



December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Our sixth webinar

**"Strawberry production and biological crop protection in Horticulture"**

[LINK for registration](#)

## Winter Season HAS STARTED in Ukraine!

**Pictures of Demofield of Stiyka Ukraina, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**



### **The winter has finally started in Ukraine.**

First snow we got on November 22, with temperatures of -2°C during the day and -5°C at night then it got a bit warmer for a week with temperature of around +5°C.

Since November 28 the winter is really taking over with the snowfalls and cold temperatures.

After the last training on the field (Oct 30<sup>th</sup>) we had prepared the Demo for the winter. The irrigation system was blown with air, all valves opened at 45°, sensors and pumps were taken off and put in the basement with constant positive temperature inside.

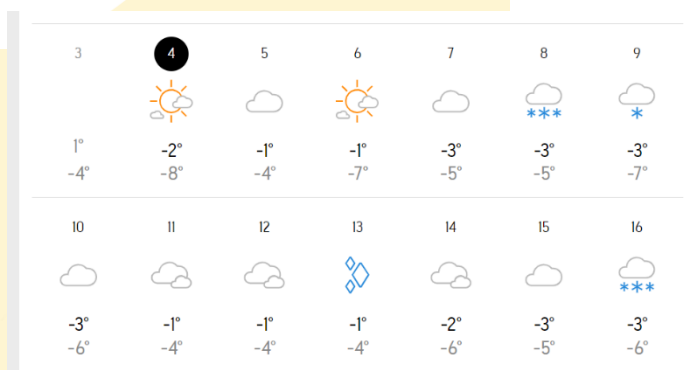
**The forecast for coming two weeks is moderately cold.**

The winter has come in time, plants has dropped leaves and went to dormancy.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> we plan to have a **pruning training** for the students of Agricultural Universities of Kyiv and Bila Tserkva and on December 14<sup>th</sup> we plan to gather farmers for the pruning of blueberry, sweet cherry, apple and pear.

Before the war Rosetta Agro was always organizing pruning days for farmers, where we could discuss the season, show pruning and learn from each other.

Last year we could not do it because of the war, many companies could not do pruning when the war started and now, they need several years to fix it at their plantations. We are really looking forward to gather them together and are very happy to be on the track again!





## Border blockade: Poland to strengthen checks on Ukrainian carriers

**Since November 6, several industry organizations have been blocking the Dorohusk, Hrebenne and Korczowa border crossings in south-eastern Poland.**

Representatives of customs, border services, and the police will join the traffic police in the inspections. This was announced by the Minister of Infrastructure of Poland, Alvin Gadjadur, following a meeting with protesters at the border, reported TVP.

“We want to fight against unfair competition from foreign companies that are taking away the market from honest Polish carriers... As a result of this meeting, control on roads leading to the border

crossings, which are being blocked, will be strengthened,” he said.

At the same time, the minister appealed to the European Commission to appoint a committee to verify the implementation of the agreement between Ukraine and the EU, which abolished the requirement for permits. He also appealed to the Ukrainian government to deactivate the electronic queue system at least at two checkpoints, according to the statement from the Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland.

The head of the Polish government noted that the Polish delegation in Kyiv has agreed on changes that are likely to expedite the passage of empty trucks through the border, thus reducing queues.

Source: [AgroPortal](#)

## Ukraine Gathers Nearly 29 Million Tons of Vegetables



**In Ukraine, nearly 29 million tons of vegetables were harvested as of the beginning of November. The largest portion is potatoes, amounting to 21.2 million tons, along with 7.1 million tons of cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes,**

**carrots, and more.**

This information comes from the [announcement by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine](#).

The harvest of all other vegetables was collected on an area of 367.6 thousand hectares, resulting in a production of 7.1 million tons of yield, specifically:

- Tomatoes: 1.4 million tons
- Cabbage: 1.3 million tons
- Onions: 877 thousand tons
- Carrots: 810 thousand tons
- Beets: 766 thousand tons
- Cucumbers: 681 thousand tons
- Other vegetables: 1.3 million tons

The leader in overall vegetable harvesting is Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, where 780 thousand tons of yield were grown. However, the largest amount of tomatoes was grown by farmers in Mykolaiv Oblast, totaling 275 thousand tons. The most abundant cabbage was in Lviv Oblast, with 234 thousand tons, and the highest cucumber yield was in Kyiv Oblast, with 72.8 thousand tons.

## Grants for orchards and greenhouses: financing volume exceeded 550 million UAH.

Since the start of the program, 604.5 million hryvnias have been paid to 141 businesses. Specifically, 114 farms received 466.6 million hryvnias for the development of orchards, berry farms, and viticulture, and 27 enterprises received 137.9 million hryvnias for greenhouses. Grants have been fully paid to 114 farms this year.



For reference, the government grant program has been in effect since July 1, 2022, and provides support for small and medium-sized businesses. Among its advantages is the opportunity for anyone interested to create or develop their own business in the directions of “Own Business,” “Own Orchard,” “Own Greenhouse,” and “New Level.”

Grants are provided in an amount not exceeding 70% of the project’s cost, but not exceeding 10 million hryvnias. The applicant must finance at least 30% of the project’s cost with their own or credit funds. An obligatory condition is the employment of the necessary number of employees. For orchards, this is from 5 to 10 permanent and 125-425 seasonal workers depending on the type of planting. For greenhouses, it is no less than 4 permanent and 10 seasonal workers per hectare.

Source: [The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine](#)

## Ukrainian blueberries had a better price on the domestic market than last year



**Ukrainian blueberries not only increased their presence on European shelves but also maintained a better price on the domestic market compared to last year. President of the Ukrainian Fruit and Vegetable Association, Taras Bashtannik, shared this information in a comment for SEEDS, as reported by Ukrainian Horticultural Association (UHA).**

“If we break it down by main crops, blueberries have significantly increased their exports this year. This is thanks to the largest Ukrainian producers and exporters. It not only increased the presence of Ukrainian blueberries on European shelves but also maintained a good price, 20% higher than last year, on the domestic market. This happened because the market freed up a bit for smaller and medium-sized producers and those who did not export,” said Taras Bashtannik.

He believes that during the second year of the war, the business did not change significantly, at least not for the worse. All the factors present in the market were determined by the market itself, not the war.

Source: [Ukrainian Horticultural Association \(UHA\)](#)

## Ukraine – world champion in the pace of increasing berry exports



**Ukrainian companies continue to increase their presence in the global berry market despite ongoing Russian aggression.**

This was discussed during one of the largest berry forums in the world in the Netherlands, according to [EastFruit](#).

As noted by the economist of the investment department of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Andriy Yarmak, in his presentation, Ukraine has become the fastest-growing exporter of berries among all countries in the top 20 by the end of 2022, based on the results of the previous five seasons.

“Berry exports from Ukraine from 2018-2022 are growing on average by 25% per year, mainly due to the increase in exports of frozen raspberries. However, blackberries have recently started to contribute to this process, allowing Ukraine to consistently move up in the rankings of the world’s largest berry exporters,” says Andriy Yarmak.

At the same time, the FAO expert notes that Ukraine loses about \$100 million to Poland, allowing the latter to maintain leading positions in the export of fresh and frozen berries by processing and re-exporting Ukrainian berries. Meanwhile, Ukraine continues to sell berries at the lowest price on the market, while with some marketing efforts and minor investments in technology, given the unique agro-climatic conditions of cultivation, it could sell this product at a premium price.

Yarmak pointed out that these funds would help reduce dependence on one major buyer, with whom serious problems have recently arisen. Additional funding from export diversification with minimized re-exports through Poland would significantly increase the volume and quality of products, along with the ratings and reputation of Ukraine in the berry world.

He also noted that next season Ukraine will have a serious blank check on the frozen raspberry market, as many countries have reduced the area under this crop, while world prices remain extremely low.

“Accordingly, the interest in raspberries among global buyers in the 2024/25 season may increase again, which will allow increasing revenues from product sales. And it would be good to combine this with efforts to diversify both raspberry and blackberry exports,” the expert predicts.

Currently, the price for greenhouse cucumbers in Ukraine is on average 13% lower than at the beginning of November last year.

## Climate Office has been opened in Ukraine



**In Ukraine, the Climate Office has been established to facilitate changes in the country’s climate landscape. This announcement comes from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.**

According to the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ruslan Strelets, this is the final step that will complete the development of climate governance in our country.

The Climate Office will:

- Support the government of Ukraine in implementing climate policy.
- Assist regions and businesses in implementing decarbonization and adaptation projects.
- Serve as a tool for attracting green (climate) finance for Ukraine’s post-war recovery.
- Be one of the key stakeholders facilitating Ukraine’s cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and participation in the international carbon market.
- Contribute to the development of emissions trading system in Ukraine.

“Today, titanic efforts are being made for our country to become a member of the European Union and be within the boundaries of the Single Atmospheric, and next year we plan to launch a pilot national trading system. We will give producers the opportunity to try operations in the ETS market and understand how this market works,” emphasized Ruslan Strelets.

According to the minister, carbon certificates are planned to be introduced in 2025. This will allow Ukraine and its producers to sell excess CO2 volumes that were not emitted.

“In 2026, the emissions trading system will be fully operational in Ukraine. Currently, we need to verify all available data and demonstrate to the world our potential for free quotas. We are ready to share our emissions and make our contribution to the global climate track. Support from our partners is important for our country, and we have truly felt it from the very beginning of our fight for justice and peace,” emphasized Ruslan Strelets.

Source [Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine](#)



## World Market Insights: Strawberry Season 2023



The global strawberry season in 2023 exhibited a range of dynamics across different markets. **The Netherlands** encountered an early autumn harvest, causing losses for farmers later in the season. **In France**, there was a decline in autumn strawberry consumption as consumers increasingly tuned into natural vegetative seasons. On the flip side, **Italy** anticipated an increase in strawberry production, despite a slight dip in consumption. **Spain** faced a challenging season marked by a late start, necessitating the uprooting and replanting of plants. In **North America**, a strawberry market overview by FreshPlaza indicated limited supplies.

**Belgium** reported exceptionally high strawberry prices, driven by robust demand in the European market coupled with constrained supply. A Belgian trader noted that delayed strawberry shipments from Egypt, along with increased supplies from Belgium and the Netherlands, were expected to alleviate the situation. Currently, prices were believed to be at a record high.

The **German market** was dominated by expensive greenhouse strawberries from the Netherlands, with expectations of the first batches of Greek strawberries arriving soon, thanks to favorable weather conditions in Greece conducive to a successful harvest.

In **Austria**, the 2022 strawberry season witnessed a 19% increase in production compared to 2021. Strawberries accounted for 7% of the total harvest in the country's industrial fruit growing sector, with a slight expansion in acreage from 1138 hectares in 2016 to 1221 hectares in 2022, a minimal increase of approximately 1% from the previous year.

Looking ahead, Egypt was gearing up for its strawberry season, with increased demand due to unfavorable weather conditions affecting Morocco and Spain. Egyptian producers expected higher prices, attributing them to elevated production costs and the devaluation of the Egyptian pound, which contributed to stabilizing export prices.

In **Morocco**, the strawberry sector was recovering from a challenging season characterized by adverse weather conditions, significant volume losses, and a lack of demand. Strawberries experienced the most substantial volume losses due to temperature fluctuations and low prices. Rising production costs and lower yields led to reduced profitability, resulting in a 20-25% decrease in strawberry planting areas in favor of other crops such as raspberries, avocados, and potatoes.

Source: [FreshPlaza](#).

