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Agri-Food Outlook | 2026

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Feed Production Increased in 2025; Industry Shows Strength in a Volatile Year

Most regions and sectors experienced growth, meeting constant pressure with resilience

Global feed production reached **1.44 billion metric tons** (mt) in 2025, for a **2.9% year-on-year increase.** On the surface, the numbers suggest a strong recovery phase for animal agriculture. Beneath the headline, however, the data tells a more nuanced story: Growth was uneven, increasingly regionalized and driven less by herd expansion than by structural change, productivity gains and shifts in how production is measured and recorded.

Now in its 15th year, Alltech's annual feed survey draws on data from 142 countries and 38,837 feed mills. By analyzing compound feed production and prices — collected by Alltech's global sales team and in partnership with feed associations and official data-collecting organizations — the survey provides a comprehensive snapshot of global feed production. These insights serve as a barometer for the overall livestock industry, highlighting key trends across species, regional challenges and opportunities for growth.

Much of the 2025 increase in feed tonnage reflected modernization rather than simple demand expansion — such as China's continued transition from on-farm mixing to industrial feed systems, improved animal performance and greater efficiency across poultry and aquaculture production. Excluding these structural shifts, the underlying global growth is still real, but it may be more moderate than the figures suggest.

The defining characteristic of 2025 was, therefore, not volume alone, but resilience under pressure. Producers navigated persistent animal disease risks, volatile input markets, supply-chain challenges, climate disruptions and tightening sustainability expectations while still delivering net growth across most species sectors. Poultry and aquaculture emerged as the primary engines of expansion, while the ruminant sectors reflected cattle cycles and constrained herd rebuilding.

In 2025, global agriculture demonstrated that it still has the capacity for growth — but that growth now depends on adaptability, efficiency and risk management as much as it does on demand itself. These dynamics form the foundation for the industry's outlook heading into 2026, where success will increasingly be defined not by producing more, but by producing profitable, resilient volume.

Global trends affecting feed production in 2025

Major Trends Impacting Global Feed Production

The responses recorded through our annual feed survey illuminated the trends that impacted feed production and demand around the world in 2025 — including **economic pressure, persistent disease challenges, stringent policies and regulations,** and **rising geopolitical tensions,** which were often disruptive for the supply chain.

Economic pressure from the top down

Economic trends had an outsized impact on feed production in 2025, with financial pressure looming as the driving force behind three of the top five biggest challenges for agri-food producers, as identified by survey respondents. Twenty-nine percent of all survey participants around the world cited production costs — including those related to raw materials, labor and energy — as one of their top challenges, followed by macroeconomic conditions (17%). Low producer returns also made the top five, with 9% of the vote.

Inflated prices for fertilizer and other inputs had an impact on feed production in Europe and Asia. Supply-chain stress and disruptions only compounded the issue, with strained availability and limited import options forcing producers to make procurement adjustments. In several rapid-growth markets in Africa, including Nigeria and Egypt, severe currency devaluation and high interest rates made the prices of essential feed ingredients and veterinary medicine unpredictable — leading to frequent disruptions in the region's commercial poultry and aquaculture cycles.

Compressed margins were noted as a major stressor in Europe, and survey respondents reported that farmers are currently buying less feed as a result. In North America, the U.S. beef sector is navigating a historically tight cattle cycle, which has led to high feeder-cattle prices. The combination of consumers exhibiting "price fatigue" and fears around inflation has forced a shift toward cheaper protein options and squeezed processor margins.

Around the world, economic pressures are highlighted most often as the greatest consumer-driven disruptor for agri-food production — and that volatility is expected to become a new normal as economic challenges continue to impact the industry at every level.

Persistent disease threats require a new response

In 2025, the global agri-food sector was forced to confront a harsh reality: Major animal disease outbreaks are no longer isolated or easy to eradicate; they are endemic challenges that can dictate supply chain economics and international trade flows. Many around the world chose to meet these challenges head-on, however, by making a definitive pivot toward "trade resilience" in 2025. Governments and industry leaders established regional zoning agreements, enhanced early-warning surveillance practices, and deployed rapid, hyper-localized containment protocols to keep borders open, even in the face of pathogenic threats.

Avian influenza remained the most disruptive and geographically widespread pathogen of the year, with repeated outbreaks across Europe, Asia, South Africa and the Americas (namely Brazil) forcing massive flock

29% of all survey participants around the world cited **production costs** — including those related to **raw materials, labor and energy** — as one of their top challenges.

depopulations — and severely straining local egg and poultry meat supplies. African swine fever (ASF) is also still deeply entrenched in Europe and Asia, with recent outbreaks reported in Latvia[1], Spain[2], South Korea[3] and Taiwan.[4]

One defining shift in the response to ASF was the formalization of the Canada–Philippines Zoning Agreement. Signed in December 2025, the agreement replaces blanket bans on pig production in entire countries with the recognition of "disease-free zones". This new approach offers a vital blueprint for safeguarding the billion-dollar pork trade during future outbreaks.

Beyond avian influenza and ASF, vector-borne diseases surged in 2025, catching many regional health authorities off-guard. A highly localized outbreak of New World screwworm in the U.S.–Mexico corridor had a disproportionately massive impact on trade, as the U.S. government's decision to halt live livestock imports from Mexico sent shockwaves through the North American cattle cycle. Additionally, while they didn't impact the global supply chain, localized outbreaks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the U.K., Newcastle disease in Canada and sheep pox in Bulgaria required strict movement restrictions and the establishment of protective zones.

Disease threats are now a permanent influence on profits and losses in the agri-food industry. As illustrated in 2025, those who invest in advanced, farm-level biosecurity and lobby for zone-based trade agreements are more likely maintain their export continuity — while those relying on outdated, national-level eradication models will continue to face devastating margin losses.

Diverging concern about weather extremes

Weather events continued to impact feed production around the world in 2025 — but some regions were impacted far more by climate extremes than others.

Intense droughts and erratic rainfall threatened feed predictability in key soy- and corn-producing zones in 2025 — such as Latin America, where extreme weather driven by shifting climate patterns led to a massive 23–29% plunge in Ecuador's corn harvest, paralyzing domestic poultry and pig production. In the Middle East, severe water scarcity and rising temperatures are forcing a contraction in water-intensive sectors like dairy.

Some regions fared better than others weather-wise in 2025 — and that came through in the **varying levels of concern about climate extremes** recorded through the annual Agri-Food Outlook survey. While 12% of respondents in Asia and 7% of respondents in Africa cited severe weather as one of the greatest challenges to feed production, only 2% of respondents in both Europe and Latin America did so — and less than 1% of respondents in the Middle East, North America and Oceania said weather was a top challenge for feed production in 2025. For producers in the regions where the weather is having a greater impact on feed tonnage, 2026 may serve as an important period of shifting from volume expansion toward more extreme (and expensive) production protections, including climate-controlled housing and imported forages.

Responding to endemic disease outbreaks

Major animal disease outbreaks can influence supply chains and economies around the world. **Three outbreaks that were highly disruptive for animal agriculture in 2025 included:**

- **Avian influenza (HPAI),** the most geographically widespread pathogen of the year, with repeated outbreaks leading to massive flock depopulations.
- **African swine fever (ASF),** which led to the formalization of the Canada–Philippines Zoning Agreement to help safeguard the pork trade by replacing blanket bans on pig production in favor of "disease-free zones".
- **New World screwworm,** which disproportionately impacted international trade due to the U.S. government halting live livestock imports from Mexico.

