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**Report Highlights:**

MY 2022/23 has been overshadowed by the developments in Ukraine. However, high UK grain prices supported planting despite high input prices, especially for fertilizer and fuel. With these costs now receding, and winter planting, crop establishment, over winter development, having gone well, and spring planting under way, the outlook for the UK grains crop is currently positive. Following a reduction in feed demand in MY 2022/23, largely due to a decline in the pig herd and modified poultry ration, a partial recovery is forecast for MY 2023/24. Demand from the biofuels sector is also forecast to continue to rise in MY 2023/24, and for wheat over corn.

**Disclaimer:** This report presents Post's first outlook for grain and feed, and production, supply, and distribution (PSD) forecasts for the marketing year (MY) 2023/24, as well as estimates for MY 2021/22 and MY 2022/23. 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 2023/24 is forecast to be 23.9 million metric tons (MMT), just over 375,000 MT below MY 2022/23, but over 1.5 MMT above MY 2021/22, and nearly 3.5 MMT above MY 2020/21 and its 40-year low wheat crop.

The early MY 2022/23 harvest and favorable conditions in the early fall led to an increase in CY 2022 winter wheat plantings for the MY 2023/24 harvest. It was also reported that the crop had established well. At the time, fertilizer prices remained very high, leading to expectations of reduced application. Wet and windy weather later in the fall delayed post-emergence herbicide applications in several regions, but the crop entered winter in good to excellent condition, ahead of the same point in MY 2022/23. It was a similar story for barley, with hybrid varieties reported to be looking particularly good. The advanced planting also led to early planting of oats. A cold, dry winter, with severe frosts in December and January, reduced some of these early gains but, despite the disruption, fall herbicides performed well in limiting weed development. An exceptionally dry February led to early spring planting, although a subsequent cold spell delayed emergence. The wettest March on record buoyed reservoir water supplies, which fell dramatically last summer, but delayed drilling, and delayed fertilizer and pesticide applications in some regions. April has once again brought drier conditions, albeit with regular rain showers which have delayed spring drilling as well as fertilizer and crop protection applications, but producers are reported to have caught up with field work. Weed incidence is reported to be low, and while the late fungicide and herbicide applications could be detrimental, producers remain upbeat about the crop outlook. Only winter rapeseed is reported to be in a variable condition, which may lead to some increased planting of spring grains, mainly barley. If anything, producers are watching prices, which have fallen back significantly from their high of last year, driven by the developments in Ukraine at the time. More positively, input and fuel prices are also starting to fall. Producers are currently hopeful of good yields for the upcoming harvest, albeit below that achieved in MY 2022/23. Necessarily, the weather over the coming weeks will be crucial, not just for yield but also for quality.

<b>Feed and Residual</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	7705	5955	7535	6947	7150
<b>Barley</b>	4013	5267	4282	4062	4200
<b>Oats</b>	405	408	531	362	334
<b>Corn</b>	1571	1927	1294	1289	1266
<b>Rye</b>	36	37	31	34	34
<b>Sorghum</b>	23	28	18	15	15
<b>Mixed Grain</b>	168	149	276	295	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>13921</b>	<b>13771</b>	<b>13967</b>	<b>13004</b>	<b>13299</b>

(1000 MT)

The UK livestock herd contracted in CY 2022, principally of pigs in the second half of the year. In the main, this was driven by high input costs, including for feed, squeezing margins. This reduced grain feed demand in the sector. Grain incorporation in poultry feed is also reported to be down. Overall, UK feed grain consumption is expected to fall by almost 1 MMT in MY 2022/23, to 13 MMT. With pig prices now on the rise, and input costs falling, the pig herd is forecast to stabilize in CY 2023 before increasing

in CY 2024. Consequently, UK feed grain consumption is forecast to recover slightly in MY 2023/24. All of this increase in tonnage is forecast to be met by wheat and barley, which will also increase the proportion of these grains in the mix. The volume of corn, oats, and other grains (rye, sorghum, and mixed grain) used in feed is forecast little changed in MY 2023/24.

