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AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

OF THE

STATE OF COLORADO

1892

COMPILED BY
SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ACT
OF THE
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.



DENVER, COLORADO: THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS. 1894.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

HON. NELSON O. McCLEES, Secretary of State:

Sir—I transmit herewith a compilation of the statistical reports furnished this office by the clerks of a portion of the counties of Colorado, the statistics being for the year 1892.

The act of 1883 which provides for this report requires the assessor of each county to collect and report to the clerk of his county the acreage and amount of crops of the various sorts cultivated, the number of head of live stock, and such other facts as shall serve to show the total agricultural product of the county for the preceding year. Under this law many of the assessors find it quite impossible to collect accurate information, and report that their compilations are not complete. Others patch up such reports as they can and send them to this office, doubtless glad of the saving clause—"to the best of my knowledge and belief"—in the certificate of correctness which must be attached to each report. others make no effort to collect statistics, justifying themselves, no doubt, with the reflection that hose that are collected are worthless. The result of all this is that the compilations made in this office are of almost no real value. Knowing what I do of the character of these statistics, and something of the extent of the products of many of the counties in the State, I would not dare to venture even an approximate estimate of the value of the agricultural output of the State. This is an unfortunate circumstance. If agricultural statistics are to be compiled at all, it ought to be by such methods and with such care as will insure substantial accuracy; and it ought to be possible for the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture to have at his command sources of information that would enable him to estimate with reasonable accuracy the value and amount of the agricultural products of the State. But, under present conditions, it is out of the question to make accurate and reliable estimates; and till he can do so with some confidence in their value as trustworthy information for the public the present secretary will make no estimates.

While the difficulties attending the collection of agricultural statistics are not all caused by the imperfections of the law, I am inclined to think that it will be necessary to amend the law in several particulars before really valuable statistical information can be obtained. It is possible that a change to the township system of assessing would be a step in the right direction. It is obvious to me that the same office that compiles the statistics should be entrusted with the task of furnishing blanks and instructions to the assessors. The present system doubles the chances of misunderstanding the intent of the blank forms and the reports made by the use of those forms.

You will observe that I report returns from only twenty-six of the fifty-six counties of the State. To get even this small number of reports it was necessary to wait more than a month after the time my report should have been filed in your office. It was necessary also to write to most of the county clerks, many of whom have not answered my inquiries. Appended to this report are extracts from the letters received from the various county clerks. In a few cases

Agricultural Statistics of Colorado, 1892.

