

Commodity Intelligence Report

March 7, 2019

Russia 2019/20 Winter Grains: Highest Planted Area in 9 Years

Planting of winter grains occurs from August until December and this year's planting outpaced the usual sowing rate (See Figure 1). Winter crops will emerge from dormancy in the spring and will be harvested in July through August. Winter wheat accounts for about 85 percent of the total winter grains crop in Russia and the remainder is divided between barley, rye and triticale. Winter wheat is mainly grown in European Russia, scattered between the Southern (43 percent of production), Central (27 percent), North Caucasus (18 percent), and Volga (12 percent) districts (See Figure 2).

According to data from the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, the area planted to winter grains in 2019/20 totaled 17.16 million hectares (mha) compared to 16.68 mha for 2018/19 (See Figure 3). The current area is the highest planted area since 2009 (the 2010/11 marketing year) and is up year-to-year by 3 percent. The largest increase in area by district came from the Volga district, which is up 0.30 mha or 7 percent year-to-year. Area is also up by 0.12 mha or 3 percent in the Central District and is essentially unchanged in the Southern District. Area decreased slightly in the North Caucasus by 0.04 mha (See Figure 4). The Central and Southern districts are the highest yielding areas for winter wheat and winter barley.

Fall conditions were favorable for the planting and establishment of Russia's winter grains with favorable soil moisture in the main winter wheat growing areas. Dry conditions with scattered showers allowed farmers to get into the field to rapidly sow the winter grain crops. Later in the autumn soil moisture conditions continued to be favorable for establishment (See Figure 5). Satellite-derived vegetation indices indicate that winter-crop conditions were favorable in most of European Russia in November prior to winter crops entering dormancy (See Figure 6). Furthermore, The Russian Ministry of Agriculture reported that winter crops were in good or satisfactory condition on 91.5 percent of the planted area as of February 12.

Cold temperatures occurred in the region at the end of January (See Figure 7) but there was little to no risk of winterkill since snowfall provided adequate protection (See Figure 8). Winterkill rates vary from year to year but have been minimal for the past three seasons (See Figure 9). Along with low rates of winterkill, Russian crop production has benefited over the last few seasons with a combination of favorable weather during the growing season and a steady increase of technology, including better seed varieties, machinery, and fertilizer application.

USDA global crop-production estimates for 2019/20 will be released on May 10, 2019. Current USDA area and production estimates for grains and other agricultural commodities are available on IPAD's Agricultural Production page or at PSD Online.

