

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY OCTOBER 07, 2024

A. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

30,000 MT imported galunggong in Philippines this month

Rising bread, pasta demand to whet Philippines wheat imports

DA: Pork consumption improves as ASF scare wanes

B. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Chicken meat imports seen rising in 2025

C. BUSINESS WORLD:

USDA expects PHL raw sugar output to fall 3.6% this year

Sugar rush leads world food prices to jump in September, FAO says

France offers 75 million euros for disease-hit sheep farms

Dairy workers in California being monitored for bird flu after positive tests at two farms

D. ABANTE:

Presyo ng bigas, gulay hindi pinasirit ni 'Julian'

E. THE MANILA TIMES:

PPA chides importers for overstaying goods

Infra damage from Typhoon Julian hits P934M

SRA rues bad start for sugar industry

Higher PH poultry imports seen in 2025

F. BUSINESS MIRROR:

Lower rice prices may be temporary, warns economist

PHL chicken imports seen growing slightly in 2025

Govt keen on irrigation scheme to boost food output

Food commodity prices higher in September–FAO

Antique adopts first provincial resolution promoting ‘regenerative agriculture’

G. ABANTE TONITE:

PSA pumiyok sa baryang tapyas-presyo ng bigas

DA import pa more diskarte sa ASF outbreak

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

30,000 MT imported galunggong in Philippines this month

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 7, 2024 | 12:00am



Based on monitoring of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the retail price of galunggong, once considered a “poor man’s fish,” is now between P240 and P360 per kilo. A month ago, its retail price ranged between P200 and P300 per kilo.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Thirty thousand metric tons (MT) of galunggong and other fish are expected to arrive in the third week of October or first week of November as the retail price of round scad has increased by P60 per kilo.

Based on monitoring of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the retail price of galunggong, once considered a “poor man’s fish,” is now between P240 and P360 per kilo. A month ago, its retail price ranged between P200 and P300 per kilo.

In an interview over dzBB, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources spokesman Nasser Briguera defended the decision of the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council to increase the volume of imported fish to 30,000 MT from the original 25,000 MT, saying the council took into consideration the damage brought by typhoons in the fishery sector.

“The council is multi-sectoral. The volume is based on the actual consumption during the previous year. We also don’t want the imported fish to compete with local production,” he said.

Briguera added that the government will start implementing the closed fishing season in Palawan which will start Nov. 1 while the fishing ban in Zamboanga peninsula will begin Nov. 15.

He said that the three-month fishing ban will allow the fish stocks to repopulate.

Briguera said that the galunggong should be cheaper compared to locally produced fish.

“That’s (cheaper imported galunggong) what we want, we want the (imported) fish to be affordable for our consumers,” he said.

He said the imported fish will be sourced from Vietnam and China.

Briguera blamed inflation for making galunggong no longer the “poor man’s fish.”

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/07/2390731/30000-mt-imported-galunggong-philippines-month>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Rising bread, pasta demand to whet Philippines wheat imports

[Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas](#) - The Philippine Star

October 7, 2024 | 12:00am



#WorldPandesalDay highlights the importance of the Philippines' humble yet popular pandesal.
ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos' growing demand for pasta and other-wheat based products is expected to drive the country's wheat imports in the current market year to a record level of 7.15 million metric tons (MT), an international agency projected.

The United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) in Manila forecasts the country's wheat imports in market year 2024-2025 to expand by more than three percent to 7.15 million MT from 6.915 million MT in the previous market year. A market year begins in July and ends in June of the following year, according to the international agency.

“The primary drivers for the growth in imports for MY 2024/25 are increased demand for bread and pasta from households and food establishments (for milling wheat), and reduction in the local production of feed corn due to fall armyworm infestation on major corn-producing regions in the country (for feed wheat),” the USDA-FAS Manila said in a recent report.

The international agency noted that consumption of wheat-based products in the Philippines have been growing, supported by favorable global prices of wheat translating to more affordable items.

The USDA-FAS Manila projected that the country's milling wheat imports would grow to 3.6 million MT, about 3.6 percent higher than the 3.3 million MT recorded the previous market year.

"Industry contacts report that there is no observable shift in consumer diet from rice to bread or pasta, but they are forecasting a growth in demand for wheat-based food products," it said.

"Economic growth, increase in population, a rebound in tourism, and moderating inflation levels are the key drivers of the increase in demand for wheat-based products," it added.

Furthermore, the local animal feed sector continues to rely on imported feed wheat to fill in the gap in its raw material supply brought about by lackluster domestic corn output. The country's feed wheat imports would increase slightly to 3.5 million MT from 3.44 million MT, according to the agency's projections.

"The projected increase in (feed wheat) imports from MY 2023/24 to MY 2024/25 is driven by disruptions in the production of local feed corn," USDA-FAS Manila said.

"Demand for feed wheat, meanwhile, is driven by levels of local corn production and favorable global prices," it added.

The report indicated that the US was the Philippines' top wheat supplier, cornering a 39 percent market share followed by Australia (37 percent) and Brazil (16 percent).

The report pointed out that Brazil has emerged as a growing exporter of feed wheat to Southeast Asia due to its domestic push for self-sufficiency.

"The decline in Ukraine wheat exports to the world, likewise, opened more markets for Brazil wheat exports, including in the Philippines," USDA-FAS said while noting that Brazil's wheat exports to the Philippines in two previous market years were insignificant at 50 MT (2022-2023) and one MT (2021-2022).

