

# Feed Outlook: July 2026

**In this report:**

**Steven M. Ramsey, coordinator**  
**Joshua Huang & Jennifer Bond, contributors**

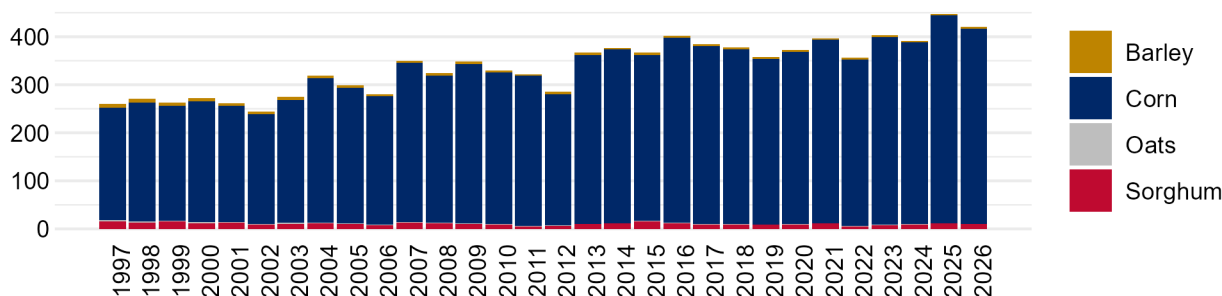
[Domestic Outlook](#)  
[International Outlook](#)

## 2026/27 U.S. Feed Grains Production Is Raised Slightly

On June 30, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its annual *Acreage* report, providing the first revisions to planted acres for feed grains since March. The report also included NASS' first harvested-area estimates for the new crops. Meanwhile, in its July 10 *Crop Production* report, NASS released its first estimates for 2026/27 barley and oats yields. Based on the newly released estimates, 2026/27 U.S. feed grains production is lifted marginally this month by 0.4 million metric tons (MT) (0.1 percent) to 420.1 million MT. The 2026/27 U.S. feed grains production forecast would be the second largest on record, 6 percent below last year but 4 percent bigger than the next largest (402.6 million MT in 2023). At 0.3 million MT, the increase to sorghum production accounts for most of the month-to-month increase. The increase to projected sorghum production follows from an increase of 185,000 acres (3.5 percent) to the projected harvested area. Corn and oats both see production increases of about 0.1 million MT from last month, while barley production is lowered by about 0.1 million MT.

Figure 1  
**U.S. feed grains production**

Million metric tons



Note: Years are marketing years. 2025 values are estimates, 2026 values are projections.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using information from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board.

# Domestic Outlook

## Corn Domestic Use Is Increased for 2025/26

Forecasted domestic use in the 2025/26 corn marketing year is raised 125 million bushels in this month's USDA *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report. This increase is the net result of a 150-million-bushel increase to the feed and residual use forecast and a 25-million-bushel decrease to expected ethanol usage. The increased feed and residual expectation follows from the June 30 release of the NASS *Grain Stocks* report. The report estimated 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ending stocks at 5.29 billion bushels, which yield an implied usage of 3.74 billion bushels for the quarter. This number sets a new all-time high for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter usage, eclipsing the previous high of 3.70 billion bushels in the 2020/21 marketing year by about 1 percent. In turn, implied feed and residual use for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2025/26 was 1.09 billion bushels and the total feed and residual use for the first three quarters stands at 5.63 billion bushels. With this month's increase, the forecasted total feed and residual use for 2025/26 is 6.35 billion bushels.

The change to the corn-for-ethanol forecast comes following the July NASS *Grain Crushings and Co-Products Production* report. With the first estimate for corn use for fuel ethanol in May 2026 provided by this report, total corn used for fuel ethanol through the first 3 quarters of 2025/26 is estimated at 4.13 billion bushels, about 1 percent above the same period from 2024/25. With this month's downward revision, the forecast for total corn use for ethanol in 2025/26 stands at 5.55 billion bushels, about 2 percent more than the 5.44 billion bushels used in 2024/25. If realized, the use of 5.55 billion bushels of corn to make fuel ethanol would be the second-largest amount on record, falling about 50 million bushels or 1 percent below 2017/18.

The 2025/26 marketing year average (MYA) price is unchanged month to month at \$4.15 per bushel.

