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Report Name: Kazakh Ag Ministry to Offer Subsidy for Imported Breeding Cattle

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Report Highlights:

Following President Tokayev's address on September 8, 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture announced various measures to support the livestock sector. In his remarks, the president highlighted four agriculture-related priorities: increase investment in the agricultural sector, reduce the country's dependence on imports, accelerate the transparent redistribution of idle agricultural land, and strengthen agricultural research and extension services. The ministry's measures include subsidies to import breeding cattle and a preferential loan program. Post assesses that these subsidies should increase the attractiveness of U.S. exports of livestock and genetics, as well as related products like soybean meal, to Kazakhstan and the region.

President Announces Domestic Agriculture Goals for 2026

On September 8, 2025, President Tokayev delivered his annual address at the opening of a joint session of parliament where he outlined his vision and priorities for 2026. Among these, he highlighted his economic agenda, revisions to the parliamentary system, the establishment of an artificial intelligence ministry, and the continued modernization of the country's agricultural sector. Parliamentarians, national and regional government leaders, private sector executives, and members of civil society were in attendance.

On the topic of agriculture, the president highlighted four priorities: increase investment in the agricultural sector, reduce the country's dependence on imports, accelerate the transparent redistribution of idle agricultural land, and strengthen agricultural research and extension services.

According to [a Ministry of Agriculture report](#), the first 10 months of 2025 saw cattle numbers increase 1.7 percent to 8.4 million head, horses 6.7 percent to 8.4 million head, and poultry 4.4 percent to 48.3 million head. Meat production increased 2.8 percent to 914,000 metric tons (MT), and milk production increased 3.3 million metric tons (MMT), up 5.2 percent from last year. Gross livestock output increased by 3.4 percent to 3 trillion tenge (\$5.7 billion). These production volumes allowed producers to supply domestically and expand exports, though domestic consumption was not fully met.

Beef exports increased 1.6 times through October 2025, reaching 30,400 MT or 152,000 head in live weight. Lamb exports increased 1.8-fold, reaching 25,100 MT or 1.2 million head of small ruminants.

Table 1. Livestock sector data for January-October 2024 and 2025

		Jan-Oct 2024	Jan-Oct 2025	Change, %
Poultry	Thousand heads	46,286.4	48,330.0	4.4
Pigs	Thousand heads	481.9	488.6	1.4
Horses	Thousand heads	4,132.2	4,410.9	6.7
Camel	Thousand heads	284,866.0	297,569.0	4.5
Sheep and goats	Thousand heads	22,252.1	21,700.7	-2.5
Cattle	Thousand heads	8,238.6	8,375.7	1.7
Livestock production				
Meat production all types (in slaughtered weight)	Tons	889,033.5	914,007.9	2.8
Milk	Tons	3,091,668.8	3,253,041.0	5.2
Table eggs	Thousand units	3,734,507.8	3,787,533.6	1.4

Source: [Bureau of National Statistics data](#)

Support to Beef Sector

To expand the industry's capabilities, a preferential lending program for feedlots to finance working capital at 5 percent per annum for 12 months is being launched for the first time by the [Agrarian Credit Corporation](#) (ACC), a quasi-government non-banking financial institution. ACC implements government programs related to crop and livestock insurance, financing spring planting, micro financing, and other farmer support schemes. Approximately 50 billion tenge (\$95 million) has been allocated for the program, and applications totaling 18.2 billion tenge (\$34.5 million) have already been approved. Companies specializing in cattle and small ruminant fattening and having the necessary infrastructure (pastureland availability, fencing, etc.) are eligible to participate in this program. The subsidy is paid by ACC to the importing company upon arrival of the cattle and passing quarantine. According to the government budgetary system, the budget allocations for these subsidies are valid for one fiscal year.

As part of the president's directive, dating back to 2023, to improve the full production cycle of beef in Kazakhstan, five projects to introduce Australian practices in beef cattle farming were implemented starting in 2024. In the fall of 2023 Deputy Prime Minister Zhumangarin led a [Kazakh delegation to visit Australia](#) to learn about their beef production practices. After this visit several farms were selected as pilot projects to implement Australian livestock grazing practices. According to the deputy prime minister, Kazakhstani meat is too expensive and struggles to compete in export markets. The Australian method, which relies on pasture-based cattle finishing, can significantly lower production costs.

Practices of rotational pasture use, providing animals with feed near their facilities, using specialized compound feeds for finishing, and developing feed mills and processing facilities are being implemented. These measures are aimed at reducing production costs and will enable exports of up to 50,000 MT of beef annually.

