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Report Name: Feed Corn Tariff Cuts and Extended AFTA Import Window Take Effect for 2026

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

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Report Highlights:

On June 23, 2026, the Ministry of Finance announced a zero percent in-quota tariff rate for feed corn (maize) imports under the World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for calendar year 2026 and an out-of-quota rate of 73 percent. The quota volume is set at 1 million metric tons (MMT), expanded from the previous 54,700 MT quota under the previous Cabinet decision approved on November 11, 2025. Access to the in-quota rate is conditioned on a 3:1 domestic corn purchase requirement, under which importers must purchase 3 units of domestic corn for every 1 unit imported at the zero percent in-quota rate. Separately, on June 23, 2026, Ministry of Commerce announced an extension of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Free Trade Area (AFTA) feed corn import window for general importers from 5 months (February 1 – June 30) to 7 months (February 1 – August 31, 2026), at a zero percent preferential tariff.

Policy Developments

Ministry of Finance Announces 2026 Feed Corn Tariff-Rate Quota Under WTO

On June 23, 2026, Ministry of Finance issued an announcement adjusting customs duty rates for feed corn (maize) imports (*available in Thai*), effective January 1 through December 31, 2026, pursuant to the country's obligations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. The announcement establishes a 2-tier tariff structure: a zero percent in-quota rate and a 73 percent out-of-quota rate, with a total quota volume of 1 million metric tons (MMT). Importers must obtain prior authorization from the Ministry of Commerce. Beginning January 1, 2027, the in-quota rate will increase back to prior rate of 20 percent.

Table 1. Thailand: 2026 Tariff Rate Structure Summary

Category	**Tariff Rate**	**Quota Volume**
In-Quota Rate	0 percent	1,000,000 MT
Out-of-Quota Rate	73 percent	Amounts exceeding quota

Key Conditions and Requirements

- Importers must obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the Ministry of Commerce, Form S.2, for the in-quota rate (0 percent) or Form S.4 for the out-of-quota rate (73 percent).
- The out-of-quota rate of 73 percent also applies to importers who fail to qualify or comply with in-quota conditions.
- The quota is administered by the Ministry of Commerce in accordance with WTO commitments, and allocation criteria are established under Ministry of Commerce guidelines.
- The measure applies to goods entered for importation on or after January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Ministry of Commerce Extends AFTA Import Period

On the same date, the Ministry of Commerce announced extending the import window for feed corn (maize) under the ASEAN AFTA agreement for 2026 (*available in Thai*). For general importers, the import period is extended from the original February 1 – June 30, 2026 (5 months) to February 1 – August 31, 2026 (7 months), at a zero percent preferential tariff rate. The Public Warehouse Organization (PWO) retains its full-year import window of January 1 – December 31, 2026. The extension aims to ensure adequate feed corn supplies for the domestic animal feed industry while maintaining safeguards for domestic corn farmers.

Table 2. Thailand: 2026 AFTA Feed Corn Import Window Summary

Importer	**Import Period**	**Duration**
PWO	Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2026	12 months (unchanged)
General Importers (previous)	Feb 1 – Jun 30, 2026	5 months
General Importers (revised)	**Feb 1 – Aug 31, 2026**	**7 months (extended)**

Key Conditions and Requirements

- Feed corn must originate from and be shipped directly from an ASEAN member country to qualify for the zero percent AFTA preferential tariff rate.
- Importers must present a certificate of origin or relevant supporting documentation to Thai Customs when claiming the preferential tariff.
- General importers must comply with animal feed quality control standards as required under Thai law governing animal feed quality control.
- The Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) under the Ministry of Commerce is responsible for administering quota allocation and issuing relevant import regulations.

U.S. Market Access Remains Limited

Access for U.S. corn exports to Thailand remains subject to a separate compliance determination and is not yet eligible for the zero percent in-quota tariff rate established under the June 23, 2026, Ministry of Finance announcement. Thailand's burn-free sourcing requirements, which took effect January 1, 2026, require importers to certify that corn was not produced using slash-and-burn agricultural practices. The United States is currently awaiting the outcome of a review by Thailand's corn traceability subcommittee, which is assessing whether U.S. corn supply chains meet these requirements. Until the subcommittee concludes its review and issues a favorable determination, U.S. corn exporters remain effectively excluded from the expanded 1 MMT quota.

Additionally, U.S. corn is not eligible for the zero percent AFTA preferential tariff rate, which is reserved for corn originating from and shipped directly from ASEAN member countries.[1]

3:1 Domestic Corn Purchase Requirement Remains in Force

On November 11, 2025, the Cabinet approved an increase in the WTO member zero-duty corn import quota from 54,700 MT to 1 MMT for the calendar year 2026 import window, subject to a 3:1 domestic corn purchase requirement: importers must purchase 3 units of domestic corn for every 1 unit of corn imported under the zero percent in-quota rate. This requirement remains in effect under the June 23, 2026 announcement and represents a significant structural shift in Thailand's corn policy, which previously imposed a 20 percent tariff within the smaller 54,700 MT quota and a 73 percent out-of-quota tariff for suppliers outside ASEAN. The expanded quota is intended to reduce feed-cost pressure during the seasonal tightness period before domestic off-season corn reaches the market, while tying additional imports to domestic corn absorption through the 3:1 requirement.

Post notes that the pace of quota uptake will directly influence feed wheat substitution in feed rations, given the cross-commodity dependency between corn and wheat in feed formulation. If WTO-eligible corn fills a substantial portion of the expanded quota at competitive prices, feed mills will have less economic incentive to switch toward imported feed wheat, moderating feed wheat import demand. Conversely, slower quota uptake or higher freight costs would keep feed wheat demand firmer.

[1] ASEAN members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

Burn-Free Certification and Origin Documentation Apply to Corn

Effective January 1, 2026, new Ministry of Commerce regulations require importers of feed corn to provide burn-free certification and detailed origin documentation (*available in Thai*) for shipments. These requirements complement existing Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives burning bans in key producing provinces and are intended to improve air quality by discouraging slash-and-burn practices in upstream supply chains, both domestically and in neighboring countries. Because the requirement applies to corn, compliance reviews of corn supply chains, including the ongoing review of U.S. corn sourcing, remain subject to this determination. Post will report further on this requirement as additional details become available.

Attachments:

No Attachments.