## 2026/27 Corn Balance Sheet Tightens in July

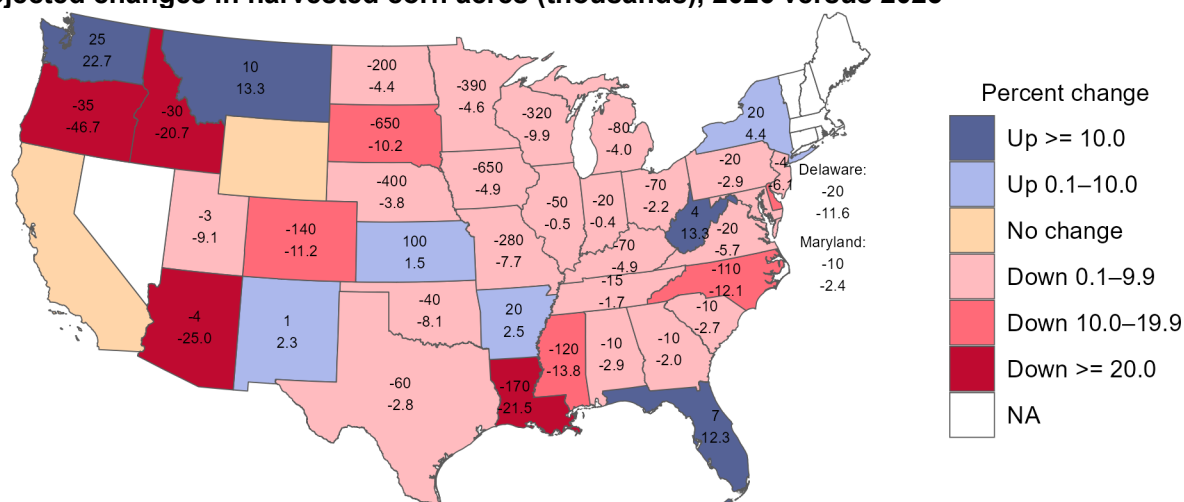
The projected stocks-to-use ratio for the 2026/27 corn crop fell to 11.0 percent in this month's *WASDE* report, down from 12.1 percent in the June *WASDE*. On net, 2026/27 corn ending stocks are down 170 million bushels this month to 1.79 billion, driven by a 125-million-bushel decrease in beginning stocks and a 50-million-bushel increase in expected exports. This increase is supported by a continued strong pace of exports to close out the 2025/26 marketing year (as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service) and reduced expectations for corn production in the European Union (see the

International Outlook section). With this month's increase, 2026/27 corn exports are projected at 3.2 billion bushels.

On the supply side, 2026/27 U.S. corn production sees a 5-million-bushel increase this month, due to a slight 34,000-acre increase to the harvested area forecast. Based on the NASS *Acreage* report, corn acres harvested in 2026 are expected to be 87.434 million acres, down 3.8 million acres or 4 percent from 2025. The *Acreage* report also provides this year's first projections for State-level acreages. Based on these projections, the largest year-over-year declines in harvested corn acres are expected in Iowa and South Dakota, both down 0.65 million acres from last year. Across the 41 States for which NASS provides an estimate, harvested corn acres are expected to fall in 31. The largest increase from 2025 is expected for Kansas at 0.1 million acres. The July *Acreage* report estimates are based on operator surveys conducted over the first 2 weeks of June. The first survey-based corn-yield estimates and updated acreage estimates will be provided in the August release of the *Crop Production* report from NASS.

Figure 2

#### Projected changes in harvested corn acres (thousands), 2026 versus 2025



Note: NA = not applicable. Harvested acres for 2025 are estimates and the 2026 harvested acreages are projections. Top number is change in thousand acres; bottom number is percent change.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