Figure 1

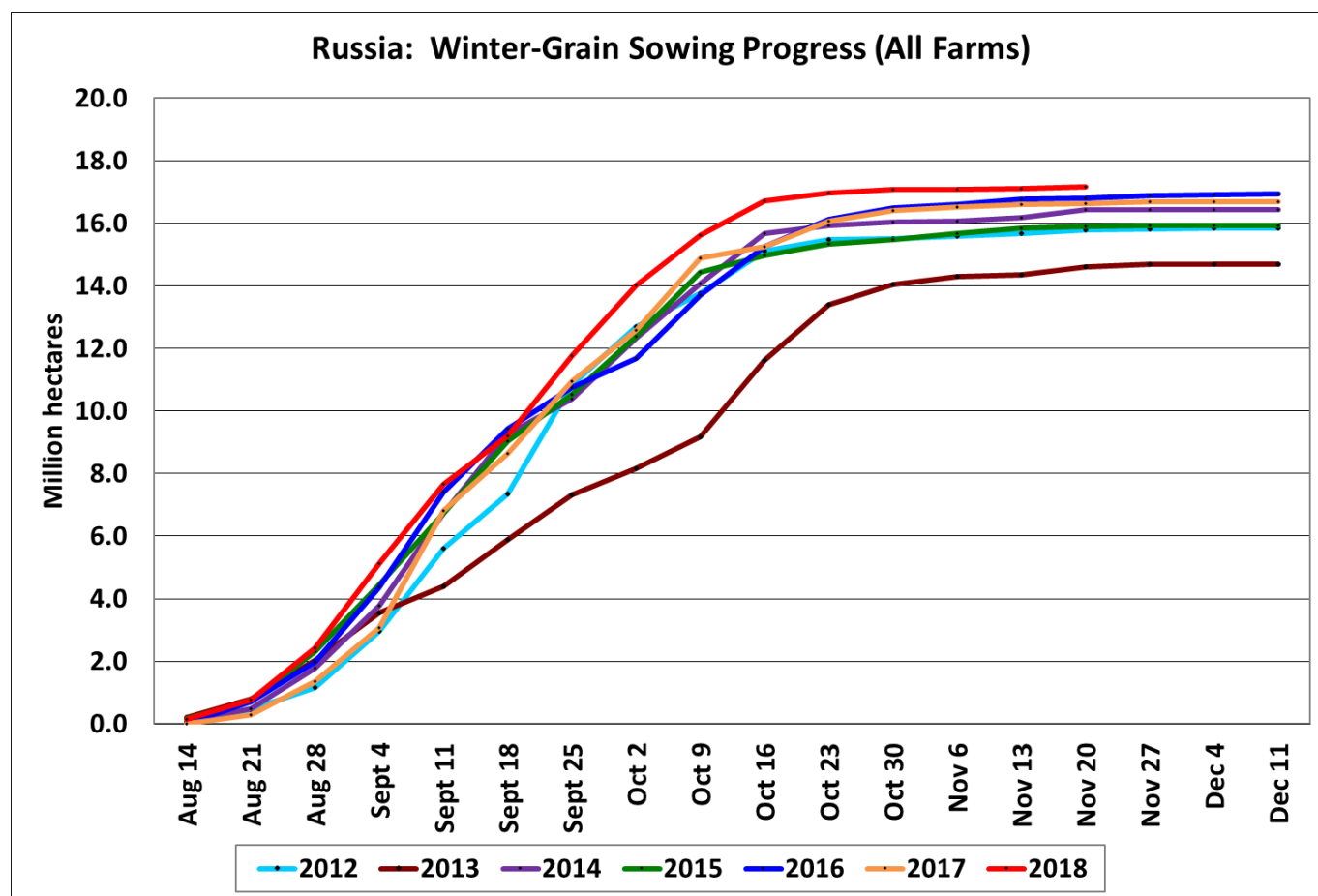
