



News Extract no. 107



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WORLD



Moderate optimism about Chinese ASF vaccine

Source: Pig Progress, 5 march 2020

Primo March, the Chinese Harbin Veterinary Research Institute reported that a safe and effective live-attenuated vaccine was developed by deleting 7 gene segments from the original virus. The Chinese researchers reported that the vaccine has been tested on both pigs and sows.

In the United States, Dr Douglas Gladue and Dr Manuel Borca's teams at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York, have also been working hard to get closer to the creation of a vaccine. The centre is part of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), which in turn is a division of the US Department of Agriculture. Dr Gladue's team reported a step forward in the vaccine development process late last year.

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Scientists map African Swine Fever virus genome

Source: Pig Progress, February 2020

A team of researchers from the UK and Poland have mapped the expression of genes across the entire African Swine Fever virus (ASFv) genome. That has helped to establish their order of activation as well as uncovering new genes.

The researchers are connected to the University College London (UCL), the Pirbright Institute and the University of Warsaw, Poland, and had their research published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Virology.

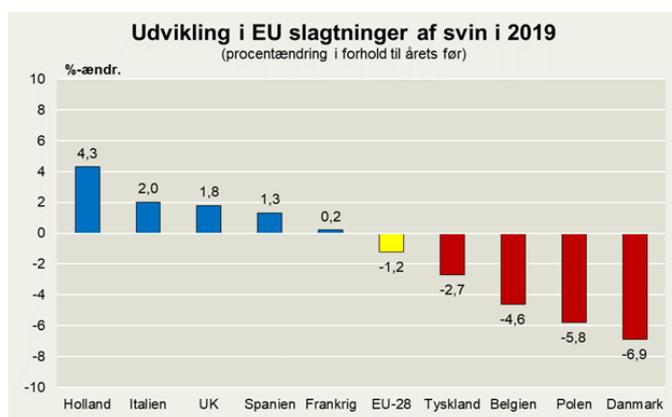
Pride could be read in the abstract of the research article. They authors wrote: "Here we present the first much-needed genome-wide transcriptome study that provides unique insight into ASFv transcription and serves as a resource to aid future functional analyses of ASFv genes which are essential to combat this devastating disease."

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Great changes in the EU pork meat production in 2019

Source: Agriculture & Food, week 11, 2020





Global Pork prices

Source: Genesis, 26 February 2020

Price as of Feb 26 , 2020

	Domestic price (own currency)		US dollars (Liveweight/lb.)
USA (Iowa-Minnesota) [Weighted Avg.]	48.49	USD/100 lb. carcass	35.88 ¢
Canada (Ontario) [Base Price]	133.27	CAD/100 kg carcass	36.44 ¢
Mexico City	30.58	MXN/kg liveweight	72.80 ¢
Brazil (South Region)	5.49	BRL/kg liveweight	56.76 ¢
Russia	84.10	RUB/kg liveweight	58.42 ¢
China	37.51	CNY/kg liveweight	\$ 2.42
Spain	1.487	EUR/kg liveweight	73.34 ¢
France	1.502	EUR/kg carcass	62.74 ¢
United Kingdom	162.79	GBP/100 kg carcass	76.42 ¢
Vietnam (national average)	78,000	VND/kg liveweight	\$ 1.52
South Korea (national average)	3,783	KRW/kg carcass	\$ 1.09



EU to send EUR 10 mln. for land reform as part of grant support of agriculture development in Ukraine

Source: farmlandgrab.org, 29 January 2020

The grant support of the European Union (EU) for the development of agriculture and small-sized farms in Ukraine envisages EUR 26 million, including EUR 10 million will be sent to implement the land reform.

According to the documents to the agreement, which are available at Interfax-Ukraine, it is planned to allocate EUR 8 million for reform in the field of rural development, and EUR 7.5 million for support of small farms. The remaining EUR 0.5 million is planned to be spent on audit, inspection expenses and information interaction, as well as ensuring publicity.

Support for land reform under the agreement will be carried out under the indirect management of the World Bank. The implementation period of the agreement is 108 months from the date of its entry into force.

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Producing 69% of the world's production, the EU is the largest producer of olive oil

Source: EU Commission, 4 February 2020

The European Union is the first producer, exporter and consumer of olive oil in the world. However, due to its high economic value compared to other food products, olive oil is considered at high risk of non-compliances and fraud.

