

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

**Date:** April 17, 2024

**Report Number:** UK2024-0017

## **Report Name:** Grain and Feed Annual

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Post:** London

**Report Category:** Grain and Feed

**Prepared By:** Steve Knight

**Approved By:** Alexandra Baych

### **Report Highlights:**

The UK is forecast to have one of the lowest grain crops on record in MY 2024/25 following challenging winter planting conditions, a very wet winter, and continued rains now disrupting crop management and spring plantings. Not only is this expected to significantly reduce the planted area, but also average yields. Quality remains to be determined, and the weather between now and harvest will be crucial, causing producer sentiment to be low. As a consequence of the small harvest, and despite continued, lackluster demand from the livestock sector, the UK will again be a net importer of grain, especially corn for feed.

**Disclaimer:** This report presents Post’s first outlook for grain and feed, and production, supply, and distribution (PSD) forecasts for the marketing year (MY) 2024/25, as well as estimates for MY 2022/23 and MY 2023/24. Unless stated otherwise, data in this report is based on the views of Foreign Agricultural Service analysts in the UK and is not official USDA data.

**Abbreviations used in this report:**

EU European Union  
FAS Foreign Agricultural Service  
Ha Hectares  
MHa Thousand hectares  
MMT Million Metric Tons  
MT Metric Ton (1000 kg)  
MY Marketing Year. Post and USDA official data both follow the EU local marketing year of July to June except for rice which follows a September to August calendar  
CY Calendar Year  
TMT Thousand Metric Tons  
TY Trade Year. July to June for wheat and October to September for coarse grains  
UK United Kingdom  
U.S. United States

## Executive Summary

Total UK grain production (wheat, barley, oats, and mixed grains) in MY 2024/25 is forecast to be just 19.2 million metric tons (MMT), nearly 3 MMT below MY 2023/24, and over 1 MMT below MY 2020/21. The MY 2020/21 harvest had a 40-year low wheat crop, but the total grain crop was higher than currently forecast for MY2024/25 due to a significant increase in spring barley production. The wet weather means spring barley plantings, while expected to rise year-on-year in MY 2024/25, will not reach anywhere near the high of MY 2020/21.

The MY 2023/24 harvest was delayed by wet weather which then delayed field preparations for MY 2024/25. However, this was only the start of the problems for the upcoming MY2024/25 crop. The UK had the second wettest August through February since 1837. While the country was broadly affected, the situation was particularly difficult in the Midlands, the central region of England, where standing water remained a feature in many fields for an extended period of time, and in some places remains today. English winter crop plantings, which are mainly wheat, have been badly affected. The impact has been less extreme in Scotland, in part due to the weather not being so severe and also an onus on spring crop plantings. The problems continue as the wet weather has not fully abated. It would normally be expected that spring plantings, mainly barley, would now be well under way. These can substitute for low winter plantings or lost crops, albeit at a lower yield, but even these are now in jeopardy in some regions and farmers are considering their options. Spring barley production will rise, but it will not be the production savior it was in MY 2020/21. In addition to the current spring plantings being focused on the lighter, better draining soils, and in the less wet regions, the wet weather also means that the maintenance of the winter crop has been affected. Not only is that crop patchy in places, but treatments are also suffering due to access across muddy fields or risk to the soil structure from heavy machinery. With the winter crop area forecast to be much lower than normal, and with the increased spring planted area also facing challenges, overall yield will be lower. While there will be some areas with good yield and quality, overall producer sentiment for the crop outlook is low. A significant improvement in the weather and an extended dry, sunny, but not too hot, spell would be beneficial to the crop and lift quality. However, at the time of writing the unseasonably wet weather continues in much of the country.