[1]LPM Staff. (September 1, 2025). *African swine fever outbreak confirmed in Latvia, cull required.* Latvian Public Media. https://eng.lsm.lv/article/culture/food-drink/01.09.2025-african-swine-fever-outbreak-confirmed-in-latvia-cull-required.a612511/.
[2]O. Várhelyi. (2025). COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2025/2489 of 3 December 2025 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Spain. In *EUR-Lex* (Document 32025D2489). Official Journal of the European Union. Retrieved March 16, 2026, from https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/2489/oj.
[3]A. Latif. (September 15, 2025). *South Korea issues red alert after African swine fever case reported.* Anadolu Agency. https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/south-korea-issues-red-alert-after-african-swine-fever-case-reported/3687717.
[4]J. Lai et al. (October 25, 2025). *Taiwan reports its first case of African swine fever and culls scores of pigs.* Salem Radio Network News. https://srnnews.com/taiwan-reports-its-first-case-of-african-swine-fever-and-culls-scores-of-pigs/.

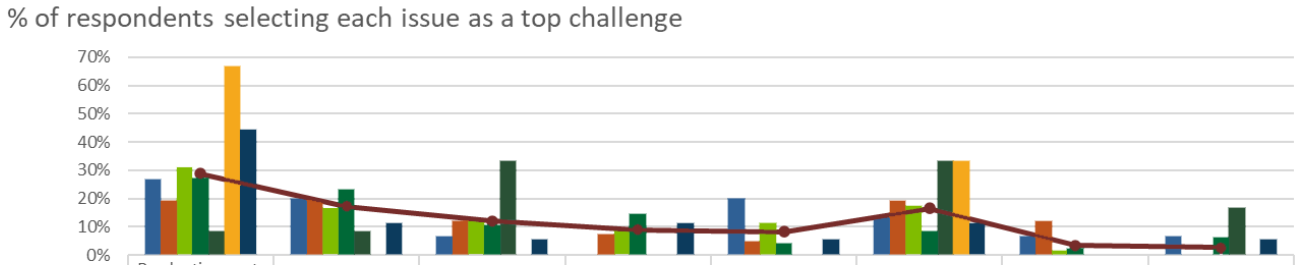
Geopolitical tensions in a period of instability

Geopolitics are a well-known source of anxiety in the feed sector due to their impact on material costs and their threat to continuity and the supply chain — and that remained true in 2025. The reverberations of those geopolitical events, however, were just as regionally uneven as the extreme weather events mentioned above. **More than 80% of respondents reported feeling at least some impact from geopolitical tensions and events** — but where geopolitics were ranked as one of the greatest challenges to agri-food production in 2025 by 33% of respondents in the Middle East and Oceania, only 8% of respondents in Latin America felt the same. This wide gap in perspective suggests that while geopolitics are a persistent drag on costs and availability in nearly every region, their impact was not as shocking or resounding in some markets as in others.

The geopolitical trends and events cited most frequently as drivers of change or instability in 2025 were the Russia–Ukraine war, shipping disruptions in the Red Sea and tariff risks — each of which greatly impacted supply chains across the world. Latin America, whose heavy reliance on exports increases its vulnerability to external shocks, faced import obstacles and trade policy issues that drove instability in local prices.[5] The region's agricultural success in 2026 will depend on its navigation of fractured global trade agreements. Meanwhile, producer margins in Southeast Asia were squeezed by global freight disruptions, and geopolitical trends threatened the reliability[6] of routes and deliveries in the Middle East, especially for import-dependent markets.

In the regions impacted most by geopolitics in 2025, producers consistently described a cycle beginning with trade disruptions, which led to constraints on input availability, followed by price spikes and volatility, resulting in tighter margins and, ultimately, rationed or reduced feed usage.

Trends affecting the agri-food sector by region



	Production cost, incl. raw material, energy, labor	Macro economy, incl. GDP and high inflation	Animal disease	Low producer returns	Policy and regulations	Geopolitical events and tensions	Severe weather	Dietary trends
Africa	27%	20%	7%	0%	20%	13%	7%	7%
Asia-Pacific	19%	19%	12%	7%	5%	19%	12%	0%
Europe	31%	17%	13%	10%	11%	17%	2%	0%
Latin America	27%	23%	10%	15%	4%	8%	2%	6%
Middle East	8%	8%	33%	0%	0%	33%	0%	17%
Oceania	67%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%
North America	44%	11%	6%	11%	6%	11%	0%	6%
Grand Total	29%	17%	12%	9%	8%	16%	3%	3%

[5,6] *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2025-2034.* (2025). OECD. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-fao-agricultural-outlook-2025-2034_601276cd-en.html.

2025 Feed Tonnage by Region

This year's global feed survey estimated that **global feed tonnage increased by 40.136 million mt in 2025, growing by 2.9% for a total of approximately 1.440 billion mt.**

Africa and the Middle East (102.549 million mt): This region experienced a year of divergence in 2025. While Africa expanded strongly (+11.5%) on commercialization and rising compound feed penetration, the Middle East entered a structural plateau (+1.1%), balancing disease pressure and regulatory or resource constraints. Across both sub-regions, three forces shaped performance: protein affordability, input vulnerability driven by grain prices and currency volatility, and continued disease disruptions — particularly foot-and-mouth disease and avian influenza.

Asia (559.297 million mt): Asia remained the global center of feed production in 2025, with growth shaped by industrialization and price-conscious consumers increasing the demand for poultry and aquaculture. Continued shifts from on-farm mixing to commercial feed, especially in China, supported a record output, while consumer price sensitivity reinforced momentum in the poultry and aquaculture sectors. Southeast Asia entered a rebuild and export cycle, with the recovery of the sow herd lifting pork output and poultry also remaining strong, although disease remains a consistent challenge.

Europe (274.061 million mt): Europe's feed sector in 2025 was differentiated yet broadly resilient. Lower raw material prices, supported by large global harvests of soybeans, rapeseed, wheat and maize, improved margins and stimulated production in several key markets. Despite ongoing disease pressure and regulatory constraints, the region stabilized overall. Modest gains in dairy and broilers offset pressure in other segments, while evolving trade frameworks and sustainability expectations continue to reshape production strategies across the region.

Latin America (204.446 million mt): In 2025, Latin America solidified its position as the world's premier "protein basket". Compound feed demand expanded 2.8% year over year, rising by 5.536 million mt, supported by strong export markets and lower grain prices. Growth was broad-based, particularly in poultry, pork and aquaculture, although localized disruptions in parts of the Andean and Caribbean sub-regions tempered overall expansion.

North America (288.620 million mt): In 2025, North American feed tonnage contracted modestly (by 0.7%), primarily tied to a historically tight cattle cycle and declining beef herd dynamics. The region still saw some selective, species-driven momentum, with growth concentrated in broilers and dairy. Stabilization also emerged in pork feed, and the egg and turkey sectors remained in recovery following health-related disruptions. Consolidation among feed mills, operational efficiency gains, sustainability pressures and formulation optimization continue to reshape the industry across the region.

Oceania (11.104 million mt): Oceania showed broad-based gains in 2025, supported by population growth, resilient livestock sectors and strong export demand. Absolute increases were at their strongest in the broiler, layer, beef and pig sectors. High feedlot numbers and elevated cattle inventories sustained record beef production, particularly in Australia (+11%), with moderate growth in New Zealand (+1.6%). Recovery in layer feeds following an outbreak of avian influenza and steady demand for chicken and pork contributed to a balanced regional expansion.