For producing Member States, the EU framework for conformity checks effectively contributed to improve the quality of the products on the market and to reduce the prevalence of fraudulent practices. Those are among the key findings of the 'Study on the implementation of conformity checks in the olive oil sector throughout the EU', pub-

lished today by the European Commission

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EUROPE



Fall in German pork consumption

Source: AHBD, 9 March 2020

Germany is the EU's largest producer, consumer and trader of pork meat. However, last year, supplies on the domestic market fell considerably as production declined and less product was imported.

German pig meat production in 2019 was down about 2% (-117,000 tonnes) on the year before. Similarly, EU production as a whole was back by 1%. This meant that available supplies were tighter.

Tight EU-wide supplies lead to a small fall in pig meat imports to Germany. Denmark was particularly affected. Within total imports, primary pork declined more significantly, falling by 6%. Trade in cured and processed products was less subdued, declining by only 1%.

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A Macau company planting the seeds in Portugal

Source: farmlandgrab.org, 29 January 2020

The acquisition of one of Portugal's biggest agricultural companies by Macau firm CESL Asia last year may yet be seen as a defining moment in the economic relationship between China, Portugal and the Macau SAR.

In October, CESL Asia, a Macau firm which aims to 'foster a greener society' and works with clients and partners to introduce 'innovative and environmentally friendly solutions that help to minimize the environmental impacts arising from business activities', acquired Portuguese farming group Monte do Pasto, Portugal's largest beef producer, investing 40 million euros (MOP357 million) into 3,700 hectares of agricultural land in the south of the European country.

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Romania's economy surpasses that of Czechia after 4.1% growth in 2019

Source: Romanian-insider.com, 11 March 2020

Romania's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 4.1% to RON 1.05 billion (EUR 222 bln) in 2019, according to preliminary data published by the local statistics office INS.

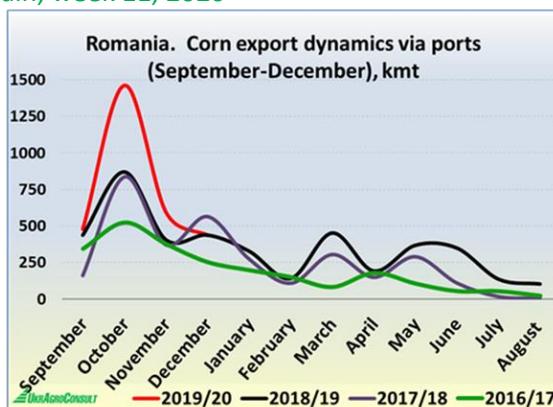
Thus, Romania's economy surpassed that of Czechia, reaching the 13th place in the European Union (EU) in 2019, after surpassing Greece in 2017 and Portugal in 2018. The Government hopes for 4.1% GDP growth this year as well, but independent analysts are more conservative. Banca Transilvania estimates that the domestic economy could grow at an average annual rate of 3.8% between 2020-2022, an evolution supported by the continuation of investments (average advance of 5.4%) and the improvement of the net external demand.

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Romania. September-December 2019/20 Corn Export are Record high

Source: Black Sea Grain, week 11, 2020



According to the port data, in December 2019/20 MY Romania exported 436.4 KMT of corn, which is only 1% lower than in the same month of 2018/19 (439.26 KMT) and 4% more than average volume in the last 3 seasons for December.

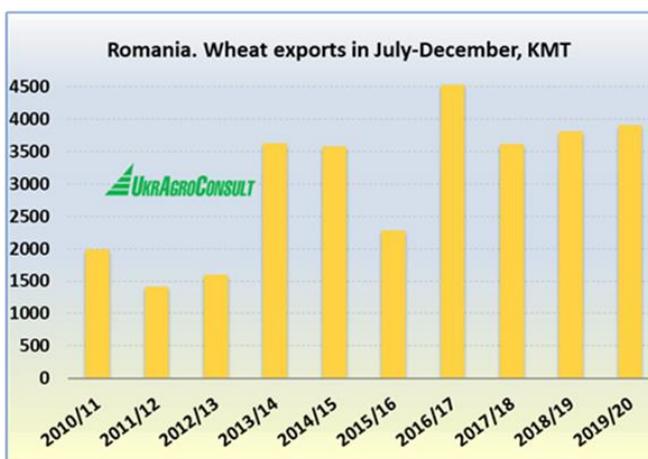
Key buyers of the month were: Turkey (139.2 KMT), Netherlands (72.7.5 KMT) and Egypt (64.8 KMT).