The bioethanol sector remains the most 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, while the other of the UK's two facilities, Ensus, has been steadily increasing production and continues its switch back to processing mainly domestic feed quality wheat after a price driven switch to imported corn in MY 2020/21. Neither are yet running at full capacity. Indeed, while grain use by the biofuels sector is up year-on-year in MY 2022/23, it is below previous forecasts. This is largely due to the high price of wheat in CY 2022 which negatively impacted margins and increased the competitiveness of imported ethanol. In addition, corn use by the sector has not declined as much as previously forecast. A further rise in overall grain use is forecast for MY 2023/24, mainly wheat as the incorporation of corn is further scaled down.

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 2023/24 suggests wheat will once again account for over half of UK feed usage, followed by barley, and the UK will remain an importer of corn. In MY 2021/22, the situation in Ukraine led to increased imports from other origins, principally Canada, France, and Poland. Canada has also started the MY 2022/23 strongly. This switch towards other origins is forecast to continue in MY 2023/24. Notably, although the United States has benefitted from the lifting of a 25 percent retaliatory tariff on corn (and rice) in June 2022, this has yet to lead any increase in imports.

While the crop is currently reported to be in good condition and developing well, the expectation that the grain balance will remain tight means ending stocks in MY 2023/24 are currently forecast to decline slightly.

**Table 1.****Production, Supply and Distribution - Wheat**

Wheat Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jul 2021		Jul 2022		Jul 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	1790	1790	1800	1809	0	1830
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1416	1416	1808	1846	0	2475
Production (1000 MT)	13988	13988	15500	15540	0	15500
MY Imports (1000 MT)	2634	2635	1800	1800	0	1800
TY Imports (1000 MT)	2634	2635	1800	1800	0	1800
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	1	1	0	10	0	10
Total Supply (1000 MT)	18038	18039	19108	19186	0	19775
MY Exports (1000 MT)	830	869	1300	1900	0	2100
TY Exports (1000 MT)	830	869	1300	1900	0	2100
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	7400	7535	7800	6947	0	7150
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	8000	7789	8000	7864	0	8085
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	15400	15324	15800	14811	0	15235
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1808	1846	2008	2475	0	2440
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	18038	18039	19108	19186	0	19775
Yield (MT/HA)	7.8145	7.8145	8.6111	8.5904	0	8.4699

(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 2023/2024 = July 2023 - June 2024

**Production**

The total wheat area is forecast to increase marginally in MY 2023/24, by 20,000 hectares. An early MY2022/23 harvest and mild, dry, and settled fall was good for planting and early crop establishment. All winter wheat was planted by the end of November. The winter was cold and unusually dry, with severe frosts in December and January, but the crop is reported to have coped well. As at the end of April, 88 per cent of the crop was described as in good to excellent condition, as compared to 84 per cent at the same time last year. Where there are challenges, they have largely been limited to blackgrass and some waterlogging in the South East. Most of the wheat crop is winter planted, but an exceptionally dry February meant spring planting got off to a good start, with nearly 40 percent sown. A record wet March then brought most field work to a stop, while a drier start to April has seen plantings progress again, albeit interrupted by rain showers, and is now almost complete. The weather has slowed emergence of the spring crop, but it is reported to have established well. Production is currently forecast to be 15.5 MMT, little changed on MY 2022/23, albeit yield is currently forecast to decline slightly. Indeed, yield is the big question. While there were some concerns at the time of winter planting about fertilizer application in MY 2023/24, it would seem many producers have sufficient supplies and, with input prices starting to ease, it is now considered less of an impediment. Fuel prices have also fallen as compared to MY 2022/23. The other question is quality. While the weather in the coming weeks will be the most important factor, any cost-related reduction in field work would also have a detrimental effect.