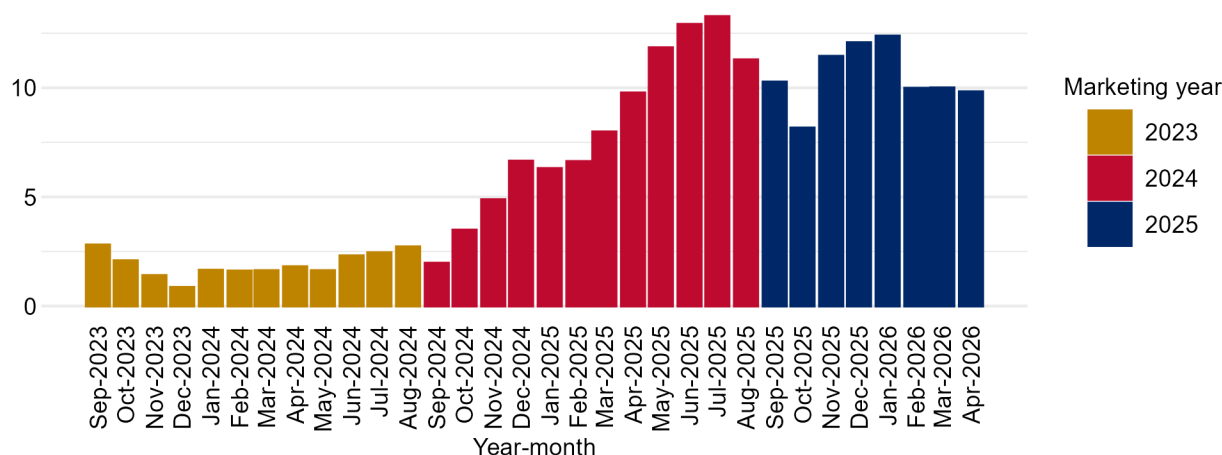
## Sorghum Ethanol Use Is Raised, Exports Are Lowered for 2025/26

Sorghum use for ethanol and exports for 2025/26 see offsetting changes of 5 million bushels this month. Sorghum ethanol use is increased, taking total food, seed, and industrial use (FSI) to 120 million bushels. Buoyed by competitive prices relative to corn and overall strong demand for ethanol, sorghum use as an ethanol feedstock has averaged more than 10.5 million bushels

per month thus far in 2025/26 (data are through April 2026). For comparison, ethanol usage averaged 8.1 million bushels of sorghum per month in 2024/25 and 1.9 million bushels per month in 2023/24.

Figure 3  
**Sorghum use for fuel ethanol**

Million bushels



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration.

The 2025/26 sorghum exports forecast, meanwhile, is lowered to 220 million bushels. This change comes after the Census Bureau reported sorghum exports of 13.6 million bushels in May, after averaging 29.4 million bushels from January–April. Sorghum exports will need to average 17.2 million bushels over the final quarter of 2025/26 to hit the forecasted total. As is typically the case, sorghum exports over the remainder of the marketing year will likely be dependent on China. Despite importing no sorghum from the United States over the first quarter of 2025/26, China has accounted for 74 percent of total U.S. sorghum exports during the September 2025–May 2026 period.

This month also sees a slight 0.01-million-bushel increase to 2025/26 U.S. sorghum imports. Combined with the offsetting changes to ethanol usage and exports, 2025/26 ending stocks are essentially unchanged this month at 37 million bushels.

## Sorghum Supply and Use Are Raised for 2026/27

Across the feed grains complex (barley, corn, oats, and sorghum), the 2026/27 sorghum crop saw the largest acreage and production changes this month. Based on the NASS *Acreage* report, acres planted to sorghum are forecast at 6.28 million this month, up 0.16 million acres from the March *Prospective Plantings* forecast. In turn, NASS forecasts 2026/27 harvested sorghum acres at 5.485 million acres, up 0.185 million acres from last month's *WASDE* forecast. With the new acreage numbers from NASS, the forecasted ratio of harvested area to

planted area sits at 87.3 percent, up from 86.6 percent last month, indicating expectations for a slightly smaller-than-average combination of acreage lost to abandonment and silage. Given the increase in harvested area and no change to the sorghum yield projection, 2026/27 sorghum production is forecast at 380 million bushels, up 13 million bushels (3.5 percent) from last month. As has been the case since 2009, Kansas is expected to account for the most harvested sorghum acreage in 2026 at 2.5 million. While the 2026 harvested-area forecast for Kansas is down 11 percent from last year, it is nearly 50 percent larger than that of Texas, which is forecast to see the second-largest total.

The projection for 2026/27 sorghum food, seed, and industrial use (FSI) is also raised this month, up 10 million bushels to 105 million. This change is made on the expectation of continued strong demand for sorghum for ethanol. The current projections for 2026/27 corn and sorghum prices—\$4.40 and \$4.10 per bushel, respectively—and expectations for continued strong demand for U.S. ethanol both domestically and internationally, support the upward revision in sorghum's use for ethanol.