Non-EU Countries continue to be the major Importers of Romanian Wheat

Source: Black Sea Grain, week 11, 2020

Current pace of Romanian wheat exports slightly exceeds last season. In July-December 2019/20 MY Romania exported 3900 KMT of wheat, which was 2.5% higher than in the same period of 2018/19 (3806.4 KMT). This includes 3024 KMT to non-EU destinations (+35% y/y) and 876 KMT of exports to EU countries (-44% y/y).





Grain Crop production in Belarus up 19%

Source: Black Sea Grain, week 11, 2020

In 2019, all-type farms harvested a total 7.33 MMT of grains in net weight. This is 19.2% more than in 2018.

Crop	Sowing area, Th ha		Production, KMT		Yield, MT/ha	
	2019	2019/2018, %	2019	2019/2018 %	2019	2019/2018 %
Grains and pulses	5901.9	101.5	7331.0	119.2	3.04	113.9

RUSSIA



Russia now more than self-sufficient pork

Source: Agriculture & Food, week 10, 2020

Since 2014, Russia has gone from being one of the world's largest importers to being more than self-sufficient in pork today.

According to figures from the National Union of Pig Breeders (NUPB) in Russia, in 2019 the country imported 88,000 tonnes of pork (mostly by-products), while exports amounted to 104,000 tonnes.

Back in 2014, Russia imported more than 750,000 tonnes, and back in 2008 Russia was the world's largest importer of pork with an import of 1.4 million tonnes. tons.

Pork production in Russia has increased year by year over the past many years. For 2020, the Director of NUPB expects an increase in production of 7-8 % corresponding to 260,000-270,000 tonnes measured in carcass weight. The development is primarily driven by government support for the large companies at the expense of smaller productions.



Russia 20 largest pig producers in 2019

Source: Agriculture & Food, week 10, 2020

Below, with the National Union of Pig Breeders as the source, the 20 largest pig producers in Russia in 2019 are measured based on production in tonnes of live weight.

No.	Company	Production in tonnes	%-change 2019:18	Part of total production
1	Miratorg	426.570	1,0	9,7%
2	Cherkizovo Group	286.200	14,4	6,5%
3	Velikoluksky SVK	267.000	23,7	6,0%
4	Rusagro Group	243.360	11,4	5,5%
5	Agrarian Group	242.060	61,4	5,5%
6	Agro-Belogorie	238.600	8,8	5,4%
7	Agropromkomplektatsiya	201.400	4,6	4,6%
8	Agroeco	162.100	1,8	3,7%
9	APK Don	109.860	5,1	2,5%
10	RBPI / CPF	98.210	59,2	2,2%
11	KoPitaniya	98.210	-10,9	2,2%
12	Agrofirma Ariant	94.840	-4,6	2,1%

13	Agrocomplex im. Tkacheva	89.380	n/a	2,0%
14	Ostankino Group	73.200	-4,9	1,7%
15	Agroholding Talina	70.740	19,5	1,6%
16	AVK Exima	67.900	6,4	1,5%
17	Belgrankorm	67.490	2,2	1,5%
18	Bashkirkskaya Meat Co.	63.800	20,4	1,4%
19	Korall	56.100	3,0	1,3%
20	Promagro	54.580	2,4	1,2%
	Total (20)	3.009.210	12,3	68,2%
	Total (Big companies)	4.415.390	7,0	100,0%

The share of the top 20 has risen from 65.0 % in 2018 til 68 % | 2019. Contrary to the output of manufacturers outside the top-20. Here production from 2018 to 2019 decreased by 40,000 tonnes to 1.4 million tonnes.

