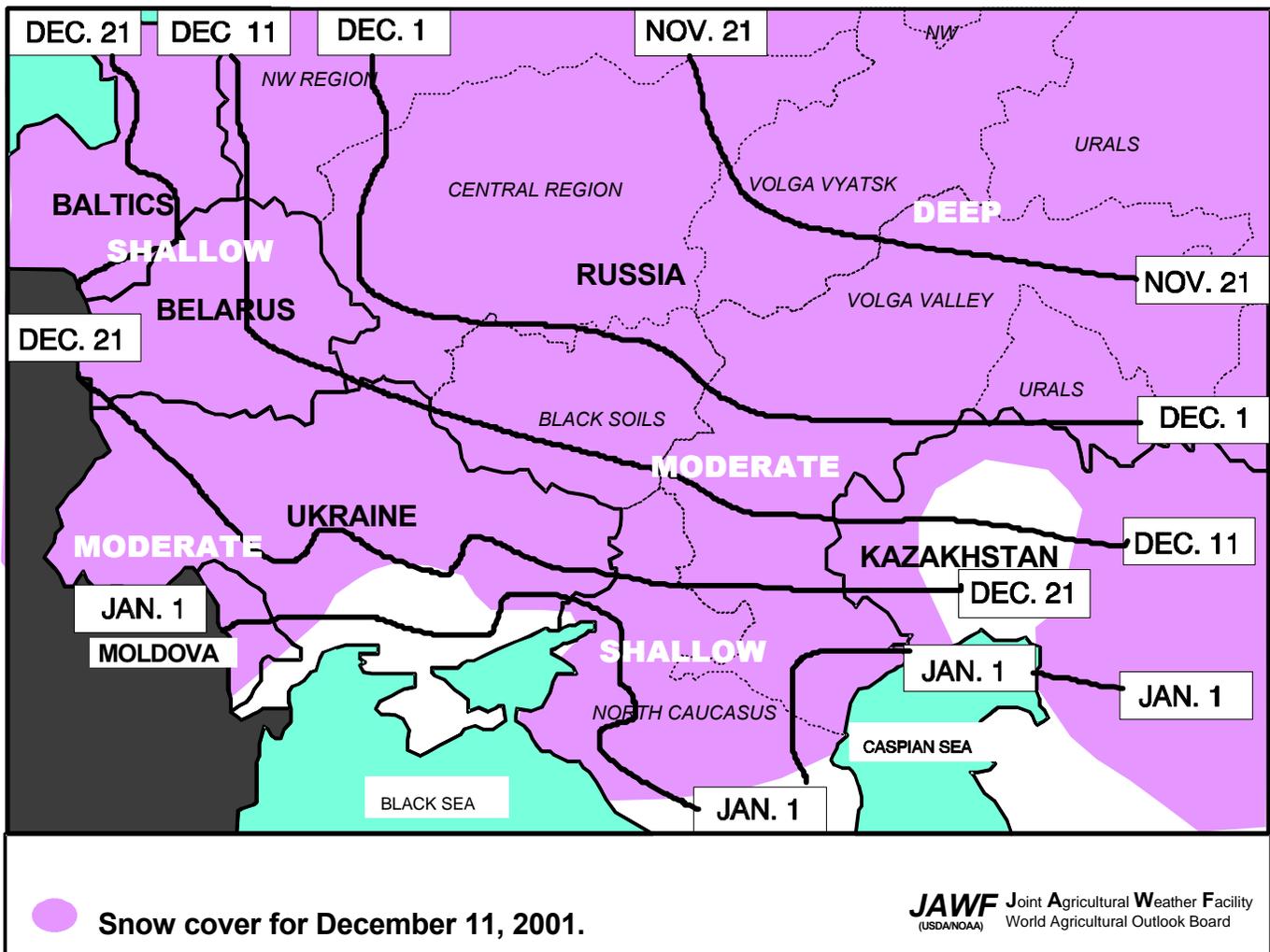


FORMER SOVIET UNION (WESTERN)

NORMAL DATES OF APPEARANCE OF SUSTAINED SNOW COVER



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

December 11, 2001

- o In November, winter grains remained dormant in northern Russia and entered dormancy in Ukraine and southern Russia. Above-normal precipitation helped to recharge soil moisture in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltics.
- o In Russia, winter grains in most areas were adequately established prior to entering dormancy.
- o In Ukraine, a lack of planting moisture in south-central and southeastern areas likely caused spotty germination and limited plant establishment, making winter grains more susceptible to potential winterkill conditions.
- o Recently, the first bitter cold outbreak of the season overspread winter grains as far south as Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia. A protective snow cover existed in areas that experienced extreme cold (-22 to -15 degrees C).