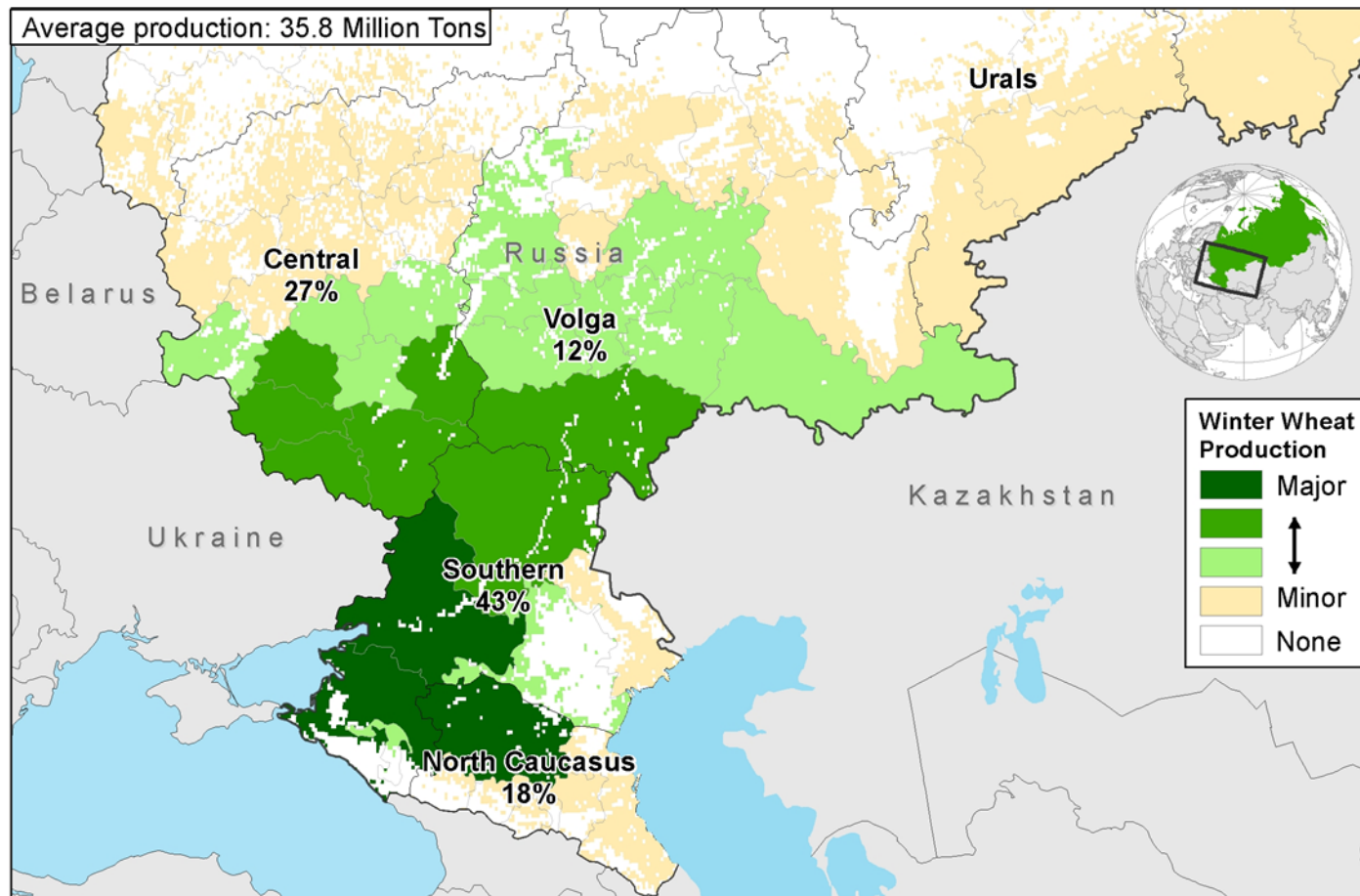


