

Dryness impedes grain sowing from Iberian peninsula to N. W. Africa

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Winter wheat is entering dormancy in most Northern Hemisphere crop areas, while dryness continues to delay planting of winter grains in parts of Spain and Portugal and northwestern Africa, according to a weekly report issued by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

Highlights of the report follow.
—USSR. Light rain and snow fell throughout most of European USSR. Heavier amounts were recorded in the Baltic States and North Caucasus. Overall, winter wheat is dormant to semi-dormant with some growth continued in area adjacent to the Black Sea and North Caucasus. Snow cover declined in the western winter grain area due to warmer temperatures. In northern areas of South Central USSR, wet weather may have slowed the cotton harvest.

—Europe. Winter grain sowing was further delayed by dry weather in Spain and Portugal, while cold temperatures and limited topsoil moisture was unfavorable to early establishment of the winter wheat crop in northern Italy. Beneficial rain improved subsoil moisture in winter wheat areas of Hungary, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Winter wheat in the north was forced into dormancy by cold temperatures while milder weather promoted early growth in northern Mediterranean grain areas.

—United States. Mild weather dominated the nation's mid-section, but unseasonably colder temperatures were reported over the East and the West. Seasonal storms maintained the snow cover in the northern wheat belts. Highly beneficial precipitation increased the snow pack in the higher mountains of the southwest. Final phases of the harvest were slowed by seasonal precipitation in many areas east of the Rockies.

—Mexico. Mild temperatures and abundant sunshine over most of the country favored development of west coast vegetables and

the harvest of corn, beans, sugarcane and citrus.

—South America. Mostly dry weather in southern Buenos Aires and La Pampa provinces of Argentina aided ripening of wheat to be harvested shortly. Locally heavy rain interrupted planting of sorghum and other crops in southern Cordoba and extreme northeastern La Pampa.

In Brazil, rainfall in northern Rio Grande do Sul probably interfered with the late wheat harvest. Scattered showers in most soybeans and corn areas kept topsoils moist, aiding emergence and early growth of soybeans and late vegetative growth of corn. Adequate soil moisture is available in Sao Paulo where warm, dry weather coincided with the beginning of the reproductive period for early-seeded corn.

—Australia. The wheat harvest is nearly complete in much of Queensland and well underway in northern New South Wales. The harvest is just beginning in other major wheat producing areas. Rainfall in the Northern Territory and much of Queensland, benefited spring-sown crops, pastures and sugarcane along Queensland's coast.

—Southeast Asia. Most rain fell to the south over peninsular Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Weekly amounts were below average. Typhoon Irma damaged Philippine rice and sugarcane as it moved west over Camarines Sur province, passing to the south of Manila before turning north into the South China Sea.

—India. Relatively dry weather aided winter grain planting in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Harvest of cotton, groundnuts and autumn rice to progress with few delays.

—Eastern Asia. Dry weather in northern crop areas of China allowed final cotton harvest activity to progress with little delay, but dimmed sowing prospects for unirrigated winter grains areas of Hebei and surrounding locations. Also, cold temperatures in nor-

thern crop areas have forced winter grains into dormancy. Wet weather benefited early growth of winter grains in the southeast interior but slowed harvest of late rice in southern coastal areas.

—South Africa. Widespread showers were beneficial for sowing and emergence of corn, now being planted. Topsoil moisture conditions have improved recently,

but additional moisture is needed, especially in southwestern corn areas.

—Northwestern Africa. Needed rain fell on winter grain areas of northeast Algeria and northern Tunisia, but dry weather continued over western Algeria and Morocco. Persistent dryness has delayed

planting of winter grains which normally begins in early November and continues well into December. In Morocco, they dry spell has also limited water supplies to some cities. Good December rainfall would still allow planting to begin and timely rains throughout the remainder of the growing season can still improve crop prospects.

PRV pilot programs possible

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Assistant Sec. of Agriculture, C.W. McMillan said that USDA officials will work with the swine industry to devise plans to combat and eventually eradicate pseudorabies, including development of pilot eradication programs.

A recent USDA cost-benefit study showed the disease is now costing the U.S. swine industry about \$34 million per year. Pseudorabies was reported in swine in 24 states in 1980.

It is a virus disease of swine and other animals. Young pigs affected with the disease usually die, while mature hogs may show little or no

signs of the disease. Pseudorabies is usually fatal when it spreads to cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and wildlife. It does not affect humans.

"USDA will work with the swine industry to develop pilot eradication programs in areas of several states to assess different methods of cleaning up infected herds and areas," McMillan said.

A group of authorities on this subject met recently at the headquarters of the National Pork Producers Council, in Des Moines, Iowa, McMillan said. The authorities included representatives of the swine industry and farm organizations, as well as

university and government scientists and veterinarians.

The group said eradication of pseudorabies should be national public policy.

The group also asked for additional research to improve and standardize diagnostic testing; develop better vaccines; and gain a better understanding of the epidemiology and latent form of the disease. It also called for industry consultation with USDA to make current interstate shipping regulations more equitable for all swine producers.



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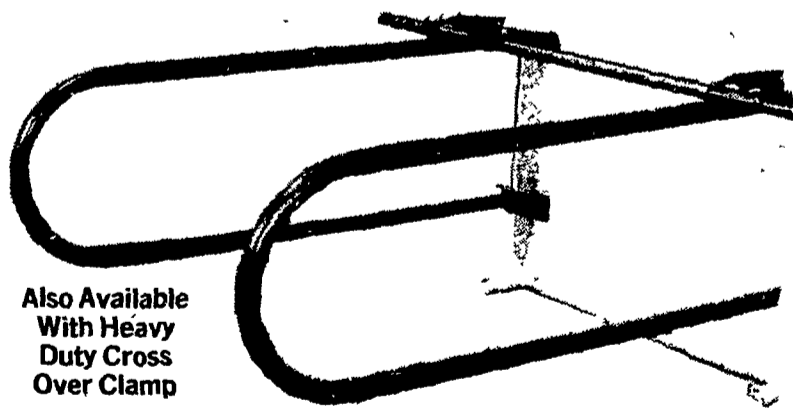
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