The combined production and FSI revisions, along with a slight (0.01 million bushels) increase to beginning stocks, result in this month's forecast for 2026/27 sorghum ending stocks of 37 million bushels, up 3 million bushels from last month. In turn, the 2026/27 stocks-to-use forecast sits at 9.7 percent, up from 9.2 percent last month and the 2025/26 forecast of 8.4 percent.

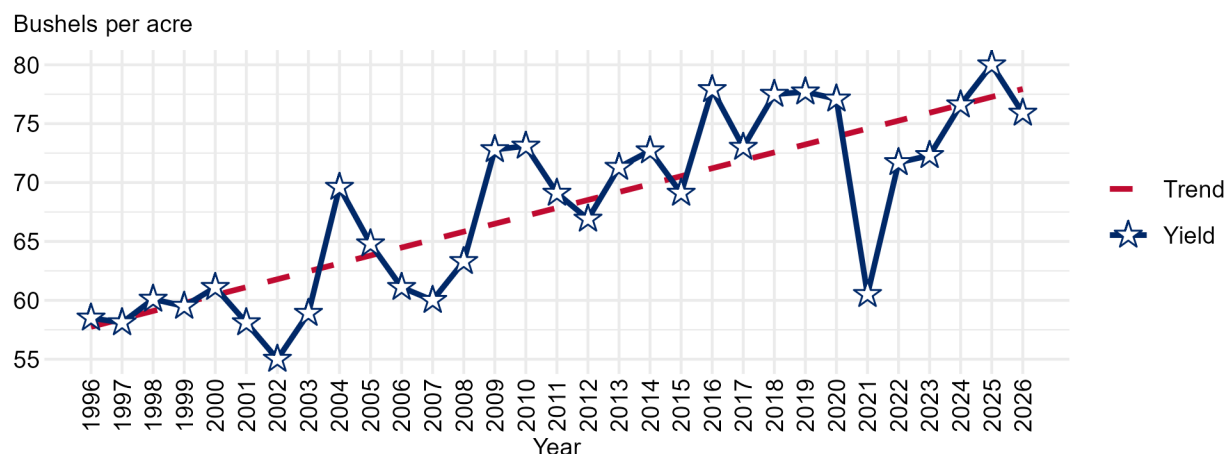
## 2025/26 Barley Balance Sheet Is Finalized

Following the release of the NASS *Grain Stocks* and *Agricultural Prices* reports (in June) and May trade data from the Census Bureau, the 2025/26 barley balance sheet is finalized this month (pending any future data revisions). Based on the Census Bureau data, total 2025/26 barley imports are raised to 7.2 million bushels and exports are raised to 10.9 million bushels, up from last month's forecasts of 7 million and 10 million bushels, respectively. Based on the *Grain Stocks* report, 2025/26 barley ending stocks are raised to 66.4 million bushels, up 4.1 million bushels month to month. As a result of these changes, the feed-and residual-use category is reduced 4.9 million bushels to 25.1 million. The final 2025/26 all-barley MYA price is \$5.46 per bushel, up \$0.01 from last month's forecast. NASS also reported final MYA prices for feed and malting barley of \$4.00 and \$5.79 per bushel, respectively. These MYA prices suggest a marketing weight of 82 percent for malting barley in 2025/26, down from 86 percent in 2024/25.

## 2026/27 Barley Production Is Down on Reduced Area and Yield

The June *Acreage* report puts 2026 barley planted area at 2.434 million acres, up 82,000 acres from the *Prospective Plantings* report. In contrast, the harvested area forecast is reduced this month based on the *Acreage* report to 1.874 million acres, down 26,000 acres from the June *WASDE* report. In addition to the June *Acreage* report, the July NASS *Crop Production* report provided the first survey-based yield estimates of the season for barley and oats. Barley yield for 2026 is forecast at 75.9 bushels per acre, based on the *Crop Production* report, down from 78.4 in last month's *WASDE* report and down from the estimate of 80 bushels per acre for 2025. Based on the new forecasts for area and yield, 2026/27 barley production is forecast at 142.3 million bushels, down 4.5 percent from last month but up 1 percent from last year. Based on the *Grain Stocks* report, beginning stocks for 2026/27 are increased 4.1 million bushels over last month to 66.4 million, partially offsetting the production decrease. On net, the 2026/27 supply forecast is reduced 2.6 million bushels this month to 216.7 million. Given no changes to 2026/27 barley usage forecasts, ending stocks are forecast at 62.7 million bushels, down 4 percent from last month.

