

March 28, 2008

Ukraine



Ukrainian meat market

The Agricultural Policy Ministry expects meat imports to Ukraine to reduce by 7,000 MT or 3.4% to 200,000 MT in 2008. Vitalii Pakholiuk, representative of Agricultural Policy Ministry, announced this at a conference that was held as a part of the fifth international specialized exhibition “World of Ice Creams. Dairy and Meat Industry.”

According to Pakholiuk, the Agricultural Policy Ministry expects 200,000 tons of meat to be imported into Ukraine in 2008, including 150,000 tons of beef and 50,000 tons of pork. According to him, meat is imported into Ukraine mainly from South America, particularly Argentina and Brazil. He is forecasting that locally produced meat will be sufficient to fully meet the demand on the Ukrainian market in 2009 so that meat will not have to be imported.

Producers of meat and meat products are very much concerned by an increase of illegal meat imports to Ukraine. It is necessary to say that The Economics Ministry of Ukraine put forward a proposal to decrease the custom duties on meat imports (Draft Law “Amendments to the Custom Tariff of Ukraine” published on the web site of Ministry on March 4, 2008). According to Ukrmyasoproduct association’s release, the decrease of custom duties (from 21.5% to 13.3%) will lead to an increase of import of meat by 10-15%.

Meanwhile, prices on poultry meat in February increased from 13.3 to 16.6 hryvnias per kg. Prices on pork increased from 23 to 29.1 hryvnias/kg, beef – from 22.79-29.19 hryvnias/kg, eggs - from 5.81 to 6.4 hryvnias/10 pcs. -
Source: Ukranews Agency, Meatinfo.ru;
Translated and edited by: usapeec.kz

What are Ukrainian sausages made of?

The sausages, which are sold in Ukrainian shops, consist by 45% of emulsion (grinded and boiled away light-gray porridge of skin, bones, byproducts, and meat waste), and by 25% - of soy protein. The rest consists of flour, starch, and flavor additives. Thus, the content of meat in the sausages makes 7%, and chicken – 15%.

These are the results of a research, carried out by the Institute of Eco-Hygiene and Toxicology, named after L.Medved. The research indicates that small sausages consist of emulsion by 35%, of soy protein – by 30%, of meat – by 15%, of chicken – by 10%. Boiled sausages consist by 50% of emulsion and soy protein, by 10% - of meat, and by 30% - of chicken.

“If a sausage is produced of starch, soy, or other additives, it must be called, respectively, a soy stick, and must be sold at a respective price”, says Klavdia Maksymenko, who defends consumer rights within frames of EU and PROUN project “Community of Consumers and Public Organizations”. “The buyer should get an opportunity to choose between vegetable and meat components. He will know what he gives his children for breakfast – a meat product, or an emulsion with flavor additives”, she said. -
Source: Unian News Agency

USA absolutely support Ukraine’s aspirations to join NATO MAP – Ambassador

USA absolutely supports the Ukraine’s aspirations to join NATO MAP, and hope that the other NATO members will share this stance. Ambassador Taylor stressed that U.S. President George Bush and other NATO leaders are studying the issue of Ukraine’s joining MAP and expressed a believe that the Bucharest NATO Summit will make a positive decision on Ukraine’s joining MAP.

At the same time, the Ambassador refused to assess by figures the Ukraine's chances to join MAP at the Bucharest Summit. However, he believes rather realistic that Ukraine may receive a positive answer on this issue.

W.Taylor pointed out that joining MAP does not meet becoming a NATO member. He stressed that this is only the beginning of this process, after which the decision on membership will be made. W.Taylor noted that NATO will consider this issue only after the Ukrainian nation gives a positive answer on joining NATO at a referendum. - *Source: Unian News Agency*

U.S. Experts: Ukraine scores high on economy, low on governance

U.S. analysts give Ukraine good marks for economic policies, but agree with the general perception in the country that the government is corrupt. VOA's Barry Wood attended a meeting of experts on Ukraine at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and has this report, according to the Voice of America.

Former US ambassador to Ukraine William Miller said pervasive corruption remains the top issue in the former Soviet republic. Now a scholar at Washington's Woodrow Wilson Center, Miller said public views on corruption have been constant for several years.

"They (citizens) believe the government is corrupt. They believe their leaders are corrupt. And they believe there is a necessity to make a change, but they find it very hard to understand how they can emerge from the trap that they're in," he said.

Miller believes that a younger generation of business and political leaders is determined to fight corruption.

Economist Anders Aslund, of Washington's Peterson Institute, gives the new government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko high marks on economic policy. Ukraine has been approved for membership in the World Trade Organization, a development Aslund believes will boost economic growth and provide free trade rules that could diminish corruption.

