

Excellent harvest conditions reported in U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Fair weather provided excellent harvest conditions in most of the United States last week, while rain hampered the harvest in parts of the Soviet Union, according to a weekly report issued Monday by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

Highlights of the report follow.

United States. The warm weather in the West and cool temperatures in the East aided the harvest and fall field work in most regions.

In the Southeast, however,

rainfall totals of one to three inches slowed harvest activity from eastern Texas to the Carolinas. This rain benefited fall pastures and helped counter the soil moisture deficit.

Winter wheat, now growing rapidly on a limited moisture supply, needs more rain to complete development before going into dormancy.

Sub-freezing temperatures were reported from the Northern Great Plains to the Ohio River Valley.

USSR. Above-normal rainfall in the European USSR limited harvest activities and probably interfered with winter grain

sowing. Temperatures remained below normal with light frost occurring in the northern Ukraine.

Warmer and drier weather is needed to complete wheat sowing and to allow sufficient early growth for the plants to withstand the winter cold.

Mexico. The rainy season is ending prematurely over the northwestern mountains, leaving some reservoirs abnormally low. Relatively little rain has fallen in the watersheds in the past few weeks.

South Asia. Much of northern India received no rainfall last week. Dry weather helped the autumn

rice harvest, but soil was becoming too dry for early winter wheat sowing. Most of the major cotton area in west central India remained dry.

China. A band of near-normal rainfall across the southern portion of the winter wheat belt maintained soil moisture, but areas to the north received little or no moisture. In the northeastern coastal areas of Shandong and Hebei, soils are too dry for early wheat growth, but this is a minor production area.

Australia. Dry weather continued to plague the winter wheat areas of

Queensland, New South Wales and much of West Australia. Some shower activity took place along the southern portions of Victoria and substantial rain fell in South Australia, benefiting the crops in those areas.

South America. Rain needed for winter wheat growth fell on the crop areas of Buenos Aires, Entre Rios and Santa Fe Province last week, but the provinces of

La Pampa and Cordoba remained dry.

Rain is needed for crop development in Argentina.

South Africa. Early season rainfall has provided favorable conditions for maize sowing and early development in the plateau region of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. A major portion of South Africa's maize crop is grown in this area.

Fieldwork purrs along due to good weather

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's farmers enjoyed six days of good weather for fieldwork during the week ending October 6, with activities centering on fall harvest and planting, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Vegetables, fruits, potatoes, corn, soybeans and ensilage corn harvest continued, as did hay baling, pasture clipping, silo filling, plowing and general farm chores.

Apple and grape harvest are progressing, with cool weather giving good color to apples. Potato harvest is now 82 percent complete statewide, compared to 80 percent a year ago. Northern operators reported harvest at 77 percent central farmers reported 86 percent harvested and southern farmers reported harvest at 95 percent complete.

Soybean harvest stands at nine percent compared to less than five percent last year at this time. Traces of harvest were reported in the north and south, with nine percent reported in central counties.

Silage corn harvest stood at 80 percent statewide, compared to 58 percent a year earlier. Corn for grain is 58 percent mature statewide, and 13 percent harvested.

A year ago, corn for grain stood at 37 percent mature and less than five percent harvested, while the five-

year average shows 45 percent mature and six percent harvested at this time.

Fall plowing is at 80 percent complete, compared to 82 percent a year ago. Plowing is rated as 77 percent in the north, 86 percent in central counties and 74 percent in the south.

Barley planting advanced to 83 percent during the week, on a par with 1979. The north reported 92 percent, central counties were at 97 percent and the south was 57 percent planted.

Wheat planting increased

to 70 percent compared to 53 percent at this time last year. Wheat planting was at 83 percent in the north, 73 percent in central areas and 41 percent in the south.

Third cutting of alfalfa advanced to 94 percent statewide, compared to 92 percent last year. Fourth cutting advanced to 56 percent, trailing last year's 61 percent.

Hay made during the week was rated good to fair across the state. Feed from pasture was rated below average to average. Pasture in the north was rated 40 percent below average to 60 percent

average. Central pastures were reported as 80 percent below average and 20 percent average while pasture feed in the south was 88 percent below average to 12 percent average.

Soils on Pennsylvania farms are rated mostly short to adequate. Northern farmers rate the soils as 40 percent short to 60 percent adequate while central and southern farm operators rated soils as 100 percent short.

All farm fuels were rated adequate to surplus across the state.

Fireman pleads guilty

MANHEIM — A 24-year-old Manheim R3 resident pleaded guilty Friday morning in Lancaster County Court to setting two fires he helped to fight as a member of the Mastersonville Volunteer Fire Co.

Dale Eugene Campbell also pleaded guilty to turning in five false alarms, using either a CB radio or a telephone.

A negotiated plea was presented to Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter but the judge ordered pre-sentence investigation prior to accepting the plea bargain.

Under the negotiated plea as it was presented, Campbell would be sentenced on one arson charge to two and

a half years in prison and assessed \$100 and costs and restitution. On the second arson, he would get 10 years probation, costs and restitution, and for the false alarms, five years probation, costs and restitution, all to be concurrent.

Trooper Dennis Gerhart, state police fire marshal, told the court that on Feb. 28 at 12:58 a.m., Campbell set fire to a pile of papers outside a house owned by the Wissahickon Water Co., Manheim R3, where he was employed as a laborer. The first caused \$75,000 damage.

On March 13, Gerhart

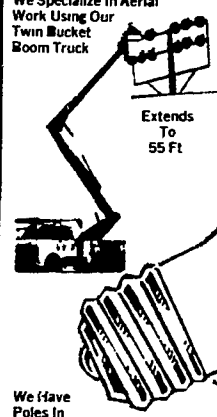
said, Campbell set fire to a barn on the property of Minnie Ober, located along Route 72 north of Manheim in Rapho Township. Damage was estimated at \$100,000, Gerhart said.

The false alarms, according to Gerhart, were called in between Feb. 9 and April 26.

Trooper Gerhart said that Campbell "arrived at the scene after the fires were discovered and helped to fight the fires." He also said he thought that Campbell was "remorseful now."

Campbell will be sentenced after the presentence report is completed.

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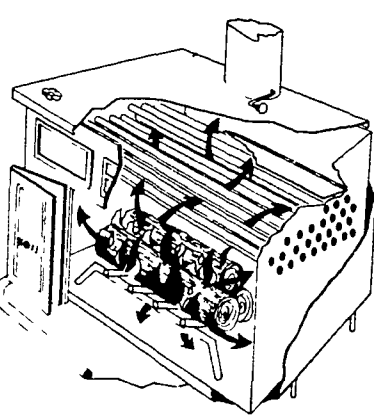
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