Feed tonnage by region

Region	2025 feed tonnage (million mt)	2024 feed tonnage (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	64.246	57.618	6.628	11.5%
Asia	559.297	532.816	26.481	5.0%
Europe	274.061	271.230	2.831	1.0%
Latin America	204.446	198.910	5.536	2.8%
Middle East	38.303	37.902	0.400	1.1%
North America	288.620	290.724	(2.103)	-0.7%
Oceania	11.104	10.740	0.364	3.4%
Grand Total	**1,440.077**	**1,399.941**	**40.136**	**2.9%**

Top 10 Countries

The top 10 countries in terms of feed tonnage remained unchanged between 2024 and 2025.

Altogether, the **top 10 countries accounted for 65.2% of the world's feed production in 2025** (versus 65.5% in 2024), and they can be viewed as an indicator of overall trends in agriculture. Around 47.7% of the total global feed tonnage came from the top three countries: **China, the U.S. and Brazil.**

Top countries	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (in million mt)	Growth (%)
China	330.063	315.030	15.033	4.8%
U.S.	267.383	269.620	(2.238)	-0.8%
Brazil	89.904	87.425	2.479	2.8%
India	57.729	55.243	2.486	4.5%
Mexico	41.883	41.401	0.482	1.2%
Russia	38.347	37.930	0.417	1.1%
Spain	37.507	38.812	(1.305)	-3.4%
Vietnam	26.524	25.850	0.674	2.6%
Türkiye	25.480	24.550	0.930	3.8%
Japan	24.006	24.314	(0.307)	-1.3%

A Closer Look at the Top Feed-Producing Countries

No. 1: China

China remained the world's top feed-producing country in 2025, reaching 330.063 million mt, for a 4.8% increase year over year. This growth reflects a continued structural shift toward scale, commercialization and efficiency, as well as a greater emphasis on high-efficiency protein sectors, specialized ruminant production and companion-animal nutrition.

Some of the reported increase in China's feed tonnage reflects the transition from on-farm corn and concentrates to industrial complete feed, which allowed previously uncounted volumes to be incorporated into official statistics.

Pig feed tonnage rose by 7.2% in China, supported by a breeding sow herd operating at 103.5% of the normal retention levels, as well as a 2.4% increase in slaughter volume and a market-driven "secondary fattening" trend, with hogs being fed to heavier weights.

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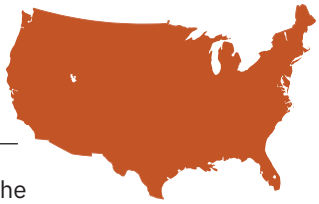
Broiler feed tonnage increased 3.5%, with poultry meat production reaching 28.37 million mt, driven by white-feather broilers' cost competitiveness during a period of economic recovery. Pet feed was one of the fastest-growing sectors, with an increase of 17.8%, supported by sustained growth in the dog and cat population.

Total feed tonnage: 330.063 million mt

Feed production growth:

- Pig: 7.2%
- Broiler: 3.5%

No. 2: United States



The United States remained the second-largest feed producer globally, totaling 267.383 million mt in 2025, for a slight decline of 0.8% from 2024. While the overall volume decreased, performance varied by species.

Demand for dairy feed increased 0.9%, supported by the largest U.S. dairy herd in years. Federal nutrition policy developments — including the 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines, which emphasize whole foods and high-protein diets, as well as legislation supporting whole milk in schools — provided structural support for the long-term dairy demand.

Beef feed tonnage declined 1.4% as the cattle herd contracted for a sixth consecutive year. However, record finishing weights extended the days on feed, which moderated the overall tonnage decline. Pig feed volumes fell amid disease pressure, labor constraints and export uncertainty, but productivity gains helped stabilize inventories. In poultry, broiler feed tonnage grew by 1.4% — aligned with 2% production growth — while layer and turkey feed declined by 3% and 3.6%, respectively, due to HPAI-related losses.

Total feed tonnage: 267.383 million mt

Feed production growth:

- Dairy: 0.9%

No. 3: Brazil

Brazil maintained its position as the third-largest feed producer, reaching 89.904 million mt in 2025. The industry experienced broad-based expansion, supported by strong export momentum, resilient domestic protein demand and improved cost structures.

Broiler feed tonnage increased 2.7%, with production reaching record levels. This growth was supported by robust domestic consumption, which averages 47.8 kilograms per capita annually, and stable export demand despite avian influenza-related trade disruptions. Aquaculture feed tonnage rose 8.9%, as higher beef and pork retail prices encouraged greater fish consumption.

Beef feed volumes expanded by 7.1%, driven in part by improved feedlot margins that were, in turn, supported by lower feed costs, affordable replacement cattle and strong export flows. Dairy feed tonnage grew by 2.8%, while pig feed increased 1.9%, tracking higher slaughter volumes and export demand.

Total feed tonnage: 89.904 million mt

Feed production growth:

- Broiler: 2.7%
- Aquaculture: 8.9%
- Beef: 7.1%
- Dairy: 2.8%
- Pig: 1.9%

Notable trends among other top-10 feed-producing countries

No. 4: India

India saw strong overall growth of 4.5%. Dairy feed tonnage increased significantly, rising by 6.8%. With milk output projected to continue rising — supported by government initiatives and improvements in genetics, cross-breeding, infrastructure and cold storage facilities — there is now a greater emphasis on improving productivity per animal. Layer feed tonnage also saw healthy growth, of 4.4%. Egg consumption

continues to rise, driven by increased protein awareness, affordability and improved distribution across the country.

No. 5: Mexico

Mexico recorded 1.2% growth in 2025. The strongest growth occurred in the layer and dairy sectors. The layer feed tonnage increase was supported by favorable raw material prices and trade flows with the U.S. and Brazil. The dairy sector performed positively throughout the year, benefiting from lower input costs and an abundant corn harvest supported by favorable weather conditions. Mexico was one of the few markets where broiler feed tonnage declined (by 0.5%), primarily due to a shortage of fertile eggs. The beef sector was negatively impacted by the screwworm crisis but managed to remain stable overall.

No. 6: Russia

Feed tonnage in Russia reached 38.347 million mt in 2025, falling slightly short of the Russian Union of Feed Manufacturers' target of 40 million mt. Growth continues to be driven by import substitution policies and state support, particularly in the aquaculture, poultry, pig and pet food sectors. Poultry and pig populations are expanding due to efficiency gains and vertical integration. In contrast, beef cattle numbers continue to decline, limiting feed demand.

No. 7: Spain

Spain produced 37.507 million mt of feed in 2025. The pig sector, down 0.9 million mt, faces an uncertain trajectory. The first cases of African swine fever (ASF) in the wild boar population of Spain were confirmed in December 2025, with subsequent detections confined to restricted areas and limited to wild populations. The immediate impact included a sharp decline in pork prices and temporary export disruptions, with some key markets — including Japan — remaining partially closed. Although price recovery has begun as the situation stabilizes, the sector is expected to experience flat to slightly negative pig feed growth in 2026 due to earlier pricing pressure and export uncertainty. The pet sector recorded the highest relative growth at 5%, driven by continued humanization and premiumization trends. However, the industry may be entering a period of normalization, with growth and earnings moderating after several years of post-pandemic expansion.

No. 8: Vietnam

Vietnam experienced a 2.6% increase in feed production. The broiler sector recorded the largest growth, with feed tonnage increasing by 567,000 mt in response to strong domestic demand and export opportunities. This is especially notable considering that natural disasters and floods led to the death or destruction of more than 5 million poultry birds. Large enterprises were able to recover by restocking their flocks promptly and by adapting biosecurity farming models.

