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UPCOMING EVENTS

31 October – EURASIA PACKAGING, Istanbul , Turkey

14 November – Adviesgesprek @ Sugar City, Halfweg, NL – Investing Opportunities in Turkey

Turkish concerns to see EU live cattle exports weaken significantly this year



EU exports of live bovine animals in the first half of 2018 were 11pc higher than a year before, but are expected to weaken significantly in the second half of the year, according to a new outlook by the European Commission.

The EU's key partners are in the Mediterranean area. Turkey, the main (and expanding) export destination, absorbed nearly a third of EU live bovine exports.

Live exports are expected to weaken significantly in the second half of 2018, restricting growth for the year to 1.5pc.

This is due to the macro-economic situation in Turkey (high inflation and devaluation of the Turkish lira) and expected competition from other exporters, such as Uruguay and Brazil. Live exports are expected to stabilise in 2019.

Turkish potato growers confronted with rising production cost



The potato price in Turkey was a major point of discussion in June when the price of one kilogram of potatoes went up as high as 1.25 USD.

However with the start of harvest in many production areas, the prices dropped to a more typical level.

Nevertheless, neither the growers nor the consumers are satisfied.

Due to increasing production costs related to the devaluation of the Turkish lira, profit margins of potato growers are declining by the day. The wholesalers in the middle put a lot of pressure on the growers.

Consumption figures are rapidly dropping as well due to the decline in the average purchasing power of the Turkish consumers. A Turkish household usually consumes on average 4 sacks of potato annually but this figure dropped by 50 % according to recent numbers.

Last year around this time, potato prices in retail were around 0.25 USD whereas nowadays the prices are around 0.43 USD per kg. However the price paid to the growers remains the same, between 0.15 – 0.20 USD per kg. But when we compare last year's production costs and this year's production costs, the cost of seeds went up by 25 %, the cost of fuel went up by 45 %, the cost of fertilizer went up by 35 %, the cost of irrigation equipment went up by 25 %, the cost of labor went up by 40 % and the transport costs have increased by 60 %. On average the growers have experienced a 30 % increase in their production costs while their sale price is pressured to remain at the same level by the wholesalers which is causing them to sell products at almost no profit or in some cases at a loss.

Consequently a lot of growers are at the crossroads and seriously considering to give up their growing business. This will also have major consequences for the consumers as the supply will drop because of many growers quitting the business which in turn will result into a shortage of supply and increase in prices. So it is not too far fetched to think that potato prices will jump back again to 1.5 USD per kg levels if the growers problems are not solved.

Another problem that potato growers experience is the lack of proper cooling facilities in the production regions.

Growers in Kose district of Gumushane, a city located in northern Turkey, for instance have to throw out a lot of products if there is no buyer available in the market because they do not have any cold storages available in the area. The growers are asking for the state to intervene and solve this problem. Potato production is the main source of income for the people living in the area and the production areas are rapidly declining due to the aforementioned cold storage problem. Potato production areas went down by nearly 65 % in a span of few years.

Growers note that their losses are as high as 50% and it is impossible for them to stay in the business with this level of waste.

World Scientists will Come Together at White Meat Summit in Antalya



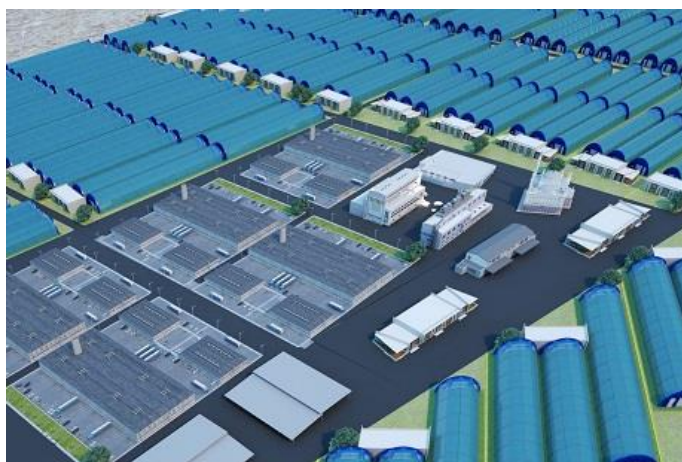
The Turkish poultry sector would like to discuss the latest technological and scientific advances that are applied in the world, in Antalya on 24-28 April 2019 at the Starlight Convention Center & Resort 5. Sunrise Park during the International White Meat Congress.

BESD-BİR's Dr.. Sait Koca states: "The biggest and most important congress with international participation will be held for the fifth time in Turkey. Our congress has been accepted by the international CAB abstract database due to its continuity and the quality level it has reached. I would like to underline that this development is a very proud development for our sector and our country".

The congress to be held in April 2019, will bring together a large number of participants, including scientists and sector stakeholders, as well as many other key speakers from around the world.

As always, in this big organization we will come together to discover the past, share the present and shape the future of the white meat sector; to provide higher participation than the previous year and to get more efficiency in this parallel. Our Congress President Dr. Necmettin Ceylan and his team really continue preparations with great devotion. In April 2019, we expect all our stakeholders to share our technology, knowledge and innovations with the aim of providing more benefits to humanity.

Turkey: Cukurova production region to be filled with greenhouses in near future



An organized greenhouse production zone will be set up in Adana (Turkey) to increase greenhouse production in the area. The Adana Chamber of Commerce is coordinating all the efforts to establish this zone which will increase productivity per square meter.

Adana is one of the main agricultural production cities in Turkey with 450,000 hectares of production area and only 20,000 hectares of this area is used for greenhouse production. The project to set up a greenhouse zone in an area of 280 hectares in the Karatas district has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The current timeline indicates that greenhouses will be operating at the end of 2019. Project plans indicate that the main products to grow in these greenhouses will be strawberry, tomato, cucumber, banana and various cut flowers. These products will be grown with the aim of exporting to Europe and to countries in the Middle East.

A lot of different growers would like to participate in the project and so far 400 local and foreign growers have filed applications. The area is also estimated to create around 2,000 jobs in the region.

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