Support to Poultry Sector

Work is also underway to build industrial poultry farms. In recent years, six farms with a capacity of 70,000 MT of poultry meat have been commissioned by private poultry farmers, increasing self-sufficiency from 58 percent to 79 percent. Industry and government's longer-term target is 100 percent self-supply and to increase exports within Central Asia. Nonetheless, Kazakhstan follows its WTO commitments on the poultry tariff quota at 126,000 tons imports annually.

The launch of preferential lending for working capital will increase production from 360,000 to 505,000 MT of poultry meat. Eight projects with a capacity of 241,000 MT are planned for implementation between 2026 and 2028, with four poultry farms to be commissioned in 2026. This will enable self-sufficiency to reach 90 percent in 2026 and fully cover the country's needs by 2027, according to government estimates. However, this target demands at least 350,000 tons of soybean meal annually, additional poultry genetic supply, enhanced disease control in the regions, and other ancillary improvements in order to be successful.

Support to the Dairy Industry

As part of spreading the successful practices of North Kazakhstani dairy farmers throughout the industry, 63 dairy farms with a capacity of 352,000 MT of milk production have been built. Two more facilities are planned to open by the end of the year. Forty-three projects are under construction and will be completed by

2027. These projects will increase milk production by 600,000 MT and fully satisfy the domestic market. For more information, please, refer to [Kazakhstan Dairy Sector Report KZ2025-0016](#).

At the instruction of President Tokayev, a Comprehensive Livestock Development Plan is being created with the input of representatives of the scientific community, industry associations, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, republican chambers, businesses, local executive bodies, and members of parliament. The document will include measures for 5 percent preferential lending for working capital, 6 percent lending for the purchase of breeding stock totaling 240 billion tenge (\$456 million), and the launch of a 6 percent loan product for the development of pasture-based livestock farming in the Kostanay and Ulytau regions.

Special attention will be paid to developing processing, creating effective conditions for the operation of service and procurement centers for wool and hides, including preferential loans for working capital, and providing the industry with qualified personnel. These measures are aimed at sustainable development of the industry, increasing productivity, and strengthening employment in rural areas of the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture will continue its systematic work to develop livestock farming, ensure food security, and support agricultural producers.

Subsidy Rates are Renewed

The Order of the Minister of Agriculture [No 428 from November 18, 2025](#), updated the rules for subsidizing livestock industry development. The order set the subsidy rates for imported beef, dairy, and dual-purpose cattle, sheep, and horses. However, there were cases when the Ministry of Agriculture advocated for extensions and the government was willing to support the extension for another year. For instance, for one head of beef breeding cattle imported from Australia, countries of South and North America, and Europe the subsidy rate is 525,000 tenge, or \$1,019 and for dairy breeding cattle imported from Australia, countries of South and North America, and Europe the subsidy rate is 700,000 tenge, or \$1,359, the highest rate among listed. Additionally, cattle embryos are subsidized at 80,000 tenge, or \$155, and a dose of sexed semen is subsidized at 10,000 tenge, or \$19. For more details, please, see Annex 1.

Opportunities for the U.S. Livestock Industry

Government support for local producers aims to strengthen food security and reduce reliance on imports, creating greater competition within the market. Despite this growth, experts agree that local production has not yet fully met domestic demand, so imports continue to play a crucial role in satisfying the region's poultry needs. Specifically, U.S. soybean exports to the region may prove to be particularly lucrative as local industry seeks to increase production. For example, total monthly soybean meal consumption in Kazakhstan is estimated at 265,000 tons, or 3.1 million tons per year.

Kazakhstan's transport and logistics infrastructure is actively developing, focusing on the Trans-Caspian route (Middle Corridor) to connect with Europe and Asia via the Caspian Sea, modernizing railways, developing Caspian seaports (Aktau, Kuryk), building multimodal hubs (for example, in Aktau), and digitizing services to increase the country's transit potential to 35 million tons by 2030, which strengthens Kazakhstan's role as a bridge between East and West.

The main competitors in cattle supply to Kazakhstan are Canada, Australia, and the European Union. However, with government subsidies to local importers and building off the recent C5+1 meetings led by President Trump, the U.S. livestock industry is well-positioned to meet the needs of Kazakhstani beef and dairy farmers.

Annex 1. Subsidy rates, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture Order No 428 from November 18, 2025.

