

Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Market, and Weather Report 02–09 May 2025

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Near to above-normal rainfall continues across Uganda during this peak First Rainy Season. Farmers are actively weeding, fertilizing, and monitoring pests as key crops enter critical growth stages. Regenerated pastures have improved livestock conditions, though disease control campaigns (especially for Foot-and-Mouth Disease) remain ongoing. Staple food prices are relatively stable with grain prices lower than last year, while livestock prices have increased due to drought recovery and improved market access.

Executive Summary

Government and partners are supporting agriculture through weather advisories, input guidance, and veterinary campaigns to ensure food security. Key highlights:

- **Weather:** Moderate rainfall supported crop growth across most regions. Seasonal forecast predicts above-average rains in Eastern/Northern Uganda and slightly below-average in Southwest. No severe flooding reported.
- **Crops:** Maize and beans in central, eastern, and northern Uganda at vegetative to flowering stages. Second weeding and nitrogen application recommended. Karamoja's unimodal planting season underway with sorghum and millet. Banana farmers utilizing rains for mulching and pest control.
- **Inputs & Pests:** Extension agents advise timely fertilizer application and pest management. Critical period for Fall Armyworm monitoring in maize (check for "window pane" damage) and stalk borer control.
- **Livestock:** Animal conditions improving with better water and pasture. Vaccination campaigns ongoing against FMD and PPR in vulnerable regions. Cattle markets reopened after quarantine lifts, with higher prices and increased milk yields.
- **Markets:** Grain prices remain low-to-average (maize: UGX 1,300-1,850/kg; beans: UGX 3,500-4,400/kg). Livestock prices have risen (mature cow: ~UGX 1.2-1.3 million; goats: ~UGX 150,000; Kampala beef: UGX 20,000/kg).
- **Government/NGO updates:** Strong progress in FMD control, with 95% vaccination coverage in Kazo District. MAAIF, FAO and WFP distributing improved seeds and vaccines. FAO donated livestock vaccines for Karamoja. Farmers encouraged to engage with Parish Development Model programs.

Weather Forecast (Regional Outlook)

Moderate rainfall across Uganda continues into the coming week (through 09 May), supporting crop and pasture growth. Expected rainfall of 50–100 mm in most areas, with heavier showers in Lake Victoria Crescent and Eastern regions. No extreme weather alerts issued, though seasonal thunderstorms are expected.



Karamoja (Northeastern Uganda)

Rainy season has begun after delayed onset. Expect 30–60 mm rainfall with scattered thunderstorms. Warm days (upper 20°C) with cool nights and intermittent dry spells between storms are typical for this unimodal region.



Northern Region

Acholi, Lango, and West Nile districts will receive light to moderate rains (40–80 mm weekly), slightly less than central areas. Temperatures range from 19–30°C with occasional sunny intervals. No flooding risk noted.



Eastern Region

Teso, Busoga, and Elgon sub-regions can expect steady moderate rainfall (60–100 mm), especially around Mt. Elgon and Bukedi plains. Afternoon/evening thunderstorms common, aligning with seasonal forecasts of above-normal rainfall.



Western Region

Southwestern districts may see slightly below-normal rainfall (30–70 mm) as April was their seasonal peak. Bunyoro and Rwenzori areas expect moderate rains (50–90 mm).



Central Region

Expect moderate rainfall with occasional heavy downpours totaling 50–80 mm weekly in Luweero, Nakasongola, Masaka and surrounding districts, with locally higher amounts during thunderstorms.



