

Rainfall a mixed blessing in world crop outlook

LANCASTER — Rainfall helped crop conditions in the United States and parts of Europe last week, but caused problems for crops in China and South America, according to a weekly report issued today by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

Highlights of the report follow:

—United States. Very mild temperatures were accompanied by beneficial rains across most of the Corn Belt, the Great Lakes and east from the central Mississippi Valley. Cooler weather moved into the Pacific Northwest.

Rain in northwest Kansas and southwest Oklahoma aided winter grains. Limited moisture in other areas caused some crop stress, particularly in the Northern Texas-Oklahoma Panhandle regions.

—China. Heavy rain continued south of the Yangtze River with reports received of flooding in

Hunad, Jiangxi and Fujian. This has created problems for newly sown crops. Most winter wheat regions received only light rainfall.

Severe moisture deficits have not developed yet, but warm weather has encouraged winter grain growth and increased crop water needs in dry parts of Hebei, necessitating increased irrigation.

—South America. Rain delayed Argentina's crop harvest last week. To date, 35 percent of the sorghum and 40 percent of the corn have been harvested. The soybean harvest is just underway.

In Brazil, dry weather aided crop harvesting, but in the south where the soybean harvest is beginning, continued dryness has reduced soil moisture reserves considerably.

—Mexico. Heavy rainfall in March over northwestern

watersheds increased irrigation water supplies to a point where they are adequate for most spring and summer crops.

—USSR. Above normal rain in eastern European USSR and below normal rainfall in the west were recorded last week.

Soil moisture was good to somewhat excessive, and it appears that field work has not been seriously hindered. Temperatures rose to near normal in the winter grain belt, permitting renewed crop growth.

Above-normal March precipitation improved the spring grain-sowing outlook and helped planting conditions for cotton as well.

—Europe. Soil moisture

remained in good supply in most countries due to substantially above-normal March precipitation. Continued rainfall further improved growing conditions in Portugal and northern Spain.

Adequate moisture conditions prevailed in northern Italy, but moisture is only marginal in southern Spain.

—India. Dry weather provided more favorable harvest conditions in the winter grain areas of Pakistan and India. No serious losses are expected from last month's unfavorable cool, damp harvest conditions.

—Northwestern Africa. Very light rainfall in northern Morocco helped winter grains ease through the filling stage. Further potential

yield losses due to dryness are now unlikely, but production from this area will be far below normal.

Rainfall in south Moroccan winter grain areas has been insufficient to produce a crop. In Algeria and Tunisia, dry weather returned following the previous week's abundant rainfall.

Below normal March rainfall in some areas had dimmed crop prospects, but current moisture supplied should assure near-normal yields.

—South Africa. Two weeks of mild, dry weather in April indicate the autumn retreat of the Intertropical Convergence Zone which is associated with the wet season in the Maize Triangle. The corn harvest has begun with favorable weather.

PSU farm articles win excellence awards

UNIVERSITY PARK — Five members of Penn State University's Extension Service staff have been named state winners in the Search for Professional Excellence Program sponsored by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

The program is designed to report the activities of Extension educators whose programs exemplify professional accomplishment in their work, points out Joseph Macialek, Extension community resource development agent stationed in Scranton and state program chairman.

State winners by categories are:

Farm income: John Creighton, Wayne County Extension director, won on the basis of his dairy barn ventilation program that resulted in improved herd health.

Rural development: Guy Temple, Extension community resource development agent stationed in Lewisburg, was

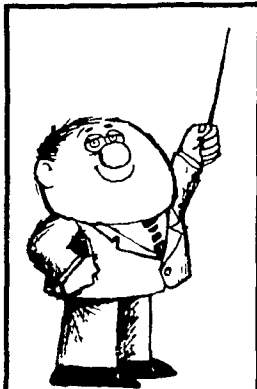
honored for his program with public officials concerning the use of sewage lagoons for small communities.

Urban programs: Charles Replogle, Allegheny County Extension agent, won with his entry focusing on the integration of rural and urban boys and girls in 4-H camp with emphasis on energy conservation.

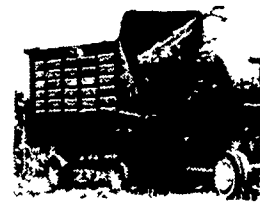
4-H and youth: Ann McManus, Allegheny County Extension agent, for increasing 4-H enrollment and public awareness of 4-H programs.

Administrative manage: E.V. Chadwick, Luzerne County Extension director, for increasing productivity and 4-H membership through reorganization of staff responsibilities.

Chadwick also was named a regional winner and will present his paper at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.



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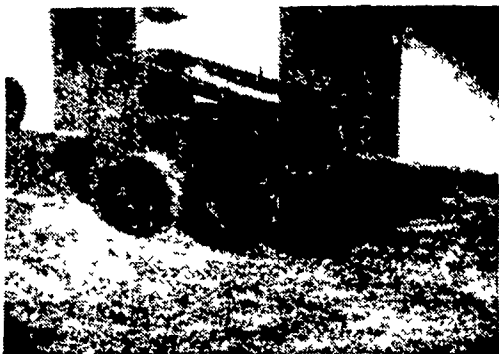
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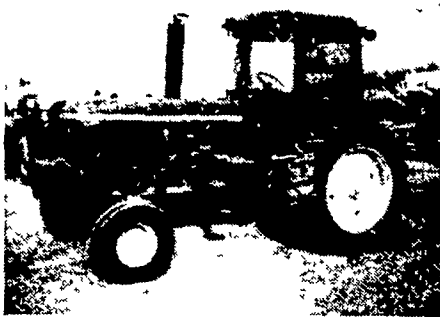
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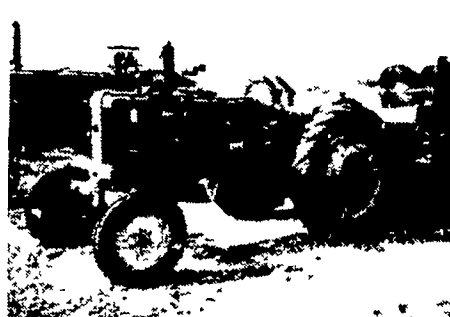
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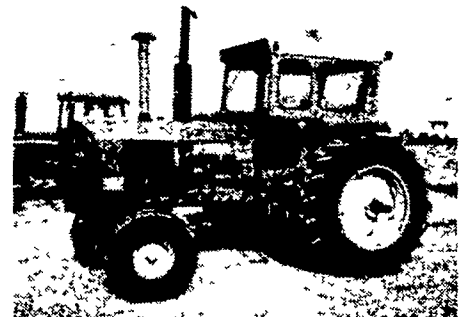
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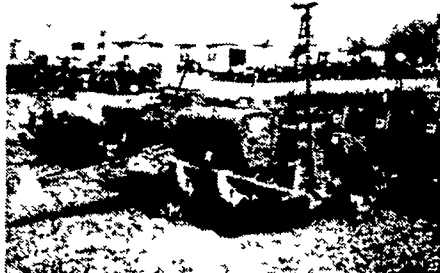
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