## Cool temps in USSR, rain down under

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cold weather slowed crop growth over much of the USSR last week, while much needed rain fell on Australia's grain belt, according to a weekly report today by the joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Department of Commerce and Agriculture. Planting resumed in the U.S. Corn Belt, and Canadian crop prospects are good, except in dry, south-central Saskatchewan.

Highlights of the report follow.

-USSR. Cold weather which spread down the Volga Valley into the North Caucasus and eastern and southern Ukraine will further delay crop development. In some areas, lags now exceed a week. Some newly germinated spring crops may have been damaged by subfreezing temperatures. Colder than normal weather in the New Lands slowed germination and early growth of spring grains throughout the region. Unusual rainfall across the southern fringes of the region provided good growing conditions. Near-normal rains further improved the outlook over much of the east, but dry pockets still persist.

-Europe. Continued abovenormal temperatures across the north kept crops growing rapidly last week. To the south, temperatures stayed near normal.

—Australia. Extremely beneficial rain helped planting and germination in the eastern wheat belt last week. Soil reserves continue low, however. Rangelands also benefited from last week's rainfall. West Australia's wheat area received some timely rain as well, but additional moisture is needed in all areas to relieve drought conditions and sustain growth during the current crop season.

—United States. Crop moisture improved over the northern Rockies and from the Great Plains east to the Atlantic coast. Dry conditions continued, however, in

Florida and in the Northeast. Dry weather enabled planting to resume in the Corn Belt, notably in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Temperatures ranged from above normal along the northern border to below normal over most of the central and southern U.S.

—Canada. Wet weather improved soil conditions in Manitoba's eastern wheat belt where planting of the spring wheat crop is nearly complete. Minimal weekly rainfall in Saskatchewan caused further depletion of soil moisture reserves. Spring wheat is about 90 percent seeded, and crop

southeastern Georgia, northern germination was rated as good Florida and in the Northeast. Dry weather enabled planting to resume in the Corn Belt, notably in germination was rated as good except in dry, south-central Saskatchewan. In Alberta, crop conditions are favorable.

—China. Little rain fell in the major winter grain belt on the North China Plain. Rainfall increased south of the Yangtze River, but remained mostly near normal levels. Conditions in Guangxi remained too wet as above-normal rainfall continued.

-South Asia. Premonsoon showers continued in Bangladesh and northeastern India last week, keeping conditions benefically moist for early rice. The monsoon

seems to be approaching on schedule from the southeast.

—Southeast Asia. Another week of significant rainfall in Thailand signals a favorable start of the monsoon season. The normal crop calendar shows corn in the late-planting period with early seeded corn in vegetative development.

-South America. Drier weather in most Argentine corn and soybean areas aided crop harvests, now nearly 75 percent complete. Rain benefited much of the wheat area of La Pampa, southern Buenos Aires, and southern Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, but relatively dry weather

prevailed in much of the wheat areas of Santa Catarina and Parana. In southern Buenos Aires province, temperatures dropped to the freezing level twice in the past week.

—Mexico. Rain last week benefited reservoir levels and soil moisture in citrus orchards and cane fields around Valles and cotton fields at Torreon. The eastern part of the Southern Plateau corn belt received beneficial rain on its young corn while the western section stayed dry with crops probably under moisture stress.

## Jersey breeders honor W.L. Payton

COLUMBUS, Ohio — W.L. Payton, Stephenville, Texas, will be honored as Master Breeder by the American Jersey Cattle Club during the Club's annual meeting in Woodstock, Vt., June 15-17.

Payton's success story began in 1925 when he started working for the Santa Fe Railroad. As the young man traveled, he watched family cows being milked along the right-of-ways from Cleburne to Stephenville.

The Depression soon left Payton jobless. Ambitious as he was, he began his own business raising chickens and selling chicks. Payton acquired his first Jersey calf by swapping some chicks for it. And so Payton's dedication to the Jersey breed began.

In 1932, Payton began selling Jersey milk to a grocery in Stephenville. By 1947, the Payton herd was on official test and had a classification average of 81.3 percent. By 1961, this average had improved to 88.6 percent, one of the highest herd averages in Texas

In 1956, Payton received the AJCC Constructive Breeder

Award, recognizing his accomplishments in improving the breed. From 1962 to 1964 he served on the Board of Directors of The American Jersey Cattle Club.

Payton is best known as the breeder of Advancer Sleeping Milestone, a bull known to every Jersey bree ler in the United States and many foreign countries. His daughters have won many major championships.

Another Payton-bred bull is Master Milestone C, one of the top bulls currently available in AI. His dam, a "Sleeping Milestone" daughter, now owned by Sonshine Jersey Farm, Brashear, Texas, was bred by Payton. She is scored Excellent-94% and won her class at the All American Junior Show "Master C" was sired by another Payton-bred bull, L.C. Master Milestone

The Payton herd was sold at public auction in 1973, averaging \$670.08 on 131 head, the top dispersal sale of that year.

The Master Breeder Award

recognizes those who have bred outstanding animals for many years and thereby made a notable contribution to the advancement of the Jersey breed in the United States.





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