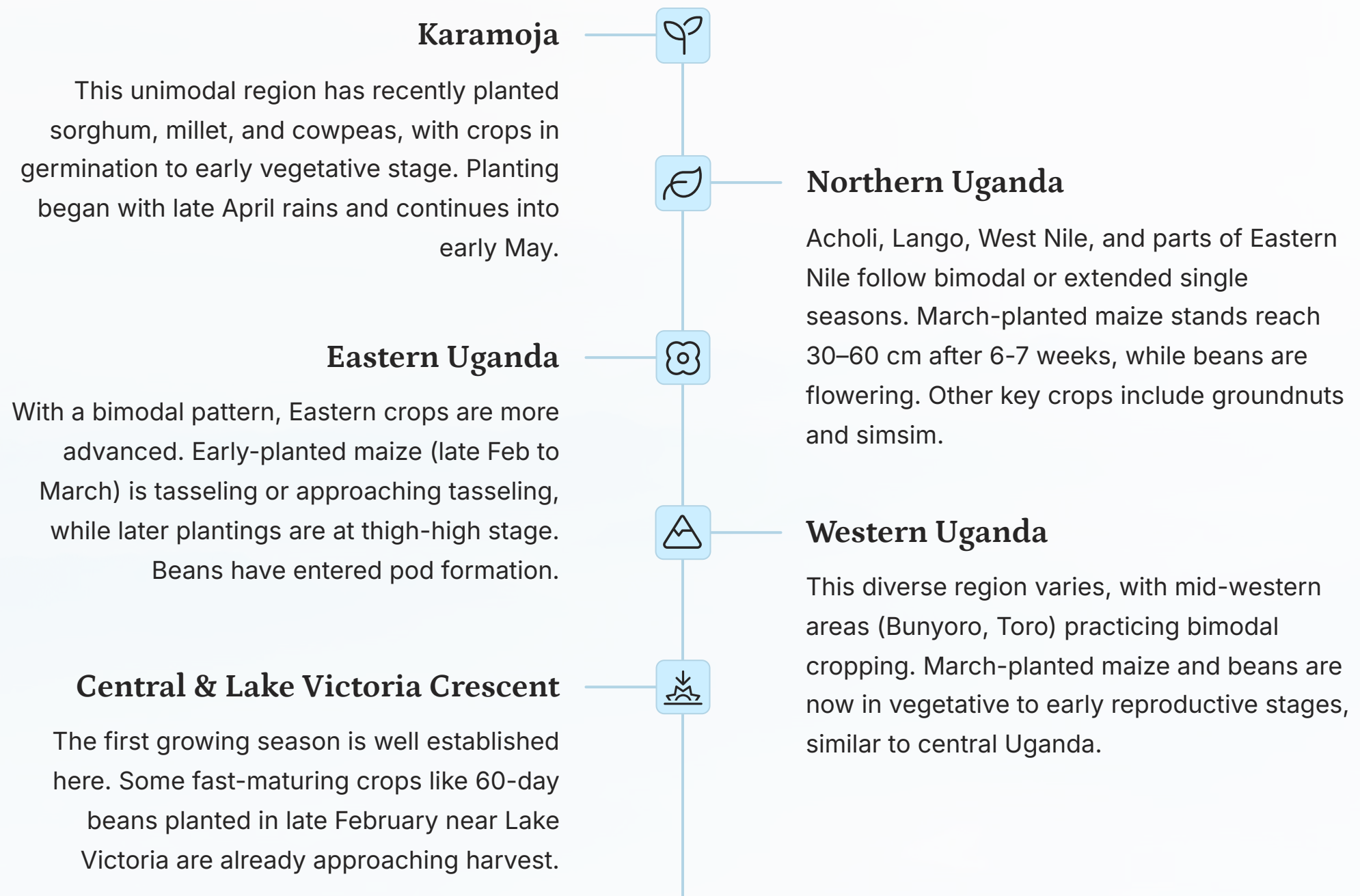
Lake Victoria Crescent

Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, and Entebbe can expect frequent showers driven by lake breeze convergence. Rainfall may reach 80–120 mm, making this the wettest region currently.

No extreme weather hazards forecast this week. Pattern is seasonal and conducive for farming. Daytime temperatures range from mid-20s to low-30s °C, cooler in highlands. Farmers should monitor UNMA bulletins for lightning safety and rainfall updates.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages

Early May finds Uganda's First Season (March–June) crops at various growth stages. Maize ranges from knee-height to tasseling, beans are flowering or podding, and sorghum/millet are establishing. Farmers are weeding, applying top-dressing fertilizer, monitoring pests, and staking climbing beans.



Crop development aligns with the expected calendar, supported by favorable rainfall. Current priorities focus on maintenance: ensuring adequate nutrients, controlling weeds, and protecting against mid-season pests and diseases.

Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory

As crops enter critical growth phases, timely inputs and proper practices are essential. This advisory covers region-specific fertilizer application, pest management, and efficient rainwater harvesting techniques.