## **Consumption**

Total FSI use of wheat is forecast to rise by over 200,000 MT in MY 2023/24, driven by an increase in the bioethanol sector. This follows a 75,000 MT rise in MY 2022/23 which was 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. However, high wheat prices in MY 2022/23 meant that neither of the two biofuel plants in the UK, Ensus and Vivergo, which are both capable of processing over 1 MMT of grain, ran at full capacity. Instead, these high wheat prices supported ethanol imports. Vivergo, which is undergoing recommissioning, continued to scale up production but at a slower pace than previously expected. Similarly, Ensus also increased production but less than previously expected, and slowed its switch away from corn back to wheat. With wheat prices now falling back, both plants are forecast to increase their grain usage in MY2023/24, and Ensus to increase the proportion of wheat utilized. Total usage of wheat by flour millers in MY 2023/24 is forecast to remain unchanged year-on-year. The functionality of UK wheat in MY 2022/23 was good. For MY 2023/24, only if the quality of the upcoming CY 2023 wheat harvest is significantly lower than last year will this lead to an increase in the incorporation of imported wheat.

MY 2023/24 feed use of wheat in the animal feed sector is currently forecast marginally up over MY 2022/23. The UK livestock herd contracted in CY 2022, principally of pigs in the second half of the year. In the main, this was driven by high input costs, including for feed, squeezing margins. This reduced wheat feed demand in the sector. Grain incorporation in poultry feed is also reported to be down. Despite the increased availability of feed quality wheat in MY 2022/23, wheat usage in feed is expected to fall nearly 600,000 MT. With pig prices now on the rise, and input costs falling, the pig herd is forecast to stabilize in CY 2023 before increasing in CY 2024. This is forecast to support both UK compound feed usage of wheat, as well as fed-on-farm consumption, and feed wheat usage in MY 2023/24 is currently forecast to recover by 200,000 MT.

## **Trade**

The UK is typically a net importer of milling wheat, with any surplus feed wheat being exported. Imports of wheat have fallen in MY 2022/23, in the main due to the second consecutive improved crop following the 40-year low in MY 2020/21. Wheat imports through end-February 2023 totaled 1.3 MMT but a further 500,000 MT is currently expected to be imported in the last four months of MY 2022/23. MY 2023/24 imports are currently forecast unchanged year-on-year, albeit subject to the ultimate quality of the harvest and availability of sufficient 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 eight months through February 2023 is the single largest origin for UK wheat imports at just over 380,000 MT. This is also over 80,000 MT up on the same time period in MY 2021/22. 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. For example, Algeria has imported 31,500 MT thus far in MY 2022/23. Exports in MY 2023/24 are currently forecast up 200,000 MT, mainly supported by the increased availability of domestic supplies. The uncertainty on international grain markets could also lead to traders taking the opportunity to export at the expense of domestic supplies.

## Stocks

Stock levels are expected to rise significantly in MY 2022/23 to nearly 2.5 MM, an increase of nearly 700,000 MT. The expectation of another 15.5 MMT harvest in 2022 means MY 2023/24 ending stocks are currently forecast to remain high at year end, pending developments both in domestic demand and on trade.

**Table 2.**

## Production, Supply and Distribution - Barley

Barley Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jul 2021		Jul 2022		Jul 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	1150	1150	1115	1104	0	1085
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1058	1058	964	964	0	1146
Production (1000 MT)	6961	6961	7400	7385	0	7150
MY Imports (1000 MT)	89	89	100	70	0	70
TY Imports (1000 MT)	70	70	100	70	0	70
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	8108	8108	8464	8419	0	8366
MY Exports (1000 MT)	764	764	1000	1000	0	850
TY Exports (1000 MT)	784	764	1000	1000	0	850
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	4312	4282	4100	4062	0	4200
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	2068	2098	2021	2211	0	2216
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	6380	6380	6121	6273	0	6416
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	964	964	1343	1146	0	1100
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	8108	8108	8464	8419	0	8366
Yield (MT/HA)	6.053	6.053	6.6368	6.6893	0	6.5899
(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 2023/2024 = October 2023 - September 2024						

