

Cold Snap Causing Damage to Ukraine and Russia Winter Crops

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GAITHERSBURG, MD - (February 1, 2012) Arctic high pressure developing across Ukraine and central Russia is resulting in very cold conditions as well as some damage to winter wheat and barley. "Snow cover is sufficient in many areas to insulate and protect the crops from damage." said Don Keeney, Senior Agricultural Meteorologist for MDA EarthSat Weather/CropCAST. "However, snow cover is a bit thin in far southeastern Ukraine and southern Russia, and we estimate about 15% of the winter wheat and 20% of the winter barley will suffer from winterkill damage." Snow must reach a depth of about 3-4" (8-10 cm) to adequately protect against damage when temperatures drop below the critical winterkill threshold of -4 F (-20 C). Still, significant declines in harvested acreage and production are expected from winter crops this year. "A very dry fall in much of Ukraine and western Russia prevented germination and proper establishment on 30-40% of the planted acreage." said Keeney. Most of these areas will be replanted to summer crops in the spring.

About MDA EarthSat Weather:

EarthSat Weather (<http://www.mdainformationsystems.com>) is the leading consulting group for weather risk and commodity weather products and services in the world. EarthSat Weather maintains a short-, medium-, and long-range forecast service; provides special reports on key market-moving concerns; and maintains high levels of communication, including 24/7/365 consultation with its worldwide client base. Our key clients include analysts and traders in weather risk, energy, and agricultural markets. MDA EarthSat Weather is a business area within MDA Information Systems Inc., a provider of essential geospatial data and analysis for decision making.

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