With arable production facing so many challenges, it seems the roll out of the post-Brexit farming incentive schemes is also having an apparent impact on grain production by offering a fallow alternative. In England, payment rates offered for actions contained in the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) have been increased this year. Survey results show the area of arable fallow up 79 percent year-on-year, with this effectively a proxy measure for agri-environment uptake in the SFI or other components of the UK government's Environmental Land Management schemes. In an effort to limit the impact on production, Defra [announced](#) on March 25, 2024 that it was capping the amount of arable land applicants could place in a number of SFI actions to no more than 25 percent of their farm's area. Nonetheless, it appears that some English farmers see SFI payments as a viable alternative to planting spring crops this year.

The UK livestock herd further contracted in CY 2023, principally in the pig sector where numbers continued to drop significantly. It does not appear the pig sector has yet reached the bottom of the cycle, which will support slaughter and production in CY 2024. Net margins for producers turned positive in CY 2023 for the first time in two years, but hesitancy within the sector remains. Cattle numbers also fell in CY 2023, albeit slowly, and are forecast to continue to do so in CY 2024, but slaughter and

production in both years remains steady. Meanwhile, the poultry sector remains buoyant with production increasing in CY 2023 and forecast to again do so in CY 2024. Higher incorporation rates in this sector support overall feed grain demand which is expected to remain low and little changed in MY 2023/24 and MY 2024/25, at just under 13 MMT. The poor quality of the MY 2023/24 wheat crop has increased domestic incorporation rates at the expense of barley. Imported corn remains an important part of the feed mix in MY 2023/24. With the wheat crop production outlook for the UK so negative for MY 2024/25, but the barley crop less severely impacted due to spring plantings, a switch from wheat to barley is forecast. Continued imports of corn, perhaps supplemented by some imported wheat, are forecast to meet any shortfall, while the volume of oats, and other grains (rye, sorghum, and mixed grain) used in feed is forecast little changed in MY 2024/25.

<b>Feed and Residual</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	6964	7100	6250
<b>Barley</b>	3843	4000	4600
<b>Corn</b>	1351	1350	1500
<b>Oats</b>	350	280	280
<b>Rye</b>	37	5	23
<b>Mixed Grain</b>	250	230	180
<b>Total</b>	12795	12965	12833

The bioethanol sector remains an interesting dynamic in the UK's food, seed and industrial (FSI) sector. Buoyed by the UK government's rollout of E10 fuel from September 2021, Vivergo, which processes wheat, underwent a phased reopening in MY 2021/22 and has been steadily increasing production ever since. The other of the UK's two facilities, Ensus, which can process wheat and corn, has also been steadily increasing production in recent years. Neither are reported to be running at full capacity, but usage has been strong. Indeed, while grain use by the biofuels sector is up year-on-year in MY 2023/24, it is below previous forecasts. Domestically produced ethanol competes with imports, some from the United States, and this impacts margins. The tight wheat supply situation in MY2024/25 is forecast to increase the incorporation of corn and reduce overall grain usage by the sector.

MY 2020/21 demonstrated the UK's reliance on imports in years of a small domestic crop, especially for feed. Historically, this was corn, and mainly from Ukraine. The current crop outlook for MY 2024/25 suggests imports will once again play an important part in the UK supply situation. While wheat is forecast to account for nearly half of UK feed usage, followed by barley, the UK is likely to have an increased reliance on imported corn. The expectation of a second year of lower quality domestic wheat means ongoing imports of milling quality wheat for food processing are currently forecast.

With the crop facing such significant challenges in MY 2024/25, the grain balance is forecast to be tight meaning ending stocks are currently forecast to decline over 1.5 MMT, following rises in the two previous years.

Finally, there are already producer concerns for the crop which will be planted in fall 2024, due to compacted soils and the associated anaerobic conditions.

