

Weather improves for Soviet spring grains

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Some showers and near-normal temperatures slowed the decline of spring grains in the European USSR, and cooler weather helped crops in the New Lands this past week, according to a weekly report issued last Tuesday by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. Rains were heavy in parts of the United States and northern India.

Highlights of the report follow.

—**USSR.** In southeastern European USSR, showers and lower, near-normal temperatures slowed the decline of spring grain yields in areas that had been dry. Roughly half the dry areas received above-normal rainfall; in areas that remain dry, the lower temperatures diminished plant stress.

In the western Ukraine, above-normal rainfall made conditions unfavorably wet for maturing winter grains. In the eastern New Lands, lower temperatures reduced the amount of stress on spring grains from continued dry weather. The dryness poses the possibility of serious crop damage as the grain nears the heading stage.

—**United States.** Excess moisture in soft red winter wheat regions from Missouri to Ohio delayed harvesting and made sprouting likely. Beneficial showers dominated the weather over the eastern two-thirds of the nation, though a few areas experienced some flooding. Temperatures averaged 3-8 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in the western mountains, the eastern Great Lakes, and the northern Great Plains; about normal in the central U.S.; and 3-6 degrees below normal along the Gulf Coast in the Southwest.

—**India.** The monsoon advanced through northwestern India, nearly reaching the Pakistani border. There was some flooding in New Delhi as abundant rains fell across most of northern India. The Brahmaputra River and the tributaries of the Ganges are apparently in flood stage. Rainfall slackened in northern Gujarat, where cotton and soybean planting should be in progress.

—**Eastern Asia.** A slow-moving frontal system dumped heavy rains across the north during the weekend. The areas which benefited from rains included Japan, North and South Korea, and in China, the lower Manchurian Valley, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, and a broad band extending southwestward into the Sichuan Valley. The intense rains probably caused some erosion in the hills of China, but in general, the moisture benefited spring crops immensely.

—**Southeast Asia.** The remnants of typhoon Kelly produced heavy rain in parts of central Laos and extreme northern and eastern Thailand. Early-season corn should be approaching maturity in Thailand.

—**South America.** Rainfall was light throughout the major crop areas of Brazil and Argentina. Temperatures dropped below freezing in Argentina's wheat-growing region, sending the crop into a semi-dormant state. Wheat has advanced into the period of grain formation in northern crop areas of Brazil, while late wheat plantings near completion in the south.

—**Australia.** Rain fell in nearly all wheat areas during the week, with above-average amounts in eastern wheat-growing areas, normal amounts in most other crop areas. Conditions are apparently favorable for late sowing activities. Much of the wheat and

barley should be in early vegetative growth and soil moisture supplies should be adequate for plant development in most all areas.

—**Canada.** Scattered, light showers produced about 15 mm of rainfall in the Prairie Provinces this past week, though southern

Saskatchewan remained mostly dry. Hot weather pushed into the Prairies over the weekend. High temperatures, averaging 32-36 degrees Centigrade in southern crop areas, increased crop moisture demands as the wheat approaches its heading stage.

—**Europe.** Above normal rainfall

occurred in some northwestern areas. The wetness was unfavorable for maturing winter grains, especially in West Germany, but clearer weather returned at the week's end. Clearing weather in the east permitted most wet areas to dry somewhat.

—**Mexico.** Rainfall was beneficial over the Northwest, while dryness in the Northeast favored grain harvesting but stressed non-irrigated citrus orchards. Most of the southern Plateau cornbelt received 10-45 mm of rainfall, helping the crop as it enters a high water use stage.



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