## Production

The winter barley area is forecast to increase over 15,000 Ha in MY 2023/24 but be more than offset by a decline in the area planted to spring barley, currently forecast to fall over 35,000 Ha. With these

changes, total barley area is forecast to fall below 1.1 MHa. This reaffirms that MY 2021/22 was an outlier when a surge in the spring area lifted the planted area to nearly 1.4 MMT. As with wheat, the winter barley crop was planted in favorable conditions, good progress was made and, following the prompt CY 2022 harvest, nearly all the crop was in the ground by the end of October. Again, like wheat, favorable conditions through the fall led to good crop establishment. The crop then overwintered well and at end-April, with all of the crop emerged, 90 percent was reported to be in good to excellent condition, as compared to 84 percent a year earlier. None of the crop was reported to be in poor to very poor condition. Spring planting commenced promptly in February, although faced some delays in March, and to a lesser extent in April, with two thirds now planted. Colder weather has slowed emergence, but it is generally reported to have established well. Like wheat, although too early to predict yield with certainty, the outlook is positive albeit with the uncertainty of input applications by producers. Total barley production is currently forecast to reach 7.15 MMT, just over 200,000 MT down year-on-year on the reduced area.

## **Consumption**

UK barley production is predominately focused on the malting and livestock feed sectors. Like wheat, barley used for feed is expected to decline in MY 2022/23 in line with reduced livestock numbers, but then partially recover in MY2023/24. In addition to production, 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 is expected to rise nearly 100,000 MT to nearly 2 MMT in MY 2022/23, and remain at that level in MY 2023/24. Ongoing post-Brexit labor issues in hospitality, and rising inflation impacts on consumer spending, are both expected to remain limiting factors for further growth through MY 2023/24.

## **Trade**

UK exports of barley are predominately destined for the EU market, with occasional exports to the Middle East and North Africa. In MY 2022/23 they are expected to reach 1 MMT and were already nearly 800,000 MT at end-February, following strong demand, especially from Spain. Total barley exports in MY 2023/24 are forecast down at 850,000 MT, mainly due to the reduction in available supplies, albeit up on two years earlier. Malt exports remained at around 180,000 MT in MY 2021/22. In the first eight months of MY2022/23, malt exports have declined 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 2023/24.

## **Stocks**

MY 2023/24 opening stocks are expected to be just 1.15 MMT, albeit up 200,000 MT year-on-year from their 10 year low in MY 2022/23. The smaller forecast crop, and partial recovery in forecast demand for barley, means closing stocks are forecast to be little changed despite steady FSI usage and reduced exports. Even if production is higher than currently forecast, demand for barley is forecast to be a limiting factor for any significant recovery in stocks.

**Table 3.****Production, Supply and Distribution - Oats**

Oats Market Year Begins	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jul 2021		Jul 2022		Jul 2023	
United Kingdom	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	200	200	190	174	0	165
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	147	147	157	157	0	118
Production (1000 MT)	1123	1123	1000	1007	0	900
MY Imports (1000 MT)	17	17	15	15	0	25
TY Imports (1000 MT)	16	16	20	15	0	25
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1287	1287	1172	1179	0	1043
MY Exports (1000 MT)	123	123	200	155	0	50
TY Exports (1000 MT)	167	167	160	155	0	50
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	476	476	320	362	0	334
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	531	531	535	544	0	559
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	1007	1007	855	906	0	893
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	157	157	117	118	0	100
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1287	1287	1172	1179	0	1043
Yield (MT/HA)	5.615	5.615	5.2632	5.7874	0	5.4545

(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 2023/2024 = October 2023 - September 2024

**Production**

The UK area planted to oats in MY 2023/24 is forecast to decline nearly 10,000 ha due to competition from other crops. Like other grains, planting was earlier than normal, with the winter oat crop in the ground by early November, and most of it planted in September and October. It established well, although some frost damage was reported in the South East. At the end of April, 81 percent of the winter crop was reported to be in good to excellent condition, down 4 percent year-on-year. In contrast, Spring planting has been slow to get under way. However, there are no concerns about the crop currently. Production is currently forecast to reach 900,000 MT.

