

## Favorable weather boosts fall harvest

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Fall harvesting continues in Northern Hemisphere countries, aided by generally favorable weather in the Soviet Union, Eastern Asia and the United States, according to a weekly report issued Tuesday by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

Rain is hindering the harvest in Canada, Europe, and South Asia.

Highlights of the report follow.

**United States.** A major storm developed over the Central and Northern Plains at midweek and spread significant precipitation to the East Coast by the end of the week. Early planted winter wheat benefited from precipitation, and improved moisture will aid completion of fall grain sowing.

Otherwise, generally favorable fall harvest weather continued in most areas.

**South America.** Badly needed rain fell last week in much of the Argentine wheat area, helping to prevent further crop deterioration. This provided improved conditions for maize sowing and early growth.

In Brazil, light rain fell over a major portion of the

wheat area. The mid-September frost apparently damaged wheat crops more than had been thought earlier.

**USSR.** Storms impeded winter grain harvesting over the northwest, but most areas had favorable weather for the continuing harvest of maize, sugarbeets, sunflowerseed and other spring-planted crops.

Warmer weather in the southwest allowed winter grain growth to continue, but freezing temperatures again were reported in the northeast.

**Northwestern Africa.** Soil moisture is now believed adequate for sowing winter grains, especially in Morocco where abundant rain fell last week.

**Europe.** Wet weather continued over much of Europe, disrupting fall field work at many locations. Winter grains which have already been sown benefited from the moisture, especially in the northeast where warm weather promoted good fall growth.

Rain improved soil moisture in most of the Iberian Peninsula but became excessive in northern Italy.

**Eastern Asia.** The harvest continued as good weather returned to most of the North

China Plain. Double the normal rainfall has created unfavorable harvest conditions for rice in the south.

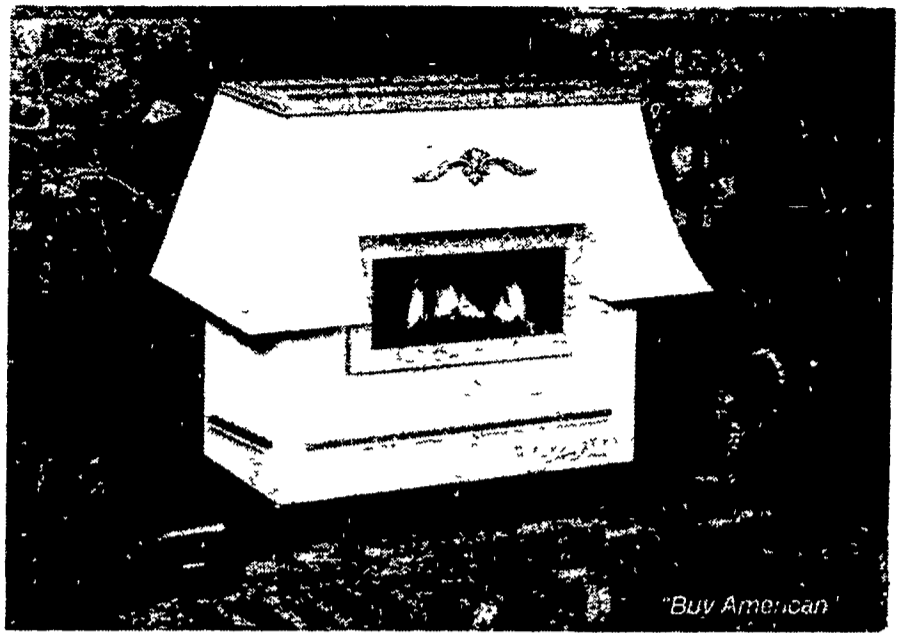
**South Asia.** Rainfall in eastern portions of the Indian Peninsula may have interfered with the drying of autumn-harvested rice, but it aided development of winter-rice crops. Major west-central cotton fields remained too dry with cotton still in the boll-setting stage.

**Thailand.** A tropical disturbance from the Bay of Bengal produced relatively heavy rains last week in the Central Plains where some fields are waterlogged. Flood waters have receded from most provinces in northern Thailand, but adequate sunshine is now needed for the ripening period of the wet-season rice crop.

**Canada.** Rain continues to interfere with last harvest activities in the Prairie Provinces.

**Mexico.** Sunny weather prevailed over most cotton areas while the early corn crop harvest in the Southern Plateau was favored by slightly dry conditions. Reservoirs in the northwest received some rain but still remain well below normal levels.

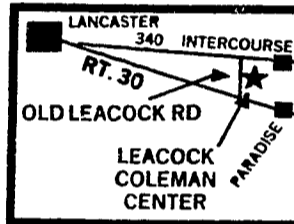
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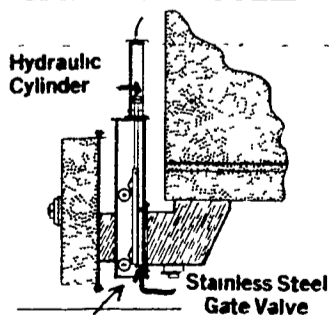
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