No. 9: Türkiye

Türkiye recorded a 3.8% increase in 2025, for a total of 25.480 million mt of feed. In July, a series of new policy instruments and regulatory frameworks affecting agriculture and livestock production were implemented, including a climate law, pesticide application thresholds and crop production planning mechanisms. Economic constraints have increased demand for more affordable protein options, including poultry and eggs, supporting feed demand in those sectors.

No. 10: Japan

Japan remained in the top 10 list with a total of 24.006 million mt feed, despite a 1.3% contraction from 2024. Feed production declined across several key sectors due to structural, economic and disease-related pressures. In aquaculture, rising operating costs, labor shortages and environmental constraints limited expansion. In beef and dairy, a structurally shrinking cattle herd — linked to aging farmers, fewer successors and lower calf production — reduced compound feed usage. The poultry sector faced mixed but generally softer conditions. Overall, Japan's feed market reflects structural livestock contraction, disease disruptions and cautious production management rather than cyclical expansion.

Broilers

Global broiler feed volumes increased approximately 3.7%, to 400.379 million mt, in 2025. Improved margins, supported by lower feed ingredient prices, encouraged producers to expand their output across most regions. This growth occurred despite recurring outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in several markets, highlighting the sector's resilience and strong underlying demand.

Expansion was driven primarily by China and Brazil, where competitive feed costs and sustained consumer demand for affordable animal protein continue to support a higher output. The widening gap in the growth of the chicken and red meat trades reflects a structural shift in global protein markets. Chicken's pricing advantage, along with fewer disease-related trade barriers, has enabled major exporters to capture incremental demand across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Broiler feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	20.599	18.274	2.325	12.7%
Asia	169.768	161.093	8.675	5.4%
Europe	57.041	56.553	0.489	0.9%
Latin America	74.766	73.380	1.386	1.9%
Middle East	13.586	13.225	0.361	2.7%
North America	60.358	59.573	0.784	1.3%
Oceania	4.261	4.169	0.092	2.2%
Grand Total	**400.379**	**386.267**	**14.112**	**3.7%**

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: Africa saw its broiler feed surge 12.7% to 20.599 million mt, adding over 2.3 million mt. Egypt was a standout, with broiler feed rising 21.9% despite import and logistics disruptions, as producers leveraged periods of lower feed prices. In the Middle East, broiler feed grew 2.7% to 13.586 million mt, with Saudi Arabia up 5%, driven by government-led Saudi Vision 2030 initiatives and capacity expansions.[7]

Asia: Broilers remained the regional growth champion in Asia, with feed up 5.4%, to 169.768 million mt. China increased 3.5%, to 100.98 million mt. In South Asia, Nepal (+28.5%) and Sri Lanka (+14.9%) benefited from modernized poultry systems. Indonesia surged 22.1%, to 8.7 million mt, supported by a US$1-billion investment in feed production by the country's Ministry of Agriculture. Bangladesh and Vietnam also saw strong growth.

Europe: Broiler feed tonnage rose 0.9% in Europe, reaching 57.041 million mt. Strong domestic demand for affordable chicken, high beef prices and limited disease impacts supported the sector's growth. Chicken production was up, even as several markets were challenged by avian influenza outbreaks, including in Hungary, Poland, the U.K. and Scotland.

Broiler feed grew **1.3%** in North America to

60.4 million mt —

for the region's **strongest increase** among all major species in 2025.

[7]SPA Staff. (2025). *Environment Minister reveals plan to invest SR 17 billion in poultry production sector until 2025.* Saudi Press Agency. https://www.spa.gov.sa/2371754.

Latin America: Broiler feed remained the regional volume anchor in Latin America and increased 1.9%, reaching 74.766 million mt. Tonnage in Colombia surged 14.7%, fueled by technological upgrades and rising per-capita consumption. Brazil reached 37.900 million mt, maintaining steady production despite avian influenza-related trade restrictions.

North America: Broiler feed grew 1.3% to 60.358 million mt — the strongest increase among all major species for North America in 2025. This growth was supported by heavier birds and favorable margins. In Canada, increased poultry demand was largely offset by production efficiency gains, which allow for the production of more chicken using less feed.

Oceania: Broiler feed increased 2.2%, to 4.261 million mt. Australia benefited from expanding its production to meet rising domestic demand and the consumption of value-added products.

Layers

Global layer feed production in 2025 was shaped by three dominant themes: highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), flock recovery and shifting consumer demand.

HPAI continued to suppress bird inventories and feed volumes across North America, parts of Europe (including the U.K., the Netherlands, Italy and Slovakia) and Japan.

Growth markets showed a more positive trend: India recorded a 4.4% increase in layer feed, driven by rising egg consumption, while Vietnam expanded on the back of high egg prices. Germany grew 6.2%, reflecting robust domestic demand. Africa and Oceania also experienced recovery-driven growth.

Overall, in 2025, the global layer sector reflected a fragmented landscape, with disease outbreaks, economic pressures and consumer protein trends pulling regions in different directions.

Layer feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	9.691	8.773	0.918	10.5%
Asia	86.807	82.996	3.811	4.6%
Europe	32.775	32.203	0.572	1.8%
Latin America	26.763	26.051	0.711	2.7%
Middle East	6.639	6.661	(0.022)	-0.3%
North America	16.406	16.815	(0.409)	-2.4%
Oceania	1.046	0.974	0.072	7.4%
Grand Total	**180.126**	**174.474**	**5.652**	**3.2%**

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: Africa recorded strong growth of 10.5%, in a recovery story largely led by South Africa following earlier production disruptions. In contrast, layer tonnage slightly decreased in the Middle East. Notably, production declined 6.7% in Iran due to severe financial stress, with margin compression leading to flock reductions and lower feed consumption.

Asia: Feed production in Asia grew by 3.811 million mt, but success varied greatly by country. China presented a

statistical contradiction: Egg production declined 2.5%, yet layer feed output increased. This can be explained by low egg prices, which led producers to delay culling. As a result, lower-efficiency birds were consuming maintenance feed while producing fewer eggs, thereby raising feed volumes despite returning a weaker output. In Southeast Asia, policy-driven demand programs supported consumption, but supply bottlenecks — driven by HPAI and trade pressures, among other factors — constrained growth. India showed healthy growth of 4.4%, supported by rising egg consumption driven by protein awareness, affordability and improved market availability.

Europe: As a region, Europe experienced 1.8% growth. Country by country, however, performance was uneven and was heavily influenced by HPAI. Germany recorded the largest increase in the region, with layer feed up 6.2%, reflecting strong poultry-sector performance and stable demand. The U.K. experienced a decline due to the impact of avian influenza, the ongoing transition from cage to barn systems, and planning constraints for new facilities. Other countries, including the Netherlands, Italy and Slovakia, also saw feed declines linked to HPAI-related flock reductions.

Latin America: This region largely reflected a recovery cycle. Bolivia (+27.3%) and Peru (+36%) posted substantial year-on-year increases, primarily representing technical rebounds as flocks were repopulated following severe outbreaks of avian influenza in 2024. Across several markets, egg demand strengthened as consumers shifted toward more affordable protein sources. Layer feed tonnage grew by 3.7% in Chile, supported by moderate increases in laying hen populations, feed formulation adjustments and higher replacement rates. In contrast, Colombia experienced a decline due to weaker demand, margin pressure and additional impacts from *Salmonella* outbreaks.

North America: Layer feed tonnage declined by approximately 2.4% in North America in 2025. HPAI significantly reduced bird inventories and placements. In the U.S., layer feed tonnage fell by around 3% — reflecting a 3.5% decline in average monthly layer stocks, according to USDA data. Canada, on the other hand, saw its largest species-level tonnage movement occurring in layers, as steady domestic egg demand supported higher bird numbers.