**Consumption**

UK feed use of oats has declined in MY 2022/23 and, unlike wheat and barley, is forecast to decline further in MY 2023/24 due to steady FSI use, mainly breakfast cereals and oat flour, and the reduced availability.

**Table 4.****Production, Supply and Distribution - Corn**

Corn Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jul 2021		Jul 2022		Jul 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
<b>Area Harvested</b> (1000 HA)	8	8	8	8	0	8
<b>Beginning Stocks</b> (1000 MT)	211	211	248	239	0	216
<b>Production</b> (1000 MT)	25	25	25	25	0	25
<b>MY Imports</b> (1000 MT)	2215	2215	1900	2050	0	1950
<b>TY Imports</b> (1000 MT)	2521	2521	1900	2050	0	1950
<b>TY Imp. from U.S.</b> (1000 MT)	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b> (1000 MT)	2451	2451	2173	2314	0	2191
<b>MY Exports</b> (1000 MT)	134	134	100	125	0	125
<b>TY Exports</b> (1000 MT)	146	146	100	125	0	125
<b>Feed and Residual</b> (1000 MT)	1207	1294	1200	1289	0	1266
<b>FSI Consumption</b> (1000 MT)	862	784	639	684	0	584
<b>Total Consumption</b> (1000 MT)	2069	2078	1839	1973	0	1850
<b>Ending Stocks</b> (1000 MT)	248	239	234	216	0	216
<b>Total Distribution</b> (1000 MT)	2451	2451	2173	2314	0	2191
<b>Yield</b> (MT/HA)	3.125	3.125	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 2023/2024 = October 2023 - September 2024

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 have been 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 and the tariff was lifted effective June 1, 2022. The tariff has meant importers have expressed a preference for other origins during this period, with Canada making significant gains, also more recently 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. The Ukraine situation, and the tightening of global corn supplies, and the lifting of the tariff raises the possibility of increased imports of U.S. corn in MY 2022/23 and beyond but so far it is Canada that continues to increase its market share.

By the end of February 2023, the UK had imported just over 850,000 MT of corn with the leading origins being Canada, Ireland, Ukraine, and Poland. Total MY 2022/23 imports are now estimated to just exceed 2 MMT, supported by the slower than previously forecast reduction in demand from the

ethanol sector. Imports are currently forecast down 100,000 MT in MY 2023/24 in line with reduced demand from the ethanol sector.

With the UK biofuel sector largely returning to processing wheat in MY 2023/24, any fluctuation in import demand will be closely linked to the requirements of feed compounders. Given the increased forecast availability of wheat and barley in MY 2023/24, corn usage in feed is forecast to decline marginally.

**Table 5.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution - Rice**

Rice, Milled Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Sep 2021		Sep 2022		Sep 2023	
	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)	30	30	24	30	0	30
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)	644	638	660	665	0	690
TY Imports (1000 MT)	638	638	660	665	0	690
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	21	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	674	668	684	695	0	720
MY Exports (1000 MT)	40	33	40	40	0	40
TY Exports (1000 MT)	40	33	40	40	0	40
Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)	610	605	620	625	0	650
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	24	30	24	30	0	30
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	674	668	684	695	0	720
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 2023/2024 = January 2024 - December 2024

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 2022/23 rice imports are estimated at 665,000 MT. Rice imports through the end of February are down just under 35,000 MT year-on-year but total imports in MY 2021/22 were above trend. A further slight rise in imports is forecast for MY 2023/24, as consumption demand continues to increase. India and Pakistan remain the top two suppliers to the UK, together accounting for around 40 percent of UK imports of rice. Italy and Spain are the main EU suppliers, together accounting for around 20 percent of UK imports.