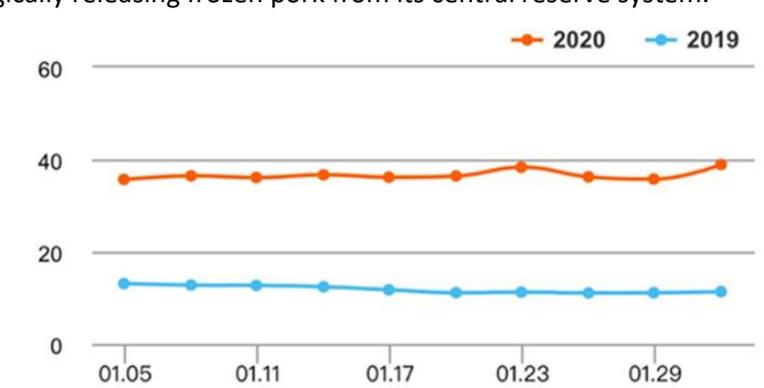
ASIA



Genesis Global Market Report China, February 2020

Source: Genesis, 5 February 2020

In China, the price for Pork normally rises and is greatest during the month prior to the Chinese New Year. However as indicated in the chart below, there was no sharp rise in pork prices this year due to the Central Government's policy of increasing pork imports and strategically releasing frozen pork from its central reserve system.



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Tönnies keeps investing in new slaughterhouse in China

Source: Agriculture & Food, week 10, 2020

According to Agra Europe, Tönnies has announced that it is sticking with the decision to invest around 500 million Euro (DKK 3.7 billion) together with Chinese partner Dekon in a new slaughterhouse in China.

The new slaughterhouse to be constructed in Sichuan Province by 2020 is planned to have a capacity of 2 million pigs a year. The two partners aim to subsequently increase the number of slaughtering's to seven million.



Muyuan Foods achieves record earnings in 2019

Source: Agriculture & Food, week 10, 2020

China's second-largest pig producer Muyuan Foods Co has increased its profits by 1,000 per cent for the year 2019 to 6.1 billion yuan (6.0 billion DKK). By far the largest part of the surplus came in the fourth quarter of the year with 4.88 billion yuan.

In 2019, the company sold more than 10 million pigs and benefited from the rapidly rising Chinese pork meat prices. High pork meat prices have meant that Muyuan stocks have risen by more than 200 per cent.

Muyuan now plans to build three slaughterhouses in Henan Province with an annual slaughter capacity of 6 million pig. This step will meet the government's wishes for a more integrated pig production. Muyuan also expects to increase its pig production. But back in February, the company stated that work on expanding production had been temporarily halted as a result of the Corona virus outbreak.



East Hope Group announces new investment in pig project in Yunnan Province

Source: Agriculture & Food, week 11, 2020

The big Chinese company East Hope Group has announced a new investment in a new pig project. This time it is an 1 billion yuan investment in a project in Yunnan Province that will include breeding, feed production and production of 500,000 slaughter pigs annually.

The new project is just one of a number of pig projects the East Hope Group has published in recent months.



Impact on Pork Industry under Coronavirus Epidemic

Source: Newsletter Danish Embassy, China, February 2020

According to an official from Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, judging from the impact of the coronavirus epidemic, the current overall momentum of pig production is good, but after the emergence of the coronavirus epidemic, we can see the big impact has brought to the pig industry.

Firstly, the transportation of production materials such as feed and veterinary drugs has been blocked, thus some pig farmers have run out of their materials. Secondly, the return journey of farm workers was hindered, resulting in a shortage of staff in the farms. Meanwhile, affected by the nationwide delay of restarting work, most of the newly-built and renovated pig farms could not start as planned, thus the project progress was delayed. From the perspective of market supply, due to regional blockades, pork supply in some regions became tight, and the prices have risen to a certain extent.



China is phasing out single use plastic

Source: Newsletter Danish Embassy, China, February 2020

The Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) released in January 2020 new regulations on plastic use. "Opinion on further strengthening the control of plastic pollution", as the new regulations are called, set out new goals for China on plastic pollution control, and will be implemented during a 5-year period targeting different sectors and timelines for implementation.

The main objectives of the new regulation are:

- By 2020, take the lead in banning and restricting the production, sales and use of some plastic products in some regions and areas.
- By 2022, the consumption of disposable plastic products will be significantly reduced, alternative products will be promoted; in the areas of prominent plastic pollution problems and emerging areas such as e-commerce, express delivery, and takeaway, a reproducible and scalable plastic reduction and green logistics model will be formed.
- By 2025, the management system for the production, distribution, consumption, recycling and disposal of plastic products will be established. The level of development and application of alternative products will be further improved. The amount of plastic waste in key cities will be significantly reduced, and plastic pollution will be reduced and under control.