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/07/2390577/rising-bread-pasta-demand-wheat-philippines-wheat-imports>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: Pork consumption improves as ASF scare wanes

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 7, 2024 | 12:00am



Pork consumption has declined since August amid the outbreaks of ASF in Batangas and other areas.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — Pork consumption has improved as consumers' fear of African swine fever (ASF) has diminished, the Department of Agriculture reported.

DA Assistant Secretary for swine and poultry Constante Palabrica said ASF checkpoints in Metro Manila have also decreased from 14 to 10 amid the drop in the number of hogs being confiscated by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and local government units.

“It seems that the fear of our consumers to eat pork has diminished amid the fast release of pork (in the markets),” Palabrica said.

Pork consumption has declined since August amid the outbreaks of ASF in Batangas and other areas.

Palabrica noted that at least 500 ASF-infected pigs were confiscated at checkpoints.

“These were buried on the ground and the entry of ASF-infected hogs stopped, so from 14, I decided to decrease the checkpoints to 10. So the consumers need not worry,” Palabrica said.

Based on monitoring of the DA in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of pork shoulder ranged between P270 and P370 per kilo and pork belly, between P320 and P395 per kilo.

Meanwhile, the retail price of chicken remains high, between P170 and P230 per kilo.

Pork demand is expected to increase with the holiday season.

The BAI said at least 13 regions, 31 provinces and 125 municipalities recorded ASF cases.

Most of the outbreaks were recorded in North Cotabato with 127 barangays, followed by Quezon with 97; Batangas, 72; La Union, 40; Camarines Sur, 38 barangays; Abra, 23; Cavite, 19, and Oriental Mindoro, 18 barangays.

The government started the vaccination of pigs against ASF on Aug. 30 in Lobo, Batangas, the ground zero of the outbreak, but since then, only 41 hogs have been covered by the inoculation.

At least 10,000 doses of ASF vaccine were bought under emergency procurement to contain the spread of the virus in Batangas.

Up to 150,000 doses of vaccine have arrived in the country.

DA Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Arnel de Mesa said the procurement procedures should be completed before the jabs can be tapped for the controlled vaccination.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA intends to complete the procurement of 600,000 doses of ASF vaccine by December.

Tiu Laurel has approved the allocation of P350 million for the procurement of the vaccines.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/07/2390685/da-pork-consumption-improves-asf-scare-wanes>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Chicken meat imports seen rising in 2025

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:07 AM October 07, 2024

Overseas chicken purchases bound for the Philippines might increase next year amid anticipated supply constraints as local production is insufficient to meet the rising demand.

In a report, the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service pegged the country's chicken meat imports at 480,000 metric tons (MT) in 2025, up by 2.1 percent from its estimated volume of 470,000 MT for this year.

"The country's chicken meat imports are seen "to grow slightly ... as demand continues to outpace domestic supply," the USDA said.

According to the American agency, Malacañang's Executive Order No. 62 is expected to facilitate trade and augment the supply of agricultural products including chicken meat, helping to meet the strong market demand over the medium-term.

Issued last June, the order retained the import duty on mechanically deboned chicken at 5 percent until 2028.

The country imported 255.38 million kilograms of chicken during the seven months ending in July, up by 2.4 percent, data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed.

This was about 33.7 percent of the 757.3 million kg of imported meat that arrived during the same period.

Beef alternative

Jesus Cham, president emeritus of the Meat Importers and Traders Association, said imported pork and poultry products are still in brisk demand because local production is not enough.

“The increase in [demand for] beef likely show that consumers are discovering that given the high price of pork and poultry, beef is offering better value for money,” Cham told the Inquirer.

Cham said that despite the rise in import volumes, the market experienced shortages of pork bellies and chicken leg quarters in August and September.

<https://business.inquirer.net/483765/chicken-meat-imports-seen-rising-in-2025>

BUSINESS WORLD:

USDA expects PHL raw sugar output to fall 3.6% this year

October 7, 2024 | 12:04 am



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

THE US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said Philippine raw sugar production is expected to decline 3.6% to 1.85 million metric tons (MMT) during the 2024 to 2025 crop year, with the decline partly offset by increased acreage planted to cane.

In a report, the USDA said the forecast is more bullish than that of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), which officially estimates output at 1.78 MMT.

The SRA said in Sugar Order (SO) no. 1 that it projects a 7.2% drop in sugar production from the 1.92 MMT reported during the previous crop year, citing crop damage sustained during the dry conditions brought by El Niño.

Sugarcane planting normally starts in October and ends in May.

The USDA on the other hand said that the expansion of acreage and a less severe El Niño than usual underpinned its own forecast.

The government weather service, known as PAGASA, declared the onset of El Niño in June 2023, bringing below-normal rainfall conditions, dry spells, and droughts. It ended in June.

The USDA added that the increase in Mindanao plantings could boost the area planted to cane to about 389,500 hectares from 388,000 hectares the prior crop year.

“The loss of area in Luzon due to land conversion to residential and commercial purposes will only partly offset area expansion in Mindanao,” it added.

SO 1 designated all sugar production for the 2024-2025 crop year as “B” sugar, for domestic use only.

The US maintained the Philippines’ export quota at 145,235 metric tons raw value of raw cane sugar under the tariff rate quota scheme of the World Trade Organization.

The SRA had earlier allowed the export of 25,000 MT of domestic raw sugar to fulfill the US quota after three years of noncompliance.

