



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #AR1017

Argentina

Grain and Feed

April Grain & Feed Update

2001

Approved by:

Philip A. Shull

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

David Mergen

Report Highlights:

New sanitary restrictions in Brazil caused considerable uncertainty about whether Brazil would continue importing Argentine wheat (6.6 million tons in 1999/2000), although it now appears that imports will be allowed to continue. The Argentine Government has increased its corn production estimate for 2001 (currently being harvested) to 15.4 million tons.

Includes PSD changes: Yes

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

Buenos Aires [AR1], AR

Corn 1

Table 1: PSD Corn 2

Wheat

Reports over the weekend indicate that the Government of Brazil has agreed to suspend for one month new foot-and-mouth disease certification requirements for Argentine wheat and other agricultural products. The regulations issued on March 29 prohibit imports of unprocessed (not heat treated) agricultural products from areas within 25 km (16 miles) of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Due to the lack of segregation for grains, compliance with this requirement would be very difficult.

Argentine authorities requested that the requirements be suspended, since grain is not normally considered to be a significant risk for transporting the disease and most of the current wheat crop was harvested before the official announcement of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in the middle of March.

Argentina is the main supplier of wheat to the Brazilian market, exporting 6.6 million tons in 1999/2000. The Brazilian wheat milling industry reportedly lobbied heavily to remove the restriction on Argentine wheat imports.

Corn

The Argentine Department of Agriculture increased its production estimate for the new corn crop (currently being harvested) to 15.4 million tons. We have revised our estimate of corn production to reflect this change.

As of March 23, seventeen percent of the corn crop was harvested, a bit slower than normal due to heavy rains at the start of the harvest. Dry and sunny weather during the week of March 25 allowed the corn harvest to resume.

Table 1: PSD Corn

PSD Table						
Country	Argentina					
Commodity	Corn				(1000 HA)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		03/2000		03/2001		03/2002
Area Harvested	3100	3100	2800	2800	0	2950
Beginning Stocks	710	710	410	400	425	400
Production	17200	17200	15000	15400	0	15750
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Imports	16	0	15	0	0	0
Oct-Sep Imports	16	0	15	0	0	0
Oct-Sep Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	17926	17910	15425	15800	425	16150
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Exports	11700	11750	10000	9600	0	9650
Oct-Sep Exports	8859	8859	12000	11600	0	0
Feed Dom. Consumption	4200	4050	3200	4100	0	4400
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	5816	5760	5000	5800	0	6100
Ending Stocks	410	400	425	400	0	400
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	17926	17910	15425	15800	0	16150

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