

Cold, wet weather slows world harvest

LANCASTER — The onset of colder weather and continued rain in many areas continue to affect global harvest activities and crop development, according to a weekly report issued today by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. Wet weather is helping crop development in several Southern Hemisphere regions.

Highlights of the report follow.

United States. A storm which spread snow from Nebraska to northern Illinois kept fields in parts of the Corn Belt too wet last week for much harvest progress. In parts of the Wheat Belt, however, the dampness had a beneficial effect and further improved growing conditions.

The storm spread abundant rainfall across the southeast and was followed

by colder temperatures.

USSR. Rain again prevented winter grain harvesting in the northwest last week. The sugarbeet growing area had low temperatures which possibly damaged a small portion of the crop. Winter grain growth continued only in the North Caucasus and the southern Ukraine as colder weather set in.

South America. Abnormally heavy rain is

expected to delay ripening of the wheat crop and interfere with harvest activities in Brazil as well as affect the quality of the grain.

Abundant-possibly excessive-moisture is available for spring sowing of maize and soybeans. Rain fell only in the northern wheat area and was more beneficial to spring-planted maize than to the nearly mature wheat.

Australia. In the northern

portion of western Australia, most of New South Wales and Queensland - which combined produced about 60

percent of Australia's wheat crop - inadequate rain during the growth cycle has stressed the nearly mature grain.



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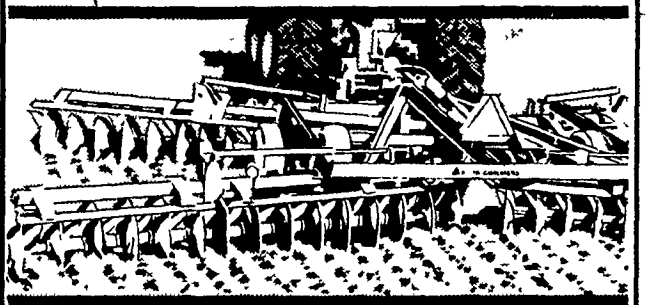
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