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UNDER	ES IN	WHEA	AT.	TAO	rs	BARL	EY.	RYE.		CORN.	ъ	UCKWHEAT.	POTA	ATOES.	тімот	ну.	CLOVER.	NAT	IVE GRASS.	. ALF	FALFA.	SO	RGHUM.		OR	CHARDS.		MILLET.				SMA	LL FRUITS.			OREST	RES.	UTTER.	CHEESE.	oleon	IARGARINE.	BRES.	MOOL	. DAIRY	IORSES.	MULES.	ASSES.	ATTLE.	SHEEP.	SWINE.	MALS.		
NO, OF ACRES	NO. OF ACR	ACRES.	BUSHELS.	ACRES,	BUSHELS.	ACRES.	BUSHELS.	ACRES.	A 7 0 0 0 0	BUSHELS.	ACRES.	BUSHELS:	ACRES.	BUSHELS.	ACRES.	TONS.	ACRES.	ACRES.	TONS.	ACRES.	TONS.	ACRES.	SYRUP, GALLONS.	FEED,	BUSHELS. PEACHES, BUSHELS.	PEARS, BUSHELS.	TOTAL ACRES OF	ACRES,	TONS. STRAW- BERRIES,	BLACK- BERRIES,	RASP- BERRIES, QUARTS.	GOOSE- BERRIES, • QUARTS.	CURRANTS, QUARTS.	QUARTS. PLUMS, QUARTS.	POUNDS OF GRAPES.	TOTAL ACRES OF.	TREES, AC NUMBER FACTORIES.	POUNDS OF.	NUMBER FACTORIES.	POUNDS OF, NUMBER FACTORIES.	POUNDS OF.	NUMBER HIVES.	POUNDS OF HONEY.	SHORN SHORN NUMBER OF	COWS,	NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF C	NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	OTHER ANI	ELK.	MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.
Archuleta	662,544 69,920 30,073 66,252 52,899 887 13,334 14,504 194,920 109,718	26,937 240 2,618 5,611 825 129 1,755 613 678 1,100 790	510,171 4,800 31,183 29,342 17,325 932 31,047 15,325 8,776 27,500 24,490	5.977 720 154 2,775 751 9 1,793 2,379 4,618 2,100 3,200	153,602 21,600 2,623 10,000 22,530 150 57,464 80,886 89,822 47,500	2,682 22 60 529 145 13 229 42 100 60	440 908 7,100 - 3,524	1,609 20,5 25 7. 1,055 10,29 	50 95 I, 75 64 81 4. 400 4,	183 9 91 1 1 352 3 500 10 201 59 200 84	,188	13 28 		40,304 4,300 673 49,588 195 13,166 44,801 174,841 90,000 143,650	952 126 251 281 1,803 312 300 600	2,274 252 263 573 3,058 508 600 1,723	23 48 10 225	2,463 2,463 2,463 2,675 1,463 2,463 2,463 2,463 2,675 1,463 2,463	46 2,046 00 700	6 800 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	2,400 27 8,175 2,802 70 15,845 6,205 5,025	2,835 4 208	610 8. 32	8,c	2015 2010	5 10 20 20 217 4 61 8 275 55 24	6 1,119 4 100		24,2 273 1,0 9,0 10,c 158,6 41,6		200 8 7,015 	3,509 857 9,230 300 4,203 10,525 10,000	2,125 9,540 500 6,937 6,835 6,8 14,000 6	20 0	45.975	2	322 3 20	259,637 56,000 26,167 2,612 22,145 2,600 34,355 143,710 28,000 17,000		700		2	200 1; 1,586 44 289 6: 52,550 6 1,134 30 5,878	3,890 9,1 7,000 5 7,424 4 0,000 2 2,600 5 2,505 4 200 1 33,336 1,8 1,2 23,000 6	60 1,037 61 1,480 70 2,332 50 1,675 58 318 .84 4,009 15 2,028 32 8,405	815 32 127 148 94 8 230 25 337 210 98	19 29 71	3,110 1; 14,911 10 23,628 10 4,261 2,611 8 13,285 11 6,265 31,344 5.	7,603	4,502 9 49 4 371 1 266 8 988 2 553 103 819 308 558			In addition to the information given in the tabulated statements the clerks of Arapahoe, Baca, El Paso Kit Carson, Logan and Washington counties reports indicated below: ARAPAHOE— Pear trees, 12,000. BACA— Milo maize, 1,142 acres 7,713 bushels; broom corn 885 acres, 149 tons; rice corn, 44 acres, 463 bushels G corn, 203 acres, 2,67 bushels.
Gunnison 24,528 Kit Carson 2,040 La Plata 4,788 Logan 6,099 Ouray 6,723	18,823 31,800 6,320 5,120 1,038 3.037	6 9,536 880 3,942 412 464	99 153,718 14.536 57.471 9,484 14,384	277 1,124 1,534 2,370 446 1,643	6,828 32,130 49,787 39.546 11,334 53,774	171 678 181 478 30 38	3,072 16,342 2,186 7,645 1,180	28 3 1,380 18,4 28 8 357 5.4	.68 .41 7, .338 .51 3.	,676 122 24 ,620 55 337 6	,988	1 5 11 4 10	178 182 331 16 174 00 513	16,010 14,922 27,682 16,185 5,640	553 574 37 1,293	794 1,118 49 1,620	100	68 3. 94 IS7 I,	043 12,67 103 1,08 573 89 032 3,21 249 49 246 1,65	3 35 34 206 99 1,515 3 2,056 98 2,079 59 1,078	85 406 4,012 6,139 7,055 8,2667	1,262 155	1,955	2,697	632 550 19 482 260	3 3 90 130 45 2 6 3	78 21 378	1,011 2 2 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	2,107 3,1,331 3,	10	20 100 80 270 60 1,245	1,680 850 265 2,650	1,690 570 1,070 2,320	100	17	25 . 6	283 20 185	31,885 33,885 24,117 26,218 7,500 20,050	r r	7,789 0,800		136 44 150	3,250 - 2,600 6 5,000 3	59,550 I,6	, ,	63 102 106 134 91 122	2 167 5 2 2 150 180	6,000 4,389 11,721	1,420 ; 4,039 2,152 7,323 8,134 2,	3 95 1,242 176 261 -5 275 163			EL PASO— Acres farmed without irr gation, 20,313. KIT CARSON— Broom corn, 647 tons 56,700 ornamental trees.
Prowers 67,875 Rio Blanco 44,860 Routt 38,200 Washington 5,040 Yuma 5,765 Morgan 5,934	6,481 129,509 35,422 66,481 184,488 32,060 6,560 8,397	8,969 2,380 234 480 3,964 14,444 2,573 4,000	168,626 59,500 6,662 1,920 58,073 183,565 59,663 80,000	217 1,600 1,518 1,640 3,153 2,547 939 4,620	6,439 48,000 59,968 49,200 86,590 52,205 34,931	903 480 12 490 619 784 235	29,839 1,900 400 10,800 11,811 14,375 6,089 440	160 2,6 300 2,1 8 1 480 3,8 163 2,4	8,85 861 840 112 3,	353 590 9 9	,950 ,800	12 20 5 5 20 28	350	25,800 1,000 6,010 32,619 16,030 25,110 65,915 95,000	. 2,390	178 2,940 50 600		30 18, 1, 1, 50 12,	160 29,37 270 64	13 486 74 820 46 100 58 165 20 3,143		705 - 900 74 1,081	3,166	181	22		11 115 2 13 49 2		I,	301 301 ,010 460	62 170	29 	20			4	246 63 98 51 I	58,535 17,841 		5,400		12	65 1	54,978 13,044 94,059 98,708 8 30,835 7 17,780 209 2 30,000 3	1,637 1,331 1,331 1,075 1,307	71 69 126 84	37	38,351 2 3,257 5,178 74,778 4	7.854 4.324 3.457 99.744 6,777 2,232 12,105 9,680	366 445 109 165 375 2,069 247	1	13	LOGAN— Broom corn, 247 acres to tons. WASHINGTON— Lands cultivated, not uder ditch, 11,901 acres.
Totals 711,833 1,	750,587	93,980	1,631, 5 92	48,104	·:,253,407	8,981	188,887	7,799 97,6	534 64	,744 1,438	1,816	123 2,2	19 14,293	828,986	9,861	16,600	2,005	4,098 72	941 102,9	08 45,588	8 154,210	8,240	72,248	3,982 41	,288 7,32	25 748	5,133	2,134	3,711 159	0,008 24,2	50,868	44,525	51,004 7,	7,690 15,714	4 257,702	948 4	1,357 9	905,417	4 11	7,904 I	300	3,651	91,374 1,10	60,138 21,6	676 88,431	3,848	1,372	317,982 34	49,855 41	15,409	28	13	

