

A look back at 2022 and looking forward into 2023

2022 has brought many challenges to the forefront of the milling and grain industry, but nonetheless we have all persevered, and look forward to future developments and opportunities. As the year ends, we've asked those in the industry to reflect upon their annual highlights, and future hopes and aspirations in their sector.

“ We expect political discussions on sustainable food systems transformation will continue, with a new landmark EU proposal for sustainable food systems in the pipeline”

The European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC), Belgium

The past year has certainly been dominated by the effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, causing an immediate loss of access to a range of key feed ingredients. However, a lot of public and private sector efforts have enabled opening of alternative export routes for grains from Ukraine, in particular the land-based EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes and the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which have allowed to reduce pressure. The increased energy costs also severely impacted European compound feed production, being an energy-intensive sector. In addition, EU emergency measures seeking to reduce import dependency from Russia have increased competition from the biogas sector for biomass and co-products traditionally used in feed formulation.

The coming year will remain challenging for the EU feed sector, due to the ongoing energy crisis and adverse impacts on grain supplies due to the Russian aggression. However we expect political discussions on sustainable food systems transformation will continue, with a new landmark EU proposal for sustainable food systems in the pipeline, which will certainly further raise pressure on sustainable animal production and consumption. At the same time, we'll be entering technical discussions on how deforestation-free supply chains will be implemented at sectoral level, building on the provisional political compromise agreement achieved during the EU Czech Council Presidency in December 2022.

James Cooper, Milling and Grain contributor, UK

2022 will be remembered for supply chain disruptions and a surge in inflation to the tune of 12 percent in food and nearly 35 percent in energy in the UK. Some countries, Norway for example, showed greater resilience. Others, Madagascar, Tanzania, fared much worse. One big factor driving up food prices has been the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the rising cost of grain, which increased 50 percent in two weeks at the start of the conflict, and it's a sharp reminder that absolutely nothing is more important for human existence than food and energy.

Food security is now the crux of every nation's fear

2023 will see the most important staple in our food system - Grain - the basis of thousands of products we all consume daily and feed for pigs and chickens – as an increasingly precious commodity. All nations are looking inward to avoid to economic forces beyond their control. For the developed world, that means getting a grip on food security, decentralising food systems, reducing the big supermarkets and intensive agriculture's profit-driven stranglehold on food production. It also means educating us all how to eat sustainably and convincing us to buy more regionally produced food.

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Mehmet Uğur Gürkaynak, Perendale Publishers, Turkey

The Russia-Ukraine war, energy and increasing food, the pandemic and climate crises made the already difficult living conditions even more problematic on a global scale. Relations between Turkey and Egypt, Israel and Syria, which have been stagnant for a long time, are warming up again with warm messages. Although the grain corridor established with the efforts of Turkey and the United Nations gives a breath of fresh air to meet the food needs, it cannot be expected that the supply of products such as fertilizers and steel will be fully regulated before the Russia-Ukraine war is fully over.

It is certain that 2023 will be much more difficult than 2022. Because while countries are trying to grow their economies, they also have to suppress inflation and try to control it. The environment of increasing uncertainty with inflation seems to be one of the main problems to be solved, especially since it will make international investors nervous. However, it seems that the inflation problem, which has gained momentum in the upward direction, will not be solved in a short time.

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May 2022

One major world event that had an impact on the agricultural sector in the year was the Ukraine invasion. Milling and Grain published a detailed analysis on the repercussions it had on the countries storage and transportation system.

Read the article at: mymag.info/e/1718



July 2022

A technical articles on how older mills can utilise and benefit from the latest innovations within the sector.

Read the article at: mymag.info/e/1719

Constance Cullman, President and CEO, AFIA

As the unpredictability of 2022 draws to a close, we reflect on the animal food industry's accomplishments. The American Feed Industry Association's members fought an all-out railway strike and urged the Food and Drug Administration to move toward a more efficient and workable animal food ingredient review process. Over 1,400 people joined the AFIA at more than a dozen education and networking events. With the Institute for Feed Education and Research and other stakeholders, we blazed new trails on sustainability, identifying barriers to industry progress and providing the groundwork for future work to support members in their sustainability journeys.

Looking forward, the AFIA continues to battle ongoing global supply chain uncertainties that hinder our ability to reliably keep farmers stocked with fresh feed for their flocks and herds. Part of that effort includes pushing back at the international level on protectionist, non-science-based policies that limit innovation and restrict animal protein production. At home, we plan to advocate for federal programs that foster the next-generation workforce, boost our defences against animal diseases and facilitate research on and development of the game-changing solutions that will help the U.S. achieve its sustainability and food security goals.



October 2022

Numerous research is carried out on algae in the industry today. Our writer Shannon Parsons looked into how successful is Algae as a feed supplement.

Read the article at: mymag.info/e/1721

” Looking forward, the AFIA continues to battle ongoing global supply chain uncertainties”

“ While 2023 is already forecasting as another challenging year, the resilience of the industry is a cause for optimism ”



February 2022

Published in February edition, this is a great article that looks into the Coca production of Vietnam.

Read the article at: mymag.info/e/1720

Steve Records, Executive Director, GEAPS, (Grain storage organisation in the USA)

2022 brought a focus to the grain industry unlike most other years. War in Ukraine, high energy costs and global inflation, extreme weather, and the tight labour markets have caused the industry to react and plan differently. One highlight as to how the industry is tackling these challenges differently can be seen in Herman Minnesota where CHS opened the first fully automated grain elevator. With 24-hour grain delivery and unmanned operations, this is an example of the industry serving producers more effectively, improving safety, and addressing employee work-life balance in an industry known for long work hours.

While 2023 is already forecasting as another challenging year, the resilience of the industry is a cause for optimism. There is more opportunity and desire today than ever before in sharing best practices regarding safety, automation, grain quality and sustainability issues, even among competitors. As a global community, the industry is coming together at events like GEAPS Exchange in Kansas City in February and at the Victam-GEAPS-Grapas Latam expo in Sao Paulo in October specifically to share and learn from each other. While 2023 will still see war and weather, the industry is poised to advance more rapidly than ever

Roger Gilbert, CEO, Milling and Grain, UK

2022 has been a transitional year.

Moving away from the restrictions surrounding the Covid Pandemic, gaining confidence in our vaccines and understanding the requirements of governments when moving between countries has been challenging and stressful as we have travelled through 2022. Industries of all types are trying to get back to more normal activities that worked well in the past but might now include new ideas created from two-and-a-half years of enforced isolation.

The milling and aquaculture and pet food sectors have not avoided the disruption brought about from enforced government controls, despite being in the essential business of providing food for people, domestic animals and pets.

Throughout this transitional year, both companies and their customers, in the sectors we serve, have kept faith with each other and helped each other overcome the challenges these past two-and-a-half years had created. And, as if we are coming out of a 'dark tunnel,' we are finding that 2023 offers what appears to be a return to brighter and normalised business interactions.

Looking forward to 2023, it's clear to me that we continue to face many challenges. However, I feel the milling, aqua and pet food industries are already responding to sustainability and environmental challenges, they are addressing the higher costs of raw materials and related energy price increases in the production and processing of food and feed.

In 2023 we will see savings in our primary food processing industries with regard to their water usage, their energy usage and waste production; we will also see greater use of 'big data'; smarter machines and a greater understanding of animal nutrition, animal health and welfare. That's to name just a few advances I'm expecting and looking forward to.

Overall, 2023 will offer better-than-ever global connections that support local food production everywhere."

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