

Commentary

Autumn weather created good conditions for sowing of winter agricultural plants which grew up mostly without any troubles before winter beginning. The winter time and early spring with sufficiency of precipitations contributed to good development of winter crops. Warmer February sped up spring preparatory field work and May rains brought needed precipitations. Present stage of agricultural plants is good and development of weather conditions is kind.

The acreage of agricultural area screened under sowing areas survey is 3 572 thous. ha, it is by 25 thous. ha down (- 0,7 %) matching the year 2007. The acreage of arable land is 2 592 thous. ha, it is by 26 thous. ha down (- 1,0 %) matching 2007. Share of arable land in total agricultural land is 72,6 %. Permanent grassland occupy 933 thous. ha and it is by 914 ha (+ 0,1 %) more than in last year. The proportion of permanent grassland in total agricultural area is 26,1 %. Acreage of set-aside arable land is down by 7,0 thous. ha (- 22,9 %), it is 0,9 % of total arable land under survey.

Cereals are grown on 60,4 % of total sowing areas (59,9 % of arable land) of which the most extensive one, winter wheat occupies 29,6 % of sowing areas. Root plants have been located on 3,2 %, oleaginous plants on 18,8 % (of which rape occupies 13,9 %), fodder crops on arable land 15,8 % (of which perennial ones 7,3 %) of total total sowing areas.

Sowing areas with cereals cover 1 553 thous. ha, it is by 9 thous. ha down (- 0,5 %) than in 2007. Legumes are cultivated on 22 thous. ha and it is by 8 thous. ha less matching 2007. Root crops occupy 81 thous. ha and it is down by 6 thous. ha in comparison with 2007. An increase of sowing areas was reported by oleaginous plants which acreage is 484 thous. ha, it means by 32 thous. ha more than in 2007. Also industrial plants have increased sowing area on 490 thous. ha, it is by 29 thous. ha more than in the year 2007. Fodder plants on arable land occupy the acreage of 406 thous. ha and it is by 22 thous. ha down matching 2007.