**Table 1.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution - Wheat**

Wheat Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	1809	1813	1725	1719	0	1400
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1846	1846	2496	2525	0	3305
Production (1000 MT)	15540	15540	14000	13980	0	10750
MY Imports (1000 MT)	2016	2030	2400	2650	0	2750
TY Imports (1000 MT)	2016	2030	2400	2650	0	2750
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	10	10	0	11	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	19402	19416	18896	19155	0	16805
MY Exports (1000 MT)	1906	1906	800	600	0	600
TY Exports (1000 MT)	1906	1906	800	600	0	600
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	7000	6964	7300	7100	0	6250
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	8000	8021	8200	8150	0	7950
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	15000	14985	15500	15250	0	14200
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	2496	2525	2596	3305	0	2005
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	19402	19416	18896	19155	0	16805
Yield (MT/HA)	8.5904	8.5714	8.1159	8.1326	0	7.6786
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA) MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column TY = Trade Year, which for Wheat begins in July for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = July 2024 - June 2025						

**Production**

The total wheat area harvested is forecast to fall over 300,000 hectares in MY 2024/25. Wheat is mainly winter planted in the UK and the very wet fall conditions had a severe impact. While much of the crop was reported to have been successfully drilled, the subsequent rains led to some seed rotting before it germinated. The seed that did germinate faced challenging conditions, including waterlogged fields, and establishment is reported to be patchy at best. Roots are also reported to be underdeveloped, which will present challenges later in the growing season and could affect both yield and quality. Soil conditions are reported to be poor. Not only is this bad for the existing crop, and access for machinery to apply fertilizer and other applications, but it will also limit spring plantings, be that planned or replacement. MY2024/25 is expected to see a rise in fallow land or uptake in an environmental scheme. Anecdotally, few producers report ever seeing a worse looking wheat crop in the UK. Indeed, only 34 percent is rated as in good or excellent condition compared to 88 percent at this time last year. Perhaps of more concern is that 40 percent of the crop is described as very poor or poor. With the wet weather continuing, while some growth has occurred, it is reported be limited and exacerbated by the poor root structure. Only now are producers applying nitrogen and sulphur – something that is routinely done in late February and early March – and some fields remain too waterlogged to access and risk further damaging the soils. The crop is stressed, and yield will be impacted. Other applications, including phosphate, potash, and manganese are also disrupted which does not bode well for the crop. Even when the persistent rains

ease, access for machinery will remain subject to the condition of fields. While the wet soils have tempered weed growth, the late application of herbicides has reduced grass weed control. This has also hampered crop development in some areas and led to patches of blackgrass, and ryegrass, among other competitor plants. There are some parts of the UK where the crop is developing well, mainly in the south, west, north of England, and in Scotland, especially among those fields that were drilled in early October. However, overall, the winter wheat crop is reported to be weak due to the minimal root structure, and susceptible to either continued rain or a sustained hot, dry period. How the crops develop will be heavily dependent on growing conditions in the next month, but total production is currently forecast at just 10.75 MMT. No one will be surprised if the crop is smaller, with some market commentators speculating about a repeat of the 40-year low wheat crop in MY 2020/21 when wheat production was just 9.7 MMT.

## **Consumption**

Total Food, Seed and Industrial (FSI) use of wheat is forecast to fall by 200,000 MT in MY 2024/25, driven by a decline in the bioethanol sector. This follows a similar rise in MY 2023/24 which is expected to be less than previously forecast, also due to the bioethanol sector. As part of its ambition to reach net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, His Majesty's Government's (HMG) commenced the rollout of E10 fuel (gasoline containing up to 10 percent ethanol) in September 2021. This has increased confidence in the UK's ethanol sector, but it faces stiff competition from imports, including from the United States. Neither of the two biofuel plants in the UK, Ensus and Vivergo, which are both capable of processing over 1 MMT of grain, are currently running at full capacity. The reduced availability of wheat in MY 2024/25 is forecast to reduce their grain usage in MY2023/24, but also for Ensus to increase the proportion of corn utilized. Despite some impact on premium products due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, total usage of wheat by flour millers in MY 2024/25 is forecast to remain unchanged year-on-year. The poorer functionality of UK wheat in MY 2023/24 led to increased imports by millers. This is forecast to be even more the scenario in MY 2024/25, not just due to the limited supply but also an expectation of a further reduction in quality. Usage in the brewing, malting, and distilling sector is forecast to remain firm in MY 2024/25, following growth in MY 2023/24 due to increased demand in the distilling and starch sectors.