The USDA added that expects no further imports of sugar by the Philippines during the 2024-2025 crop year with the government seeking to protect Philippine producers. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/10/07/626063/usda-expects-phl-raw-sugar-output-to-fall-3-6-this-year/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Sugar rush leads world food prices to jump in September, FAO says

October 7, 2024 | 12:03 am



REUTERS

ROME — The United Nations' (UN) world food price index jumped in September, data released on Friday showed, posting its biggest gain in 18 months on the back of surging sugar prices.

The price index, compiled by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to track the most globally traded food commodities, rose to 124.4 points in last month from 120.7 in August, the highest level since July 2023 and up 2.1% on the year.

The sugar index soared 10.4% month on month, driven by worsening crop prospects in Brazil and concerns that India's decision to lift restrictions on sugarcane use for ethanol production may affect the country's export availabilities, FAO said.

The cereal price index increased 3%, led by higher wheat and maize export prices, while rice prices declined 0.7%. Vegetable oil prices gained 4.6% on the month, with higher quotations registered across the board for palm, soy, sunflower, and rapeseed oils.

Dairy prices rose 3.8% in September, with quotations up for whole milk powder, skim milk powder, butter and cheese, while meat prices edged up 0.4%.

In a separate report, the FAO marginally increased its forecast for global cereal production in 2024 to 2.853 billion tons from a previous 2.851 billion tons.

The increase reflected upward revisions to rice and wheat outputs that outweighed a minor reduction in global coarse grains production, FAO said.

World cereal utilization looked set to increase 12.4 million tons in 2024/2025 to 2.853 billion tons.

By contrast, the agency cut its forecast for world cereal stocks at the close of the 2025 season by 1.7 million tons to 888.1 million. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/10/07/626062/sugar-rush-leads-world-food-prices-to-jump-in-september-fao-says/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

France offers 75 million euros for disease-hit sheep farms

October 7, 2024 | 12:01 am



REUTERS

PARIS — France will provide 75 million euros in aid for sheep farms hit by a fast-spreading virus, Prime Minister Michel Barnier said Friday in a show of support for struggling farmers despite a budget crisis facing the new government.

Livestock disease outbreaks as well poor harvests and plans by dairy giant Lactalis to cut milk purchases have rekindled discontent among French farmers who staged large-scale protests earlier this year.

The funds for sheep farms affected by a new variant of the bluetongue virus, which is spread by insects and can be deadly for sheep, cattle, and goats, are in addition to a free vaccination program that the government has extended to the whole of the country for sheep flocks.

Speaking at a livestock fair in central France, Mr. Barnier also said the government would put in place state-guaranteed loans to provide short-term relief for worst-off farms.

Mr. Barnier nonetheless reiterated that his administration was bound by a budget squeeze as it aims to find 40 billion euros in savings. In a nod to recent heavy rain and farmer resentment at environmental regulation, he announced a seasonal cut-off date for spreading livestock manure on farmland would be extended from Oct. 1 to Nov. 15.

The government will relaunch in January parliamentary debate on a farming bill, Mr. Barnier added, after the legislation drafted in response to this year's protests was delayed by the snap election that led to the formation of Mr. Barnier's minority government. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/10/07/626060/france-offers-75-million-euros-for-disease-hit-sheep-farms/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Dairy workers in California being monitored for bird flu after positive tests at two farms

October 7, 2024 | 12:02 am



USDA PHOTO

WASHINGTON — Health officials in California are monitoring other exposed workers for symptoms on two dairy farms where two human cases of bird flu were confirmed Thursday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

Sixteen human bird flu cases have been reported in the US this year, including the two workers who tested positive in California. Fifteen of those cases were in farm workers at infected poultry or dairy farms.

Public health officials say the risk to the general public from bird flu is low. The sick workers had only conjunctivitis, or pink eye, and did not report respiratory symptoms, Nirav Shah, principal deputy director at CDC, said Friday.

More than 250 dairy herds in 14 states have tested positive for bird flu this year, including 56 in California, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The CDC is continuing to investigate whether any healthcare workers may have been infected with bird flu after one person tested positive in Missouri, Mr. Shah said.

The agency's testing of seven blood samples from healthcare workers who were exposed to the sick person, which would indicate whether they had previously contracted the virus, could take another two weeks, he said.

The bird flu strain detected on the two California farms is the same as has been detected on dairy farms in other states and the affected farms are quarantined, Eric Deeble, deputy undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs at USDA, said on the call.

Colorado, which in the spring was a hot spot for bird flu spread on dairy farms, now has just one positive herd, indicating success of the state's mandatory bulk milk testing, Mr. Deeble said.

Pasteurized dairy products remain safe to consume, Steve Grube, chief medical officer at the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, said on the call.

The FDA said Thursday that it will soon launch a study of raw cow's milk at some dairy plants to better understand the prevalence of the bird flu virus in the milk supply. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/10/07/626061/dairy-workers-in-california-being-monitored-for-bird-flu-after-positive-tests-at-two-farms/>

ABANTE:

Presyo ng bigas, gulay hindi pinasirit ni ‘Julian’

Abante News

- **October 6, 2024**



Hindi naapektuhan ng pananalasa ng Bagyong Julian ang presyo ng bigas at mga gulay sa Northern Luzon dahil nauna nang inani ng mga magsasaka ang kanilang produkto bago tumama ang bagyo.