Figure 2

RUSSIA: Winter Wheat Production



Data Source: Rosstat, Average Crop Production 2011-2015; 0 115 230 460 Kilometers
IIASA and FAO (2008)

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Figure 3

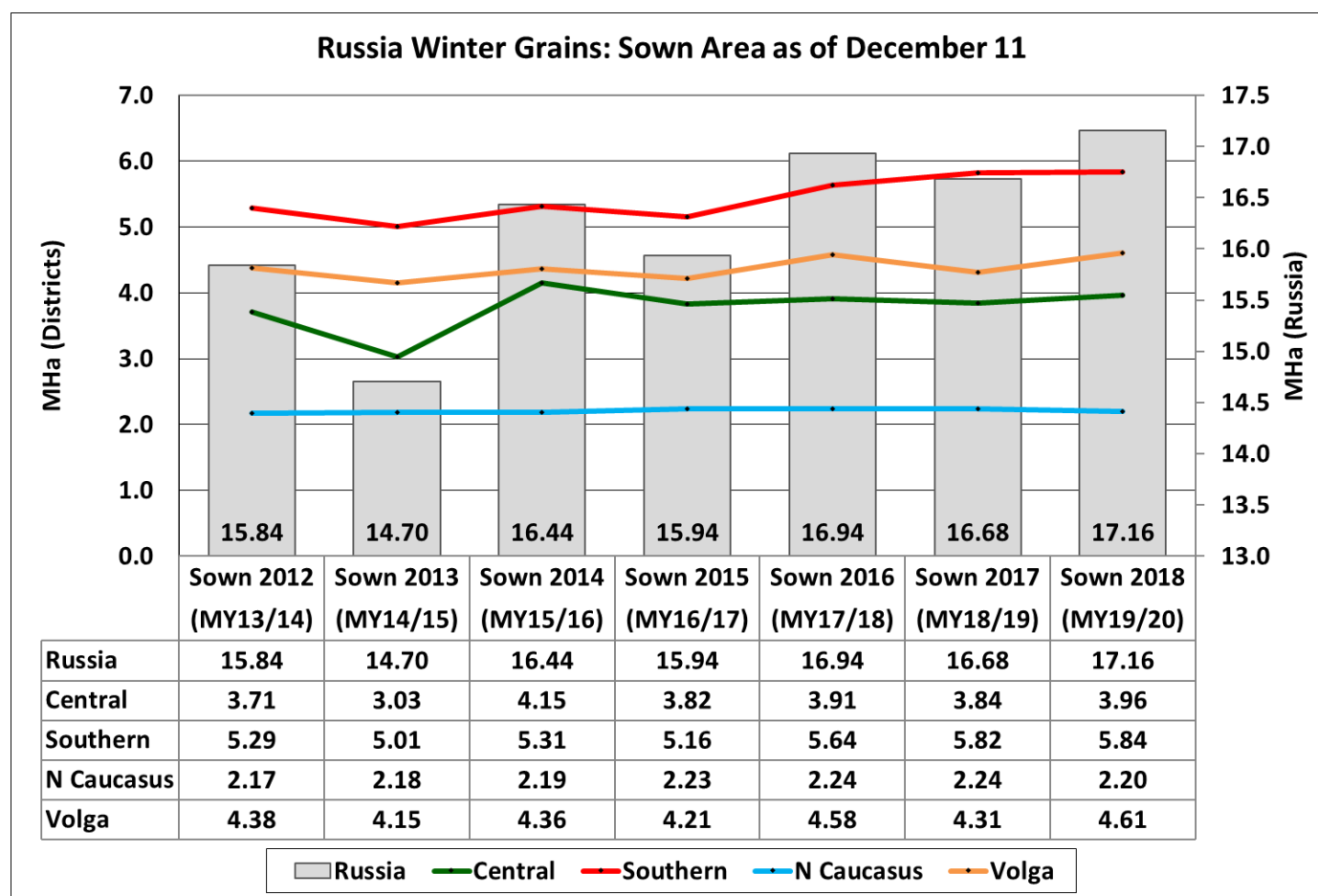


Figure 4

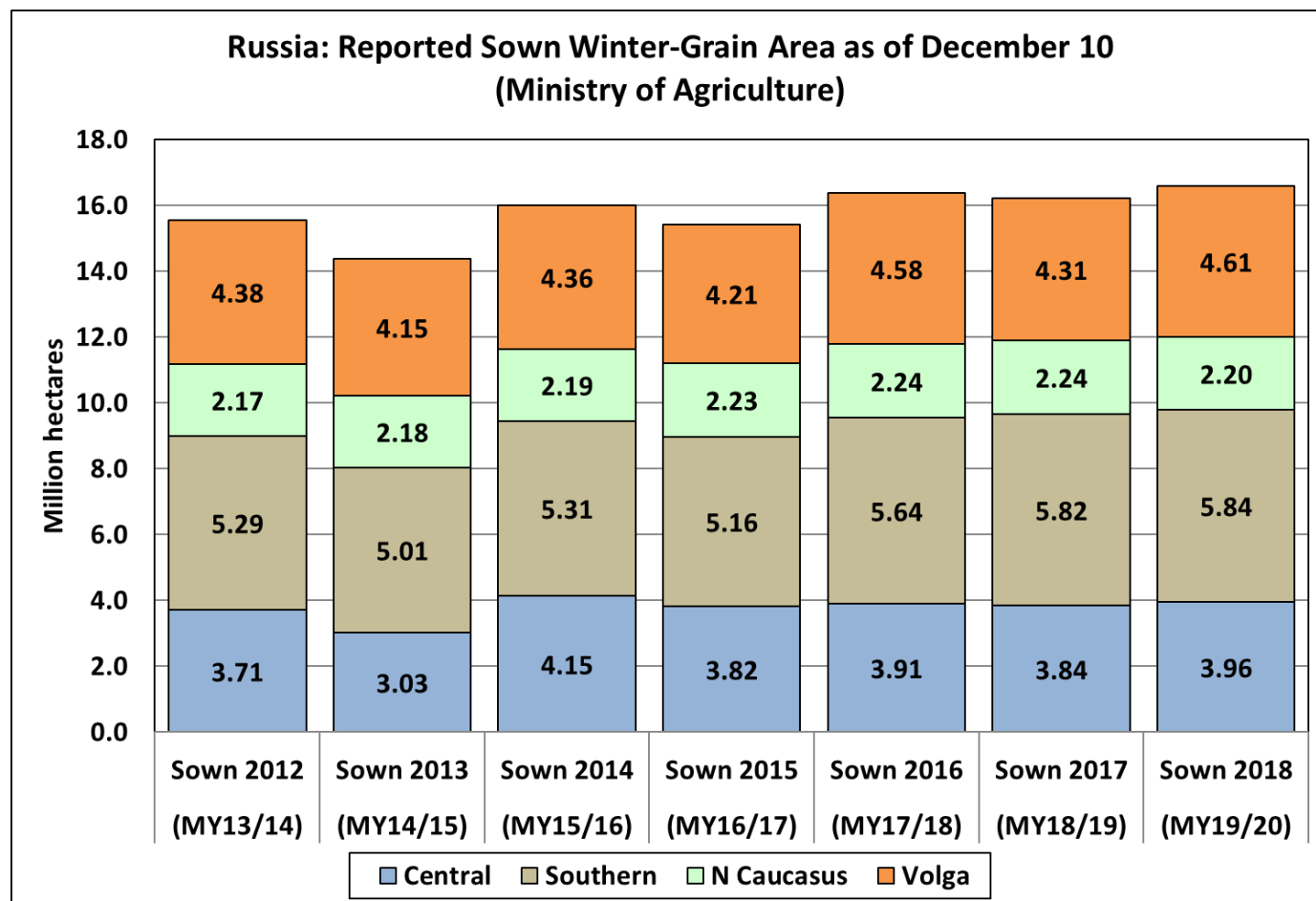
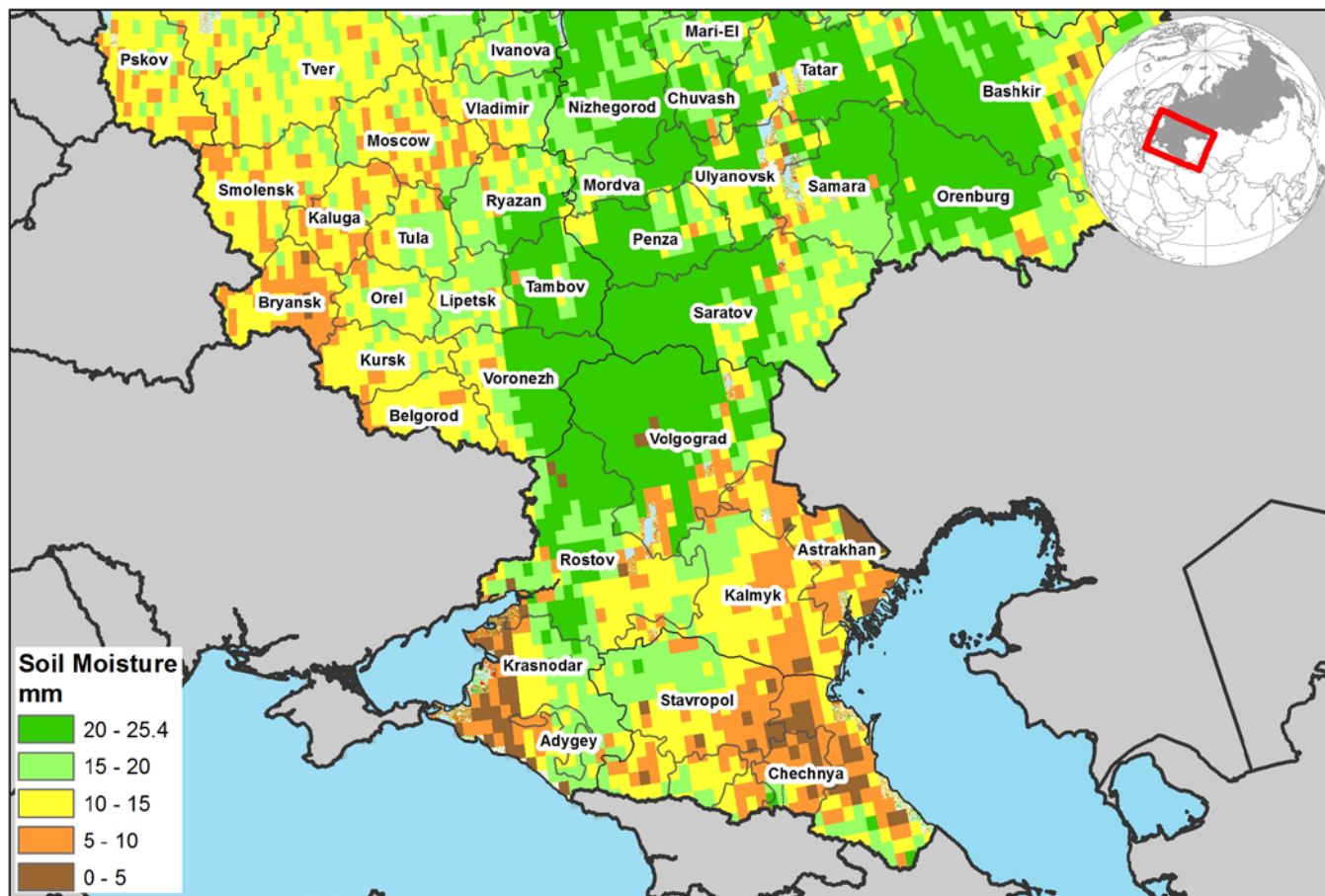


