

Substantial rainfall aids Brazilian soybean crop

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The year's first substantial rain fell during the first week of February on Brazil's stressed soybean crop, according to a weekly report issued by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

Potential winterkill conditions were noted in parts of the United States, while good growing conditions aided crops in parts of Europe, Pakistan, India, Tunisia and Algeria.

Highlights of the report follow.

—United States. Persistent, bitterly cold air over the Rockies and central regions contrasted sharply with mild weather in the East. The weather pattern aided winter vegetable recovery efforts in Florida. Snowcover was adequate to protect winter grains except in the most southerly sections. Sharp drops in temperature and freezing rain set the stage for possible winterkill in parts of Texas and Oklahoma. Abundant precipitation fell in the Pacific Northwest and over much of the eastern half of the nation,

improving soil moisture levels.

—USSR. Only light precipitation continued to fall on southern winter grain areas of the Ukraine, southern Volga Valley and North Caucasus. Drier weather occurred over the northern half of the region. Temperatures fell well below normal late in the week over the major winter grains areas but were not sufficiently cold to produce winterkill.

—Europe. Drier weather prevailed as high pressure dominated most of the region, benefiting winter grains in France and central Europe. Additional moisture, however, would help the winter grain crop in Spain and Italy. Southeastern winter grain areas received some increased soil moisture from timely precipitation. Temperatures were generally above normal in the west and below normal in the east.

—Mexico. Seasonal weather favored winter vegetables and wheat. Polar air outbreaks in the upper northeast probably delayed early planting of corn and spring vegetables. Occasional light rain along the northeast coast ham-

pered the sugarcane harvest.

—South America. The first substantial, widespread rain since late December fell in Brazil's soybean area. Dry soils were moistened and crop stress was temporarily relieved in Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Parana. Cool dry weather followed the storm systems. Scattered showers fell in Argentina where crops are mostly in the filling stages of development.

—South Asia. Abnormally wet weather continued in most winter grain areas of Pakistan and India,

virtually assuring very good winter grain harvests in both countries. Moderate rain fell on previously dry growing areas of Punjab and Haryana, easing the need for irrigation water.

—Eastern Asia. Increased precipitation fell on many agricultural areas of South Korea and eastern China. Dry weather continued in China's Hebei Province. Below-normal temperatures kept winter grains dormant in nearly all areas.

—South Africa. Most northern and eastern crop areas of the

Maize Triangle remained adequately moist, but dryness increased in the southwest where favorably hot weather continued. Overall, crop conditions deteriorated slightly from the previous week.

—Northwestern Africa. Mostly fair weather returned, with some persistent light rain lingering in northern Tunisia. Warm weather provided good growing conditions for winter grains in Tunisia and Algeria. Most Moroccan winter grain areas had dry weather.

West's water outlook remains good

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Water supplies should be adequate to abundant for much of the West this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported last Thursday.

Norman A. Berg, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, said good early winter snowpack and heavy January storms across

much of the West resulted in the optimistic outlook. About 75 percent of the West's water supply comes from snowmelt. Of all the West's water, some 83 percent is used for agriculture.

Snowmelt runoff is forecast to exceed normal levels over much of Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and southern Wyoming. Montana, southern Colorado and New Mexico should expect near

normal streamflow.

The only areas forecast to receive below normal runoff so far are eastern Arizona and some isolated watersheds in southern Utah and in central and northeastern Wyoming.

Reservoir storage is near normal for all states except Washington, which has one-half its normal Feb. 1 reservoir level.

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