

# US wheat team declines speculation on USSR crop

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A team of U.S. wheat specialists has returned from a tour of the Soviet Union but declined to speculate on the size of this year's Soviet spring wheat crop.

According to Keith Severin, team leader and a Soviet specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, "We really didn't see enough on this trip to be able to predict the size of the total crop. Although we visited farms in five regions — representing 25 percent of Soviet spring wheat production — during our three weeks in the USSR, we were unable to see some of the most important producing areas of the southern Urals and western Siberia."

The spring wheat team included Arthur F. Shaw, an agronomist from Bozeman, Mont., and Donavon C. Loeslie, a spring wheat producer from Warren, Minn. Dale Posthumus, agricultural officer with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, was with the team in Kokchetev, Kustanay and Kurgan. The visit

was made under terms of the U.S.-USSR agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture.

The team, which was in the USSR Aug. 16-Sept. 3, visited Kokchetev and Kustanay in northern Kazakhstan, where spring wheat is the principal crop. It also visited Kurgan, a political subdivision in the eastern Ural Mountains, and autonomous republics of Tatar and Bashkir located along the upper Volga River and western Urals, respectively.

"All areas we visited has some weather difficulties during the 1982 season, Severin said.

"Harvest was just beginning in Kokchetav, was more advanced in Kustanay, well underway in Kurgan and Tatar, and completed in the area of Bashkir we visited," Severin said. "In these areas, low soil moisture and below-normal temperatures at planting time possibly caused the thin, short stands we observed in some fields. Head size, however, was reported better than in 1981 and conditions

were good for kernel filling," he said.

Among the various cultural practices used in the USSR to increase and stabilize spring wheat yields, fallow is among the most important, according to Severin. He said fallow has increased substantially in the last 6-7 years and accounts for as much as 20 percent of arable land used in some areas. In addition to conserving moisture in these areas where normal average precipitation amounts to 12-16 inches annually, fallow in the crop rotation helps to control weeds. Wild oats and Canadian thistle are the most serious weeds in spring wheat.

"Farmers told us they receive only about one-third of the amount of chemical fertilizer recommended for their grain crops," Severin said.

Weather conditions generally have been favorable this year for the production of forage crops, the team reported. Corn and sunflowers, often mixed in silage,

were developing well in the northern areas, and vast quantities of straw — an important roughage in the USSR — also were available. In Kurgan Oblast and the Tatar Republic, farmers reportedly put up enough roughage this season to last a year and a half.

During their visit, team members visited agricultural research institutes, experiment stations, schools for training agricultural specialists, a seed cleaning plant and state and collective farms.

"In final discussions at the USSR

Ministry of Agriculture on Sept. 3, high-level Soviet officials told us the 1982 harvest of small grains in the Ukraine was complete," Severin said. However, to the north, in the more central part of the European USSR, rains interfered badly with the winter grain harvest. The Soviets also stated that the harvest of sugarbeets and sunflowers had begun in the south. One-third of the 1982-83 winter grain crop had been seeded.

The team was unable to obtain any data on the 1981 Soviet grain harvest, Severin said.

## PRV pamphlet available

SOUTH ST. PAUL, MN — Two new pamphlets about swine pseudorabies have been published by Livestock Conservation Institute, announced Neal Black, president.

"Epidemiology of PRV - Current Knowledge" is the text of a presentation given at LCI's annual meeting by Dr. David Thawley, University of Missouri, co-chairman of LCI's Pseudorabies committee. The pamphlet contains the latest information about the pseudorabies virus and advantages and disadvantages of various control procedures.

"Swine Pseudorabies Eradication Guidelines" describes three methods for eradicating the disease from a herd. Depopulation-repopulation,

test and removal, and offspring segregation are the three eradication procedures outlined. It includes factors to consider in choosing an eradication method, as well as detailed recommendations of procedures to follow.