Figure 5

European Russia Surface Soil Moisture: November 11, 2018



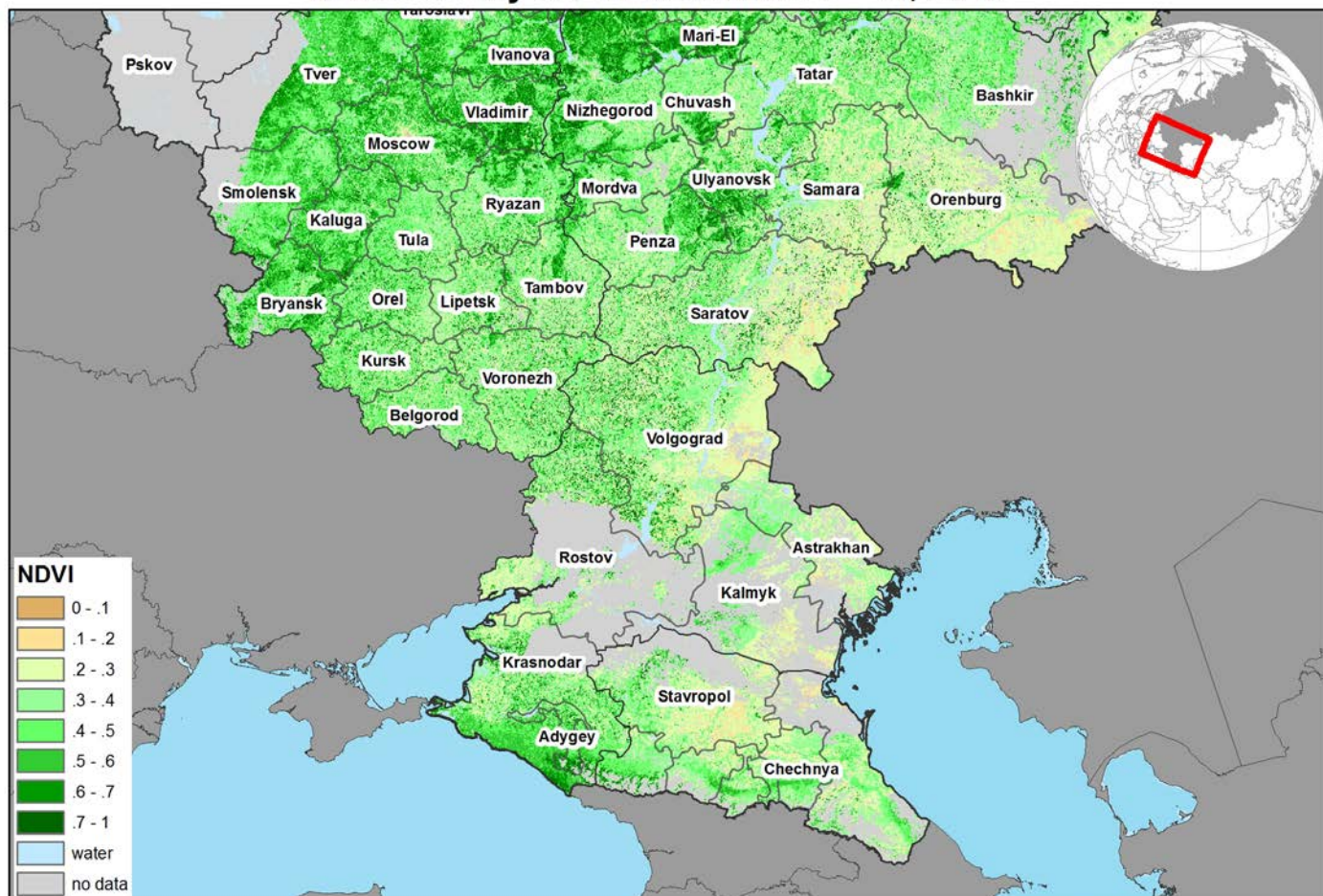
Source: NASA / Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP)

