

**News and Current Events :: Bulgaria faces massive grain shortage**

**Bulgaria faces massive grain shortage - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/2/16 20:57**

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Despite months of lobbying to secure cheaper imports of corn and wheat from Ukraine, Bulgaria faces a shortage of grain on its domestic after Kiev refused to raise its export quota, Dnevnik daily reported on February 12 2008.

Bulgarian farmers had been counting on 250 000 tonnes of corn from Ukraine, which would be used to cover the shortage of animal fodder, but Bulgaria's request has been turned down by Ukrainian authorities.

To deal with that shortage, Bulgaria will now have to import corn from Europe, which would cost around 240 euro per tonne. However, farmers are more likely to use their wheat reserves than buy corn, which could seriously deplete wheat reserves by summer and cause a drastic increase of bread prices just before the harvest, the daily quoted the chairman of the grain producers union Krassimir Avramov.

With wheat prices even higher than corn, using it for animal fodder would further worsen the situation Bulgarian farmers find themselves in, and the only one to blame for it is the Cabinet, which refused to budget 147 million leva in subsidies, Dnevnik daily quoted Avramov as saying.

The farmers are prepared to go on new protest, despite the promises of Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev that the funds will be allocated, because not a single lev has been transferred yet.

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