Oceania: Layer feed tonnage increased in Oceania as part of a recovery cycle. Australia rebounded strongly, with volumes up 9% following flock rebuilding after the 2024 cull due to avian influenza. Recovery-driven repopulation efforts restored feed tonnage to more normalized levels.

Pigs

Global pig feed production **increased 3%** in 2025, reaching **380.9** million mt.

Improved profitability — driven by lower feed costs and stronger pork prices — encouraged producers to increase their output, even without significant herd expansion.

Part of this production growth was achieved through higher carcass weights, as producers extended their finishing periods to optimize margins. African swine fever (ASF) remained a key factor in Europe and Southeast Asia, affecting markets including South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Latvia and Spain.

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: Africa recorded 8.6% growth, reaching 2.582 million mt. South Africa performed relatively well, supported by improved economic conditions, reduced feed input costs and limited disease disruption. Expansion remained measured, however, due to broader macroeconomic pressures. Pig feed tonnage in the Middle East remained negligible in scale and stayed flat year over year.

Asia: The region's pig feed tonnage grew 5.9% in 2025, reaching 194.367 million mt. Growth was highly concentrated in China and parts of Southeast Asia. China posted a large increase, but this was partly a reflection of structural evolution, rather than pure demand growth. Approximately 12.2 million mt of this additional recorded feed stemmed from the shift away from self-mixed rations toward complete commercial feeds. "Secondary fattening" — feeding 110-kilogram hogs to reach 119 or 120 kilograms — extended finishing cycles and lifted feed demand. Across Southeast Asia, herd recovery from ASF drove real gains. Thailand's pig feed rose 9.2% as biosecurity improvements supported restocking. Vietnam's herd grew modestly despite localized culling, while Cambodia and the Philippines expanded on import substitutions and government-controlled vaccine rollouts.

Europe: Europe remained broadly flat, decreasing just 0.5% to 76.491 million mt. A slightly declining sow herd and persistent price pressures constrained expansion. Decreases in Spain and Belarus offset small gains in Poland, Germany and Belgium. Germany showed signs of stabilization with growth in piglet numbers.[8] Producers also held pigs longer as feed costs declined, lifting average slaughter weights through 2024 and into 2025. ASF challenges and prices continue to affect growth in some areas.

Latin America: Latin America recorded 4% growth, reaching 43.042 million mt of pig feed. That growth was concentrated in Brazil, supported by export demand and improved production economics. Industrialization and intensification trends in Chile and Colombia amplified regional gains. Disease remained a limiting factor in certain markets, including the Dominican Republic, which constrained broader expansion.

North America: Pig feed tonnage declined by 2.2% in North America, falling to a total of 63.053 million mt. Disease pressure, labor shortages, elevated input costs and export uncertainty limited sow herd growth. Productivity gains and stable overall inventories partially offset the smaller breeding herd. In Canada, steady domestic demand and margin stabilization supported cautious optimism, but overall, regional volumes remained under pressure.

Oceania: Oceania's pig feed tonnage grew by 3.4%, reaching 1.365 million mt. In Australia, rising domestic pork demand — driven by population growth and broader meat consumption trends — supported increased production and feed use. New Zealand benefited from high domestic pig meat prices, which stimulated production.

Pig feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	2.582	2.377	0.205	8.6%
Asia	194.367	183.461	10.906	5.9%
Europe	76.491	76.879	(0.388)	-0.5%
Latin America	43.042	41.405	1.637	4.0%
Middle East	0.007	0.007	0.000	0.0%
North America	63.053	64.466	(1.413)	-2.2%
Oceania	1.365	1.320	0.045	3.4%
Grand Total	**380.907**	**369.915**	**10.992**	**3.0%**

[8]Foodtech Now. (January 6, 2026). *More pigs, fewer farms.* Messefrankfurt.com; Foodtechnologies. https://foodtechnologies.messefrankfurt.com/global/en/news-insights/markets-trends/livestock-numbers-germany-2025.html.

Dairy

In 2025, global dairy feed tonnage increased 2.6% to a total of 170.294 million mt of feed.

Established export regions, such as Europe and Oceania, faced structural limits to expansion, including weather variability, labor shortages, water constraints and tightening regulatory frameworks. In contrast, parts of Asia and Africa continued to gain momentum, supported by commercialization and rising demand.

Farm-level margins improved in many regions due to elevated milk prices and easing input costs. **Automation is increasingly offsetting workforce shortages in advanced dairy economies**, while sustainability discussions are broadening beyond environmental metrics to include long-term economic viability.

Dairy feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	10.043	8.845	1.197	13.5%
Asia	31.318	29.887	1.431	4.8%
Europe	48.220	47.009	1.211	2.6%
Latin America	23.221	23.049	0.172	0.7%
Middle East	7.074	7.175	(0.101)	-1.4%
North America	48.760	48.321	0.438	0.9%
Oceania	1.659	1.638	0.021	1.3%
Grand Total	**170.294**	**165.924**	**4.370**	**2.6%**

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: Africa posted strong growth of 13.5% — reflecting intensification and commercialization rather than herd expansion. In South Africa, improved economic conditions and lower raw material costs supported feed demand, although foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) remains a risk. Across Eastern and Southern Africa, higher compound feed usage per cow and the gradual formalization of supply chains lifted total volumes. The Middle East contracted by 1.4% (for a decline of 101,000 mt). Iran also declined, by 2.3%, as weakening domestic demand curbed production. The UAE and Saudi Arabia faced disruptions from FMD, as well as ongoing structural constraints. Water scarcity, heat stress and feed economics are creating a structural ceiling on production across the region, leading to rationalization rather than expansion in several markets.

India led Asia with 6.8% growth in dairy feed tonnage, supported by government price incentives, herd expansion initiatives and productivity gains.

Asia: Regional dairy feed tonnage reached 31.318 million mt in Asia, for an increase of 4.8% year over year. Performance diverged sharply, however, between South Asia's commercializing systems and East Asia's contracting herds. India led the growth at 6.8%, supported by government price incentives, herd expansion initiatives and productivity gains. China, on the other hand, declined by 3%, reflecting a prolonged raw milk oversupply and depressed farmgate prices. Overall, Asia's dairy feed growth is being driven by commercialization and productivity in South Asia, while structural pressures weigh on producers in East Asia.

Europe: Dairy feed tonnage increased 2.6% in the EU, driven primarily by strong performance in the U.K. and Belarus. High milk prices stimulated production, and cows were fed longer on-farm, thereby supporting feed demand.

Latin America: Dairy feed tonnage in Latin America increased modestly, to 23.221 million mt in 2025, up 0.7% year over year (+0.172 million mt). Growth was positive but measured, reflecting steady performance in the region's larger milk markets, partially offset by contraction in select countries facing margin pressure. Stronger milk price signals supported feed use in core markets, such as Brazil and Uruguay, while favorable crop and forage conditions in Mexico helped maintain stable feeding programs. At the same time, pockets of diminishment — including Colombia — experienced reduced feed demand due to weaker margins and a shift toward more extensive production systems. Overall, the region posted incremental gains rather than broad-based expansion.

North America: North American dairy feed tonnage rose to 48.760 million mt, increasing by 0.9% (+0.438 million mt) in 2025. This growth aligned with a moderate expansion in milk production — including an increase of approximately 2.5% in milk production in the United States, supported by higher numbers of lactating cows. The U.S. dairy herd reached its largest level in decades, reinforcing feed demand. In Canada, supply management continues to stabilize production and support consistent feeding programs.

