

# Pre-plant drought signals, Turkey support payments, and practical farm-tech + livestock playbooks

Global Agricultural Developments

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## Pre-plant drought signals, Turkey support payments, and practical farm-tech + livestock playbooks

*By Global Agricultural Developments • March 2, 2026*

Pre-plant signals and seasonal planning dominate this cycle: a U.S. corn drought snapshot ahead of spring planting, and Turkey's March 6–20 support-payment window framed as timely for field preparation. Also included: practical farm-tech tools (local-first agronomy AI, sensor-integrated garden logging), measured specialty-crop results from China, and livestock/poultry feeding and stocking techniques with concrete densities, costs, and formulations.

### 1) Market Movers

- **U.S. corn (pre-plant weather signal):** GrainStats shared a **U.S. Corn Drought Monitor** snapshot showing conditions *before* farmers start planting this spring <sup>1</sup>.
- **Turkey (producer cashflow ahead of spring fieldwork):** Agricultural support payments (formerly *Mazot ve Gübre Desteği*, now *Temel ve Planlı Üretim Desteği*) are scheduled to **start March 6** with final payments **by March 20** (by farmers' TC numbers) <sup>2</sup>. The post frames these payments as timely for farmers beginning spring field preparations, and notes completion before Ramadan Bayram <sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> post by @GrainStats

<sup>2</sup> post by @mutludogru01

<sup>3</sup> post by @mutludogru01

## 2) Innovation Spotlight

- **Local-first agronomy AI workspace (decision support + data ownership):** ZarSage AI is described as a **local-first** agronomy workspace that runs on the user’s machine, bringing together soil lab data, decades of field-level weather history, field maps, and operational data—paired with **structured AI reasoning** meant to support agronomists and commercial growers (not replace them) <sup>4</sup>. The team is offering early access and explicitly asking agronomists/consultants/growers for workflow feedback and tool pain points <sup>5</sup>.
- **“Plant Anywhere” gardening companion (sensors + diagnostics, one-time price):** A homesteading-focused app highlights:
  - A **scale garden planner** for rows/raised beds (square-foot or free planting) <sup>6</sup>
  - A **water audit** that calculates hydration needs based on local climate <sup>7</sup>
  - **ESP-32 webhook logging** for soil moisture, light, and temperature from DIY sensor stations <sup>8</sup>
  - Logging for pests, diseases, fertilizer, and growth stages <sup>9</sup>
  - Optional **thermal imaging analysis** using a FLIR attachment to detect stress early <sup>10</sup>
  - **\$49.99 one-time purchase** <sup>11</sup> and app link: <https://app.plantanywhere.net> <sup>12</sup>
- **China: robotics + AI models positioned as on-farm enablers:** A Chinese program segment says teams have developed **100+ agricultural robots** deployed across multiple locations, and mentions a **virus recognition “large model”** intended to help farmers avoid “blind-box” seedlings <sup>13</sup>.
- **Measured results on specialty production (China):** A segment reports “9-level” ecological strawberries reaching **3,000 jin per mu**, after **4 million RMB** invested over **5–9 years**, and cites **10** in sales <sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup><sub>r</sub>/AgriTech comment by u/NarwhalTemporary8287

<sup>5</sup><sub>r</sub>/AgriTech comment by u/NarwhalTemporary8287

<sup>6</sup><sub>r</sub>/homestead post by u/forestdwellers

<sup>7</sup><sub>r</sub>/homestead post by u/forestdwellers

<sup>8</sup><sub>r</sub>/homestead post by u/forestdwellers

<sup>9</sup><sub>r</sub>/homestead post by u/forestdwellers

<sup>10</sup><sub>r</sub>/homestead post by u/forestdwellers

<sup>11</sup><sub>r</sub>/homestead post by u/forestdwellers

<sup>12</sup><sub>r</sub>/homestead post by u/forestdwellers

<sup>13</sup> 20260301 | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>14</sup> 20260301 | Agriculture And Farming



20260301 / Agriculture And Farming (0:06)

### 3) Regional Developments

- **Western Canada (crop risk resource shared):** A post titled “**Cereal lodging isn’t just a nitrogen problem**” was shared to r/farming, linking to a Producer.com article for details <sup>1516</sup>.
- **China (Hebei): scale signal in chestnuts:** A segment references Qinglong County having **1+ million mu** of chestnut trees <sup>17</sup>.
- **China (Hainan): meat goose growth constraints:** A case on Ma Gang geese describes birds at ~86 days coming in **below target weight** (examples cited at **7.5, 8.4, 7.8**) relative to a goal of reaching **9+ jin** by around a 90-day cycle <sup>18</sup>.

### 4) Best Practices (actionable)

#### Grains & oilseeds

- **Weed control discipline: “DON’T let weeds go to seed!”** <sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup>r/farming post by u/MennoniteDan

<sup>16</sup>r/farming post by u/MennoniteDan

<sup>17</sup> 20260301 | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>18</sup> 20260301 “ ” | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>19</sup> post by @AgPhDMedia

- **Cover crop termination:** Ag PhD shared “a few tips on **killing off cover crops**” <sup>20</sup>.
- **Soybean seeding strategy prompt:** Ag PhD raised the question: “Should you vary your soybean populations?” <sup>21</sup>.
- **Prescribed fire planning (prairie systems):** Successful Farming notes that whether a prescribed prairie burn happens **in spring or after the growing season, advance preparations** are key <sup>22</sup>.