Fertilizer Application (Top-Dressing)

For crops with basal fertilizers applied at planting, now is the time to top-dress with nitrogen. Apply Urea or CAN when maize is knee-high (4-6 weeks old) – the current stage in many northern, eastern and western regions.

Side-place fertilizer 5-10cm from stems and cover to prevent loss. On sandy soils (Teso, Karamoja), split the dose: half now, half in 2 weeks.



Central and Eastern farmers with tasseling maize should complete top-dressing immediately. Beans and groundnuts typically don't need additional fertilizer, though potash can improve grain filling in deficient soils.

Pest and Disease Management

Pest pressure increases as crops flourish. Begin scouting for Fall Armyworm (FAW) 2-3 weeks post-planting through tasseling. Look for "bullet holes" in leaves and frass in the whorl.

Fall Armyworm Control

- Apply recommended insecticides directly into whorls
- Use cultural controls like crushing egg masses
- Monitor fields regularly for early detection

Bean Pest Management

- Watch for aphids and bean fly (curling or stunted leaves)
- Apply soapy water or botanical extracts for organic control
- Remove infected plant parts for fungal diseases

Banana Disease Prevention

- Sanitize tools between farms
- Remove male buds using a forked stick
- Report Banana Bacterial Wilt signs immediately

Technical Tip of the Week: Rainwater Harvesting for Resilience

Capture current rainfall for future dry periods. After first weeding, create tied ridges by forming low ridges across slopes with small bunds at intervals, creating mini-reservoirs between crop rows.

Tied ridges can improve yields during dryspells by up to 50%, especially for maize and sorghum. Alternatively, create pot-holes (30cm deep/wide) in vegetable gardens filled with organic matter to capture moisture and nutrients for individual plants.

Livestock & Ranching

Seasonal rains have revitalized pastures and water sources across Uganda, improving livestock conditions after the dry season. While animals are thriving, this period requires vigilant health management.

Cattle Health Update

Cattle health is improving with lush pasture regrowth in grazing areas like Nakasongola and Karamoja, reducing water scarcity issues.

Following earlier FMD outbreaks that triggered quarantines in 32 districts, most restrictions have been lifted after successful vaccination campaigns. Kazo District achieved 95.9% vaccination coverage, ending quarantine on March 10, 2025.

- Spray or dip cattle every 1-2 weeks to control tick-borne diseases
- Prevent bloat when introducing cattle to lush pasture
- Deworm cattle now as parasites flourish in wet conditions

Small Ruminants (Goats & Sheep)

Goats and sheep in pastoral regions are regaining weight with improved vegetation and water availability.

Disease risks remain at shared water points, particularly Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). The government has secured 400,000 PPR vaccine doses for Karamoja with FAO support.

- Deworm at the start and end of rainy season
- Provide dry shelter during heavy rains
- Prevent foot rot in sheep by regularly trimming hooves

Poultry Management

Village chicken populations are growing with increased insects and feed resources. Newcastle Disease often emerges during rainy seasons when flocks expand. Vaccination is strongly recommended.



Vaccination

Thermostable vaccines (I-2 or Lasota) are available through veterinary offices as eye-drops or in drinking water. Many districts offer free or subsidized vaccination programs quarterly.



Housing

Ensure rainproof, draft-free coops with extra warmth for chicks on cool nights using lanterns or brooders.



Disease Prevention

Monitor for Coccidiosis in chicks due to damp conditions. Keep coops dry and add coccidiostat to feed if blood appears in droppings.

Vaccination Calendar Reminder

Core vaccines for livestock:

Animal Type	Vaccine	Frequency
Cattle	FMD (Foot and Mouth)	Twice a year in risk zones
Cattle	LSD (Lumpy Skin Disease)	Annually
Goats/Sheep	PPR	Once (and boosters as advised)
Poultry	Newcastle Disease	At least 3 times a year

Farmers should capitalize on favorable conditions while addressing seasonal health challenges. Following vaccination schedules, maintaining hygiene, and providing quality nutrition leads to better growth rates, milk yields, and market weights.

Market Analysis

Markets in early May 2025 show stable trends for staple foods with adequate supplies, while livestock prices are rising due to improved conditions and resumed trading after quarantines.