Ito ang inihayag ng Department of Agriculture sa isang weekend forum dahi inabisuhan na ang mga magsasaka sa Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Region at Cordillera Region na anihin na ang kanilang mga pananim bago pa tumama ang bagyo.

Sinabi ni DA assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa na tinatayang 44,000 ektarya ng mga pananim ang naani bago pa man dumating ang Bagyong Julian at 7,000 ektarya lamang ang natira dahil hindi pa puwedeng anihin ang mga ito. Aminado si De Mesa na mayroon pa ring konting kalugihan sa mga pananim subalit maliit lamang kaya hindi ito makakapekto sa presyo sa mga lugar na tinamaan. (Aileen Taliping)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/10/06/presyo-ng-bigas-gulay-hindi-pinasirit-ni-julian/>

PPA chides importers for overstaying goods

October 7, 2024

THE Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on Sunday reminded the importers that the country's ports are not warehouses for cargoes but are there as transit areas in the movement of goods.

In a radio interview, PPA General Manager Jay Santiago said that they are coordinating with the Bureau of Customs (BoC) to streamline their processes to discourage importers from using ports as storage areas or warehouses for their shipments.

"We are coordinating with BoC ... for importers not to delay the filing of their importation entry. We are slowly reviewing our processes in PPA and in coordination with BoC," Santiago said.

Santiago said the PPA has noted some importers wait for a month to file import entries for cargo even though these goods have long been unloaded in the ports.

The filing of entry signals the start of processing at the BoC.

"Some importers delay the filing of the import entry since they can save on storage cost (at the ports) compared to if they store goods in private warehouses. They pay only P700 a day (per container). For a month, that is P21,000, which is a small amount compared to the value of the shipment," he said.

Importers have 30 days to pull out their cargo from the time these are cleared by the BoC, after which these are deemed condemned.

Santiago said the PPA has turned over to the Department of Agriculture (DA) the list of 20 consignees who failed to pull out over 500 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of shipments of rice and other agricultural products at the Manila ports as of September 30.

He said the PPA has no jurisdiction over the consignees as its mandate is strictly focused on port management.

The PPA has directed the head of operations and engineering of Asian Terminal Inc., the terminal operator of Manila South Harbor, to report the overstaying containers to the BoC for appropriate disposition in accordance with Section 1129 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act concerning abandoned containers.

"We believe [that] having this information on a regular basis will help both PPA and DA identify trends, address any challenges promptly, and improve overall service delivery," Santiago said.

To prepare for the expected demand increase during the Christmas season, the PPA has also intensified its monitoring of pork, chicken, and onion inventories.

FRANCIS EARL CUETO

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/07/news/national/ppa-chides-importers-for-overstaying-goods/1979918>

Infra damage from Typhoon Julian hits P934M

By Francis Earl Cueto and Francisco Tuyay
October 7, 2024

(UPDATE) TYPHOON Julian damaged infrastructure worth over P934 million, the latest report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council showed.

The report pegged the damage at P934,483,010.27, spread in Regions 1 (Ilocos) and 2 (Cagayan Valley) and the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR).

The Ilocos Region sustained the biggest damage at P738,157,080.27, followed by Cagayan Region with P158,362,000 and CAR with 37,963,930.

Agricultural damage was estimated at P321 million.

The United States on Saturday sent essential aid to Batanes residents badly affected by Typhoon Julian.

Philippine Air Force Public Affairs head Col. Ma Consuelo Castillo in a statement said two Hercules C-130 J cargo aircraft from the Marine Expeditionary Force arrived at Col. Jesus Villamor Air Base Saturday afternoon carrying personnel and equipment intended for Batanes.

"These aircraft, which departed from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, will assist in the ongoing relief efforts in the province of Batanes, which was severely affected by Typhoon Julian," Castillo said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, together with the Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag), coordinated with the local government of Batanes on October 5 to ensure effective relief operations.

The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, represented by Lt. Col. Ariel Galimba, and Jusmag Chief Col. Edward Evans made a courtesy visit to Batanes Gov. Marilou Cayco.

They emphasized the importance of close collaboration with local authorities to streamline logistics and ensure vital resources reach the hardest-hit areas.

The Jusmag team, along with representatives from the US Agency for International Development (USAid), also collaborated with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for the swift distribution of foreign disaster relief supplies to affected communities in Batanes.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/07/news/national/infra-damage-from-typhoon-julian-hits-p934m/1979797>

SRA rues bad start for sugar industry

By Eugene Y. Adiong

October 7, 2024

BACOLOD CITY — The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said there is not much to expect from the new sugar crop year.

SRA administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said on Friday that the sugar production in the first three weeks of milling (which began on September 15) was 96 percent lower compared to the same period last year.

"It's really not a good start and the sugar yield is 15 percent low," laments Azcona.

Data showed only 5,645 tons of sugar were produced since the sugar milling year started on September 15, a far cry from the 134,780 tons produced in the first three weeks of the milling season last year.

"There's a big difference. In the beginning, a lot of mills and sugar associations were claiming that they were ready to mill, but very little sugarcane went into the mills," noted Azcona.

As of crop year 2023-2024, 13 out of the 25 sugar mills in the country are in Negros Island, including nine in Negros Occidental, the country's top sugar-producing province.

"Prices have been stable. Retail prices, which are important for consumers, are also stable," said Azcona.

He noted that the farmers may have not yet been ready to mill as they feel that their sugarcane is still growing, and they could expect more yield if they delay milling a little bit more.

"We really anticipated a low start because of El Niño," admitted Azcona.

The peak of the sugar milling season is expected to take off between the last week of October and the first week of November, he added.

Nevertheless, the sugar supply, he said, is stable, with farmers producing raw sugar and imported refined sugar coming in. The milling last year started September 15.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/07/regions/sra-rues-bad-start-for-sugar-industry/1979871>

Higher PH poultry imports seen in 2025

By Janine Alexis Miguel

October 7, 2024

HIGHER demand, as well as competitive pricing, will make the Philippines import more poultry meat and other products in 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said.

The latest report of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Services (FAS) showed the Philippines' chicken meat imports are likely to rise to 480,000 metric tons (MT), compared to 2024's projected volume of 470,000 MT.

"The price competitiveness of imported chicken products vis-à-vis domestically produced ones remains very attractive, especially for food service and institutional buyers seeking to maintain specific price points," the USDA noted.

The agency added that Executive Order 62 — which modifies the import duty rates of various commodities — will augment the local supply of agricultural commodities, such as chicken meat, to help meet strong market demand over the medium-term.

The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) has likewise lifted the bird flu temporary bans on domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from the US except those from Michigan and Minnesota.

"Despite high operating costs, primarily due to high domestic corn prices, the chicken meat sector rapidly expanded in the first and second quarters of 2024," the USDA said.

The FAS in Manila said it is anticipating the growth to generate positive momentum for 2025. The recent decline in imported soybean meal prices, another major component of the broiler feed ration, will carry into 2025 and help offset some of the corn cost in the ration overall.

The agency has revised its production estimate this year to 1.57 million MT of ready-to-cook chicken, as the remaining areas with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the Philippines has decreased.

"Improvements in biosecurity practices among some broiler operators also contribute to higher production for 2024," the USDA said. However, it noted that challenges, such as the tight supply of day-old-chicks, will temper the growth of chicken meat production.

Chicken meat consumption is projected to slightly increase to 2.11 million MT from 2.0 million MT due to economic and population growth, slower inflation, and the prevalence of African swine fever.

The expansion of the food service sector will add up to the demand for chicken meat and other meat products, the USDA said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/07/business/top-business/higher-ph-poultry-imports-seen-in-2025/1979909>

Lower rice prices may be temporary, warns economist

Cai U. Ordinario
October 7, 2024

FILIPINOS may have heaved a sigh of relief as inflation cooled in September but one of the causes, lower rice prices, may be temporary and lead to greater volatility in domestic prices of the staple, according to an economist.

Ateneo de Manila University economist Leonardo Lanzona Jr. told BusinessMirror that a decrease in international rice prices could also make the country more dependent on imported rice.

This dependence may lead to the country's increased vulnerability brought by global market prices. This could translate to higher inflation each time rice or oil prices would spike.

“The decline in inflation is fundamentally short-term in nature as this is driven by external factors. While these policies offer temporary relief, they expose the Philippines to risks associated with global market volatility,” Lanzona said.

The country's tariff and monetary policies, in general, have allowed the economy to be immediately affected by international developments such as rising interest rates and prices, Lanzona added. Ibon Foundation Inc., meanwhile, said despite the slowdown in rice inflation to 5.7 percent, the price of regular-milled rice in the National Capital Region (NCR), for instance, still increased by P3 or about 7 percent to P46 in September 2024 from P43 in September 2023 while well-milled rice rose by P4 or 7 percent to P53 from P49.

“But rice varieties priced over P50 per kilo tend to be more common at the market. Some one-third of domestic palay costs are from imported inputs, not yet counting further oil-dependent transportation costs to bring rice to retailers and consumers,” Ibon said.

Worth noting, Ibon also said, is the inflation experienced by the poorest Filipinos at 2.5 percent in September. This is slower than the 4.8 percent in August 2024 but was faster than the 1.9 percent average inflation rate experienced by all income households.

Ibon noted that expensive rice impacts the poor more heavily because around 54.93 percent of their budget goes to food. Based on the data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), rice has a weight of 17.87 percent in the Consumer Price Index of the poorest Filipinos.

The group also stressed that wages are not keeping up with high prices. Ibon estimated that across all regions, the average nominal wage of P448 is 63.1 percent short of the average family living wage (FLW) of P1,213 for a family of five, as of September 2024.

In the NCR, even with the July 2024 wage hike, the P645 nominal wage is P561 or 46.5 percent short of the P1,206 NCR FLW. The disparity between the nominal wage and the FLW is most glaring in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), with a nominal wage of P361 which is 82.4 percent short of the region's P2,047 FLW.

“Government should also take steps to ensure cheaper and more efficient domestic production of Filipino goods and services instead of increasingly relying on the global market,” Ibon said.

“Improved local production to meet the nation's needs is the only long-term solution to job creation as well as making basic goods and services accessible and affordable for Filipinos,” it added.

Inflation battle over

HSBC Asean economist Aris Dacanay said the latest inflation print may signal the end of the country's battle with inflation. This is no small feat, as he said this is “because of a mix of both hard work and luck.”

Dacanay noted that the last time inflation was at this level was when the Philippines was in lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“It almost feels too good to be true as the Philippine economy went through an inflation surge that lasted for almost two years. But we think the September CPI marks the day that the BSP’s inflation battle is finally over,” Dacanay said.

He said hard work came from monetary and non-monetary authorities. The BSP’s decision to keep policy rates high, which peaked at 6.5 percent representing a 450 basis point increase, kept inflation expectations anchored.

Non-monetary measures, he said, helped reduce trade barriers for commodities such as rice, coal, and pork. This moved to ensure Filipino consumers have access to more affordable imported alternatives. Part of the country’s good luck is lower fuel prices and the appreciation of the peso against the US dollar in September. Ample supply of rice also helped keep prices low.

“Luck is also a big factor moving forward. India, the world’s largest exporter of rice, just lifted its trade restrictions on the grain. This comes at an opportune time for the Philippines since retail rice prices haven’t decreased yet, even with the 20 percentage point tariff rate cut in July,” Dacanay said.

On Friday, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) disclosed that the country’s inflation rate averaged 1.9 percent in September, the lowest in four years or since the 1.6 percent posted in May 2020.

The inflation recorded by food and non-alcoholic beverages slowed to 1.4 percent in September 2024. This commodity group posted an inflation rate of 3.9 percent in August 2024.

National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said the slowdown in inflation was driven by cheaper food and non-alcoholic beverages, which accounted for 69.1 percent of the downtrend. Rice prices alone only posted an inflation rate of 5.7 percent, the slowest since the 4.2 percent posted in July 2023. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/05/surprise-inflation-in-september-at-1-9-a-4-year-low/>).

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/07/lower-rice-prices-may-be-temporary-warns-economist/>

PHL chicken imports seen growing slightly in 2025

Ada Pelonia
October 7, 2024

THE country's chicken meat imports will "grow slightly" to 480,000 metric tons (MT) in 2025 from the projected 470,000 MT for this year, as demand outpaces production growth, the US Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service in Manila (USDA-FAS Manila) said.

"The price competitiveness of imported chicken products vis-à-vis domestically produced remains very attractive, especially for food service and institutional buyers seeking to maintain specific price points," the USDA-FAS Manila said in its latest report.

It also noted that chicken meat production is forecast to expand by nearly 4 percent to 1.63 million metric tons (MMT) ready-to-cook (RTC) in 2025 buoyed by declining feed costs, fewer areas affected by bird flu, and adverse impacts of African swine fever (ASF) on pork production.

"Despite high operating costs, primarily due to high domestic corn prices, the chicken meat sector rapidly expanded in the first and second quarters of 2024. FAS Manila anticipates that this growth will generate positive momentum for 2025," the report read.

"The recent decline in imported soybean meal prices, another major component of the broiler feed ration, will carry into 2025 and help offset some of the corn cost in the ration overall."

The USDA-FAS Manila revised upward the 2024 production estimate to 1.57 MMT RTC following the decrease in areas with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and improvements in biosecurity practices among some broiler operators.

However, the report said that challenges such as the tight supply of day-old chicks (DOC) would temper the growth of chicken meat production.

According to the report, DOC imports in 2024 were lower than the same period in 2023, translating to a surge in DOC prices.

It added that the limited supply of breeding stock was further applying pressure on the growth potential of the chicken meat sector.

“Higher prices mean more commercial raisers are willing to load DOCs and turn them into broilers 28-35 days later. The elevated DOC prices will temper production growth in the rest of 2024 and 2025,” the report read.

Meanwhile, the report noted that 2025 consumption of chicken meat would increase to 2.11 MMT RTC driven by economic and population growth, slower inflation, and the prevalence of ASF.

“Chicken meat consumption is estimated to grow faster than the other main animal proteins produced in the Philippines, buoyed by a robust economic growth, a sustained increase in population, and the continued impact of ASF on the swine sector.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/07/phl-chicken-imports-seen-growing-slightly-in-2025/>

Report: PHL raw sugar production will improve

Ada Pelonia
October 7, 2024

The country's raw sugar production is projected to reach 1.85 million metric tons (MMT) in marketing year (MY) 2025 as the improvement in weather conditions will allow the expansion in harvest area, according to an international report.

The forecast of the United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA-FAS Manila) is higher than the Sugar Regulatory Administration's projected output of 1.78 MMT for the current crop year which kicked off on September 1.

"Improvement in weather conditions from the previous El Niño is expected to provide better production in MY 2025," the USDA-FAS Manila said in its latest report.

It also estimated MY 2025 sugarcane area at 389,500 hectares (ha) due to an increase in area planted, particularly in Mindanao.

"The loss of area in Luzon due to land conversion to residential and commercial purposes will only partly offset area expansion in Mindanao," the report read.

"The prevailing high prices will continue to encourage farmers to plant sugarcane instead of shifting to other crops like, corn, cassava, and banana," it added, noting that about 85 percent of sugarcane areas are small farms.

Last month, the SRA issued Sugar Order (SO) 1 which indicated that raw sugar output in crop year (CY) 2024-2025 will drop by 7.29 percent to 1.78 MMT from the previous year's 1.92 MMT. CY 2024-2025 started last September 1.

“[The projection] is based on the effect of El Niño on standing crops—those that were planted from October 2023 to May this year,” SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said.

SO 1 noted that the production estimate for the current crop year was due to the anticipated negative effect of the prolonged dry spell, “unless the La Niña phenomenon brings about an increase in production.” (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/05/phl-raw-sugar-output-to-fall-by-7-29-sra/>)

Despite the bleak production outlook for the current crop year, the SRA made an assurance that the Philippines has enough supply of sugar until the second quarter of 2025.

“Based on our estimates, including the actual stock on hand and the imports that will arrive, we will have enough sugar possibly until the end of the milling season in May or June 2025,” said Azcona. The SRA recently authorized the importation of 240,000 metric tons of refined sugar to beef up domestic supply.

The sugar policy for CY 2024-2025 also mandated the classification of the entire output for the current crop year as “B” or for the domestic market.

Domestic raw sugar withdrawal, according to SO 1, would reach 2.2 MMT.

Meanwhile, the USDA-FAS Manila sees sugar demand for MY 2025, which also began in September, to remain flat at 2.2 MMT.

“The high prices of sugar and products containing sugar will continue to discourage increases in consumption,” the report read.

“The high inflation rate affected consumers and focused their spending on basic commodities.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/07/report-phl-raw-sugar-production-will-improve/>

Govt keen on irrigation scheme to boost food output

Ada Pelonia
October 7, 2024

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is planning to forge partnerships with other government agencies to collect rainfall which can be used for irrigation to boost the country's food production.

Agriculture Undersecretary for Operations Roger Navarro noted that the Philippines gets around 2.6 meters of rainfall every year that is not harnessed.

Navarro said the DA recently met with officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to consolidate their efforts not only in controlling floods but also in using available water for irrigating farmlands.

“The problem is that there are flood control schemes, but these do not take into consideration the production areas,” he told reporters on the sidelines of a recent event held in Taguig City.

He said the DPWH's role is to ensure that floods reach the sea, while the DA sees to it that farmlands have enough water for crops.

“Now under our convergence efforts, the DPWH will work on the main canal, while the DA would like to do the peripheral canal. That canal will be used for channeling water to farm areas,” he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Navarro said a memorandum of agreement for the convergence efforts will be signed before the year ends since this is “a priority.”

Among the signatories are the DA, DPWH, NIA, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Meanwhile, the DA said it plans to conduct a monthly dialogue with farmers, businessmen, and traders of every agricultural commodity to bolster local output. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/01/da-to-conduct-monthly-dialogue-with-farmers-businessmen-traders-of-key-commodities-to-bolster-local-output/>)

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said that with the number of agricultural commodities to boost, the monthly dialogue would help the DA attend to the needs of every industry.

“There’s many of them [agricultural commodities]. We really need to focus, and DA must assign someone for each industry,” Laurel told reporters, partly in Filipino in a recent forum in Makati City.

“Now, all of our Undersecretaries, all Assistant Secretaries, and directors, we will be assigning one of them to each and every commodity that we have in the Philippines.”

The agriculture chief said the DA officials would have to submit a monthly report on what they agreed upon with the stakeholders and what should be done in the succeeding months.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/07/govt-keen-on-irrigation-scheme-to-boost-food-output/>

Food commodity prices higher in September—FAO

BusinessMirror
October 7, 2024

The benchmark for world food commodity prices saw its fastest increase in 18 months in September, with quotations up for all covered commodity groups, led by sugar, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reported Friday.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of a set of globally-traded food commodities, averaged 124.4 points in September, up 3 percent from August and 2.1 percent higher than its corresponding value a year earlier.

The FAO Sugar Price Index registered the largest increase in September, rising by 10.4 percent from the August level. This was driven by worsening crop prospects in Brazil and concerns that India's decision to lift restrictions on sugarcane use for ethanol production may affect export availabilities from the country.

“Worsening crop prospects in Brazil, due to prolonged dry weather and fires that damaged sugarcane fields in late August, were the main drivers of the increase in global sugar prices. Additionally, concerns that India's sugar export availability could be affected by the government's decision to lift restrictions on sugarcane use for ethanol production also contributed to the overall increase in world sugar prices.”

Despite the increase, the sugar price index was still 37 points lower than its value a year ago.

The cereal price index, meanwhile, inched up by 3 percent in September, led by higher wheat and maize export prices. “International wheat prices increased due largely to concerns over excessively wet conditions in Canada and the European Union, though this was partly offset by competitively priced supplies from the Black Sea region.”

FAO said world maize prices also climbed, influenced by low water levels on key transportation routes along the Madeira River in Brazil and the Mississippi River in the United States of America.

“By contrast, the FAO All Rice Price Index declined by 0.7 percent, partly reflecting generally quiet trading activities.”

Vegetable oil prices were higher by 4.6 percent in September from August, with higher quotations across the board for palm, soy, sunflower and rapeseed oils.

“The rise in international palm oil prices was due to lower-than-expected production in major Southeast Asian producing countries, while the rebound in soyoil quotations was primarily due to lower-than-expected crushings in the United States of America.”

The FAO Dairy price Index went up by 3.8 percent in September, with quotations up for whole milk powder, skim milk powder, butter and cheese.

The UN agency said average international meat prices rose slightly due to higher poultry meat prices driven by strong import demand for Brazil’s product. World bovine and pig meat prices remained stable, while those for ovine meat declined slightly from August levels.

FAO also said world wheat production is expected to increase by 0.5 percent in 2024 from the previous year, as improved yield prospects in Australia more than compensate for a significant cut to the European Union’s forecast due to excessively wet conditions.

“By contrast, global production of coarse grains is now expected to decline by 0.8 percent from 2023, with smaller crops in the European Union foreseen to outweigh higher maize output anticipated in the United States of America. World rice production in 2024/25 is now forecast to rise by 0.9 percent and reach a historical high of 539.2 million tons.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/07/food-commodity-prices-higher-in-september-fao/>

Antique adopts first provincial resolution promoting ‘regenerative agriculture’

BusinessMirror
October 7, 2024

The province of Antique recently made a major milestone as it adopted a resolution promoting the use of regenerative agriculture for all sectors of its agricultural industry.

The resolution, introduced by Pio Sumande Sr. of the provincial board of Antique, and co-sponsored by several other provincial board members, underscored the role of regenerative agriculture in maintaining a sustainable and productive farming ecosystem, while providing enhanced resilience to climate change.

It can be recalled that Biotech for Life, a project under the Department of Agriculture-Biotechnology Program Office (DA-BPO), held a forum in Antique focusing on agriculture and food security.

During the event, biotechnology expert Dr. Saturnina Halos gave an in-depth presentation on regenerative agriculture and explained that the method takes the best of traditional and modern agricultural practices and blends them together for optimum productivity and sustainability.

For many, regenerative agriculture is a relatively new concept. But it has actually been around since the 80s. In the early 2010s, it experienced a resurgence in light of the increasing impacts of climate change.

According to Halos, regenerative agriculture maximizes productivity and sustainability by promoting practices that improve soil health, and reduce the volume of harmful emissions such as greenhouse gases.

For its part, the province of Antique plans to follow up the resolution with an official ordinance to codify the integration of regenerative agriculture into its industry practices.

This will involve increasing the use of natural, or organic biofertilizers and biopesticides and decrease the use of their synthetic counterparts.

When asked for her recommendation, Halos said she hopes the provincial officials would coordinate with the DA to set up test farms in the region to better assess the needs of farmers and implement ideal methods of integrating regenerative farming practices.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/07/antique-adopts-first-provincial-resolution-promoting-regenerative-agriculture/>

ABANTE TONITE

PSA pumiyok sa baryang tapyas-presyo ng bigas

October 6, 2024

Bumaba man ang presyo ng bigas mula noong Hulyo, aminado naman si Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Undersecretary Dennis Mapa na maliit lamang ang ibinaba nito.

“The price of rice per kilo has been decreasing since July,” ayon kay Mapa. “But, of course, the decrease as I mentioned are small.”

Sabi ni Mapa, bumaba ang rice inflation sa 5.7% noong Setyembre, ang pinakamababa nito mula Hulyo 2023 kung saan naitala ang rice inflation sa 4.2%.

Aniya, ang presyo ng regular milled rice ay P50.47 noong Setyembre mula sa P50.90 noong Hulyo.

Dagdag niya, mas mahal ang presyo ng bigas sa mga rehiyon kaysa sa mga lalawigan. Paliwanag ni Mapa, mas mataas ang presyo ng bigas sa labas ng National Capital Region dahil dumadagdag sa presyo ang transportasyon.

Malaki ang binawas sa taripa ng bigas sa ilalim ng Executive Order No. 62 na sinabi ng mga economic manager na magpapababa ng presyo ng bigas ng P6 hanggang P7 kada kilo.

Pero, habang bumabagsak na ang farmgate price ng palay, hindi pa rin sapat ang pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas.

Ayon sa Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), nasa 40 sentimos per kilo lamang ang nakita nilang pagbaba sa presyo ng bigas at malayo sa ipinangalandakang P6 hanggang P7 na bawas presyo ng mga economic manager.

Obserbasyon ng FFF, binubulsa ng mga importer ang natitipid mula sa pagbaba ng taripa imbes na ipasa ito sa mga konsyumer.

Ibinaba sa 15% ang taripa ng bigas sa ilalim ng EO 62 nitong Hulyo mula sa 35%. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/06/psa-pumiyok-sa-baryang-tapvas-presyo-ng-bigas/>

ABANTE TONITE

DA import pa more diskarte sa ASF outbreak

October 6, 2024

Walang ibang nakikitang paraan ang Department of Agriculture (DA) kundi ang mag-angkat ng karneng baboy upang mapanatili ang presyo nito pagsapit ng holiday season.

Ito ang sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel sa isang weekend forum kung saan tiniyak nito na makakaasa ang publiko na sapat ang suplay ng manok at itlog pagsapit ng Kapaskuhan pero hindi sa karne ng baboy.

Aminado ang opisyal na malaking hamon sa DA ang produksiyon ng baboy sa bansa dahil sa African Swine Fever (ASF).

“Iyong manok wala tayong problema we have a very sufficient (supply) locally, pati na sa itlog. So ang talagang concern natin ay `yung baboy,” sabi ni De Mesa.

Hangga’t hindi aniya nalulutas ang problema sa ASF ay mahihirapan sa lokal na produksiyon kaya walang ibang remedyo kundi mag-aangkat ng karne ng baboy upang mapanatili ang presyo nito lalo na pagsapit ng Pasko.

Sinabi pa ni De Mesa na bagamat sinimulan na ang pagbakuna sa mga baboy na may ASF, hindi pa rin sapat ang mga bakunang nabili ng gobyerno dahil marami ang kontaminado ng ASF kaya minamadali na ang pagbili ng dagdag na bakuna.

“Unless ma-solve natin iyong problema sa ASF through vaccination challenge pa rin sa atin iyong local production. Imports will play a major role para ma-stabilize iyong presyo ng karne ng baboy.” dagdag ni De Mesa. (Aileen Taliping)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/06/da-import-pa-more-diskarte-sa-asf-outbreak/>