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Figure 6

European Russia MODIS 8-Day NDVI: November 9 - 16, 2018



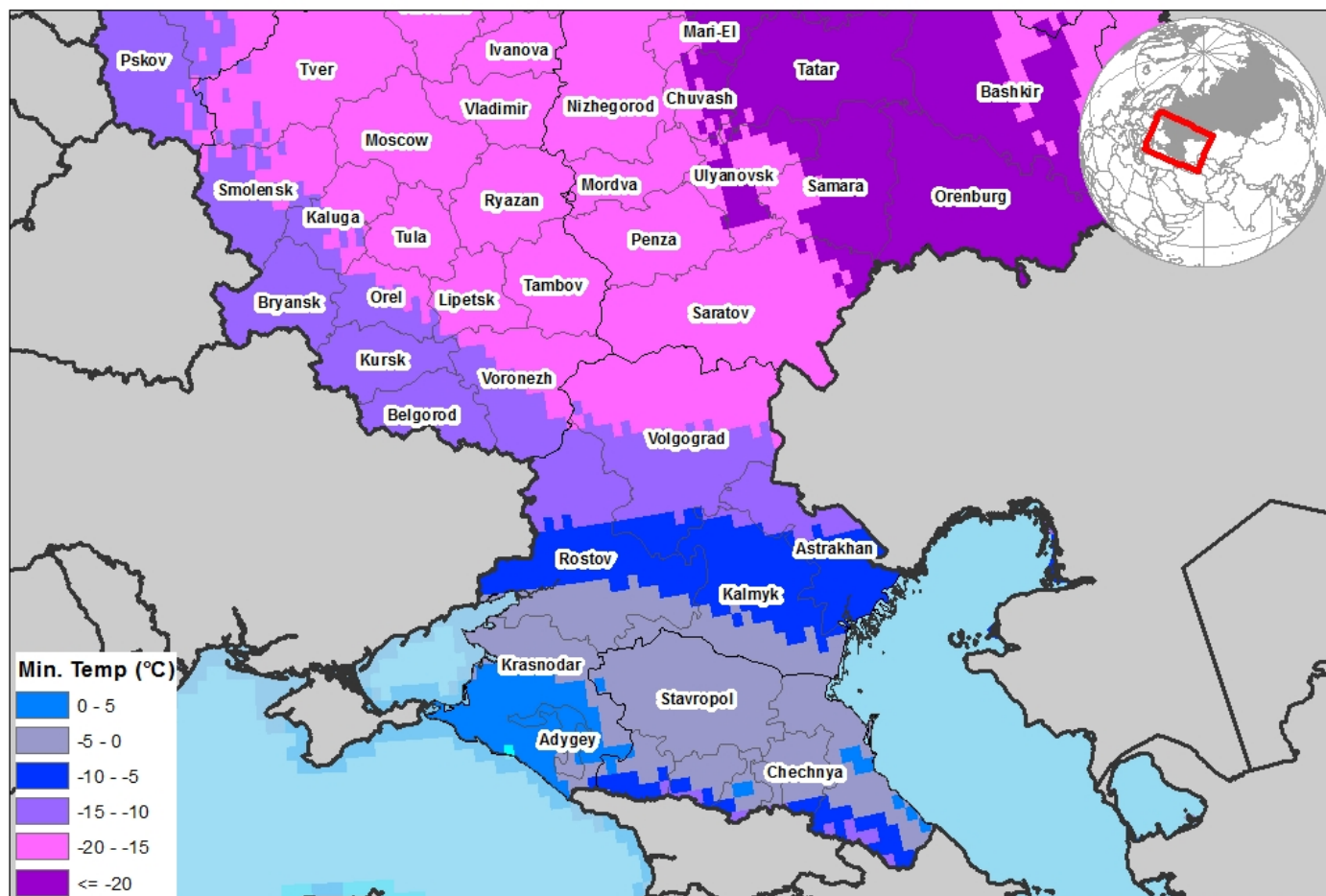
Source: USDA / NASA
Global Agricultural Monitoring Project (GLAM)