the letters are from the assessors. They serve to emphasize the need of a change in method, if valuable information is to be gathered.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIÉL W. WORKING,

Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. The State Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colorado, January 4, 1894.

APPENDIX.

In answer to my request for statistics or for a statement of the reasons why the statistics have not been collected, letters have been received from fifteen counties. Extracts from these letters are given below. In some cases the entire letters are quoted:

Costilla County—

"It is next to impossible for our assessor to collect any statistics whatever. This county is largely settled by Mexicans, who have no idea how many acres they have under cultivation, and much less how many acres to each of the different cereals; and it is impossible for the assessor (who is generally a Mexican) to get an intelligent statement from any of them, or anything fit to be embodied into statistics; therefore this matter has long been given up as an impracticable job."

Custer County-

"No statistics have been filed in my office. For further information would refer you to the assessor."

Jefferson County—

"The county assessor having filed no report of the agricultural statistics in this office, consequently no report has been sent you."

Kiowa County-

"Statistics have not been turned over to me."

Lake County—

"There is no agricultural land in this county."

Larimer County—

"No agricultural statistics have been collected by any assessor during the time I have served as county clerk, and I understand for some time previous to that. I believe the reason is that the returns from other portions of the State were so incomplete as to make the statistics of no practical value; and our county commissioners declined to incur the necessary expense, and so notified the assessor he need not compile same."

Lincoln County—

"As our assessor did not collect any agricultural statistics, I am unable to make the report as requested."

Montezuma County—

"I have not as yet received the necessary blanks from the secretary of State."

Otero County-

"This office has not received a form from the secretary of State on which to make report referred to."

Park County—

"The county assessor has made no report to this office."

Pueblo County—

"The assessor informs me that he forwarded to your address two or three weeks ago the above-mentioned statistics."

Sedgwick County-

"See assessor."

San Juan County-

"As there are no agricultural products at all in San Juan county, fear you will have to excuse us."

Summit County—

"Having been appointed by the commissioners to fill an unexpired term as assessor, and only having been instructed in my work as far as related to assessments, the gathering of statistics as a portion of my duties has been entirely overlooked. If you will furnish me with the required blanks, I will attend to this matter at once."

Weld County-

"The assessor has not completed and turned over to the clerk any statement from which to tabulate the agricultural statistics."