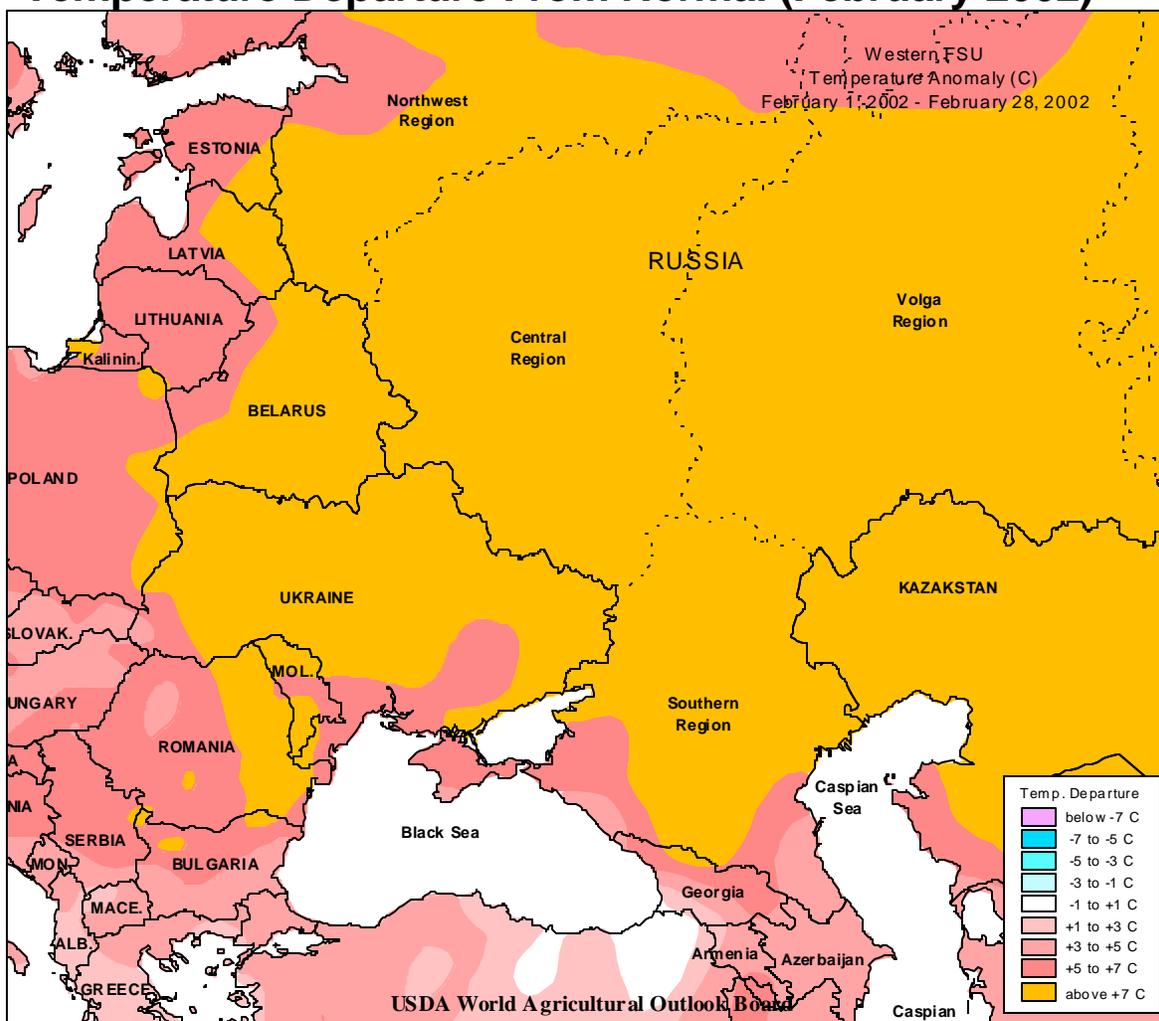


FORMER SOVIET UNION (WESTERN)

Temperature Departure From Normal (February 2002)



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

March 8, 2002

JAWF Joint Agricultural Weather Facility
(USDAN/OAA) World Agricultural Outlook Board

- o In February, above-normal temperatures provided mostly favorable overwintering conditions for winter grains, although the unusually mild weather caused crops to lose cold hardiness and kept Ukraine and southern areas in Russia snow free.
- o Near- to above-normal precipitation fell from Belarus and the Baltics eastward across northern Ukraine and most of Russia, boosting moisture reserves.
- o Since early March, unseasonably mild, dry weather in extreme southern Ukraine and southernmost areas in Russia likely prompted early spring fieldwork.