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Figure 7

European Russia
Minimum Temperature: January 21-27, 2019



Source: USAF 557th WW

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Figure 8

**MODIS Satellite Imagery
January 27, 2019**

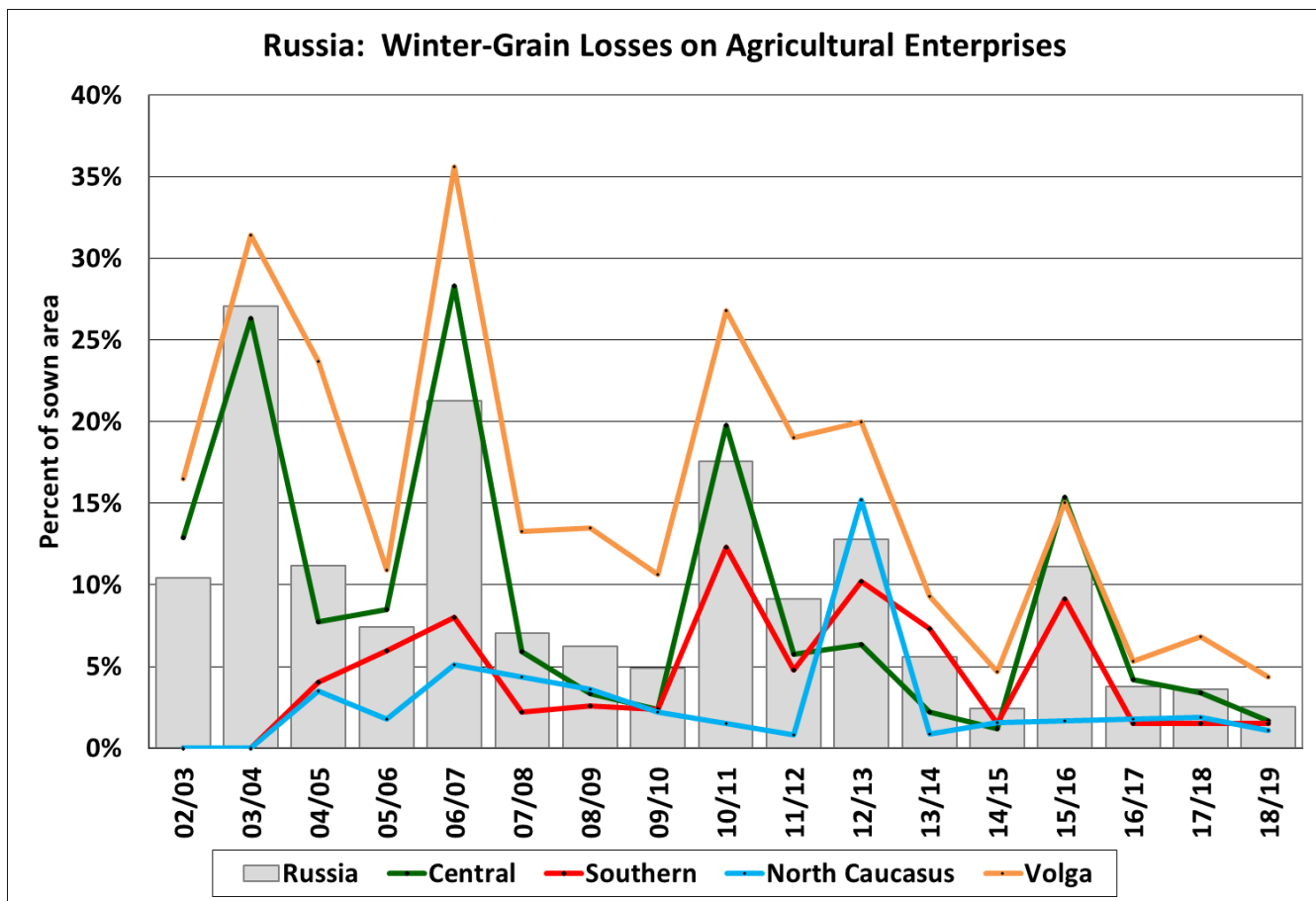


Source: USDA/NASA
Global Agriculture Monitoring Project (GLAM)

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Figure 9



Source: Rosstat

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Current area and production estimates for grains and other agricultural commodities are available on IPAD's Agricultural Production page:
[Crop Explorer https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/or](https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/or)

Production, Supply and Distribution Database (PSD Online):
<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdHome.aspx>

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