Average Market Prices by Region (Early May 2025)

Commodity	Northern	Eastern	Western	Central
Maize (UGX/kg)	1,400	1,350	1,260	1,865
Beans (UGX/kg)	3,900	3,800	3,500	4,440
Sorghum (UGX/kg)	1,200	1,875	2,300	3,380
Millet (UGX/kg)	2,500	2,870	3,100	4,180
Cattle (UGX/head)	1,000,000 - 1,200,000	900,000 - 1,100,000	1,200,000 - 1,300,000	1,200,000 - 1,500,000
Goat (UGX/head)	120,000 - 150,000	130,000 - 160,000	150,000 - 180,000	150,000 - 200,000

Grains (Maize, Sorghum, Millet)

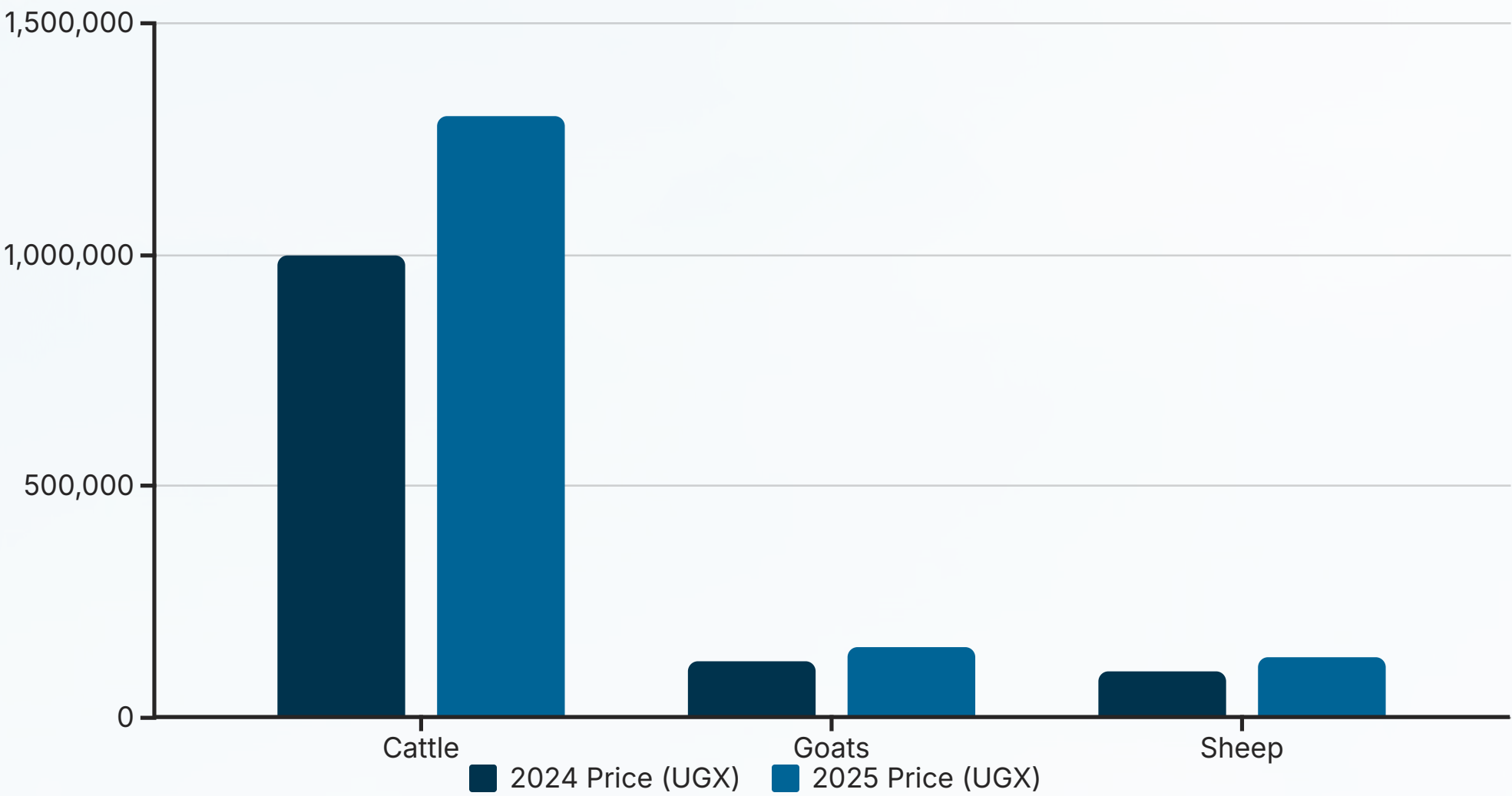
Maize is cheapest in Western and Eastern regions (UGX 1,300/kg) and highest in Central (UGX 1,800–1,900/kg). Prices are ~35% lower year-on-year due to good harvests. Supply remains strong from grain basket districts of Iganga, Masindi, and Kapchorwa.

