International Weather and Crop Summary

NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

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HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Hot, dry weather in eastern Ukraine and southern Russia accelerated winter grain maturation and placed renewed stress on spring-sown crops, while warm, showery weather in western Ukraine maintained favorable conditions for crop development.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Much cooler weather in Kazakhstan and the Urals District in Russia eased heat stress on spring grains, although drier-than-normal conditions continued to reduce soil moisture.

EUROPE: Heavy rainfall in eastern growing areas boosted prospects for vegetative summer crops but was too late for drought-afflicted winter crops in the Balkans.

AUSTRALIA: Scattered showers fell throughout the wheat belt, maintaining good early season crop prospects for winter grains and oilseeds.

EAST ASIA: Showers prevailed across southern China and most of Manchuria, while mostly dry weather occurred elsewhere.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Monsoon showers continued across Thailand, while Tropical Storm Nangka crossed the Philippines.

SOUTH ASIA: Monsoon showers finally reached central India’s primary soybean areas, while northern India remained unseasonably dry.

ARGENTINA: Unfavorably dry weather persisted in most major winter wheat areas, limiting opportunities for additional planting.

BRAZIL: Warm, showery weather benefited the southern winter wheat belt.

CANADA: Much-needed rain increased moisture for spring crops in the western Prairies.

MEXICO: Scattered showers benefited corn and other summer crops in southern growing areas.

FSU-WESTERN: Hot, dry weather extended from eastern Ukraine through southern Russia (the Southern District and southernmost areas in the Central and Volga Districts), accelerating winter grain maturation and spring-sown crop development. Daily maximum temperatures in these areas ranged from 31 to 38 degrees C, placing renewed stress on spring grains in the reproductive to filling stages as well as summer crops in the vegetative stage. Across the remainder of Russia, light showers (3-10 mm or more) in the Central District maintained favorable moisture for crop development. Meanwhile, cooler weather in the Volga District eased stress on filling winter grains and reproductive spring grains, although drier-than-normal conditions continued to reduce soil moisture. Elsewhere, light to moderate showers (10-50 mm or more) extended from western Ukraine northward through Belarus, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture for crop development. Weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees C above normal across the southern half of the region and near to slightly below normal across the north.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Unseasonably cold weather prevailed across the region, slowing spring grain development. Weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees C below normal across most areas. The cooler weather in the Urals District in Russia and north-central Kazakhstan eased heat stress on spring grains in the jointing stage, although the fifth consecutive week of mostly dry weather in these areas resulted in further declines in soil moisture. Scattered frost likely occurred in north-central Kazakhstan, where extreme minimum temperatures ranged from -1 to 3 degrees C. However, temperatures did not fall low enough to threaten crops. Farther east, widespread showers (5-25 mm or more) in the Siberia District and eastern Kazakhstan maintained adequate to abundant moisture for spring grain development. In cotton producing areas of Central Asia, seasonably hot, dry weather continued to promote crop development and placed seasonal demands on irrigation. Extreme maximum temperatures ranged from 35 to 40 degrees C.

EUROPE: Wet weather over eastern Europe contrasted with drier conditions in northern and western crop areas. A series of slow-moving storms produced 10 to more than 100 mm of rain from eastern France and southern Germany eastward into Poland and the Balkans. The moisture was beneficial for vegetative corn and sunflowers as well as filling spring grains, but was too late to aid drought-stressed winter crops in southeastern Europe. Wet weather also eased irrigation demands for vegetative corn and soybeans in Italy, while dry, seasonably hot weather on the Iberian Peninsula maintained high irrigation demands for reproductive summer crops. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather in England and western France promoted winter crop maturation and harvesting, although scattered showers (10-30 mm) were observed in southwestern England.

AUSTRALIA: Scattered showers (5-30 mm, locally more) fell throughout the wheat belt, maintaining good early season crop prospects for winter grains and oilseeds. The rain continued to help the germination and emergence of recently sown crops and further aided the establishment of more fully developed grains and oilseeds. Temperatures in Western Australia were generally seasonable, with maximum temperatures averaging between 16 and 19 degrees C. Elsewhere across the wheat belt temperatures averaged about 1 to 3 degrees C above normal, with maximum temperatures generally between 17 and 22 degrees C.

EAST ASIA: The monsoon circulation continued to be unseasonably far to the south in China, delaying the onset of the rainy season for more northern areas by up to 2 weeks. The northern extent of the regional monsoon remained semi-stationary south of the Yangtze River, bringing widespread showers (25-100 mm) to China's Rice Bowl and sugarcane areas. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Nangka and Typhoon Linfa made landfall in southern China, bringing additional rain to the area. Similarly in parts of Manchuria, rainfall amounts totaled 10 to 100 mm from a series of unusually strong low pressure systems. The rainfall maintained favorable soil moisture throughout the profile, benefiting vegetative corn and soybeans. Mostly dry weather prevailed for much of the rest of China, with only localized showers (10-50 mm) across the North China Plain and the Yangtze Valley. In addition to the lack of substantial rainfall, the monsoon's absence in the aforementioned areas was notable by the low dew point temperatures. Weekly average dew points are typically around 20 degrees C during this time of year, but have been averaging 1 to 5 degrees C below normal. The generally dry conditions and maximum temperatures approaching 40 degrees C increased the reliance on irrigation to maintain crop quality.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Monsoon showers continued, albeit lighter, across Thailand, while Tropical Storm Nangka crossed the Philippines. In Thailand, 10 to 100 mm of rain maintained favorable soil moisture for vegetative corn and rice. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather prevailed for summer-autumn rice in southern Vietnam. The monsoon was somewhat weaker in Indochina compared to last week due to increased tropical activity in the South China Sea. Tropical Storm Nangka crossed the central Philippines mid-week, producing heavy showers (50-200 mm) and localized flooding. In general, however, the abundant rainfall favored rice and corn across much of the Philippines. Showers (10-100 mm) returned to oil palm areas of Indonesia and Malaysia after a brief period of dryness. The increased moisture favored oil palm, while causing only minor harvest delays.