While total feed grain consumption is forecast little changed in MY 2024/25, feed use of wheat in the animal feed sector is currently forecast to fall 850,000 MT due to the small forecast crop. The final figure will ultimately depend on the size and quality of the harvest.

## **Trade**

The UK is typically a net importer of milling wheat, with any surplus feed wheat being exported. The pace of imports has been strong in MY 2023/24, and the prospect of a small MY 2024/25 harvest is leading to stockpiling both of on farm stocks and imported product. Wheat imports through end-January 2024 totaled over 1.6 MMT but a further 1 MMT is currently expected to be imported in the last five months of MY 2023/24. MY 2024/25 imports are currently forecast to be even higher, albeit subject to the ultimate size and quality of the harvest and availability of milling quality wheat.

Most UK imports of wheat are sourced from the European Union (EU), but UK millers also import high quality wheat from North America to supplement that coming from the EU. Canada has significantly

increased its market share versus the United States in recent years, and in the seven months through January 2024 is the single largest origin for UK wheat imports at just over 340,000 MT. This is also over 20,000 MT up on the same time period in MY 2022/23. One complicating factor for the incorporation of non-domestic wheat in baked goods are the Rules of Origin (RoO) introduced under the post-Brexit Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the UK and the EU. Before Brexit, millers in Great Britain (GB) – England, Wales, and Scotland - could use non-EU wheat to make flour and then export throughout the EU tariff-free. A limit of 15 percent of non-originating materials, be that EU origin or otherwise, now applies if tariffs are to be avoided if onward exported to the EU. Even below this threshold, paperwork and segregation has added additional costs.

Most of the UK’s wheat exports are destined for the EU, with occasional shipments to Africa, where it competes with mainly French wheat. Given the overall supply and demand situation there have been limited supplies available for export in MY 2023/24. This situation is currently forecast to be replicated in MY 2024/25.

## Stocks

Following a rise in MY 2022/23, stock levels are expected to rise significantly in MY 2023/24, up a further 800,000 MT to over 3.3 MMT, largely supported by the aforementioned increased imports due to the expectation of a very small MY 2024/25 harvest. The tight situation in MY2024/25 means that a significant drawdown in these stocks is currently forecast for that marketing year, meaning producers will be hoping for a return to normal crop growing conditions in MY 2025/26.

**Table 2.**

## Production, Supply and Distribution - Barley

Barley Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	1104	1116	1125	1137	0	1200
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	964	964	1268	1268	0	1421
Production (1000 MT)	7385	7385	7000	6963	0	7250
MY Imports (1000 MT)	88	88	125	125	0	100
TY Imports (1000 MT)	94	94	95	125	0	100
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	8437	8437	8393	8356	0	8771
MY Exports (1000 MT)	1123	1123	700	750	0	750
TY Exports (1000 MT)	1060	1061	800	750	0	750
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	3885	3843	4100	4000	0	4600
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	2161	2203	2200	2185	0	2200
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	6046	6046	6300	6185	0	6800
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1268	1268	1393	1421	0	1221
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	8437	8437	8393	8356	0	8771
Yield (MT/HA)	6.6893	6.6174	6.2222	6.124	0	6.0417

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)  
 MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column  
 TY = Trade Year, which for Barley begins in October for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = October 2024 - September 2025