Sorghum and millet show regional variation: Northern Uganda has cheaper sorghum (UGX 1,200) where it's a staple, while Central region prices are higher (UGX 3,300) due to limited local production.

Beans

Beans currently average UGX 3,500–3,900/kg in rural Western/Northern markets and UGX 4,400/kg in Kampala. Prices remain reasonable despite last year's below-average crop.

This year's favorable rains suggest good prospects in most regions. Prices may drop in late May when early harvests from Busoga and central Uganda reach markets.



Livestock Prices

Livestock markets are recovering after FMD quarantine lifted (Jan 2024–Feb 2025). Pent-up demand coupled with drought losses has elevated prices. Western Uganda traders now pay UGX 1.3 million per adult cow, up from 1.0 million previously.

Western and Central regions see cattle prices of UGX 1.2–1.5 million, while Northern areas trend slightly lower (UGX 900K–1.2M). Strong cross-border trade to South Sudan and Kenya maintains higher prices in border regions.

Market implications: Grain farmers may benefit from holding stock as lean season approaches. Consumers face manageable staple prices due to ongoing harvests. Livestock keepers should consider selling mature animals while prices are favorable, while planning for replacement needs.

Government & NGO Updates

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) has coordinated with various partners this week to support Uganda's farmers.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control

MAAIF reported significant progress controlling the FMD outbreak that affected the cattle corridor last year. With quarantine restrictions lifted in most of the 32 affected districts since February, prevention is now the focus.

The Ministry has implemented a cost-sharing model for FMD vaccinations, requiring farmers to pay a small fee going forward. This policy aims to ensure sustainability and vaccine availability while the government continues to subsidize and organize vaccination campaigns.



Anti-Tick Vaccine Development

Uganda's President and MAAIF officials announced progress on an anti-tick vaccine developed by local scientists from NARO and Makerere University, noting it will "very soon be available for farmers."

This initiative represents Uganda's shift from acaricides (sprays) to a more sustainable vaccine approach. The Ministry plans to fast-track approvals, with the vaccine requiring two annual shots at approximately USh 75,000 (\$20) per dose.

NGO/INGO and Donor Activities



FAO Livestock Vaccine Donation

FAO donated \$1 million worth of livestock vaccines to Uganda. A three-month vaccination campaign has begun in Karamoja and Bugisu regions in partnership with MAAIF.



WFP Food Assistance & Market Support

WFP has increased food distribution in Karamoja during the current lean season (April-May). Over 120,000 people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) are receiving food or cash assistance until their harvest later this year.



USAID and Other Donor Projects

USAID's Feed the Future initiative continues distributing drought-tolerant seed varieties and providing climate-smart farming training. This week, improved NERICA rice seed was delivered to farmer groups in Eastern Uganda's wetlands.

Parish Development Model (PDM) Implementation

The government's PDM anti-poverty program provides funding to parishes for income-generating activities, many agricultural. MAAIF and local authorities conducted community sensitizations in Lango and Buganda regions this week, guiding farmer groups on accessing PDM grants and loans for agro-processing, inputs, and marketing.

The program emphasizes value addition, encouraging parishes to invest in maize mills and coffee hullers. In some districts, PDM funds have already purchased ox-ploughs and improved seeds for communal use. The Ministry stresses transparency and proper fund management.

The synergy between government programs and NGO interventions is strong. Farmers should utilize these resources, from free vaccines to improved seeds, training, and credit facilities. MAAIF's message remains: "We are in this together."

