



## UEAA NEWSLETTER

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### LATEST NEWS

#### Current Issues of Agriculture in Slovakia

The year 2026 clearly shows us that climate change is no longer a threat of the future, but a daily reality for Slovak farmers. The success of today harvest depends not only on hard work, but above all on the ability to adapt. From the necessary construction of modern smart irrigation systems to the transition to regenerative methods – we face the challenge of how to protect our most valuable resource: fertile soil.

Key issues in the Slovak agricultural sector include:

- **Extreme drought and water management:** Long-term drought and failing irrigation systems are decimating the harvest, with the greatest damage reported by growers of fodder crops and silage corn. A subsequent challenge is the issue of irrigation facilities and water management in the country. Drought represents a serious challenge for Slovak agriculture, the consequences of which are fully manifested especially in fodder crops, corn, sunflowers, sugar beet, soybeans, alfalfa, and permanent grasslands. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic has therefore prepared a package of measures aimed at mitigating the impacts of drought, helping to maintain livestock farming, and above all, strengthening the financial stability of farmers.
- **Dairy crisis:** A sector suffering from a drop in milk purchase prices and the subsequent threat to the share of Slovak milk on the domestic market.
- **Pig farming and feed shortage:** High feed prices caused by unfavorable weather threaten the profitability of breeding and the stability of Slovak meat production.

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Richard Takáč, appointed the Rector of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Klaudia Halászová, as the chairwoman of his 12-member advisory team on August 18, 2026. The chairwoman of the board of advisors, Klaudia Halászová, emphasized the need to connect current problems with long-term strategy. *“We want to bring expertise to these topics. Our main topics are soil and water, i.e., water management and soil quality, but also a new strategic plan and what measures the funds will be directed to. Slovakia has professional capacities that we must utilize to the maximum extent.”* said

Halászová. According to her, cooperation of several ministries is essential, as the issues of water and agri-environmental measures exceed the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **From the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH) in Brussels**

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Richard Takáč, attended the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH) in Brussels on July 13, 2026. The meeting, chaired by the Irish Presidency, focused on the future of European agriculture, crisis management, animal production, trade, and the position of women in the agricultural sector.

During the meeting, a coordination meeting of the V4 country ministers was also held under the presidency of Slovakia. The ministers confirmed their interest in further strengthening the joint approach in promoting the regional priorities at the European level.

One of them is the situation in the dairy sector. Slovakia, together with the V4 countries, initiated a joint letter, which was also joined by other Member States, aiming to draw the European Commission attention to the deepening dairy crisis and the need for concrete solutions. According to the minister, a positive signal of the meeting was the change in the European Commission approach to animal production. In this context, the ministers also discussed the European protein plan. Slovakia supports the goal of increasing plant protein production, but at the same time points out that farmers need clear economic incentives.

The Council of Ministers also approved a regulation that will allow Member States to more flexibly provide assistance to farmers in coping with increased costs for fertilizers and other inputs.

The ministers also discussed the occurrence of the invasive pest, the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* in Latin), in Hungary. Slovakia has already carried out its own monitoring and is waiting for the results to be confirmed by the European Union reference laboratory. If confirmed, it will work closely with both Hungary and the European Commission to take the necessary measures.

The meeting also included a discussion on the position of women in agriculture. Slovakia presented the initiative “Women in the Agri-sector”, which supports entrepreneurship, education, and networking of women farmers. Over the last five years, the proportion of women in leading positions in the Slovak agricultural sector has increased by approximately ten percent.

*Prepared by Elena Horska, Slovak Academy of Agricultural Science, based on press releases from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic <https://www.mpsr.sk/sk/tlacove-spravy>*

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