Aslund says after 16 years of independence Ukraine is becoming a normal European country where a strong political consensus in favor of market-based reform has finally emerged. "So Ukraine has matured in terms of ideology. The communist threat is completely done away with, having only five percent of the votes. And this is one of the major accomplishments of the Orange Revolution (of 2004) and what has come afterwards," he said.

But Aslund says corruption remains a major problem in Ukraine. Corruption is most widespread in the gas industry, in tax collection and customs. He believes that the Tymoshenko government is making some progress in combating corruption in the customs service.

Another former US Ambassador in Ukraine, Steven Pifer says, while the business community is in favor of closer ties with the European Union, there is little public support for joining NATO, the western defense alliance. "I think there is support for moving into Europe because they (the business community) see their economic future not as Ukrainian business people but as European business people. That consensus isn't there yet for joining NATO," he said.

The Tymoshenko Government has asked NATO to provide Ukraine with a membership action plan, a first step for joining the alliance. Russia is vehemently opposed to its western neighbor joining NATO. A decision on Ukraine's pre-membership application is likely to be made at the April 2 NATO summit in Romania. - *Source: Voice of America*

Moldova



Sanitary-veterinary Service of Moldova will be re-organized due to serious violations committed

According to the press service of the head of state, such a decision was made during the meeting of the Supreme Security Council, where the state of things in sanitary and veterinary system was considered and serious violations were exposed.

In particular, it was noted that standards of organization and hosting tenders for the purchase of vaccines against infectious animal diseases as well as requirements for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious animal diseases were not observed. Moreover, such violations as superficial inspection of quality of products of animal origin, incomplete and unprofessional veterinary medical examination, inappropriate use of public funds, including funds' embezzlement were stated. The President of Moldova expressed concern by the emergency situation in sanitary and veterinary system, resulting from irresponsible actions of some heads of the departments. Vladimir Voronin stressed necessity to speed up the process of restructuring and optimizing health and veterinary services. The head of the state demanded to punish the heads of the agencies authorized to implement sanitary and veterinary supervision, who allowed abuse and indiscipline. - *Source: Infomarket Agency*

Moldavian Parliament has approved the amendments to the Law on FEZs, stipulating two new activities in FEZ – foreign trade and transport

It will allow creation of Free Economic Zones (FEZ) at transport terminals of airports in Balti, Cahul and Marculesti and develop wholesale trade performed in most worlds FEZ. Transit wholesale trade in Moldova will allow fuller use of free zone advantages and directing some trans-European flows through the country territory. The Ministry of Trade and Economy notes, FTZ creation at transport terminals of airports will allow attracting significant investments and modern technologies into principally new industries. Besides, linking free zones to traditional industrial centres and communication junctions will dramatically increase their investment attractiveness. - *Source: InfoMarket Agency*

Moldova to nominate first female Prime Minister

Moldova's President Vladimir Voronin will nominate the first female Prime Minister on March 28th. Russian-born Zinaida Grechanaya, 52, is to replace Vasily Tarlev,

whose resignation was approved by Parliament on March 21. Grechanaya was in charge of macroeconomic issues in the government and headed the bilateral commission on trade and economic cooperation with Russia.

She was the top negotiator with Russia on gas deliveries to Moldova and on the resumption of Moldovan wine exports to Russia. Local observers say she promoted the improvement of relations with Russia last year. According to Moldovan law, the nominated Prime Minister has to submit the government program and the composition of the Cabinet to Parliament within 15 days.

NOTE: Vasily Tarlev was elected Prime Minister by the country's parliament on April 19, 2001. After his four-year mandate expired on March 6, 2005 he became member of Moldova's Parliament, and was re-elected as PM on April 19, 2005 based on a vote of confidence.

Grechanaya was born in Tomsk region of Russia and graduated as economist from Chisinau State University. From 1994 she worked in the Moldovan finance ministry and headed it in 2002. Since 2005 she has been First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of macroeconomic issues. - *Source: Bernama.com, Salut News Agency; Edited by: usapeec.kz*

Ukraine and Moldova reach agreement on cooperation between their border services in 2008

The State Border Service's Chairman Mykola Lytvyn and the Moldovan Border Service's Director-General Igor Kolenov have signed a plan for developing cooperation between the two border services in 2008 during the meeting held in Odessa on March 20.

They discussed the procedures for operation of border crossings and signed the plan for development of cooperation between the two border agencies in 2008 with the aim of further developing cooperation, improving interaction between state border organs, coordinating their joint efforts to combat illegal activities by the leaderships of border agencies. - *Source: Ukrainian News Agency*