Relevant Publications & Links

Recent credible resources (past month) on Uganda's agriculture, markets, and climate for farmers, extension workers, and policy makers:

Weather & Climate Resources

- IGAD/ICPAC Climate Outlook (21 Jan 2025): "Below-normal rainfall expected across Greater Horn of Africa"
- Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA): Daily and five-day forecasts available online
- ICPAC Weekly Weather Brief (29 Apr – 6 May 2025): Moderate rains over Uganda with temperature anomalies

Agricultural Guides

- FAO Crop Calendar for Uganda: Interactive tool at cropcalendar.apps.fao.org showing sowing/harvest periods by region
- NAADS/MAAIF: "Maize Growers Guide" and "Beans Training Manual for Extension Workers" (2021)
- One Acre Fund Blog: "Three Tips to Help your Farm Cope with Climate Change in East Africa" (2025)

Market & Food Security Reports

- FEWS NET Uganda Food Security Outlook (April 2025): Projections through September
- WFP Uganda Market Monitor (March 2025): Detailed market price data
- Selina Wamucii – Market Price Insights 2025: Frequently updated commodity prices
- IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (March 2025): From IPC Technical Working Group

Regional & Specialized Publications

- The Cattle Site (Apr 2025): "Uganda's Beef, Chicken Prices on the Rise" – goat meat/beef reaching 14,000/12,000 UGX per kg
- Harvest Money (New Vision): Regular farming tips and region-specific news including livestock market trends
- FAO GIEWS Country Brief – Uganda (Oct 2024): Overview of previous seasons, drought impacts in northern regions
- Karamoja Resilience Updates: KRSU and Mercy Corps briefs on pastoral recovery and livestock markets
- World Bank "Uganda Economic Update": Agricultural sector growth analysis and investment recommendations

These sources provide in-depth information on topics mentioned in this weekly report. Extension officers can leverage NAADS manuals for training, while policy makers can use FEWS NET and IPC reports for strategic interventions.

Looking Ahead & Reminders

Key tasks and considerations for May to help farmers maximize production:

Weather Outlook (10–16 May)

Expect continued moderate rains countrywide with heavier falls near lakes. A slight reduction in rainfall is anticipated by late May as the first season winds down. UNMA forecasts a possible brief dry spell in central and western Uganda later in the month. Plan fieldwork accordingly – complete planting while soil moisture remains sufficient.



Upcoming Agronomic Tasks

- Bean Harvest: Prepare drying areas for early-planted beans maturing in 2-3 weeks.
- Maize: Complete top-dressing by mid-May.
- Pest Management: Regularly scout fields as pest pressure peaks end-May.
- Root Crops: Final hilling for potatoes by mid-May.



Livestock Management

- Deworm calves, kids, and lambs by month-end.
- Track vaccination booster schedules.
- Conserve excess forage as hay or silage.



Harvest & Marketing Preparation

- Clean storage facilities and obtain hermetic bags.
- Research current farm-gate prices before selling.
- Consider collective marketing for better prices.

This Week's Priority Tasks

1

Complete Weeding & Fertilization

Finish second weeding and apply nitrogen to maize/sorghum this week.

2

Crop Health Inspection

Monitor fields regularly; remove pests manually or spray during dry periods if needed.

3

Poultry Vaccination

If not done in last 3 months, vaccinate chickens using locally available vaccines.

4

Livestock Deworming

Treat goats, sheep, calves, and poultry for internal parasites.

5

Harvest Readiness

Prepare tarpaulins, sacks, and rainproof storage for upcoming harvests.

Following these guidelines will optimize your farming operations. With favorable weather and proper planning, this season can deliver excellent yields. Remember, "kulima si mchezo" – farming demands dedication, but rewards with healthy crops, livestock, and improved livelihoods.

Livestock & Ranching (Continued)

Additional details on livestock management during the current rainy season.

Other Livestock

Pigs

Monitor for African Swine Fever (ASF) during wet conditions. Implement biosecurity: limit visitors, disinfect equipment, and avoid raw swill feeding.

Pigs thrive in cooler weather. Provide clean water to prevent heat stress. Deworm now, vaccinate against erysipelas as advised, and keep pens dry to prevent hoof rot and pneumonia.

Rabbits

Keep hutches dry and elevated to prevent flooding. Wilt fresh greens before feeding to avoid bloat. Watch for nasal discharge (snuffles) in damp weather.