## **Production**

The winter barley area is forecast to decline 100,000 Ha in MY 2024/25. While that is forecast to be partially offset by an increase in the area planted to spring barley, it will not be to the extent seen in MY2020/21 when winter plantings were also badly affected. The main difference in MY 2024/25 is that the wet winter conditions have persisted into the spring. A combination of challenging access to fields and waterlogged soil, along with concerns about the outlook for crop development, mean that while spring plantings will certainly exceed most years, and are currently forecast to rise over 160,000 Ha year-on-year, they will fall over 225,000 Ha behind the record spring plantings witnessed in MY 2020/21. With these changes, total barley area is currently forecast to rise to 1.2 MHa. This reaffirms that MY 2020/21 was an outlier year when a very significant surge in the spring barley area lifted the total planted area to nearly 1.4 MMT. The winter barley crop, which benefits from being the first grain planted, is reported to have initially established better than most of the winter wheat, but it is a less resilient crop. Consequently, only 38 percent of the winter barley crop is now rated as in good or excellent condition. This compares with 90 percent at this time last year. Like wheat, a significant proportion is reported to be very poor or poor, albeit at 36 percent is slightly better than its wheat counterpart. It now needs nitrogen. Where applications have been possible and sunny, warmer weather has arrived, the crop is reported to be doing well, but behind a normal year. Where no applications have been possible, and where the rain persists, the crop is reported to be turning yellow and crop development is poor, boding badly for its outlook. Like wheat, grass weeds are proving persistent, largely due to a lack of fall spraying. Conditions in the coming weeks will be crucial for field access and further applications, including fungicide, necessary to strengthen roots and prevent lodging. While crops on free draining land and where the sun has made an appearance are reported to be developing normally; elsewhere the crop looks sickly meaning lower yields. A warm, dry spring is needed. Continued rain or a hot, dry spell will only reduce already average yields. Spring planting was subject to a delayed start, especially in the Midlands in the center of England, and in Scotland. In a normal year, they would be well under way by now. Consequently, questions remain for the planted spring area as well as that crops development meaning it is too early to predict yield with certainty. Total barley production is currently forecast to reach 7.25 MMT, just under 300,000 MT up year-on-year, on the increased area.

## **Consumption**

UK barley production is predominately focused on the malting and livestock feed sectors. Given the more positive outlook for total barley production in MY 2024/25 as compared to wheat, feed usage is expected to increase 600,000 MT following a marginal increase in MY 2023/24. A limiting factor is the competing demand from the FSI sector. After a significant post-COVID recovery in demand from the brewing, malting, and distilling (BMD) sector in MY 2021/22, driven by the lifting of all restrictions on the hospitality sector, food usage in MY 2022/23 alone rose 100,000 MT to nearly 2 MMT in MY 2022/23. It has remained at this level in MY 2023/24, albeit a decline in demand for brewing has been offset by increased distilling demand and is forecast to continue so in MY 2024/25. Ongoing post-Brexit labor issues in hospitality, and high inflation has, and continues to, curtail consumer spending, and both are expected to remain limiting factors for further growth through MY 2024/25.

## **Trade**

UK exports of barley are predominately destined for the EU market, with occasional exports to the Middle East and North Africa. In MY 2023/24 they are expected to reach 750,000 MT and were already nearly 500,000 MT at end-January, following good demand, especially from Ireland and Spain. Total barley exports in MY 2024/25 are forecast unchanged, mainly due to the expectation of strong domestic demand. Malt exports fell to 147,000 MT in MY 2022/23. In the first seven months of MY2023/24, malt exports have declined marginally, including to the United States, but it remains the UK's second largest export market, after Japan, and is expected to continue to be so in MY 2024/25.

## Stocks

Following their 10-year low in MY 2022/23, opening stocks have risen in MY 2023/24 and are forecast to do so again in MY 2024/25. However, the increased demand for barley, mainly in feed, means closing stocks in MY 2024/25 are currently forecast to decline by 200,000 MT. Any reduction in production in MY 2024/25 could lead to a further drawdown in stocks.

