- 5.2.2. Rules on providing sectoral subsidies and subventions;
- 5.2.3. Methodology on calculation of damage done to aquatic biological resources and their habitats;
- 5.2.4. Procedures for conducting pedigree stock (materials) valuation;
- 5.2.5. Procedures for conducting federal registration of genetics in livestock breeding and seed production, pesticides and agricultural chemicals, animal medical drugs, feeds and feed additives including those produced using genetically modified organisms;
- 5.2.6. Procedures for stocking, processing, storing and using seeds of agricultural plants;
- 5.2.7. Procedures for procurement of grains and grain products for federal needs and procurement for federal reserves;
- 5.2.8. Procedures for the sale and transport of agricultural plant seeds;
- 5.2.9. Procedures for withdrawal of commercial fishing quotas;
- 5.2.10. Procedures for overseeing transfer of commercial fishing quota between entities;
- 5.2.11. Veterinary rules;
- 5.2.12. Procedures for quarantine and phytosanitary monitoring in Russian Federation territory;
- 5.2.13. Terms and conditions for use of genetics and biotechnology methods in pedigree livestock production;
- 5.2.14. Rules for implementing selection (plant breeding) achievements;
- 5.2.15. Rules and standards for pedigree livestock;
- 5.2.16. Rules and standards for land reclamation;
- 5.2.17. Planning for technical, chemical, land reclamation, phytosanitary and anti-erosion activities to ensure the fertility of agricultural lands;
- 5.2.18. Standards for natural losses in agriculture and other industries under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Agriculture;
- 5.2.19. Programs to educate, train and upgrade qualifications of specialists in the agricultural and fishing industries;
- 5.2.20. Lists of especially dangerous and quarantine animal diseases;
- 5.2.21. Lists of commercial species of aquatic biological resources and species of live resources of the continental shelf;
- 5.2.22. Lists of quarantine species (plant pests, plant disease agents and weeds);

- 5.2.23. Lists of animal species, individuals of which are used as pedigree stock;
- 5.2.24. Registration of the origin of agricultural plant varieties;
- 5.2.25. Service statutes on vessels of the fishing fleet;
- 5.2.26. Procedures for calculation of fines for damage caused by illegal hunting or destruction of animals classified as game species;
- 5.2.27. Normative legislative acts on other issues under Ministry of Agriculture, VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo, excluding issues whose legislative regulation is carried out exclusively by federal constitutional laws, federal laws, and legislative acts of the President and Government of the Russian Federation;
- 5.3. In accordance with the established procedures the Ministry of Agriculture shall carry out competitive bidding and offering of state contracts for acquisition of supplies, work, services, scientific research, experimental design and technological work that are required to provide for Ministry of Agriculture needs;
- 5.4. In accordance with procedure and within the bounds of federal law, acts of the President and Government of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Agriculture shall have authority over federal property necessary for implementation of functions of the federal bodies of the executive branch in the sphere of activity established in item one of the present legislative authority, including property that has been transferred to federal state institutions, federal enterprises and official enterprises under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Agriculture;
- 5.5. Ministry of Agriculture carries out:
- 5.5.1. Implementation of federal targeted, agricultural and other programs in the agroindustrial complex, including sustained development of rural territories;
- 5.5.2. Organization of state procurement and commodity interventions;
- 5.5.3. Establishment and utilization of a federal fund for agricultural planting seeds as well as a reserve for plant protection means (pesticides);
- 5.5.4. Organization of variety and seed control with respect to agricultural crops and seeds;
- 5.5.5. Operation and development of registration procedures for federal land reclamation systems and stand-alone hydro-technical facilities that are considered federal property;
- 5.5.6. State evaluation of pre-design and design documentation for construction and renovation of land reclamation systems and stand-alone hydro-technical facilities for the purpose of determining compliance with input data, technical specifications and requirements of design and construction documentation and approval of the above-mentioned documentation;
- 5.5.7. Organization of fumigation and aeration of subjects under quarantine;
- 5.5.8. Organization of anti-epizootic activities including prevention and eradication of disease outbreaks common to human beings and animals;

5.5.9. Organization of registration, testing, and expert evaluation of medications for animals, feed additives and feeds produced from organisms modified through genetic engineering, as well as plant breeding achievements, pesticides and agricultural chemicals;

