

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Developments in the Jordanian agricultural and food sectors for June 2015.

General Information:

Fruit and Vegetable Industry's Crisis

Fruits and vegetables (F&V) are a leading Jordanian export, coming second only after pharmaceuticals. F&V are of critical importance to the economy providing a significant multiplier effect by virtue of the demand generated for other industry sectors including transportation, agrochemicals, and plastic. The current crisis in Iraq and Syria, Jordan's two biggest export markets, has led to border closures with them. Additionally, the closures have disrupted the routes to third markets, such as Turkey and Kuwait, taking a significant toll on the trucking industry which has come to a standstill, as well as affecting many plastic factories that supply harvest and packing materials that have scaled down production as export demand has waned considerably. If the border closures persist, it is estimated that Jordanian F&V exports will be reduced by close to one million metric tons, further straining an already feeble economy.

Grain Inspection Problems Continue

A shipment of Polish wheat rejected by Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) in February of 2015 has set off an inter-agency dispute among the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) and JFDA. According to the JFDA, the wheat did not meet Jordanian technical standards for human consumption, therefore was ordered for re-export. The wheat has already been discharged in silos, however, the re-export process has been unsuccessful because the grain elevator system is set up for offloading grains, not loading commodities.

In order to avoid the inter-agency dispute, the Government of Jordan (GoJ) adopted a new standard. On May 15 2015, the Jordanian Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) modified the acceptable mold and yeast count, but it has backfired as apparently no supplier can meet the new standard, resulting in another wheat cargo being held-up. Grain traders have threatened the government that they will stop submitting offers on MIT issued tenders if the GOJ does not modify the standard. A move seen by many as a threat to the country's food security as the GOJ is the sole buyer of wheat.

Chefs of Jordan:

The U.S. Meat Export Federation is recruiting a selective group of chefs and purchasing managers of gourmet food institutions, to attend a study tour in Colorado in what is being billed as "Chefs of Jordan". The purpose of the visit will to learn about the latest trends and applications of U.S. beef. Additionally, two Jordanian companies were invited to attend the Certified Black Angus workshop in Ohio. The event took place in the second week of June.

Jordan's imports of beef were valued at \$ 160 million in 2014, of which \$6.5 million was high quality chilled meat of U.S. origin.

