



**Danish Farmers
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Actual status on crops at DFA member companies, February 2025



Baltic Farms, Latvia. Brian Brødsgaard, February 4, 2025

A somewhat atypical winter in Latvia, in fact it has almost completely disappeared so far. The winter period so far has been fairly mild and with some precipitation in the area west of Riga in Latvia.

The precipitation has put the drains to the test, but we estimate that everything can follow suit reasonably well, if there will be a few days without precipitation.

The crops in the fields are generally in a really good starting position for spring. The mild temperature has made it possible for the winter seed to continue to develop until the end of November/beginning of December. The rapeseed has perhaps just become a little too big, although we have regulated it several times. But it is beautiful. The winter wheat is the same, bushy and has a nice color.

The catch crops also reached an optimum, and after the end of flowering and a little snow for a few days, they are almost gone.

When spring and the growing season really get going, I expect the crops to get off to a great start. However, there may well be periods of hard night frosts that will set us back to the start.

Our experience from previous years is, that “spring” can last only for 2-3 days and where the transition from winter to summer goes from mild frost to plus 14-17C. Then we are off to a good start.



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Crops at Baltic Farms, 4 February 2025

Agro Cocora, Romania, Jesper Mayland, 5 February

We have up to date received a good 300 mm of water at **Cocora Farm** and a good 500 mm of water at **Amzacea Farm** since 1 August, 2024. We currently have low daytime temperatures and frost at night. We therefore have very limited impact from the winter at the moment, however we can see, that the spring barley, sown in mid-November, is starting to get yellow leaves, but otherwise no negative impact on other winter crops.

We have sown 820 ha. winter rapeseed, approx. 8,300 ha. wheat, approx. 1,100 ha. spring barley in the autumn. We achieved nice sprouted rapeseed, wheat and spring barley fields with reasonable potential for the coming harvest. We are currently in the process of establishing the last spring barley at Cocora Farm, while it is difficult to drive at Amzacea Farm due to water. Everything has been fertilized and sprayed.

In general, the potential of the crops looks reasonable and they have got off to a good start, but the subsoil is extremely dry due to drought conditions in the last 4 out of 5 years. Therefore, we hope for much more water in the spring and the following period.

The coming month is for the completion of repairs and service on the machinery, so it is ready for the next season.

Goodvalley Poland, Lukasz Michon, 12 February

Current Situation in the Fields: Warm Autumn, Mild Winter, and Challenges Ahead.

In last months, unusual weather conditions have been observed in northern Poland, significantly impacting crop development. A warm autumn and a mild start of winter period created favorable conditions for winter



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cereals and winter rapeseed. However, temperatures dropping to -10°C in February, along with forecasts predicting even harsher frosts without snow cover in the second half of the month, have presented new challenges.

The warm autumn favored the good development of winter cereals. The extended growing period allowed the plants to tiller properly, which is crucial for their further growth. Winter cereals are currently in good condition.

Winter rapeseed also benefited from the warm autumn. The plants had enough time to develop optimally before winter. Well-developed winter rapeseed has significant potential.

Expectations for growth

The right planting time and a mild winter have made our winter wheat and rapeseed crops look very promising. If the frosts in February are brief, we expect first week of March will be the best time to fertilize with high results. For first application, we will use sulfate and nitrogen to encourage the plants to grow and develop.

Our rye needs a bit more care, so we plan to apply slurry and this way provide the necessary nutrients and minerals for plants.

In general, we expect a very good start for winter wheat and rapeseed and relatively good for rye. If we follow the correct fertilization timing, we will keep this result.

Goodvalley Ukraine, Lars Paulsen, 12 February

Since the last update in mid-December, we haven't really had winter, only a little snow, and otherwise thaw. The mild weather has allowed the late-sown wheat and rapeseed in particular to grow a little over Christmas. At the end of January, we even had days with plus 10 degrees.

But even though we thought a very early spring was on the way, February is ending with frost. Right now, we're down to minus 10 degrees at night, and quite a bit of plus during the day. The weather forecast for the next few weeks promises down to minus 15 degrees. It's challenging, since there's no snow, because we're not that used to bare frost! Fortunately, it looks like it's going to be calm weather along with the cold.

Expectations for the growth

The expectations are quite high, as we have a very similar winter barley and a strong winter wheat after rapeseed, and a well-established winter wheat after soybeans. The rapeseed is variegated as before the winter, and no winter damage has occurred yet! Generally, it is dry here, not much rainfall since the autumn, i.e. we have a lot of focus on avoiding too much evaporation during future soil treatment prior to sowing corn and soybeans.



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Jasna-Pol, Poland, Marcin Pietruszka. 11 February

Our Raps, Winter wheat, Kentucky Blue Grass and red fescue are in good condition. We didn't have a harsh winter until now, so plants are alive through winter time.

Now we are spreading the first dose of nitrogen on our plants. Frost just came to our area so we can access to go on fields right now. The weather forecast is that the frost will stay with us for 2 weeks in February at least.

In Poland due to Nitrogen law there are rules that we are allowed to use nitrogen fertilizers on winter crops if within 5 days we have average temperatures 3 degrees. If so, the State Institute of Meteorology is giving permission for the specific areas where You can use N-fertilizers. We are not allowed right now to use it for our spring crops because there must be an average 5 degrees within 5 days.

We are looking forward to good, strong crops. Hoping for good, healthy yields and to have good drilling conditions for spring crops like sugar beets, spring barley and corn.