

Wet weather dampens harvest activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wet weather is hampering the harvest in many regions of the world, according to a weekly report issued last Thursday by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. Frost and lower temperatures are causing concern for crops in the USSR and Korea.

Highlights of the report follow:

United States. Heavy rain fell over much of the Northeast when a weekend storm combined with a system from the West which had provided needed moisture in some winter wheat areas. Dampness and snow slowed harvesting in the western Corn belt, but western great Plains wheat remained too dry. Colder temperatures curtailed growth in northern areas.

USSR. In the southeastern winter grain areas, drier weather aided harvesting of spring-planted crops. Temperatures fell to sub-freezing levels in most agricultural areas at least once last week, possibly damaging exposed sugarbeets. Above-normal precipitation caused unfavorable harvest conditions in the northwest.

Europe. Frost and normal low temperatures in the north nearly halted winter grain development last week. Conditions remain too wet for late harvest activities in some areas, with above-normal precipitation

continuing in much of France, Switzerland, western Austria and northern Italy.

South America. Heavy rains in Brazil interfered with wheat harvesting in northern portions and slowed grain ripening in the south. Dry weather prevailed in Argentina and nighttime temperatures neared freezing in southern Buenos Aires.

Australia. Rain in drought-stricken Queensland and New South Wales last week interfered with the wheat harvest and caused concern about the quality of the grain.

Eastern Asia. Harvest conditions for the late rice crop were hampered by persistent wet weather south of the Yangtze River in China.

Beneficial precipitation fell on winter grain areas north of the Yellow River and into Shandong. In Korea, rain disrupted the rice harvest and was followed by freezing temperatures which may hurt the crop further.

Southeast Asia. Somewhat drier weather in the Central Plains is expected to help reduce the moisture in waterlogged fields. Continued dry weather and sunshine are essential for a good yield potential from the rice crop.

Canada. The grain harvest is nearly complete except for northern districts of Alberta where unfavorable weather is delaying field activity.

Mexico. Light showers

benefited the corn belt in the southern plateau, while vegetable development was favored by dry weather over the west coast. The arrival of the dry season conversely,

is slowing the filling of reservoirs.

South Africa. Moisture supplies are adequate for early maize growth in the northern and eastern por-

tions of the Transvaal. More rain is needed in other areas to aid the start of the maize growing season.

Northwestern Africa.

Surface soil in parts of western Algeria remain too dry for germination of winter grains. In most other areas, soil moisture is adequate.

Hayes promoted to ag communications post

UNIVERSITY PARK — Kevin G. Hayes, publications editor for Penn State, College of Agriculture, has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Agricultural Communications, effective November 1.

James M. Beattie, Dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture, who announced the promotion, said that Hayes will assist Director Glenn Goss in administrative duties of Agricultural Communication to include budget proposals, employee supervision and evaluation, planning, and production.

He will be particularly responsible for general administration of the development, production, and distribution of educational materials including audio and video tapes, slide sets, filmstrips, motion pictures, exhibits, and publications.

Dean Beattie made the announcement in connection with a reorganization of the Agricultural Communications department.



Kevin G. Hayes

The existing units of news, publications, radio-television, and visuals within the department combined into a single unit as of October 31.

As an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as Penn State, Agricultural Communications supports and backstops communications efforts of Extension Service staff in all 67 counties of the Commonwealth.

The unit also provides information from the Agricultural Experiment Station and extension service to the media. Coordinated planning of media approaches by working with faculty and administrators will be combined with efforts

in teaching and training.

The Dean further explained, "Emphasis will be on significant roles for more Agricultural Communications staff members in coordinating specific activities related to their expertise and interest."



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competing at the Pa. stock pull will need to contact the PTPA office for an application. All applications must be filled out and submitted with the entry fee to the PTPA office by February 1, 1981.

For more information on any type of pulling in Pennsylvania or surrounding states, contact the PTPA office at P.O. Box 157, New Holland PA 17557 or call 717/354-8600.

Goose Ganders

Received a quick note from Mrs. J. Rumancik, R3, Box 94A, Edmonton, KY 42129 who asked:

Could you give me the full

address of Penn State's Owen Keene, the author of a recent article on geese that appeared in your paper? I am looking for a ration with lower calcium for softer shells.

You can get in touch with Owen D. Keene, Associate Professor of Poultry Science Extension at Penn State by writing to him at 222 Animal Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802. His telephone number is 814/865-5573.

If you have a question or problem that needs an answer, send it into Sheila's Shorts, P.O. Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543.

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