



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Germany

### Grain and Feed

### Grain Harvest 2002

### 2002

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**German grain crop is forecast to reach only 45 million tons (compared to 49.7 million tons in 2001) due to lower test weights and recent intensive rains. Sprouting problems will be significant in wheat and rye, however, a sufficient volume of wheat and barley will be available for domestic and export markets. Prices are currently trending upward for baking wheat but this may be limited by sizable French crop.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Berlin [GM1], GM

## **German Grain Crop only to reach 45 million tons**

FAS Bonn forecasts the German grain crop at 45 million tons versus 49.7 million tons in 2001. Until June most crop reporters expected a near record crop for Germany since fields were looking great by that time. However, short heat periods in May and June interrupted or ended the growth of grains in many regions. Since moisture supplies had been more than favorable during most of the growing season, plants had not developed a deep reaching root system and were not able to reach moisture deep in the soil during the heat spells. Test weights are therefore extremely variable and the percentage of small kernels in most grains is surprisingly high.

Extreme rains during the past weeks interrupted grain harvest and will lead to crop losses in various regions. In addition, the rain is causing sprouting damage, especially in wheat and rye. Before the heavy rains started, most of the winter barley had already been harvested. Of the wheat and rye crops about 50 percent is still in the fields, mainly in northern and eastern Germany. Heavy rains caused extensive lodging and made it difficult to get harvesting machinery into the fields. Farmers need at least several days of sunny and dry weather to restart harvesting.

Most of the harvested grains thus far have moisture levels between 16 and twenty percent. This implies that a lot of this grain needs to be dried after harvest, which was not necessary during the past several years. Since only some of the big farms have their own drying equipment, drying is primarily done at delivery points (elevators). Traders therefore have an excellent opportunity to filter out and separate the good qualities fitting domestic and export markets. In contrast to complaints from farmers' organizations about the bad 2002 grain harvest conditions and immense crop losses, traders report that the crop quality and quantity is not as low as the farmers portend.

The effect of the difficult harvest situation will most likely be that less grain will end up in intervention storage. Relevant criteria will be test weight and Hagberg Falling Numbers (HFN). However, it does not imply that wheat which does not meet the minimum HFN of 220 seconds does not qualify as proper baking wheat in milling. Also rye with HFN around 90 seconds (interventions criteria is 120) still qualifies as proper baking rye.

As a result of the flood reports in eastern and southern Germany, prices for baking wheat and rye are trending upward. This upward move in wheat is also supported by recent strong U.S. prices. However, German wheat will have to compete with a sizeable French crop which is already entering into the western German markets. It also has to compete with Black Sea origin wheat in the Mediterranean markets which is not necessarily all of feed wheat quality. Domestic needs for the baking industry can be easily filled with German wheat and rye. Due to the sprouting problems, more grain is expected to go into feeding. It might replace some of the imported feed ingredients such as corn gluten feed.

German Grain Crop Forecast 2002						
	2001			2002*		
	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield	Production
	1000 ha	MT/ha	1,000 MT	1000 ha	MT/ha	1,000 MT
Winter Wheat	2,848	7.92	22,566	2,951	7.19	21,210
Spring Wheat	43	5.81	248	52	5.00	260
Durums	5	5.10	24	6	5.00	30
All Wheat	2,896	7.89	22,838	3,009	7.14	21,500
Rye	837	6.13	5,132	749	5.41	4,050
Winter Barley	1,473	7.09	10,441	1,384	6.40	8,850
Spring Barley	639	4.78	3,054	635	4.49	2,850
All Barley	2,112	6.39	13,495	2,019	5.80	11,700
Oats	233	4.93	1,151	236	4.45	1,050
Spring Mixed	27	4.37	119	27	4.09	110
Winter Mixed	9	5.57	52	8	5.00	40
Triticale	534	6.41	3,419	556	5.75	3,200
All	570	6.30	3,589	591	5.67	3,350
Corn	396	8.89	3,504	385	8.70	3,350
Grand Total	7,044	7.06	49,709	6,989	6.44	45,000