

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Ukraine Imposed Transshipment Restrictions due to COVID-19

Country: Ukraine

Post: Kyiv

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

In an attempt to prevent COVID-19 coronavirus spread, Ukraine imposed severe travel restrictions for people and closed a number of border crossing points. These new travel restrictions do not cover truck drivers and vessels crews who will be able to continue to enter Ukraine after medical examinations. In addition, all major Ukrainian seaports will continue operations. Some inland shipments may experience delays as all trade flow will be diverted to the few crossing points that remain open. While imports of agricultural commodities are not expected to be impacted, Ukraine may restrict exports of certain food products. The list of such products is not yet known and is being developed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Human Travel and Social Restrictions

Different institutions of the Government of Ukraine introduced a number of COVID-related travel restriction in recent days. These travel restrictions will have indirect impact on agricultural trade through restrained business activities, cancelation of agricultural events, shows etc.

The following measures are in place as of Monday, March 17th, 2020:

- On March 11 the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a Decree closing all educational institutions from March 12th until April 3rd, 2020. The list includes all public and private nurseries, schools and universities.
- By the same Decree, the Cabinet of Ministers banned mass gatherings of 200 people and more. Events of "state necessity" such as parliamentary meetings can still be held. So are sporting events without spectators.
- On March 13th, Ukraine tightened restrictions further. To prevent coronavirus spread Ukraine closed its borders to foreign citizens for two weeks. The ban was enforced on midnight March 15th, and is expected to last until April 3rd, 2020. The following foreigners are exempted:
 - 1) Personnel of diplomatic institutions,
 - 2) Employees of International organizations operating in Ukraine
 - 3) Foreigners with temporary or permanent residency permits, spouses and children of Ukrainian citizens
 - 4) Truck drivers and service personnel
 - 5) Crew members
- On March 17th, 2020 Ukraine also stopped all inbound and outbound air traffic. Only passenger cars can cross Ukrainian border. No public transportation is allowed for cross-border traffic.
- Ukraine's capital authorities closed all shops and catering facilities in the city starting March 17th, 2020. The exempted grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and gas stations. This action of Kyiv city major mirrors measures already in place in other major cities – Odessa and Lviv.

Expected Future Restrictions

- Ukraine is expected to stop internal passenger railway service on March 18th, 2020. Other in-country travels are expected to be significantly reduced with limitation on number of passengers in a bus etc.
- Public transportation in larger cities is expected to be severely restricted or stopped completely. Cargo railway shipments will continue uninterrupted.

Possible Food Products Trade Restrictions

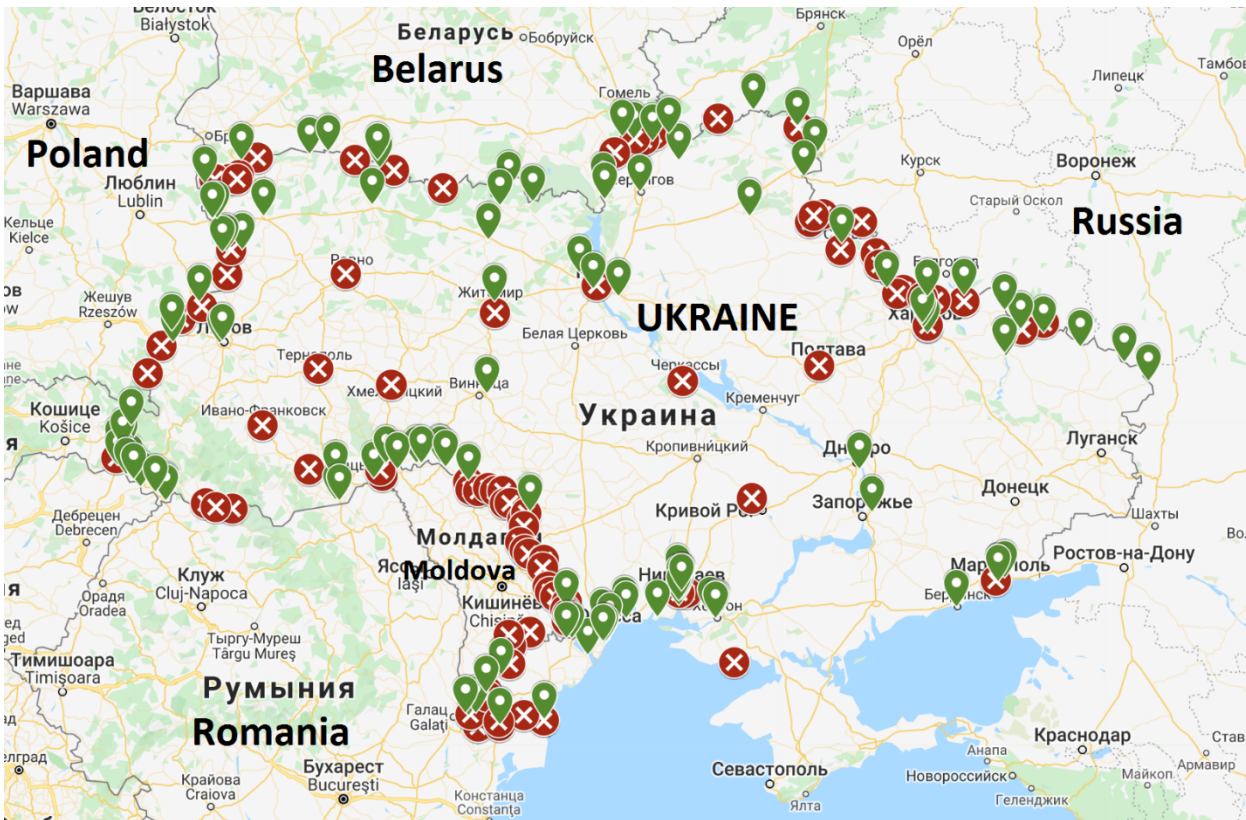
- Ukraine might restrict exports of certain food products. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyi requested the Cabinet of Ministers to develop a list of food products subject to possible export restriction. The list is not expected to contain agricultural commodities. Ukrainian government publicly recognized importance of international trade and Ukraine's ability to insure free flow of products of critical imports and exports.

Products Transshipment Restrictions



At 12.01 am on March 16th, the Government of Ukraine suspended operation of 94 out of 219 border checkpoints. On 49 checkpoints out of 94, Ukraine banned all pedestrian crossing completely. Majority of

suspended points are small control points on smaller country roads. Those points are rarely used for large-scale international traffic and shipments of agricultural and food products. The government of Ukraine stated that it would like to concentrate scarce available sanitary control resources on the remaining points.

According to information available as of March 16, 2020 in [interactive map of active border crossings](#) – all border crossings in major ports on Black Sea and Sea of Azov are still functioning. Also, according to the information about dispatching of cargo vessels from ports, they were sailing at least as of March 13, 2020. Based on this information, FAS-Kyiv assumes that closures of certain border crossings would not have significant impact on grain exports out of Ukraine.



Source: Ukraine's Customs Service

-  Operational Border Crossing Point
-  Suspended Border Crossing Point

U.S. exporters which used European ports to ship their products to Ukraine may expect some delays associated with increased traffic on the remaining border posts and increased sanitary measures. Competent authorities of all neighboring countries are informed about the change.

Attachments:

No Attachments.