

## World-wide ag experiences few harvest delays

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Northern Hemisphere harvest continued into October with only a few isolated delays, according to a report issued by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. In the Southern Hemisphere, needed rain fell on many crop areas.

Highlights of the report followed. USSR. Most of the European USSR was warmer and drier than normal for the second consecutive week, advancing the harvest of

row crops. Moisture is adequate for newly-sown winter grains. Warm daytime conditions in northern and eastern winter grain areas allowed rapid growth. Wet weather persisted in many New Lands crop areas, disrupting the late spring grains harvest. The added moisture will help replenish next spring's soil condition.

Europe. Precipitation slackened in Western Europe, but above normal rainfall continued in England. Favorable conditions for

winter grain growth prevailed in nearly all areas. Moderate rain in southern portions of Eastern Europe disrupted the harvest of spring-sown crops.

United States. Beneficial rains fell from the Southern Plains to Minnesota and east to New England. Locally heavy amounts caused some flooding in southern Michigan. Temperatures ranged from 6 to 12 degrees below normal in the Great Lakes, Ohio River Valley, eastern coastal states and

Pacific Northwest to 3 to 6 degrees above normal over the central and southern Great Plains.

Canada. Scattered showers delayed final harvest work somewhat in grain areas of Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan. The grain harvest neared completion in western grain areas of Saskatchewan and southern Alberta.

South America. Wet weather continued in most coffee areas of Minas Gerais and Parana, while modest rain fell on the coffee crop in Sao Paulo. Further south, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul were dry. Improved soil moisture in most areas will allow the planting of corn and soybeans. In Argentina, needed rain fell on wheat in southeast and extreme north Buenos Aires, but conditions remain dry elsewhere.

Australia. Widespread rain fell on southeastern South Australia, southern New South Wales and all of Victoria benefiting both wheat and barley. Continued dryness in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland dimmed prospects for the wheat crop. Scattered showers benefited grain areas in West Australia while dry weather continued in the sugar cane region along the northeastern coast of Queensland.

Eastern Asia. Beneficial rain over much of China's winter grain

belt disrupted harvesting. spring-sown crops, but improved soil conditions for sowing winter grains. Sub-freezing temperatures in much of the Manchurian Valley curtailed late crop growth. Eastern double-crop rice areas dried out while western areas became wetter. In South Korea, below-normal rainfall allowed renewed rice harvesting in most areas.

South Asia. Rains over much of India's winter grain belt dramatically improved winter grain sowing prospects. Only southwestern parts of the belt remain too dry. Early withdrawal of the monsoon from Bangladesh and northeastern India probably will not cause significant problems for summer crops.

Southeast Asia. Needed rain fell on eastern Thailand, Laos and Burma, improving growing conditions for all crops, especially rice. The added moisture will help reservoirs used for irrigation during the dry season which begins in late October and ends in early June. Below-normal rainfall continued over Thailand's Central Plains, while heavy rains continued along the western Thailand border.

Mexico. Rains helped replenish reservoirs in the northwest, but slowed harvesting of field crops in several major agricultural areas.

## Fall harvest in full swing

HARRISBURG — Showers early in the week ending October 12 allowed only four days suitable across the Commonwealth for farm field activities, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities during the week included plowing; planting wheat and barley; and harvesting potatoes, ensilage corn, corn for grain, soybeans, tomatoes, cabbage, apples, pumpkins, and hay crops.

Topsail moisture in the state was rated 65 percent adequate, 24 percent surplus and 11 percent short. In the north 50 percent of our reporters rated soil moisture surplus, 39 percent adequate and 11 percent short. In the central region reporters rated soil moisture 91 percent adequate and nine percent short, while in the southern region 88 percent rated it adequate and 12 percent rated it short.

The Commonwealth's potato crop is 82 percent harvested compared with 88 percent last year. In the north, 73 percent was harvested; in the central region 90 percent was harvested; and in the southern region the potato harvest is virtually complete.

The soybean crop in Pennsylvania is six percent harvested compared with 17 percent last year. In the north the crop is 11 percent harvested; in the central region less than five percent is harvested; and in the southern

region six percent of the crop is harvested.

Corn to be harvested for grain in the state is 71 percent mature and 13 percent harvested. This compares with 63 percent mature and 25 percent harvested last year. In the north 69 percent was mature and nine percent was harvested. In the central 76 percent was mature and 15 percent harvested, while in the southern region 71 percent was mature and 20 percent was harvested. Ensilage corn harvest is 80 percent complete statewide compared with 87 percent last year.

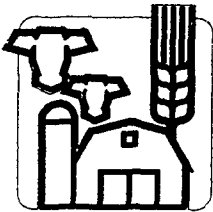
Barley planting in the state was reported as 93 percent complete, about the same as last year, while wheat planting was reported as 83 percent complete compared with 74 percent last year.

The fourth cutting of alfalfa was rated as 48 percent complete statewide compared with 57 percent last year. The northern region reported 46 percent of the fourth cut harvested; the central region reported 49 percent harvested; and the southern region reported 50 percent of the fourth cut harvested.

Statewide the quality of hay made during the week was rated fair to poor. In the north hay quality was rated 50 percent poor, 33 percent fair and 17 percent good. In the central and southern regions it was rated 57 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 14 percent poor. The amount of feed obtained from

pastures in Pennsylvania was mostly average.

Subnormal temperatures gripped the major row crop regions of the nation, bringing frost to many areas of the Corn Belt. However, most crops, except for late-planted fields, were far enough along to escape damage. Dry weather in the southeastern third of the nation further depleted soil moisture and stressed crops.



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