World Bank says Thai poverty rate increases, farm income slides

Source: Daily Mail Online, 5 March 2020

Thailand needs to invest in education and create jobs in higher-income sectors. A World Bank report showed a rising rate of poverty as the country's economy slowed.

Thailand is Southeast Asia's largest economy after Indonesia but has lagged its regional peers and grew at its weakest pace in five years in 2019. The country of 69 million reduced overall poverty over three decades to just under 10% in 2018 from more than 65% in 1988, but the trend started to reverse from 2016.

The rise in the number earning below the national poverty line, set at less than 90 baht (\$2.85) a day in 2018, was mainly because of falling incomes for Thailand's bottom 40%, many of whom were urban workers and rural farming households, between 2015 to 2017, the country report found.

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AFRICA



The Cost of Fighting Desert Locusts in East Africa Has Doubled

Source: Bloomberg News, 26 February 2020

The money needed to combat a desert locust outbreak in eastern Africa has doubled to \$138 million, according to the FAO. The cash is urgently needed "to help governments control these devastating pests, especially in the next four months." Only \$33 million has been received or committed so far, the FAO said in a statement.

"Each day, more countries are affected," the FAO said. This week, for the first time since 1944, a swarm entered the Democratic Republic of Congo. Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan already have the pest threatening "the most important crop of the year,".

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Food-insecure Zimbabwe turns to Belarus to revive Agri-sector

Source: farmlandgrab.org, 9 March 2020

President Emmerson Mnangagwa is planning to parcel out vast tracts of prime horticultural land to the Belarusian government in a deal that will see the eastern European nation farming and exporting produce globally while capacitating local farmers.

Deputy Agriculture minister Vangelis Haritatos confirmed the development in an interview although he said discussions were still in progress. The Belarusians are interested in investing in crop and livestock production, agro-processing, input supply and local manufacturing of farm mechanization and irrigation equipment.

Apart from engaging in farming, the Belarusians will also enter into joint ventures with local farmers, after the authorities realized that most black farmers who benefitted from the 2000 fast-track land reform programme had failed to produce enough for the country, now considered one of the most food insecure nations, according to the World Food Programme.

The government is battling to contain a devastating food crisis, which is expected to worsen following another poor rainy season. The World Food Programme estimates that a total of 7,7 million Zimbabweans is facing hunger and will need to be assisted with food by as early as next month. These include 5,5 million rural Zimbabweans and 2,2 million urbanites.

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Uganda. 35,000 left homeless as private firms share Kiryandongo land

Source: farmlandgrab.org, 25 February 2020

Contention. The government says the contentious territory was empty space and unoccupied public land but residents claim they hold it under customary ownership.

More than 35,000 people from 20 villages are homeless after being evicted from about 9,300 acres of land in Kiryandongo District to pave way for large scale farming.

No one seemingly knows the exact year when the government allegedly gave the land to agricultural companies for large scale farming. The government says the contentious territory was empty space and unoccupied public land but residents claim they hold it under customary ownership.

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Angola has the potential for large-scale agriculture

Source: farmlandgrab.org, 3 February 2020

Angola has a high potential for agriculture on a large scale and can diversify its economy through this sector in order to overcome some constraints, according to the International Financial Corporation (IFC), of the World Bank.

The IFC asserts that, together with the World Bank, it is currently working in collaboration with the Angolan government and the private agro-industrial sector in Angola to strengthen the chain of agricultural supplies, promote investment in the sector and link small businesses to agricultural markets.

To stimulate investment in agriculture and the country in general, the IFC recommends comprehensive reforms and improved regulations, particularly in the sectors of transport, energy and information and communication technologies.

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SOUTH AMERICA



Argentine farmers begin strike to protest hike on soy exports

Source: Daily Mail Online, 9 March 2020

Argentine farmers began a four-day strike on Monday 9 March to protest the government's hike on export taxes for soybeans and its byproducts, though shipments were not impacted in the major global food exporter.

Three of the South American country's four main rural associations announced the strike last week in frustration over the government's decision to raise soy export taxes

to 33% from 30% amidst a deep economic crisis.
The impact of the strike would likely be visible by Tuesday when grains and beef already sold will not arrive at ports, industry experts said.

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