**Table 3.**

## Production, Supply and Distribution - Oats

Oats Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	174	176	165	167	0	200
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	157	157	140	140	0	70
Production (1000 MT)	1007	1007	850	830	0	1000
MY Imports (1000 MT)	18	18	25	15	0	20
TY Imports (1000 MT)	19	19	25	15	0	20
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1182	1182	1015	985	0	1090
MY Exports (1000 MT)	172	172	95	100	0	125
TY Exports (1000 MT)	147	147	95	100	0	125
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	355	350	300	280	0	280
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	515	520	525	535	0	600
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	870	870	825	815	0	880
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	140	140	95	70	0	85
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1182	1182	1015	985	0	1090
Yield (MT/HA)	5.7874	5.7216	5.1515	4.9701	0	5

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)  
 MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column  
 TY = Trade Year, which for Oats begins in October for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = October 2024 - September 2025

## Production

The UK area planted to oats in MY 2024/25 is forecast to increase over 30,000 Ha due to an increase in domestic demand, reduced competition from other crops, and its hardiness. Winter plantings are down, and yet to be completed, but spring plantings will make up the majority of the crop. Like the other grains, the weather has challenged crop development, but oats are a strong, resilient crop with a wide

planting window, and it is reported to have established better than most other winter crops. Unlike the other grains, there is plenty of time for nutrition applications. Disease incidence is reported to be low. While the winter crop will not break any records, sentiment is for good, average yields. Even so, only 37 percent is rated as good or excellent, compared to 81 percent last year. It is too early to comment on the spring crop, but total production is currently forecast to reach 1 MMT.

## Consumption

UK feed use of oats has declined in MY 2023/24. Of more significance is the opening of a new oat mill in early CY 2024, operated by Navara. Along with another facility that is currently being upgraded, this will steadily increase UK food processing capacity of oats by as much as 250,000 MT per year. Oats and oat milk are increasing in popularity in the UK, and this has provided confidence in these investments. Consequently, FSI usage of oats is currently forecast to rise 65,000 MT in MY 2024/25 with further gains in subsequent years. Feed use of oats is currently forecast unchanged, providing further support to imported feed grains in an otherwise tight supply year.

**Table 4.**

## Production, Supply and Distribution - Corn

Corn Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	8	0	8	8	0	8
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	248	248	126	126	0	216
Production (1000 MT)	25	25	25	25	0	25
MY Imports (1000 MT)	2131	2131	2400	2400	0	2400
TY Imports (1000 MT)	2036	2035	2400	2400	0	2400
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	60	65	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	2404	2404	2551	2551	0	2641
MY Exports (1000 MT)	132	132	125	150	0	125
TY Exports (1000 MT)	153	154	100	150	0	125
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	1355	1351	1400	1350	0	1500
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	791	795	800	835	0	900
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	2146	2146	2200	2185	0	2400
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	126	126	226	216	0	116
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	2404	2404	2551	2551	0	2641
Yield (MT/HA)	3.125	0	3.125	3.125	0	3.125

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)  
 MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column  
 TY = Trade Year, which for Corn begins in October for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = October 2024 - September 2025

The UK imports corn for its breakfast cereal market, and to supplement primarily domestic wheat and barley in the feed ration and in the biofuel sector. Until Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the UK's major supplier of corn for feed and biofuels was Ukraine, followed by several EU countries, and Argentina for food use.