Oceania: Dairy feed in Oceania reached 1.659 million mt after rising 1.3% (+0.021 million mt) in 2025. In New Zealand, strong international milk prices supported favorable farm payouts, contributing to increased feed use. In contrast, Australia experienced a slight milk production decline (of 2% year over year, based on IFCN October YTD).

Beef

Global beef production in major beef-producing and beef-consuming regions was expected to contract by 0.8% in 2025, which would have marked the first global beef downturn in five years. In reality, beef feed tonnage increased slightly, by 0.5%, reaching 134.181 million mt.

This divergence reflects structural changes within the sector. Lower cattle inventories — particularly in North America and Europe — were partially offset by heavier finishing weights, longer days on feed, greater reliance on supplementation and continued feedlot intensification in key exporting regions.

RaboResearch expects a contraction of beef production to continue manifesting into 2026 (for a loss of 3.1%), suggesting that feed dynamics will remain closely tied to herd rebuilding timelines and finishing intensity.

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: Africa recorded strong growth of 8.4%, although performance remains volatile. Survey responses highlighted foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) as a significant disruptor to feedlot movement. Nevertheless,

Despite a projected downturn, beef feed tonnage posted a slight **increase of 0.5%.**

growth occurred in 2025 despite these constraints, implying resilient underlying demand. The Middle East contracted by 1.4% (-0.029 million mt).

Asia: Beef tonnage in Asia was broadly flat, increasing just 0.2% year over year. In China, a structural shift toward total mixed ration (TMR) systems and supplementary feeding supported feed growth despite a declining overall cattle inventory. Traditional pastoral systems continue transitioning toward more industrial feeding models, lifting statistical feed volumes. However, the 2026 outlook points to moderation as herd liquidation over the last two years begins to weigh on the region's supply.

Europe: Europe posted a modest 1.9% increase in beef feed tonnage, but performance was uneven among various countries. EU volumes were broadly flat, but gains in Türkiye, the U.K., Germany and Kazakhstan lifted the wider regional figure. High beef prices supported feeding activity. Declines in France, Italy, Finland and the Netherlands were linked to environmental regulations and animal health challenges, including FMD, lumpy skin disease (LSD) and bluetongue. While production is expected to stabilize due to tight supplies and strong prices, long-term expansion remains constrained.

Latin America: Latin America delivered one of the strongest regional beef tonnage growth rates at 4.1%, reaching 16.206 million mt. This growth was driven by the expanded use of strategic supplementation and feedlot finishing, reflecting both improved production economics and forage variability. Brazil led the region, growing 7.1% to 7.730 million mt. Improved feedlot margins encouraged higher placements and longer finishing periods. Structural shifts toward supplementation as pasture volatility persists across the Southern Cone and Chile supported gains, as did feedlot infrastructure expansion in markets such as Paraguay.

Latin America delivered one of the strongest regional beef tonnage growth rates at

+4.1%,

reaching

16.2 million mt.

North America: North America's beef tonnage declined by 1.4% (-1.0 million mt). The cattle herd remains in a prolonged contraction phase, with inventories approximately 8% below prior peak levels following multiple years of liquidation. Record finishing weights extended days on feed and partially offset lower headcounts — but not enough to maintain total feed volumes. Tight supplies kept beef prices elevated. Looking ahead, however, a potential expansion in imports could reduce incentives for aggressive herd rebuilding.

Oceania: Oceania posted strong growth of 5.9%, led by Australia. Australia experienced record beef production (+11%), with higher slaughter numbers and heavier carcass weights. Feed demand was supported by record feedlot capacity utilization, strong export demand (particularly to the U.S. and Asia), a structural shift toward grain-fed beef, and seasonal conditions that increased reliance on finishing rations. New Zealand recorded moderate growth as elevated global prices encouraged greater calf retention and finishing activity.

Beef feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	7.662	7.071	0.591	8.4%
Asia	19.802	19.755	0.047	0.2%
Europe	17.336	17.016	0.320	1.9%
Latin America	16.206	15.575	0.631	4.1%
Middle East	2.020	2.049	(0.029)	-1.4%
North America	70.308	71.312	(1.004)	-1.4%
Oceania	0.847	0.800	0.047	5.9%
Grand Total	**134.181**	**133.578**	**0.603**	**0.5%**

Aquaculture

After several relatively flat years, global aquaculture feed rebounded strongly in 2025, rising 4.7% (+2.470 million mt) to 55.470 million mt.

Growth was broad-based but uneven, led by recovery in the shrimp and salmon markets and acceleration in the commercialization of inland aquaculture systems. This momentum is expected to temper in 2026 as supply-demand balances normalize, broadening beyond environmental metrics to include long-term economic viability.

Aquaculture feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	2.162	1.696	0.466	27.5%
Asia	38.017	37.123	0.894	2.4%
Europe	5.081	4.761	0.320	6.7%
Latin America	7.641	6.861	0.780	11.4%
Middle East	1.039	1.016	0.022	2.2%
North America	1.281	1.309	(0.027)	-2.1%
Oceania	0.250	0.235	0.015	6.4%
Grand Total	**55.470**	**53.000**	**2.470**	**4.7%**

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: Africa was the fastest-growing region for aquaculture feed in terms of percentage, expanding by 27.5% (+0.466 million mt). Egypt remains the continent's anchor aquaculture market, with aquafeed tonnage up approximately 36%. Despite ongoing water competition challenges, intensification and commercial feed penetration continue to drive structural growth. The Middle East grew modestly, at 2.2% (+0.022 million mt), reflecting gradual expansion rather than breakout success. Iran was a bright spot, supported by a strong seafood export performance (exceeding $600 million), which stimulated feed demand.

Asia: Asia, the world's largest aquafeed region, grew by 2.4% (+0.894 million mt). The region remains structurally vital for global aquaculture, accounting for roughly three-quarters of projected global aquatic food-consumption growth. India is a core growth engine, with its feed tonnage rising approximately 5.5%, to 2.890 million mt, due to commercialization and inland aquaculture. Japan represents the mature-market contrast: Aquafeed volumes are contracting there amid labor shortages, environmental limits and high operating costs. In China, the continued growth of the nation's aquaculture output underpins its feed capacity expansion. Structural modernization and scale consolidation continue to support feed demand, but environmental constraints remain a balancing factor.

Asia, the world's largest aquafeed region, grew by **2.4%**

Europe: European aquafeed tonnage expanded 6.7% (+0.320 million mt), reflecting selective rather than uniform growth. Norway recorded the largest absolute gains in aquaculture feed (+168,000 mt), supported by strong salmon production. Nordic and select Eastern European markets continue gaining strategic importance within the region.

Latin America: Latin America was one of the fastest-growing regions for aquafeed in 2025, increasing by 11.4% (+0.780 million mt) to 7.641 million mt. Ecuador led the recovery, with its shrimp production rebounding approximately 15%. Chile saw its salmon output rise roughly 8%, supporting feed demand. Brazil contributed through tilapia expansion and growing domestic commercialization. Input-cost volatility — particularly fishmeal pricing and availability — remains the key watchpoint into 2026.

North America: North America's aquafeed tonnage declined by 2.1% (–0.027 million mt). In Canada, demand for aquaculture feed remains relatively stable, supported by consistent domestic and export markets. However, that growth is incremental rather than aggressive. The sector plays a smaller but strategically important role in diversification within the broader regional feed industry.

Oceania: Oceania grew 6.4% (+0.015 million mt), though from a small base. While absolute tonnage gains are modest, the sector continues to build in scale and export orientation.

Pets

After multiple years of strong expansion, global pet food tonnage moderated in 2025, rising 2.4% (+0.917 million mt) to 39.276 million mt.