SOUTH ASIA: The monsoon advanced into central India, while northern and eastern growing areas remained unseasonably dry. Showers (30-110 mm) arrived in central India, providing planting moisture for soybeans and cotton. Light to moderate showers (20 mm or more) in Gujarat signaled the onset of the monsoon in India's top-producing cotton and groundnut state, easing concerns over moisture shortages for crop planting and establishment. In contrast, dry weather prevailed from Punjab and Haryana southeastward into West Bengal and southwestern Bangladesh; the monsoon has yet to arrive in these key cotton, sugarcane, and rice areas, with rain needed over the next several weeks to ensure sufficient time for planting and crop growth for the 2009 monsoon season. Dry weather also returned to southern India, reducing soil moisture for rice and groundnut establishment. Showers (25-115 mm) prevailed in northeastern growing areas, however, maintaining adequate soil moisture for rice. In Pakistan, dry weather prevailed as producers await the onset of the South Asian monsoon for rain-fed summer crops. Overall the situation in South Asia remained precarious, with a delayed monsoon raising concerns for summer crops over northern portions of the subcontinent.

ARGENTINA: A dry weather pattern persisted throughout the region, with light showers (mostly less than 10 mm) confined to outlying farming areas of the northeast. Following last week's brief warm up, colder weather returned to the region (temperatures averaging about 1 degree C below normal); lows fell below -5 degrees C over a large portion of Buenos Aires and freezing temperatures were recorded as far north as Chaco. According to Argentina's ministry of agriculture (SAGPyA), wheat planting continued to lag the normal pace due to the lingering drought that still grips most major winter grain areas. However, the recent dryness has allowed summer crop harvesting to rapidly advance toward completion. Corn was 94 percent harvested as of June 25, 4 points ahead of last year.

BRAZIL: Rain (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) continued to benefit emerging to early vegetative winter wheat throughout the main production areas of the south. Temperatures were near to slightly above normal, with highs generally ranging in the lower to middle 20s degrees C; freezing temperatures stayed well south of the main farming areas. Isolated, unseasonable showers (locally exceeding 25 mm) continued in southern sections of Mato Grosso, but seasonable dryness dominated the remainder of the Center-West Region, promoting late development of safrinha corn and other secondary crops nearing maturity. Warm, dry weather fostered harvesting of coffee, sugarcane, and citrus in the main production areas of the southeast (Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Espirito Santo). Favorably dry conditions also continued in cotton areas of the northeastern interior, with mostly light showers (locally exceeding 25 mm) in sugarcane areas along the northeastern coast.

CANADA: Early-week rain (10-40 mm or more) provided a much-needed boost in topsoil moisture for germination and establishment of spring crops in previously dry locations of southern Alberta and western Saskatchewan. During the latter half of the week, temperatures rose as high as the lower to middle 30s degrees C as a warm air mass pushed northward across the U.S. border, spurring growth of crops and pastures while increasing evaporative losses. An increase in the amount and frequency of rain is needed in this region to reverse the effects of long-term drought. In the eastern Prairies, which have experienced adequate to locally excessive moisture since the start of the summer growing season, mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather (highs in the upper 20s to near 30 degrees C) promoted growth of spring crops, winter wheat, and pastures. Toward week's end, however, heavy rain (locally 50 mm or more) returned to parts of southern Manitoba.

In eastern Canada, warm, showery weather (temperatures averaging as much as 2 to 4 degrees C above normal and rainfall locally in excess of 25 mm) continued, although pockets of dryness persisted in Ontario's eastern growing areas. Additional rain would be welcome for filling winter grains and for summer crops that typically advance through reproduction during July.

MEXICO: Rain benefited corn and other rain-fed summer crops throughout the south. Scattered showers (10-50 mm or more) covered much of the southern plateau, and somewhat heavier rain (locally in excess of 100 mm) fell in the vicinity of Veracruz. Hurricane Andres (sustained winds briefly reaching 65 knots) helped to generate locally heavy showers along the southern Pacific Coast (Guerrero to Chiapas) while passing to the south of the country. Moisture from Andres also contributed to monsoonal rains (10-50 mm or more) in west-central Mexico, with locally heavy rain (greater than 100 mm) possibly affecting agriculture in Nayarit. However, mostly dry, seasonably hot weather maintained favorable conditions for the northwestern winter wheat harvest. In the northeast, mostly dry, occasionally hot weather (highs approaching 40 degrees C) allowed for rapid development of winter sorghum in the main production areas in and around Tamaulipas.