No	Type of subsidy	unit	Rate per 1 unit, tenge	Rate per 1 unit, USD (\$1=514,74 KZT)
Beef and dual-purpose cattle farming				
1.	The purchase of breeding sire for beef and dual-purpose cattle farming	head	260,000	505
2.	The purchase of breeding dam:	head		
2.1	Domestic		260,000	505
2.2	Imported from CIS countries and Ukraine		390,000	757
2.3	Imported from Australia, countries of South and North Americas, Europe		525,000	1,019
3.	Reducing the cost of raising young breeding beef cattle	head	15,000	29
4.	Reduction in the price of male cattle (including males of dairy or dairy-beef breeds) sold for fattening in feedlots or for slaughter in meat processing plants	Kilogram of live weight	300	0.58
5.	Reducing the cost of sold beef by meat processing plants engaged in slaughter and primary processing of beef	Kilogram of sold beef	175	0.33
Dairy and dual-purpose cattle farming				
1.	Purchase of breeding stock of cattle:	head		
1.1	domestic		350,000	679
1.2	Imported from CIS countries and Ukraine		390,000	757
1.3	Imported from Australia, countries of South and North Americas, Europe		700,000	1,359
2.	Reducing the cost of milk production:			
2.1	Farms with forage-fed cows of 600 heads or more	kilogram	45	0.08

2.2	Farms with forage-fed cows of 400 heads or more	sold or kilogram being processed on company's own processing facility	30	0.05
2.3	Farms with a forage herd of 50 cows or more	kilogram sold to processing facility	20	0.03
2.4	Agricultural production cooperative	kilogram sold to processing facility	20	0.03
3.	Reducing the cost of purchasing cattle embryos	Unit	80,000	155
Cattle genetics				
1.	Subsidizing the cost of services of breeding centers, distribution centers for the sale of semen and embryos of breeding animals and insemination technicians for artificial insemination of breeding stock of cattle of producers and in agricultural cooperatives	Inseminated head in current year	5,000	9.7
2.	Purchase of semen from a breeding bull of dairy/dual purpose and beef/dual purpose types:			
2.1	Sexed semen	Doze	10,000	19
2.2	Regular semen		5,000	9.7
Broiler poultry production				
1.	Purchase of day-old breeding chicks of the parent/grandparent form	head	600	1.2
2.	Reducing the cost of chicken meat production:	kilogram sold or kilogram being processed on company's own processing facility		
2.1	Actual production from 15,000 tons		80	0.1
2.2	Actual production from 10,000 tons		70	0.1
2.3	Actual production from 5,000 tons		60	0.1
2.4	Actual production from 500 tons		50	0.09
Egg production				
1.	Purchase of day-old chicks of final egg-laying form obtained from breeding birds	head	60	0.1

Sheep farming				
1.	Purchase of domestic breeding sheep	head	26,000	50,5
2.	Purchase of imported breeding stock		52,000	101
3.	Purchase of imported breeding rams		260,000	505
4.	Reducing the cost of raising young breeding small ruminants	head	4,000	7.7
5.	Reducing the cost of male small ruminant sold for fattening in feedlots or for slaughter in meat processing plants	head	3,000	5.8
5.1	Reducing the cost of male small ruminant sold for fattening in feedlots or for slaughter in meat processing plants (seasonal supply)	head	7,000	13.5
6.	Reducing the cost of purchasing sheep embryos	unit	80,000	155.4
7.	Subsidizing the cost of services of breeding centers, distribution centers for the sale of semen and embryos of breeding animals and insemination technicians for artificial insemination of breeding stock of sheep of commercial producers and in agricultural cooperatives	Inseminated head / during the breeding season	1,500	2.9
8.	Reducing the cost of fine and semi-fine wool sold for processing			
8.1.	wool from quality 60 score	Kilogram	200	0.3
8.2.	wool from quality 50 score	Kilogram	150	0.3
9.	Reducing the cost of coarse and semi-coarse wool sold for processing	Kilogram	25	0.04
Horse farming				
1.	Conducting selection and breeding work with breeding stock of domestic breeds of riding and riding-harness horses	head/breeding season	20,000	38.8
2.	Purchase of breeding stallions of productive type	head	175,000	339
3.	Purchase of foreign-bred breeding stallions by breeding centers	head	Set by local governments	
4.	Reimbursement of expenses for the maintenance of breeding stock of riding and riding-harness horses bred in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan	head/one time a year	Set by local governments	
Camel farming				
1.	Purchase of breeding camels	head	175,000	339
Pig farming				
1.	Purchase of breeding pigs	head	100,000	194

2.	Reducing the cost of pigs sold or transported for slaughter to meat processing plants or slaughterhouses	head	2,000	3.8
For the cost of regional governments budget as decided by the regional governments, depending on local and regional conditions				
1.	Reducing the cost of feed for livestock	head	Set by local governments	
2.	Purchase of breeding stock of goats	head	70,000	135
3.	Reducing the cost of production and processing of mare's milk	Kilogram	60	0.1
4.	Reducing the cost of production and processing of camel milk	Kilogram	55	0.1
5.	Reducing the cost of honey production	Kilogram	200	0.38

Attachments:

No Attachments.