

Cool, wet weather retards winter grains in USSR, Europe

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Unusually cool, wet weather over the past week has put the maturation of winter grain crops in the Soviet Union and much of Europe further behind schedule, according to a weekly report issued by the Joint Agricultural Weather Faculty of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

Highlights of the report follow:
USSR — Temperatures in the winter grain belt rose enough to renew growth, but were still lower than average. This put crop development further behind normal and the situation appears very similar to that of last year. Abundant rains in many areas kept fields on the wet side and hindered fieldwork, with progress running behind schedule. In the south a storm caused heavy rains in the cotton-growing area. Heaviest amounts occurred in southern Uzbekistan and eastern Turkmenistan, and may have caused substantial washout of newly planted cotton.

Europe — Cold, wet weather dominated the region, worsening problems across the north. Conditions remained too cold for crop growth in the northeastern countries and development of crops was further slowed in all other countries. Generous rains helped dry crop areas in Spain and northern Italy, with further winter gain yield reductions now unlikely.

United States — Temperatures

were near normal over the southeast and Gulf coastal regions but warmed to 4-12 degrees above normal over much of the mid-west and west coast. Cool temperatures and some frost reported early and again late in the week caused concern for some of the Great Lake fruit crops. Rainfall tapered off in the corn belt, while precipitation totals of less than 8 mm in the northern Great Plains will facilitate only spotty germination of spring sown crops. Beneficial totals of 8 to 18 mm were common in the central Great Plains, though most of the southeast remained dry.

China — Light to moderate rainfall improved growing conditions in Hebei, Liaoning, and Jilin in the northeast. Precipitation of 5-15 mm in northern crop areas of Hebei helped winter wheat, but some decline in potential yields may already have occurred. Rainfall increased again south of the Yangtze River. Greatest amounts stayed in the hills, but kept streams running full and caused some localized flooding.

Canada — Showers produced 10 to 25 mm of rainfall in Manitoba, eastern Saskatchewan and scattered locations in northern Alberta's wheat growing area. Southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta were mostly dry throughout the week. Topsoil moisture is rated poor in this portion of the Canadian wheat belt. Early wheat sowing has begun in

southern Saskatchewan with up to 30 percent of the intended wheat acreage planted in southwestern areas.

Australia — Dry weather continued in the wheat belt of southern Australia. Rain will be needed very soon in the wheat belt to provide sufficient moisture for successful planting and early crop growth.

South Asia — Rainfall remained light in Bangladesh, allowing further drying of flooded fields. Scattered showers continued in eastern India and spread over the southeastern half of the country. Rainfall amounts were above normal at many locations, though coverage was spotty. Such pre-monsoon showers are normal, but they appear to be starting a little earlier than usual this year. The early rains will replenish soil moisture somewhat and bodes well for the approaching rainy season.

Southeast Asia — Widespread showers produced significant weekly rainfall (15-50 mm) over much of Thailand, with even heavier precipitation (50-125 mm) in the area to the north and east of Bangkok. Rainfall was lightest in the extreme west and south. The pre-monsoon rainfall has been highly beneficial to agriculture.

South American — Heavy showers (20-40 mm) should not

cause any significant reduction in Brazil soybean yields, with at least three-quarters of the harvest already complete. In Argentina, relatively dry weather aided harvest activities. About 50 percent of the corn crop and over 40 percent of the sorghum crop have been harvested.

Mexico — Heavy rains drenched

the upper northeast, benefiting rangeland, as well as some corn and grain sorghum around Matamoros. Heavy showers also fell at Valles and improved growing conditions for citrus and sugar cane. It was mostly dry with hot afternoons over the rest of the country.

N. Carolina hosts Simmental Summer Conference

BOZEMAN, Mt. — The Great Smokies Hilton Resort of Asheville, North Carolina, will serve as the site for the American Simmental Association's Seventh Annual Summer Conference July 16-18. It will be the first time that ASA has scheduled this event in the Southeastern section of the United States.

"ASA Summer Conferences are designed to provide active members an opportunity to take part in discussions on current issues involving both Simmental cattle and the Association, explained Executive Vice President Earl B. Peterson.

Committee meetings topics will include performance, breeders' guidelines, Simbrah cattle, future

conventions and conferences, registrations and transfers, and several others.

Persons needing additional information should contact the American Simmental Association, One Simmental Way, Bozeman, MT 59715, telephone number (406) 587-4531.



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