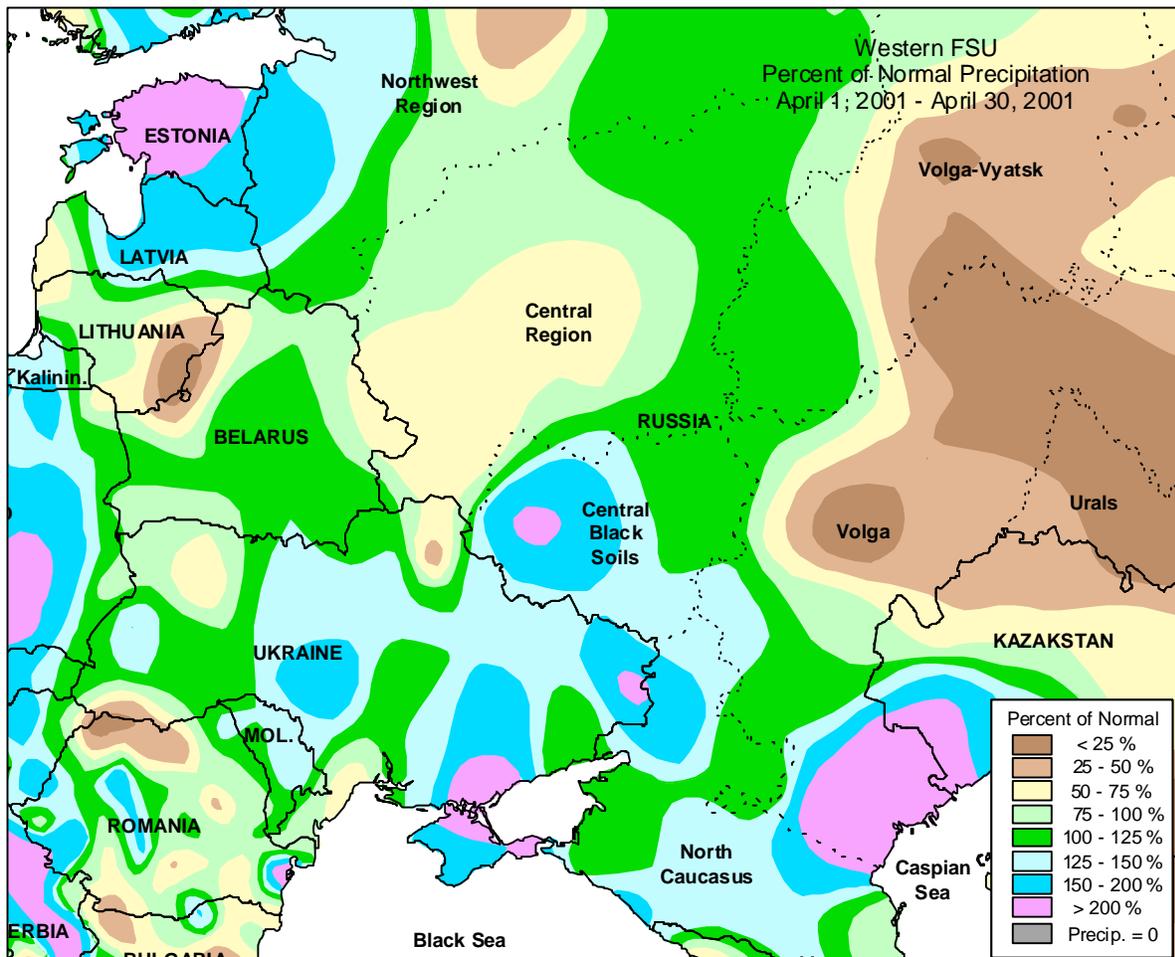


FORMER SOVIET UNION (WESTERN)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (April 2001)



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

May 10, 2001

JAWF Joint Agricultural Weather Facility
(USDA/NOAA) World Agricultural Outlook Board

- o In April, above-normal precipitation in Ukraine and southern Russia continued to boost soil moisture for early winter grain development, but slowed spring grain and early summer crop planting.
- o Above-normal temperatures promoted rapid winter grain growth, and increased soil temperatures for spring planting.
- o Since early May, unseasonably mild, dry weather in northern Ukraine and southern Russia allowed rapid spring grain planting. Reports from Russia indicated that spring grain planting was progressing ahead of last year.