Starting June 2018, 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. As mentioned for corn, while the EU removed the tariff effective January 1, 2022, separate negotiations with the UK continued. An agreement was announced last March, and the tariff was lifted effective June 1, 2022. While imports from the United States remained around 30,000 MT, 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.

**Table 6.**

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

Mixed Grain Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jul 2021		Jul 2022		Jul 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	66	66	50	64	0	65
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	276	276	200	305	0	310
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)	276	276	200	305	0	310
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)	276	266	200	295	0	300
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	10	0	10	0	10
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	276	276	200	305	0	310
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	276	276	200	305	0	310
Yield (MT/HA)	4.1818	4.1818	4	4.7656	0	4.7692

(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 2023/2024 = October 2023 - September 2024

**Table 7.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution - Rye**

Rye Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jul 2021		Jul 2022		Jul 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	5	5	5	5	0	5
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	21	21	20	25	0	25
MY Imports (1000 MT)	11	11	10	10	0	10
TY Imports (1000 MT)	11	11	5	10	0	10
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	32	32	30	35	0	35
MY Exports (1000 MT)	4	4	0	1	0	1
TY Exports (1000 MT)	4	4	0	1	0	1
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	28	28	30	34	0	34
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	28	28	30	34	0	34
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	32	32	30	35	0	35
Yield (MT/HA)	4.2	4.2	4	5	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 Rye begins in October for all countries. TY 2023/2024 = October 2023 - September 2024

**Table 8.**

**Production, Supply and Distribution - Sorghum**

Sorghum Market Year Begins United Kingdom	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jul 2021		Jul 2022		Jul 2023	
	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)	18	18	20	15	0	15
TY Imports (1000 MT)	19	18	20	15	0	15
TY Imp. from U.S. (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	18	18	20	15	0	15
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)	18	18	20	15	0	15
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	18	18	20	15	0	15
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	18	18	20	15	0	15
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 2023/2024 = October 2023 - September 2024

## Policy

With its departure from the EU, the UK introduced its [Global Tariff](#), a simplification of the EU regime. In other areas, it 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 a 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 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. The UK will not be pursuing the same MRL review process as the EU and is expected to set up a review mechanism next year. There will only be a change to existing MRLs and import tolerances where there is evidence of a public health risk.

The UK also now has its own approval mechanism for genetically modified (biotech) events. The second tranche of eight events brought forward for approval by the UK government post-Brexit received a positive decision in principle from the Health Ministers in England, Scotland, and Wales (Northern Ireland remains under EU law in this regard) in March of this year. It is expected that the second tranche (comprising three corn, three soy, one cotton, and one canola) will receive full authorization within weeks. A third tranche of events (composed of two soy events, one corn, and one cotton) have passed risk assessment and are due to be released for public consultation. Despite these advancements, the UK remains 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. There could be as many as thirty new pieces of legislation or updates to existing law required to create a system of regulation for gene edited products. The timeline for this is expected to be at least 18 to 24 months. The UK government still needs to agree the details related to the mechanics of the authorization system. The first step will be a screening process by 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. Once approval steps are complete, the PBO must be approved by the Minister of Health for England. To hone the policies for secondary legislation, the FSA has commissioned stakeholder engagement workshops for April and June, will hold a key Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (risk assessment body) meeting on June 14, and host a pivotal meeting of its board on September 20. To set the scene and help prepare, an [FSA Board Paper](#) was released on March 5, 2023. This expands on issues to be resolved and asks the FSA Board to consider consumer perception and traceability, as well as providing details on coming work plans to achieve a 'proportionate' regulatory system.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments