



BRIEFING

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Rye: Production, Uses, and Exports Kevin McNew and Sam Bixley

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Production:

Rye is primarily used as pasture, hay, or a cover crop, with less than half of planted acres being harvested for grain. Rye flour is combined with wheat flour to make bread. Rye grain is also used to produce alcoholic beverages and as feed for livestock.

Poland, Germany, and the Russian Federation account for 68 percent of the world's rye production, with the United States accounting for only 1 percent of total production in 2000 (Figure 1).

World rye production has steadily declined throughout the 1990s (Figure 2). Conversely, U.S. production has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years (Figure 3).

Production Practices:

Rye is generally used as a cover crop during winter months. Fields seeded with rye in the fall preserve moisture for spring seeding, plus with its winter hardiness and its fast growth in early spring, soil erosion from wind and water can be significantly reduced. Furthermore, recent studies have shown that rye can be used for weed control. It has been reported that fall planted, spring-killed rye reduces total weed biomass by 60 to 95 percent. However, if used as a cover crop in fields that are expected to produce wheat or barley, care must be taken to completely destroy the cover crop or it can become a significant weed pest.

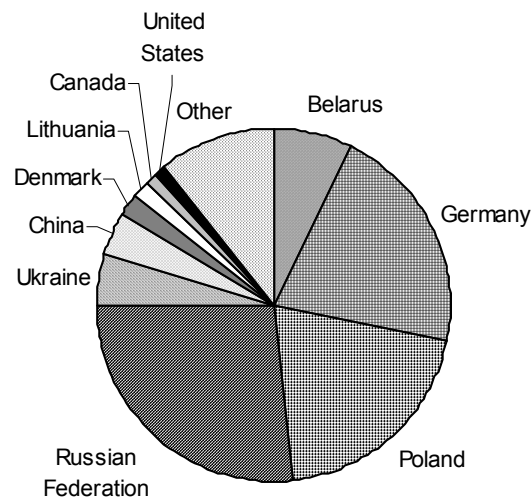
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Objective
Analysis
for Informed
Decision Making

Figure 1: Rye Production by Country: 2000



World Total: 19.9 Million Metric Tons

Figure 2: World Rye Production: 1991-2000

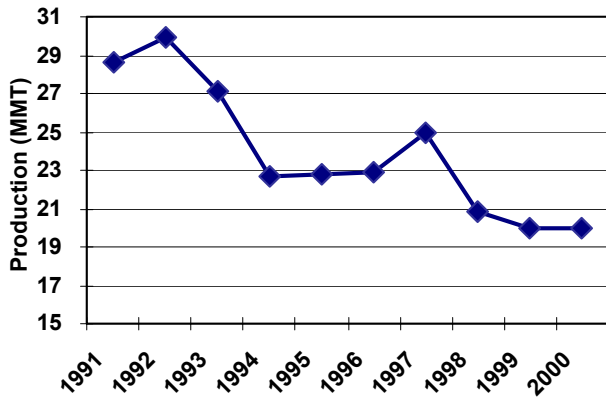
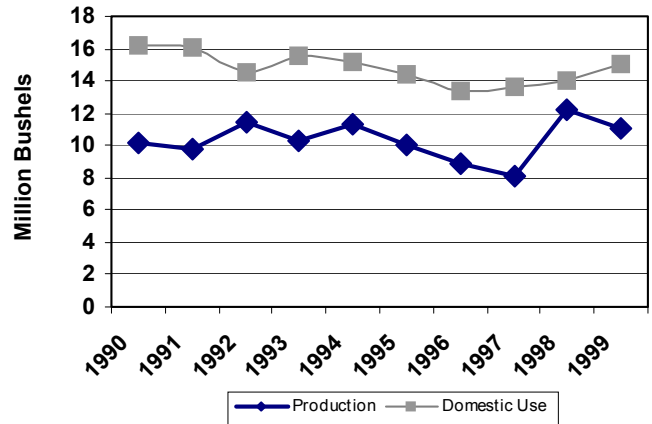


Figure 3: U.S. Rye Production and Domestic Use: 1990-1999



Consumption:

Although, U.S. consumption was relatively stable during the 1990's, the United States accounts for only 1 percent of world rye consumption (Figure 3). Rye grain contains more nutrients and protein than oats and barley, and between 85 to 90 percent of the feed value of corn. However, it commonly mixed with other grains as animals dislike its taste and find it sticky when chewed.

Imports and Exports

Japan and China are the largest importers of rye, and jointly account for approximately one-third of world imports (Table 1).

Table 1: World Rye Imports, 2000

Rye Imports	Metric Tons	Share of World
Japan	34,434	17.04%
China	30,990	15.34%
South Korea	18,666	9.24%
United States	8,037	3.98%
World	202,019	100.00%

The primary exporter of rye is Germany, which was responsible for 53 percent of the world's total rye exports in 2000 (Table 2). The Ukraine was a distant second accounting for 16 percent of total exports, while U.S. exports made up less than one percent of global exports.

Table 2: World Rye Exports, 2000

Rye Exports	Metric Tons	Share of World
Germany	109,273	51.97%
Ukraine	34,000	16.17%
Denmark	25,494	12.13%
United States	414	0.20%
World	210,248	100.00%

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