Figure 4  
**U.S. barley yield**



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

## 2025/26 Oats Balance Sheet Is Finalized

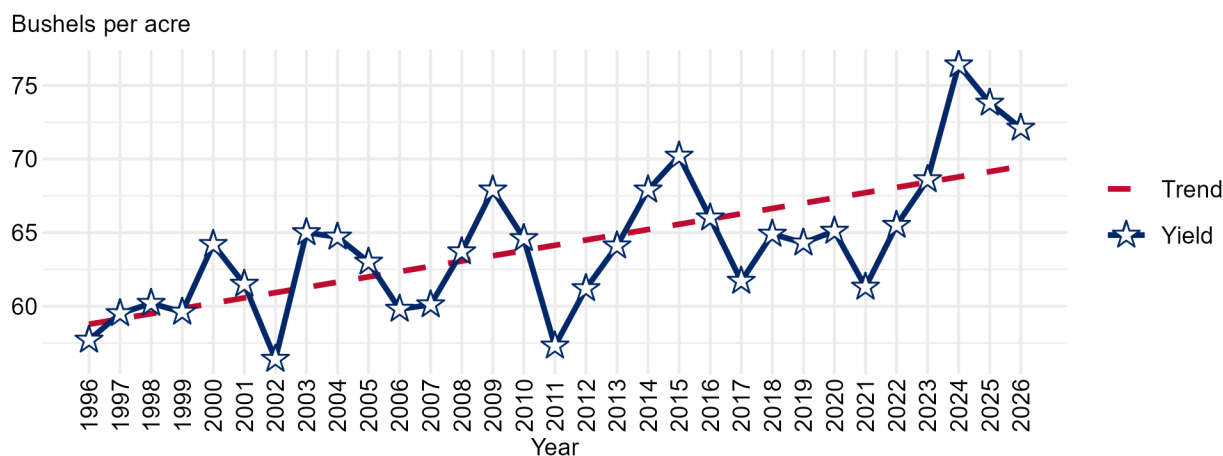
The 2025/26 oats balance sheet is finalized this month, following data releases from NASS and the Census Bureau. Based on new Census Bureau data, oats imports are reduced 1.4 million bushels from last month to 70.6 million, while exports are reduced 0.2 million bushels to 3.6 million. Based on the NASS *Grain Stocks* report, 2025/26 ending stocks are set at 31.8 million bushels, up 2.6 million bushels from last month. With no other changes, feed and residual use is

reduced 3.8 million bushels this month to 51.2 million. NASS reported a finalized MYA price for oats of \$3.23 per bushel, down \$0.02 from the prior forecast.

## 2026/27 Oats Production Is Up on Increased Area and Yield

Harvested area for oats is increased 77,000 acres this month, following the NASS *Acreage* report, to 0.877 million. Additionally, the forecasted yield for oats is raised this month to 72.1 bushels per acre, up 4 percent from the June forecast but down 2 percent from last year. Based on the revised forecasts for harvested area and yield, the 2026/27 oats production forecast is increased 8.2 million bushels to 63.2 million. Along with the revised production forecast, 2026/27 oats beginning stocks are increased 2.6 million bushels to 31.8 million on the basis of the NASS *Grain Stocks* report. All told, total supply for 2026/27 is increased 10.8 million bushels, or about 7 percent, to 167 million. On the use side of the ledger, an increase of 5 million bushels is made to the feed and residual use category. The remainder of the supply increase (5.8 million bushels) is added to ending stocks, bringing the 2026/27 forecast to 32 million bushels.

Figure 5  
**U.S. oats yield**



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

# International Outlook

## Unfavorable Weather Reduces Global Coarse Grains Outlook

Global coarse grains production for the 2026/27 marketing year (MY) is lowered 2.5 million metric tons (MT) this month to 1.592 billion metric tons. Leading the decline is corn production for the **European Union**, down 3.7 million MT or 6.5 percent from last month to 53.8 million MT. With this revision, the European Union is now expected to see a year-over-year decline in corn production, whereas the June forecast was for a slight (1-percent) increase over 2025/26. This decline stems from heat stress in **France** that is expected to reduce total area harvested and yield. Historically high heat has been experienced in the second half of June, with western Europe reporting the hottest June on record (according to World Meteorological Organization data). Scattered showers and some cooling emerged in the second week of July, though temperatures have remained 2–5°C above average. Despite some areas receiving rains, some of the 2026 French corn crop had started tasseling and silking, marking the start of the critical reproductive period and conditions (measured by the Vegetation Health Index, VHI) have continued to decline. The overall VHI for France's crop-producing areas was measured as the second lowest on record at the end of June. Please see the latest USDA *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* and the USDA, FAS *World Agricultural Production* reports for additional details.