Fisheries

Reinforce fish pond bunds during heavy rains and ensure proper screening of inlets/outlets to prevent escapes. Adjust feeding as water temperature and fish appetite may change.

Veterinary Public Health

Increased rainfall raises vector populations. Control mosquitoes to prevent Rift Valley Fever (RVF) spread. Drain standing water near homesteads.

Use protective clothing when walking through tall wet grass to prevent tick bites and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever.

Feeding and Management

Consider cutting and conserving excess forage as hay or silage for the next dry season. May-June is optimal for haymaking before grasses mature too much.

Hay Making Tips

- Cut grass before it becomes woody
- Sun-dry for 2-3 days, turning regularly
- Store in a dry, elevated place

Mineral Supplementation

- Provide mineral blocks to livestock
- Address copper and selenium deficiencies in Ugandan soils
- Prevent bone problems and poor growth

Breeding Management

- Improved nutrition brings animals into heat
- Coordinate with AI technicians for breeding
- Ensure good body condition (score ~3 out of 5)

During World Veterinary Day (April 25), President Museveni emphasized vigilance against livestock diseases. Over 1,000 dogs were vaccinated against rabies – a reminder for farmers to vaccinate farm dogs.

MAAIF's weekly theme is teamwork in veterinary services. Work with vets, community animal health workers, and other farmers to ensure herd health. With proper management, livestock will thrive for breeding and sale, supporting livelihoods and food security.

References

This report draws on multiple credible sources for Uganda's agricultural sector:

1. IGAD ICPAC – "March to May 2025 Seasonal Forecast" (Jan 2025) – Eastern Uganda predicted wetter-than-normal; southern/western below-normal.
2. Nile Post – "Brace for March-May Rainy Season" (Mar 2025) – Uganda's climate forecast with peak rains mid-April to early May.
3. ICPAC Weekly Forecast (Apr-May 2025) – Moderate rainfall (50–200mm) over most of Uganda, lighter in far north.
4. FAO GIEWS Country Brief – Uganda (Oct 2024) – 2024 first season harvest below average due to drought.
5. NAADS/MAAIF – "Maize Growers Guide" (2021) – Best practices for maize cultivation.
6. MAAIF/NAADS – "Bean Production Manual" – Bimodal planting guidance for Ugandan bean farmers.
7. WFP Uganda – Market Monitor (Mar 2025) – Regional price averages: maize ~UGX 1,300/kg East, UGX 1,860/kg Central; beans ~UGX 3,500–4,400/kg.
8. Selina Wamucii – Uganda Commodity Price Pages (Apr–May 2025) – Current market data for key commodities.
9. Selina Wamucii News – "Uganda live cattle price grows stiff-lipped" (Apr 2025) – Cattle prices in western Uganda rose to 1.3 million UGX from 1.0 million.
10. The Independent – "Parliament demands details as livestock quarantine extends" (Jan 2024) – FMD quarantine across 32 districts.
11. Nile Post – "MAAIF Lifts Livestock Quarantine in Kazo" (Mar 2025) – Quarantine lifted after 95.9% FMD vaccination coverage.
12. SpyReports – "Uganda Steps Up Efforts to Fight Livestock Diseases" (Apr 2025) – World Veterinary Day coverage.
13. The Cooperator News – "FAO donates livestock vaccines to Karamoja and Elgon regions" (Apr 2025) – FAO's vaccine donation program.
14. New Vision – "Animal Prices Shoot Up in Karamoja" (Aug 2023) – Trend data in livestock prices.
15. Impakter – "Mobile Pastoralists: Livestock Markets in Karamoja" (2019) – Reference figures for livestock prices.
16. FEWS NET/IPC – "Uganda Food Security Outlook" (Apr 2025) – Regional food security status.
17. Crop Monitor for Early Warning No. 103 (Apr 2025) – East African agricultural monitoring.
18. Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF) – Extension Bulletins (Apr 2025) – Monthly agricultural advisories.
19. World Bank – "Uganda Economic Update 2025" – Agricultural growth information.
20. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) – CPI Report (Mar 2025) – Food price inflation data.

These sources provide the foundation for the analysis and recommendations in this report. Stakeholders are encouraged to consult these references for additional details.



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