This slowdown was primarily linked to normalization in North America following pandemic-driven expansion, alongside demographic shifts in pet ownership. In several markets, currency dynamics and premiumization trends reshaped domestic production patterns.

Pet feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	1.477	1.322	0.155	11.7%
Asia	4.410	4.177	0.232	5.6%
Europe	13.083	12.636	0.447	3.5%
Latin America	8.218	8.101	0.118	1.5%
Middle East	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.1%
North America	11.371	11.437	(0.066)	-0.6%
Oceania	0.610	0.580	0.030	5.2%
Grand Total	**39.276**	**38.359**	**0.917**	**2.4%**

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: Africa recorded the strongest percentage growth globally for pet feed tonnage, at 11.7% (+0.155 million mt). South Africa was the standout market in the region. Stronger economic conditions, accelerating urbanization and rising companion-animal ownership supported rapid pet food expansion in Africa. Commercial feeding continues to gain market share versus informal or home-prepared alternatives. In the Middle East, pet feed tonnage remained essentially flat in 2025 (+0.1%).

Asia: Asia's pet feed production expanded by 5.6% (+0.232 million mt) in 2025, outperforming the global average. China remains the dominant growth engine, driven by a surge in premiumization. Pet humanization, expanding dog and cat populations, and resilient premium demand continue to drive structural growth despite broader macroeconomic softness. In emerging markets, such as the Philippines and India, a rising middle class is shifting from informal feeding habits (e.g., giving pets

household scraps) toward purchasing commercial pet food. Premiumization and increased market entry from domestic and international brands are also accelerating formal sector penetration.

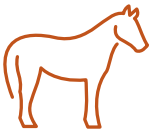
Europe: European pet food tonnage grew by 3.5% (+0.447 million mt), reflecting continued household penetration and export strength. Germany saw production rise as the number of pet-owning households increased. Poland continued expanding as a key export-oriented production hub. Spain recorded one of the strongest relative gains (+5%), supported by humanization and premiumization trends. Türkiye is increasingly positioned as a strategic distribution hub due to its location, supporting regional pet food trade flows.

Latin America: Latin America posted modest growth of 1.5% (+0.118 million mt), reaching 8.218 million mt of pet feed. The region exhibited a two-speed dynamic: Markets where people are adopting formal pet nutrition supported growth, while others faced downtrading and import substitution pressures. Inflation and real-income constraints encouraged consumers to trade down from premium to value segments, limiting tonnage expansion despite continued structural penetration gains.

North America: Pet feed tonnage in North America declined slightly, by 0.6% (−0.066 million mt), reflecting normalization after several years of above-normal expansion. In the United States, ownership trends are moving from large dogs toward smaller dogs and cats, reducing overall feed tonnage intensity.[9] While the number of companion animals remains high, smaller breeds consume less feed per animal, dampening volume growth. A weaker U.S. dollar improved export competitiveness, partially offsetting domestic softness. Industry reports also highlighted the increased use of seafood ingredients (e.g., salmon and byproducts), reflecting continued demand for premium proteins, even as total volumes stabilize.

Oceania: Oceania's pet feed tonnage grew by 5.2% (+0.030 million mt). Australia led this growth as pet ownership continued expanding and premium categories gained market share. While total volumes remain modest compared to other regions, the Oceanic market shows stable structural demand.

Africa recorded the strongest percentage growth globally for pet feed tonnage, with **South Africa** leading the way due to rising companion-animal ownership.



Equine

The equine feed market has held steady over recent years, and that remained true in 2025, which saw a slight increase of 0.2%.

Looking ahead, equine feed production is expected to remain stable in 2026, as the sector is not currently showing signs of major investment-led growth. Only 12% of respondents to our annual feed survey reported feeling either somewhat or very optimistic about future growth for equine feeds — but an overwhelming 74% remained neutral, signaling caution and limited visibility into potential future trends, rather than outright pessimism about the sector's prospects.

[9]American Veterinary Medical Association. (2025). *U.S. Pet Ownership Statistics.* American Veterinary Medical Association. https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/reports-statistics/us-pet-ownership-statistics.

Equine feed production

Region	2025 (million mt)	2024 rev. (million mt)	Growth (million mt)	Growth (%)
Africa	0.469	0.463	0.007	1.4%
Asia	0.395	0.406	(0.011)	-2.8%
Europe	2.266	2.241	0.025	1.1%
Latin America	1.181	1.157	0.024	2.1%
Middle East	0.121	0.120	0.001	1.0%
North America	5.300	5.348	(0.048)	-0.9%
Oceania	0.461	0.440	0.021	4.8%
Grand Total	**10.194**	**10.176**	**0.019**	**0.2%**

A closer look

Africa and the Middle East: In Africa, equine feed tonnage rose from 0.463 million mt in 2024 to 0.469 million mt in 2025, for a total increase of 1.4%. Much of this growth occurred in the South African market. In the Middle East, the overall percentage increase is partly the result of more modest total tonnage numbers than those seen in other, larger sectors, but it is worth noting that equine feed tonnage surpassed the totals recorded by the region's pet and pig sectors in 2025.

Asia: The equine sector stood alone as the only division to record a decrease in feed tonnage in Asia in 2025, dropping from 0.406 million mt in 2024 to 0.395 million mt the following year for a loss of 2.8%. India saw a sharp 13.8% drop in equine feed demand, directly tied to an outbreak of glanders disease, which resulted in the cancellation of races.

Europe: Equine feed tonnage grew by 0.025 million mt in Europe between 2024 and 2025, rising from 2.241 million mt to 2.266 million mt for a gain of 1.1%. Germany was the driving force behind much of that growth due to an increase in the country's horse population in 2025.

Latin America: The Latin American equine sector recorded a 2.1% increase in feed production in 2025, as total tonnage rose to 1.181 million mt from the 1.157 million mt recorded in 2024. The equine market in Venezuela is expanding as multiple companies specializing in equine feeds return to the country. Alternatively, growth in Argentina likely reflected statistical reclassifications or market formalization instead of any notable increase in its equine population.

74%

of respondents to the 2025 Agri-Food Outlook survey felt **neutral** about the future of the equine sector — signaling **caution** and **limited insights into potential trends.**

North America: While North America has historically been a dependable market for equine feeds because of its thriving horse culture, the equine sector was one of several in the region to experience a decline in 2025, diminishing by 0.9%. This loss, however, is negligible overall, especially as the region still produces more than twice as much equine feed as any other region at 5.300 million mt in 2025.

Oceania: Equine feed tonnage in Oceania grew in 2025, as it has for several consecutive years. The increase of 0.021 million mt — from 0.440 million mt in 2024 to 0.461 million mt in 2025 — represented an expansion of 4.8%.

What to Expect in 2026

An era of predictable, linear growth for the agri-food sector is coming to an end — and the industry faces a convergence of structural, environmental and economic hurdles.

While global demand for protein continues to rise and feed expenses are anticipated to remain relatively stable, the ability to supply protein profitably is being tested by extreme weather events, fractured geopolitical trade routes, persistent biological threats and the rising cost of capital. Additionally, tighter protein supplies and heightened volatility are expected to strain margins.

For producers and feed manufacturers, achieving success in 2026 will depend on risk management, formulation flexibility, and operational efficiency and resilience.

Cost concerns for consumers and producers

A major number of participants (25.2%) in the 2025 Agri-Food Outlook survey predicted that product prices, inflation and the economy will be the biggest disruptors to the industry in 2026. As global economic growth continues to temper, consumers are expected to remain highly price-conscious and will likely adjust their purchasing behavior accordingly. Pricing trends will differ across protein categories, prompting some buyers to trade down within a category or shift between proteins.