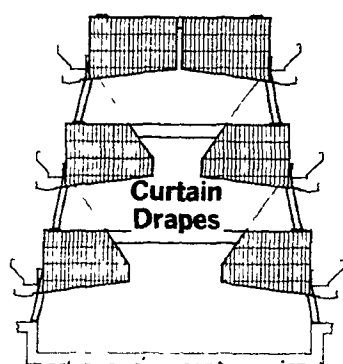
A single copy of either pamphlet is available free of charge by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to LCI, 239 Livestock Exchange Building, South St. Paul, MN 55075. To receive both pamphlets, attach 37 cents postage. Prices for volume orders are available on request.

Livestock Conservation Institute is an industry organization dedicated to reducing livestock losses caused by handling, parasites and diseases.

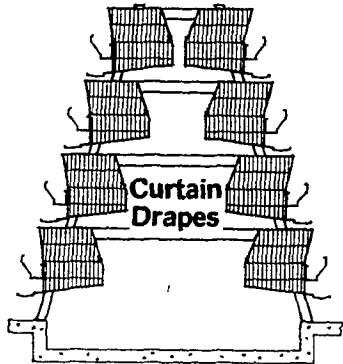
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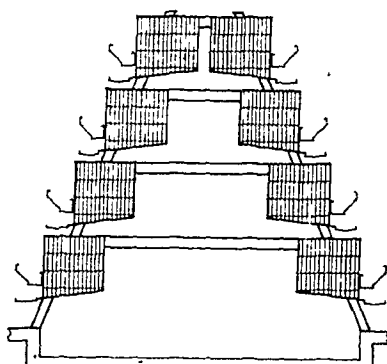
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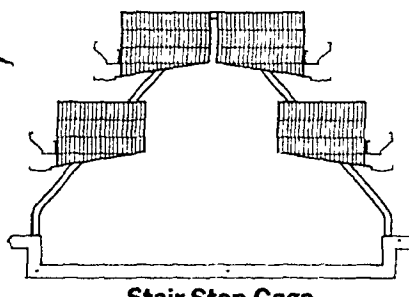
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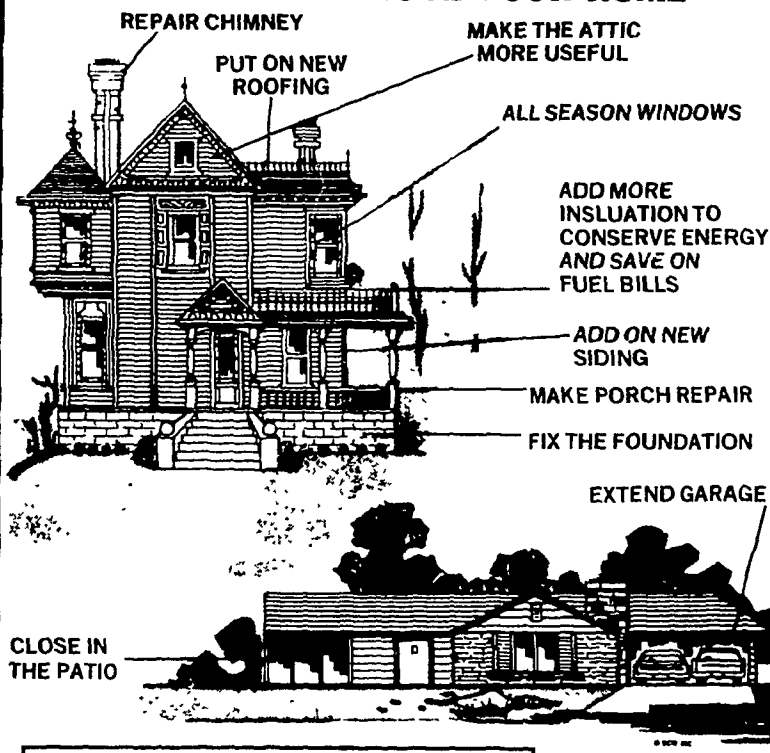
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