

Syria Receives First US Wheat Shipment In 20 Yrs -Report

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BEIRUT (Zawya Dow Jones)--Syria has received a U.S. wheat shipment for the first time in 20 years, pan-Arab Asharq Al Awsat daily reports Wednesday adding that the shipment, bought from a U.S. wheat supplier, amounted to about 10,000 tons.

Syria's food imports aren't banned under U.S. sanctions and the Syria is considered a major market for U.S. corn exports in the region, the paper says.

Traders attributed the recent rise in wheat prices on the Syrian market mainly to Russia's decision to ban wheat exports until the end of the current year, Asharq Al Awsat reports.

Syria, whose annual need for wheat ranges between 2.2 million tons and 2.5 million tons, saw its wheat crop decline this year to less than half its value in the previous crop due to droughts and disease, the daily says, adding that Syria has been importing wheat for years due to low rainfall.

A Syrian official said in July that his country has enough wheat stocks to meet its needs for two years.