5.5.10. Organization of production of animal species classified as game animals in semi-wild conditions;

5.5.11. Upgrading the professional training of agricultural workers and providing for their retraining;

5.5.12. Registration of pedigreed animals and herds (flocks) in the State Book of Pedigreed Animals and the State Pedigree Register, accordingly;

5.5.13. Issuing certificates (licenses) for pedigree products (material);

5.5.14. Identification of organizations that exercise activities in pedigree livestock breeding;

5.5.15. Organization of biological, chemical and other preparations in veterinary medicine;

5.5.16. Organization of information monitoring in regards to commodity and consumer grain quality and analysis of such information;

5.6. The Ministry of Agriculture shall maintain:

5.6.1. A registry of medications for animals, feed additives and feed containing genetically modified organisms;

5.6.2. Inventory of the Federal Seed Fund and reclaimed land;

5.6.3. Inventory of items procured for federal government needs;

5.6.4. Inventory of animal species classified on special lists as domestic animal pests and plant pests (excluding forest pests);

5.6.5. A register of federal agroindustrial property under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture;

5.6.6. The State Book of Pedigree Animals and the State Pedigree Register;

5.6.7. The State Catalogue of Pesticides and Agricultural Chemicals;

5.6.8. Registers and registries in veterinary medicine, pedigree livestock breeding, seed production and soil fertility;

5.6.9. State accounting and monitoring of animal species classified as hunting objects;

5.7. The Ministry of Agriculture shall perform economic analyses of the activities of federal enterprises under its jurisdiction, approve economic indicators of their activity, and audit organizations under its jurisdiction with respect to their financial-economic activity and property use;

5.8. The Ministry of Agriculture shall acquire products (goods, work, services) for state agricultural needs;

- 5.9. The Ministry of Agriculture shall perform the functions of state customer for federal target, agricultural, scientific-technical and innovation programs and projects in the established sphere of activity;
- 5.10. The Ministry of Agriculture shall organize congresses, conferences, seminars, exhibitions and other activities within its sphere of activity;
- 5.11. The Ministry of Agriculture shall review the application of Russian Federation legislation and perform analyses regarding the implementation of state policy in the established sphere of activity;
- 5.12. The Ministry of Agriculture shall exercise the functions of principal distributor and receiver of federal budget resources earmarked to maintain the Ministry of Agriculture and implement the functions with which the ministry is entrusted;
- 5.13. The Ministry of Agriculture shall receive citizens, ensure timely and complete consideration of oral and written civil appeals, making decisions and sending replies within timelines established by legislation of the Russian Federation;
- 5.14. The Ministry of Agriculture, within its competence, shall protect classified information;
- 5.15. The Ministry of Agriculture shall ensure its mobilization preparedness as well as control and coordinate VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo mobilization preparedness;
- 5.16. The Ministry of Agriculture shall organize professional training of ministry personnel, their retraining, upgrading of their qualifications and temporary worker training at designated locations;
- 5.17. In compliance with established procedure, the Ministry of Agriculture shall interact with representative bodies of foreign states and with international organizations within its established sphere of activity;
- 5.18. In compliance with Russian Federation legislation, the Ministry of Agriculture shall select, store, register and use archived data generated in the course of the ministry's activity;
- 5.19. The Ministry of Agriculture shall exercise other functions in its established sphere of activity if such functions are created by federal legislation or through normative legislative acts of the President and Government of the Russian Federation;
6. To implement authorities within the established sphere, the Ministry of Agriculture has the right to:
- 6.1. Request and receive data necessary to make decisions on issues referred to the ministry in accordance with established procedures;
- 6.2. Establish awards of excellence and award them to personnel who carry out their activities in the established sphere;
- 6.3. In compliance with established procedure, to engage scientists, specialists, scientific organizations and other organizations for the addressing of issues referred to the ministry;
- 6.4. Set up coordination and advisory bodies (councils, commissions, groups, collegia), including interagency bodies, in the established sphere of activity;

6.5. In compliance with established procedure, set up printed mass media publishing bodies to publish normative legislative acts relating to the established sphere of activity, official announcements, or other materials regarding issues referred to Ministry of Agriculture, VPSS or Rosrybolovstvo;

6.6. Provide clarifications on issues referred to the agricultural industrial sphere to legal and physical entities;

7. In the established sphere of activity, the Ministry of Agriculture shall not have the right to exercise functions of control and oversight except in cases established by decrees of the President and resolutions of Government of the Russian Federation.