Imports of corn from the United States were effectively priced out of the UK market by the steel and aluminum dispute with the European Union (EU). In June 2018, the EU imposed a 25 percent retaliatory duty on a list of products from the United States, including corn. While the EU removed the tariff effective January 1, 2022, separate negotiations with the UK continued. An agreement was announced in March 2022 and the tariff was lifted effective June 1, 2022. The tariff meant importers expressed a preference for other origins during this period, with Canada making significant gains, also at the expense of Ukraine. Prior to the imposition of tariffs, in MY 2017 over 250,000 MT of U.S. corn was imported into the UK. While this was not typical, with much lower tonnages reported in most years, it demonstrates the UK trade's willingness to import U.S. corn if the market presents an opportunity. Indeed, the United States has significantly increased its market share in MY 2023/24, with nearly 65,000 MT exported to the UK so far, compared to just 11,000 MT at this time a year ago. UK corn imports from Ukraine are also significantly up in the first seven months of MY 2023/24. Both are at the expense of Canadian, Brazilian, and Argentinian supplies which have declined year-on-year, albeit Canada remains the most significant non-EU supplier. Total imports have surpassed 1.55 MMT at end-January and are currently forecast to reach 2.4 MMT. The current UK grain crop outlook for MY 2024/25, and forecast steady demand for feed grains, suggests imports of feed quality grain will continue to play an important part in the UK supply situation. While domestic wheat is forecast to account for nearly half of UK feed usage, followed by barley, the UK is likely to remain heavily reliant on imported corn. Although a slight increase in imports for the biofuels sector is forecast, due to the reduced availability of wheat, the final total import number will largely be determined by the availability of domestic feed quality wheat and barley. It is currently forecast unchanged year-on-year.

**Table 5.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution - Rice**

Rice, Milled Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Sep 2022		Sep 2023		Sep 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	33	33	17	17	0	32
Milled Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rough Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)	6940	0	6940	0	0	0
MY Imports (1000 MT)	637	637	680	680	0	675
TY Imports (1000 MT)	667	667	680	680	0	675
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	18	15	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	670	670	697	697	0	707
MY Exports (1000 MT)	33	33	40	35	0	35
TY Exports (1000 MT)	30	30	40	35	0	35
Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)	620	620	630	630	0	640
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	17	17	27	32	0	32
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	670	670	697	697	0	707
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column						
TY = Trade Year, which for Rice, Milled begins in January for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = January 2025 - December 2025						

UK rice consumption continues to trend upwards year-on-year. Consumer stockpiling of rice during the first COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020 affirmed this product as a staple for many, and consumption patterns have since returned to normal.

MY 2023/24 rice imports are estimated at 680,000 with imports through the end of January already 25,000 MT up year-on-year. Reduced imports in the first four months of the season from the main EU suppliers, Spain and Italy, who normally account for around 20 percent of UK imports, have been more than offset by increased imports from India and Pakistan who have increased their market share. These two countries remain the top two suppliers of rice to the UK, normally accounting for around 40 percent of UK imports. Imports from other non-EU countries have also increased in the first four months of MY 2023/24, including from Uruguay, Paraguay, and Thailand. Rice imports are currently forecast little changed in MY2024/25, meaning stocks are also currently forecast unchanged despite a further forecast rise in consumption.

From June 2018 through June 2022, imports of rice from the United States were affected by the EU's steel and aluminum dispute with the United States. At that time, the European Union (EU) imposed a 25 percent retaliatory duty on imported milled, semi-milled and broken rice from the United States. The imposition of the tariff caused a shift to imports of brown rice for milling in the UK. The lifting of the tariff has seen this trend reversed. Despite the disruption to the trade, consumer demand for U.S. rice, especially within the ethnic sector, has continued to be met and there remain good opportunities to expand market share, especially in the retail sector. U.S. rice is liked over other origins for its consistent quality and cooking characteristics but faces stiff price competition.

**Table 6.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution – Mixed Grain**

Mixed Grain Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	50	63	60	60	0	60
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	200	225	230	230	0	180
MY Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	200	225	230	230	0	180
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	200	225	230	230	0	180
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	200	225	230	230	0	180
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	200	225	230	230	0	180
Yield (MT/HA)	4	3.5714	3.8333	3.8333	0	3

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Mixed Grain begins in October for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = October 2024 - September 2025