Similarly, expected corn production in **Kenya** is revised down this month, after the crop saw little to no rain from late May to late June. Based on the dry conditions, the harvested-area forecast for Kenya's corn crop is lowered 0.5 million hectares (ha) and yield is lowered 15 percent to 1.67 MT per ha. The combined area and yield reductions reduce Kenya's 2026/27 corn production forecast by 1.5 million MT to 3 million. The final downward revision seen for 2026/27 foreign coarse grains production is a 0.2 million MT decrease for oats in **Canada**. This change follows from a 60,000-ha reduction to the expected harvested area, a change made on the basis of newly released data from Statistics Canada (StatCan), the country's national statistical agency. Adding to these losses is the reduced barley-production forecast for the **United States**.

Partially offsetting the above declines in 2026/27 production are increased production forecasts for barley and corn in **Canada** and sorghum in **Mexico**—along with the increased forecasts for corn, sorghum, and oats production in the **United States** (see *Domestic Outlook* section). In each instance, the increased production forecast is due to an upward revision in the respective harvested area forecast. Based on the StatCan area survey results, 2026/27 harvested area for barley and corn in Canada is increased 0.05 million ha and 0.17 million ha to 2.5 million and 1.57 million, respectively. The projected 2026/27 corn harvested area would be an all-time high

for Canada, surpassing the 1.52 million ha harvested in 2023/24. As a result, the 2026/27 barley production forecast for Canada is raised to 9.3 million MT (up 3 percent) and corn production is raised to 16.3 million MT (up 12 percent). In Mexico, the 2026/27 harvested area forecast for sorghum is increased 0.1 million ha this month to 1.2 million. In turn, Mexico's 2026/27 sorghum production forecast is revised up by 0.35 million MT to 4.15 million (up 9 percent). Farmers in the Bajio region of central Mexico have indicated plans to switch from corn to sorghum production in the new marketing year according to information released by Mexico's Agricultural and Fisheries Information Service (SIAP). Expanded sorghum plantings are supported by the crop's relatively lower production costs, as compared to corn and heartiness to drought conditions. See USDA, FAS's *Mexico: Grain and Feed Update* for additional information.

Figure 6

**Foreign coarse grains production changes by country, at a glance, for the 2026/27 marketing year (1,000 metric tons)**

| Commodity   | Country        | 2025/26 | 2026/27 June | 2026/27 July | 2026/27<br>Month-to-month changes (1,000 MT) |
|-------------|----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Barley      | Canada         | 9,725   | 9,000        | 9,300        | 300                                          |
|             | Total foreign  | 151,423 | 152,220      | 152,520      | 300                                          |
| Corn        | Canada         | 14,867  | 14,500       | 16,300       | 1,800                                        |
|             | European Union | 56,799  | 57,500       | 53,775       | -3,725                                       |
|             | Kenya          | 3,400   | 4,500        | 3,000        | -1,500                                       |
|             | Total foreign  | 895,358 | 894,092      | 890,667      | -3,425                                       |
| Millet      | Total foreign  | 30,049  | 29,344       | 29,344       |                                              |
| Mixed grain | Total foreign  | 13,365  | 12,838       | 12,838       |                                              |
| Oats        | Total foreign  | 24,462  | 22,355       | 22,155       | -200                                         |
| Rye         | Total foreign  | 11,022  | 10,339       | 10,339       |                                              |
| Sorghum     | Mexico         | 3,200   | 3,800        | 4,150        | 350                                          |
|             | Total foreign  | 50,819  | 53,358       | 53,708       | 350                                          |

Note: MT = metric tons. Changes at the country level are shown for changes of 300,000 MT or more.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production, Supply and Distribution database.