Limitations established by paragraph one of section seven do not cover the authorities of the Minister in addressing personnel issues and issues involved with the organization of ministry activities and its structural divisions.

When implementing legislative regulation in the established sphere of activity, the Ministry of Agriculture does not have the right to establish functions and authorities for federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, and local authorities which are not envisioned by the federal constitutional law, federal law, acts of the President and Government of the Russian Federation. The Ministry of Agriculture shall not have the right to establish limitations to rights and freedoms of citizens, rights of non-governmental commercial and non-commercial organizations with the exception of such cases when the possibility of introducing such limitations is granted by acts of authorized federal bodies, is directly envisioned by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional law, federal law and acts of the President and Government of the Russian Federation that are issued based on and in pursuant to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional law, and federal law.

### **III. Organization of activity**

8. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation shall be lead by a Minister, who is appointed to the position and relieved of the position by the President of the Russian Federation upon nomination by the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Minister bears personal responsibility for implementation of authorities with which the Ministry of Agriculture is entrusted and for implementation of state policy in the established sphere of activity.

The Minister shall have deputies appointed to and relieved of their positions by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Government of the Russian Federation shall determine the number of deputies.

9. Departments for the basic categories of activity of the Ministry shall constitute the structural sub-units of the Ministry of Agriculture. Divisions are included in the composition of the departments.

10. The Minister shall:

10.1. Apportion duties among the Minister's deputies;

10.2. Approve the authorities of the structural sub-units of Ministry of Agriculture;

- 10.3. In accordance with established procedures, appoint personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture to positions and relieve them of their positions;
- 10.4. In accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation on public service, address issues related to being in federal public service;
- 10.5. Approve the structure and personnel composition of Ministry of Agriculture within the limits established by Government of the Russian Federation with respect to the salary budget, personnel ceiling, and the cost estimate of maintaining personnel within the limits of appropriations approved for the relevant time period envisioned in the federal budget;
- 10.6. Approve the annual plan of work and indicators of activity of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo, as well as reports on their activity;
- 10.7. Upon presentation by VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo, introduce drafts of terms of reference of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo and proposals for the personnel ceiling and the salary budget of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo to Government of the Russian Federation;
- 10.8. Introduce proposals establishing the federal budget and funding for VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo to the Ministry of Finance;
- 10.9. Introduce to Government of the Russian Federation drafts of normative legislative acts and other documents referred to in item 5.1 of this legislative authority;
- 10.10. In accordance with established procedure, submit to Government of the Russian Federation proposals on the creation, reorganization and liquidation of federal state enterprises and institutions that are under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Agriculture or under VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo;
- 10.11. Delegate tasks to VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo and controls their implementation;
- 10.12. Annul decisions of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo if they contradict federal legislation, unless federal law establishes another procedure for annulling such decisions;
- 10.13. Upon nomination by the heads of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo, appoint and relieve deputy heads of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo;
- 10.14. In accordance with established procedure, recommend personnel of VPSS and Rosrybolovstvo and other personnel that carry out activity in the established sphere for award with honorary degrees and with state awards of the Russian Federation;
- 10.15. Issue standing orders as well as incidental orders and resolutions on operational and other current issues of the Ministry of Agriculture's organizational activity;
- 10.16. In accordance with established procedure, appoint and relieve heads of institutions and organizations that fall under Ministry of Agriculture jurisdiction; conclude, alter and terminate labor agreements with the aforementioned heads;
11. Funding expenditures with the purpose of maintaining Ministry of Agriculture are carried out at the expense of resources so envisioned by the federal budget;
12. The Ministry of Agriculture is a corporate entity, with a seal depicting the State Insignia of the Russian Federation with the Ministry's name, other seals, stamps and letterheads of

the established order, and accounts opened in compliance with legislation of the Russian Federation;

13. The Ministry of Agriculture is located in the city of Moscow.  
END TEXT.

Figure 1. Organizational Structure of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture.



Source: [http://www.mcx.ru/index.html?he\\_id=364](http://www.mcx.ru/index.html?he_id=364)