**Table 7.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution - Rye**

Rye Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	6	6	5	5	0	5
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	50	30	20	30	0	20
MY Imports (1000 MT)	4	11	5	4	0	4
TY Imports (1000 MT)	4	4	5	0	0	0
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	54	41	25	34	0	24
MY Exports (1000 MT)	29	4	0	29	0	1
TY Exports (1000 MT)	29	29	0	1	0	1
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	25	37	25	5	0	23
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	25	37	25	5	0	23
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	54	41	25	34	0	24
Yield (MT/HA)	8.3333	5	4	6	0	4

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)  
 MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column  
 TY = Trade Year, which for Rye begins in October for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = October 2024 - September 2025

**Table 8.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution - Sorghum**

Sorghum Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports (1000 MT)	14	14	20	20	0	20
TY Imports (1000 MT)	13	13	20	20	0	20
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	14	14	20	20	0	20
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	14	14	20	20	0	20
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	14	14	20	20	0	20
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	14	14	20	20	0	20
Yield (MT/HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)  
 MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column  
 TY = Trade Year, which for Sorghum begins in October for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = October 2024 - September 2025

## Policy

With its departure from the EU, the UK introduced its [Global Tariff](#), a simplification of the EU regime.

In other areas, the UK continues to generally follow the EU, and divergence has been limited but is expected to increase over time. For example, with its departure from the EU, the UK has departed the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and has introduced its own domestic agricultural policy in England, with Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland developing their own CAP replacements.

The UK and EU agreed the [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) (TCA) on December 24, 2020, and trade between the two remains tariff free, albeit subject to increased paperwork due to the UK's departure from the EU's customs union and single market. Post-Brexit trade has been disrupted by non-tariff barriers in the form of additional paperwork and delays at EU borders. There has also been a shift in trade from the UK to the EU, as the UK no longer has a role as a gateway to EU markets. The UK has regained powers to set maximum residue levels (MRLs) for imports and approve chemicals for use in UK crops, albeit the post-Brexit arrangements mean Northern Ireland continues to follow EU regulations. The Health and Safety Executive, which has delegated authority for pesticide residues, is commencing its own MRL reviews to be able to adjust those initial EU adopted MRLs as needed. However, there is public pressure to not move too far from EU MRLs as the EU remains a major market for Great Britain, and differing MRLs could cause challenges when exporting, as well as complicating arrangements with Northern Ireland.

The UK also now has its own approval mechanism for genetically engineered (biotech) events. The second tranche of eight events (comprising three corn, three soy, one cotton, and one canola) brought forward for approval by the UK government post-Brexit received full authorization and came into force on April 26, 2023, for England, and the same day for the relevant legislation in Scotland and Wales. No further public comment periods had been launched at the time of writing and the UK continues to lag behind the EU authorization timetable.

The Genetic Technologies (Precision Breeding) Bill received Royal Assent on March 23, 2023, becoming an Act of Parliament and entering into force from midnight the same day. The Act constitutes a framework that enables new secondary legislation to be created, and amendments to be tabled for existing law. The first step in the proposed authorization system is a screening process by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to determine whether the product meets the definition of a Precision Bred Organism (PBO). If the product is not destined to enter the local food chain, it will be signed off by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. However, if the product is intended for local consumption (food or feed) the application will be passed to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and 'triaged' to determine if it must go through the Tier 1 or Tier 2 (more onerous) approval process. Tier 1 applications are for those products where the potential safety risks are understood and not of concern, while Tier 2 are for those for which the safety risks may require more detailed scrutiny, for example where the changes significantly alter the composition of the consumed organism.

Following a public consultation on proposals for a new framework in England for the regulation of PBOs used for food and animal feed, the FSA's Board considered the next steps in a meeting in March 2024. The expectation set out in the [Board Paper](#) was that the secondary legislation needed to enact the

framework would be collated into a Statutory Instrument due to be laid in the summer of 2024, with Parliamentary debates after summer recess. That instrument would set out:

- An authorization process for PBOs used in food and feed.
- A public register for all PBOs that have been authorized for use in food and feed.
- An enforcement regime to ensure compliance with the regulations.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments