INDUSTRY NEWS

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Thailand bans animal-feed corn from burned fields in major shift

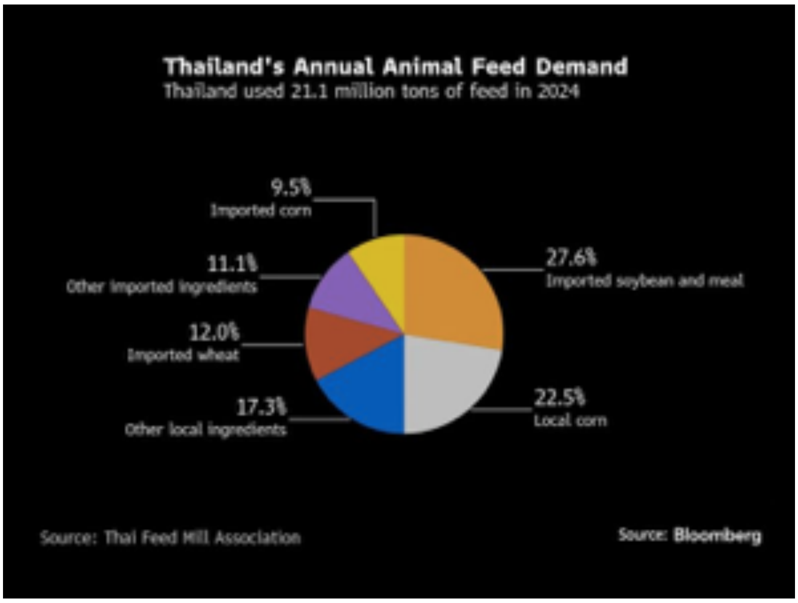
Thailand will ban imports of animal-feed corn produced from agricultural burning, a move that should help curb a worsening cross-border pollution issue.

Feed mills must present proof that imported corn is from burn-free sources from Jan. 1, Duangarthit Nidhi-u-tai, deputy director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade said.

The corn rule has been billed as a sustainable way to fight air pollution. Still, it is also seen as a step toward opening imports from the US, the world's largest corn producer, as part of pledges to give Washington greater market access in exchange for a tariff deal.

"This is the first time Thailand is implementing an environmental measure on agricultural imports," Duangarthit said, adding that the measure still needs a final sign-off from the cabinet in the coming weeks. (Source: TheStar, 22th September 2025)

US-Thai tariff talks could reshape livestock, feed, and meat markets



The US's decision to enforce a 19% reciprocal tariff on Thai goods has set the stage for sweeping changes in Thailand's livestock sector, which will bring both opportunities and challenges.

As negotiations progress, Thailand is preparing to open its markets to more US agricultural products, potentially slashing tariffs to as low as 0%—but only once both nations finalize a comprehensive agreement.

The Deputy Commerce Minister of Thailand confirmed that discussions will tackle technical details such as market access, non-tariff barriers, and product-specific tariff rates. A Ministry of Commerce source suggested that negotiations could take three months to a year.

Despite concerns in other livestock segments, Thailand's poultry exporters remain largely unfazed. Kukrit

Thailand aims for more shrimp exports to US

A 50% reciprocal tariff imposed by the US on Indian imports is set to have significant repercussions for India while potentially boosting Thai shrimp exports.

According to Thailand's Department of Fisheries, India is currently the largest shrimp supplier to the US, making up 36.14% of the US's total shrimp imports. With the addition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, Indian exporters face a duty of 59.73%. The department forecasted that Indian shrimp exports to the US could decrease by 80%, or about 240,000 tonnes, this year.

Thailand is projected to increase its shrimp exports to the US by an additional 25,000 tonnes this year.(Source: Asian Agribiz, 11th September 2025)

Areepakorn, Manager of the Thai Broiler Processing Exporters Association said: "The US is targeting different products and markets that don't directly compete with ours. Japan wants special cuts that match Thailand's expertise, while the UK mainly imports chicken breasts, which the US keeps for domestic consumption."

Thailand's top chicken export destinations include Japan, the UK, China, and several European and Asian markets. In contrast, US chicken exports are focused on North America and niche products like chicken feet for certain Asian countries.

A major potential win for Thailand lies in cheaper, high-quality US feed ingredients. Reduced tariffs could significantly cut production costs, with corn representing 35–40% and soybean meal making up 20–25% of feed formulations.

Thai feedmillers import corn mainly from neighboring countries and soybean meal from South America, where Brazilian soybean meal carries a 2% duty. A 0% tariff on US soybean meal could offset its slightly lower protein content and improve margins. The Thai Feed Mill Association projects feed demand to rise to 3.48% year-on-year in 2025, provided raw materials remain available.

While poultry and feed sectors see opportunities, Thailand's pork and beef producers are wary. Sitthiphan Thankiatphinyo, President of the Swine Raisers Association of Thailand, warned that opening the market to US pork could devastate independent farmers. "If US pork enters at competitive prices, many of Thailand's 100,000 independent pig farmers may have to leave the industry," he said.

The premium beef sector also faces potential disruption. Cheeta Ngohpraiwan, President of the Thaibrahman Breeders Association, stressed, "US beef, with its lower production costs, could hurt our premium segment. The government should cap the volume of US beef eligible for 0% tariffs and crack down on beef smuggling, which already hurts the local market." (Source: Asian Agribiz, 1st September 2025)