## Corn Helps Lift 2026/27 Global Coarse Grains Trade

The 2026/27 trade year (TY) global coarse grains trade forecast is lifted 4.4 million MT (2 percent) this month to 254.5 million MT. The increased forecast is primarily due to increased projections for global corn trade during the TY, the projection for which is up 4.2 million MT from last month. On the 2026/27 exports side of the ledger, the largest month-to-month change is for corn leaving **Argentina**, which this month is projected at 40 million MT, up 2 million MT (5 percent) from the June forecast. This change is made on the basis of a larger projection for Argentina's 2025/26 corn crop, up 2 million MT from last month. Argentina's 2025/26 corn MY is defined as March 2026–February 2027 whereas the 2026/27 TY is defined as October 2026–September 2027. For the trade year beginning October 2025 corn exports from Argentina to China are larger than previous years but are not the top destination for Argentina's corn. Whereas corn shipments to China from Argentina averaged below 100,000 MT from 2021/22 to

2024/25, shipments through the end of June 2026 (October–September trade year) are record-large and exceed 600,000 MT based on Agencia Maritima Nabsa S.A. (NABSA) sailed vessel data. Argentina’s prices have been very competitive in 2026—estimated to be \$10-15/MT lower than prices in the United States, Brazil, and other competitors for the Chinese corn market. Please see this month’s USDA, FAS *Grain: World Markets and Trade* circular and the *China: Grain and Feed Update* for additional information.

Similar to Argentina, **Canada’s** projected 2026/27 TY corn exports are lifted 1.1 million MT this month to 3 million MT, on the expectations for a larger corn crop in its 2026/27 MY. If realized, Canada’s 2026/27 TY corn exports would be a record for the country, surpassing the 2.89 million MT exported during the 2024/25 TY. The **United States** sees a slightly smaller increase to projected corn exports, with this month’s projection rising 1 million MT to 81 million. See the *Domestic Outlook* section of this report for more on the U.S. corn trade outlook. **South Africa’s** 2026/27 corn export forecast is raised 0.2 million MT, following a 0.3-million-MT increase to its 2025/26 MY (May 2026–April 2027) corn production forecast. The only export forecast that is lowered this month is for corn coming out of **Pakistan**, which is reduced by 0.1 million MT (25 percent) to 0.3 million MT. One of two non-corn changes to 2026/27 TY coarse grains exports forecasts is for **Canada’s** exports of barley, which are increased 0.2 million MT this month to 2.7 million MT. Like Canada’s corn exports, the change to the forecasted barley exports in the 2026/27 TY follow the increase to the country’s forecasted barley production (see the previous section). The other non-corn change is for sorghum coming out of **Ukraine**, which is lowered 0.01 million MT to 0.03 million.

Figure 7

**Global coarse grains trade by country, at a glance, for the 2026/27 trade year (million metric tons)**

| Commodity | Attribute  | Country        | 2025/26 | 2026/27 June | 2026/27 July | 2026/27 Month-to-month changes (1,000 MT) |
|-----------|------------|----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Barley    | TY Exports | Canada         | 3,200   | 2,500        | 2,700        | 200                                       |
|           |            | World          | 34,883  | 29,442       | 29,642       | 200                                       |
|           | TY Imports | China          | 12,500  | 10,500       | 10,700       | 200                                       |
|           |            | World          | 34,184  | 28,443       | 28,643       | 200                                       |
| Corn      | TY Exports | Argentina      | 41,000  | 38,000       | 40,000       | 2,000                                     |
|           |            | Canada         | 2,100   | 1,900        | 3,000        | 1,100                                     |
|           |            | South Africa   | 3,000   | 2,300        | 2,500        | 200                                       |
|           |            | United States  | 82,000  | 80,000       | 81,000       | 1,000                                     |
|           |            | World          | 213,275 | 208,300      | 212,500      | 4,200                                     |
|           | TY Imports | European Union | 18,500  | 19,500       | 22,500       | 3,000                                     |
|           |            | Iraq           | 1,400   | 1,100        | 1,400        | 300                                       |
|           |            | Jordan         | 1,100   | 750          | 1,100        | 350                                       |
|           |            | Kenya          | 650     | 200          | 700          | 500                                       |
|           |            | World          | 199,203 | 200,341      | 204,731      | 4,390                                     |

Note: MT = metric tons. Country-level statistics are limited to countries with month-to-month changes of 200,000 MT or more. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production, Supply and Distribution database.

# Suggested Citation

Ramsey, S. M., Huang, J., & Bond., J. (2026). *Feed outlook: July 2026* (Report No. FDS-26g). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by USDA.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-assistant-secretary-civil-rights/how-file-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.