Feed costs have come down in most markets and are anticipated to remain relatively stable, but tighter protein supplies, heightened market volatility, rising trade costs and ongoing disease challenges are likely to strain margins. Processors may continue to struggle with underutilized capacity and trade interruptions linked to tariffs and other protectionist policies. Together, these factors could lift costs, dampen demand and compress profitability. Across both developed and emerging markets, improving operational efficiency and productivity at both the farm and processing levels will be essential.

25% of respondents believe **product prices, inflation and the economy** will be the biggest disruptors to the industry in 2026.

Unpredictable geopolitics spark alarm and anxiety

Both ongoing and new geopolitical tensions will influence feed production around the world in 2026, as will the trade frameworks created in their wake. International conflicts are compromising the physical movement of bulk feed commodities, sparking sudden, localized pricing crises in import-dependent feed markets in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia and forcing feed mills to carry higher, more expensive buffer inventories to prevent stock-outs.

Rising tensions involving Iran and the Strait of Hormuz could further increase energy, fertilizer and freight costs, adding inflationary pressure and accelerating the shift toward more affordable animal proteins such as poultry over higher-cost options like beef. Disruptions in this region may also create obstacles for global exports of meat, dairy and grains, forcing suppliers to reroute products and absorb higher logistics costs.

Tariff wars and trade strategy will also continue to have an impact. With the resurgence of aggressive tariff policies in the U.S., for example, China is proactively accelerating its pivot away from North American agriculture — and may permanently restructure the global soybean and corn trade in the process. Governments are striving to protect their domestic food security from global instability by overriding free-market economics — but taking a longer-view approach to geopolitical strategies may be the safest route. Consider Venezuela, where the state's expropriation of major aquaculture feed and processing facilities in 2025 led to an instant 7% crash in the country's aquafeed tonnage, destroying investor confidence. **More structural and strategic solutions will be required to meet geopolitical threats head-on in 2026.**

Sustainability becomes mandatory for many

Across the world, 2026 will be the tipping point when sustainability transitions from a voluntary endeavor to a mandatory legal requirement. As a result of regulations like the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) in the EU and upcoming mandates in Brazil[10] and Mexico[11], companies are now legally required to track, audit and report Scope 3 emissions across their entire supply chain. Disclosure requirements are accelerating the integration of emissions data, traceability and resource constraints (especially water) into commercial strategies — changing what it takes to win business, access capital and maintain a license to operate in key value chains.

These new standards, and the massive administrative and data-management costs and material operating constraints left in their wake, are not uniform around the world. For example, compliance with deforestation-free supply chain mandates and aggressive emissions-reduction targets is dramatically increasing the cost of production and forcing a structural downsizing of the European livestock herd.

Resilience as the greatest differentiator

Willingly utilizing technology and innovation will be central to achieving success in every aspect of feed production in 2026 — but many farmers and integrators remain highly risk-averse without proof that tech adoption will lead to immediate, concrete economic returns. Nevertheless, some producers are utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize animal performance and defend their herds against biological threats and endemic disease outbreaks. **Data has become the sector's most valuable non-biological asset**, providing actionable insights that identify hidden inefficiencies, predict market trends and allow for real-time decision-making — effectively optimizing the producer's entire value chain.

Looking forward, the industry is positioned for continued — but selective — growth in 2026.

The challenges ahead

An era of linear growth is coming to an end as the agri-food sector faces structural, environmental and economic hurdles.

The ability to supply protein profitably is being tested by:

- Extreme weather events
- Geopolitics fracturing trade routes
- Biological threats
- Rising costs

Despite the headwinds of disease and geopolitical friction, there are massive structural opportunities for the forward-looking agri-food businesses that adapt to the new reality.

Across the agri-food industry, producers are abandoning the traditional, hyper-efficient "just-in-time" model and are turning toward a "just-in-case" structure that depends on resilience instead. In 2026, the biggest constraint will not be whether the demand exists but, rather, whether supply chains can deliver in the face of volatility. Moving away from a mindset of simply "producing more" toward building stronger supply chains will allow producers to withstand unpredictable geopolitics, biological threats and price fluctuations.

Latin America is expected to remain a **powerhouse aquafeed producer** in 2026,

with its aquaculture industry predicted to continue expanding.

[10] *IFRS® Sustainability Disclosure Standards (ISSB Standards) — Application Around the World; Jurisdictional Profile: Brazil.* (2025). International Sustainability Board (ISSB). https://www.ifrs.org/content/dam/ifrs/publications/sustainability-jurisdictions/pdf-profiles/brazil-ifrs-profile.pdf.

[11] *IFRS® Sustainability Disclosure Standards (ISSB Standards) — Application Around the World; Jurisdictional Profile: Mexico.* (2025). International Standards Sustainability Board (ISSB). https://www.ifrs.org/content/dam/ifrs/publications/sustainability-jurisdictions/pdf-profiles/mexico-ifrs-profile.pdf.

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Non-negotiables for success in 2026

For producers and feed manufacturers, achieving success in 2026 will depend on:

- Risk management
- Formulation flexibility
- Operational efficiency and resilience

2026 outlook by species

Aqua: While the global aquaculture sector recorded 4.7% growth in 2025 after several years of flat returns, the rate of that growth is expected to decelerate in 2026. The industry's margins can quickly compress in response to cost sensitivities and the availability of marine ingredients like fishmeal and fish oil. Nevertheless, Latin America is expected to remain a powerhouse aquafeed producer in 2026, and its aquaculture industry is predicted to expand even further.

Beef: The future of global beef production is increasingly bifurcated by region. **While beef consumption is expected to increase in China, for example, the sector is expected to experience an overall decrease in 2026**, following the trend seen in 2025. This polarization reflects a gradual shift toward industrial supplementation in the regions where consumption is on the rise, while more mature markets reach ceilings to their ability to expand — which mechanically reduces the demand for compound feed.

Dairy: Established dairy-exporting regions, including Europe and Oceania, are experiencing limited expansion, while milk production is gaining momentum in parts of Asia and Africa. **Growth is expected in the North American dairy feed industry thanks to new dietary guidelines in the United States that support offering whole milk in schools**, increasing the long-term demand for dairy products.

Equine: The equine feed market has held steady over the years, and that trend is expected to continue in 2026, as the sector is not currently showing signs of major investment-led growth. A vast 74% of respondents to the 2025 feed survey reported feeling neutral about the future of the equine sector, rather than optimistic or pessimistic — signaling caution and limited access to insights about future trends.

Pet: Demand for pet feed continues to remain resilient, and the sector is expected to continue on a positive trajectory in 2026. However, while growth is expected in well-established markets, those increases may be limited by consumers' purchasing power and price sensitivities stemming from cost pressures elsewhere.

Pig: The pig sector is **bolstered by pork consumption in China, which currently accounts for 47–48% of the global total and is expected to grow in 2026.** Pig feed tonnage is also projected to grow in Vietnam, underlining meaningful but localized growth. These expectations, however, are all tempered by potential disease outbreaks and the impact of geopolitical trade.

Poultry: Respondents of the 2025 Agri-Food Outlook survey were **more confident** about the future of the poultry sector than any other, with **67% reporting to be somewhat or very optimistic about its prospects in 2026.** This positive outlook is supported by strong export demand, competitive pricing against other proteins, such as beef, and high consumer demand thanks to its perceived healthfulness. The only potential dampers on the positive forecast for poultry feed production include the ever-present threat of avian influenza and unpredictable changes to feed costs.

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