### Livestock & poultry (management + feed)

- **Seven-colored mountain chickens (Guizhou): reduce fighting + improve access to feed**
  - **Stocking density:** A case example links fighting to density (~3 birds/m<sup>2</sup>) and recommends about **2 birds per m<sup>2</sup>** <sup>23</sup>.
  - **Uniformity management:** Separate stronger/heavier birds from weaker/lighter birds to reduce bullying and help weaker birds maintain feed access <sup>2425</sup>.
- **Fan ducks (Jiangxi): fighting and flight control**
  - **Separate sexes after maturity:** A case attributes severe fighting to mixed-sex housing after ducks are sexually mature (~7+ months), recommending separating males and females <sup>26</sup>.
  - **Reduce flight without “hurting appearance”:** Clip **7–8 primary feathers on one wing** (starting around the 6th) to create imbalance, reducing flight distance while keeping it less noticeable <sup>27</sup>.
  - **Anti-fighting eyewear:** Transparent “glasses” are shown as a method to block vision and reduce fighting; the segment emphasizes using consistent color to avoid triggering more pecking/fighting <sup>28</sup>.
- **Turkeys (Henan): correct nutrition for growth stage + reduce fighting**
  - **Why broiler feed can fail:** The segment explains turkey growth needs (especially in the 3–6 month stage) may not be met by standard broiler feed (notably calcium/phosphorus needs for skeletal growth) and shows a feed adjustment approach <sup>29</sup>.
  - **Adjustment example:** Add **1.5–2% phosphorus-calcium** and

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<sup>20</sup> post by @AgPhDMedia

<sup>21</sup> post by @AgPhDMedia

<sup>22</sup> post by @SuccessfulFarm

<sup>23</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>24</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>25</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>26</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>27</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>28</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>29</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

- **2% bean cake** to improve nutrient sufficiency for growth <sup>30</sup>.
- **Reduce fighting:** Hang grass boards and red cloth to distract birds <sup>31</sup>.
- **Garlic feeding rationale (as presented):** Garlic is described as helping “sterilize/anti-inflammation,” supporting better absorption and faster growth <sup>32</sup>.
- **Ma Gang geese (Hainan): fattening phase needs space control + dry resting**
  - **Diagnosed constraint:** Excessive activity (too much space) and wet ground are described as key reasons geese weren’t gaining enough fat/weight <sup>33</sup>.
  - **Fattening guidance:** In the fattening stage, reduce activity space to help accumulate fat; one method shown is using **net beds** and managing density around **10 geese per m<sup>2</sup>** (example: **1,800 geese** needing **180 m<sup>2</sup>** of net bed) <sup>34</sup>.

#### Soil & sensing

- **Pesticide drift detection via imaging:** One commenter notes **pesticide droplets themselves** likely wouldn’t show up on imaging sensors (minimal light reflection), while **vegetation damage** would be easier to capture and diagnose <sup>35</sup>. Another notes hyperspectral imaging research exists for direct detection but says effectiveness is uncertain <sup>36</sup>.

### 5) Input Markets (fertility, feed, tools, and on-farm capex)

- **Turkey (policy support tied to diesel/fertilizer support legacy):** Support payments previously known as **Diesel and Fertilizer Support** (Mazot ve Gübre Destegi) are now under a renamed support framework, with payments scheduled **March 6–March 20** <sup>37</sup>.
- **Feed formulation (turkeys):** A demonstrated adjustment to address growth limitations adds **1.5–2% phosphorus-calcium** plus **2% bean cake** to existing feed <sup>38</sup>.
- **Housing capex (geese, China):** Building net beds is costed at about **40,000 yuan** for ~1,800 geese (materials **30,000**, labor **10,000**) <sup>39</sup>. The

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<sup>30</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

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<sup>32</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

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<sup>34</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>35</sup><sub>r</sub>/Soil comment by u/Tight\_Bullfrog\_3356

<sup>36</sup><sub>r</sub>/Soil comment by u/zynlisnski

<sup>37</sup> post by @mutludogru01

<sup>38</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

<sup>39</sup> 20260301 “ ” · | Agriculture And Farming

segment shows a cost-reduction approach using **8,000 yuan** iron net plus bamboo as a frame substitute to save on iron pipe cost <sup>40</sup>.

- **Farm/garden software (consumer-priced tool):** Plant Anywhere positions itself as a **\$49.99 one-time purchase** <sup>41</sup>.

## 6) Forward Outlook (seasonal considerations)

- **U.S. spring fieldwork:** The U.S. Corn Drought Monitor snapshot is framed as a pre-plant baseline—worth tracking as planting approaches <sup>42</sup>.
- **Turkey field prep timing:** The Turkish payment schedule explicitly targets the run-up to spring field preparations and is slated to finish before Ramadan Bayram <sup>4344</sup>.
- **Short harvest windows in specialty crops:** Rose essential oil production highlights the importance of **pre-sunrise bud harvest** for higher oil content <sup>45</sup>, and notes the flower period can be **15–20 days**, with rain limiting picking and potentially cutting harvest materially if it persists during that window <sup>46</sup>.
- **Operational discipline reminders:** As spring management ramps up, sources emphasized avoiding preventable setbacks like letting weeds set seed <sup>47</sup> and doing the prep work ahead of prescribed burns <sup>48</sup>.

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## Sources

1. post by @GrainStats
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3. r/AgriTech comment by u/NarwhalTemporary8287
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