

Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Crop Estimates

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Winter Wheat.—The area sown to winter wheat in Colorado in the fall of 1920 was approximately 920,000 acres compared with about 1,000,000 acres harvested from the 1919 sowing. On April 1 the condition was estimated at 85 per cent of normal compared with 75 per cent on April 1 last year and an average of 90 per cent on April 1 for the past ten years. The forecast at this time, on the basis of an average yield of about 18 bushels per acre and upon the assumption of no abandonment of acreage and average influences on the crop to harvest, is 16,422,000 bushels compared with a final estimate last year of 17,195,000 bushels and a final estimate for 1919 of 11,917,000 bushels. Weather and moisture conditions have been so favorable that the crop is in nearly as good condition as on last December, having declined only two points. Present indications are that the per cent of abandonment by May 1st will be comparatively small.

For the United States the winter wheat crop had a condition of 91 per cent of normal on April 1 compared with 75.6 per cent last year at this time and 83.6 per cent the 10-year average. The crop improved 3.1 per cent from the last December figure. Upon the assumption of average abandonment of acreage and average influences on the crop to harvest, the estimate indicates a production of 621,000,000 bushels compared with 577,763,000 bushels last year and 729,503,000 bushels in 1919. The area sown in the fall of 1920 was 40,605,000 acres compared with 41,757,000 acres sown in the fall of 1919, of which only about 37,773,000 acres were harvested. The record crop of 1919 was harvested from 49,105,000 acres.

Winter Rye.—The outlook for the winter rye crop of Colorado is promising. The same factors which have operated favorably on winter wheat have also been favorable to rye prospects. The condition of this crop for Colorado improved 5 per cent since December 1st, and on April 1 was 90 per cent of normal, compared with 75 per cent a year ago and the 10-year average on April 1 of 89 per cent. From this condition the forecast of the estimated production of rye in Colorado this year on 111,000 acres, on the basis of an average yield of about 13 bushels per acre, is 1,448,550 bushels, compared with 1,357,000 bushels harvested for grain last year from 125,000 acres sown.

For the United States the average condition of rye on April 1 was 90.3 per cent normal, against 90.5 per cent last December, 86.8 per cent on April 1, 1920, and 88.4 per cent for the past ten years on April 1. Upon the assumption of average abandonment of acreage and average influences upon the crop to harvest, the condition April 1 indicates a production of 66,386,000 bushels, compared with 69,318,000 bushels last year, 8,909,000 bushels in 1919, which was the record crop, and 59,933,000 bushels the previous 5-year average. The area sown to rye last fall was 4,653,000 acres, compared with 2,250,000 acres harvested in 1919 and 7,232,000 acres sown in the fall of 1918.

Breeding Sows.—The estimated number of breeding sows in the State of Colorado at this time is shown by the average of reports as about 100 per cent of the number on a year ago, compared with 88 per cent of the number on April 1, 1919. On the basis of these figures the number of brood sows in Colorado on April 1 this year and last was about 62,000 head. This figure will likely be increased when revision is made. To compare with the preliminary census figures, which showed the number of brood sows on January 1, 1920, to be 79,658, and all swine about 450,000. Reports January 1, 1921, showed that all swine had decreased about 15 per cent during the year. The number of mature hogs assessed in the state on April 1, 1920, was 177,497, compared with 95,188 April 1, 1919, and 194,576 assessed April 1, 1918. The total number of hogs in

the state as estimated by the Bureau of Crop Estimates on January 1, 1921, was 325,000, compared with 382,000 January 1, 1920, and 406,000 January 1, 1919. These figures are comparable with each other in a percentage way, but will later be modified to conform with the numbers indicated by the census January 1, 1920, as referred to above. Reports indicate that there is some scarcity of market hogs in the state, that there has been an active demand for brood sows, and that farmers are again stocking up and increasing their swine holdings, stimulated by the large supplies of cheap feed available.

The number of breeding sows in the United States at this time is estimated to be 8,786,000, or 97.8 per cent of last year's number, 8,985,000 head, or 90.1 per cent of the number April 1, 1919, which was 9,970,000 head.

Farm Labor Supply, etc.—The supply of farm labor in Colorado is reported as about 132 per cent of last year's supply at this time and 105 per cent of normal supply for April 1, compared with 80 per cent of normal reported a year ago and 90 per cent of normal on April 1, 1919. The demand for farm labor has materially decreased during the past year and is now, according to reports, only about 82 per cent of the demand at this time last year and only about 87 per cent of normal, compared with 99 per cent of normal a year ago and 103 per cent of normal on April 1, 1919. Assuming that normally the supply of and demand for farm labor are about equal, this means that there are now about 121 men for each 100 jobs on Colorado farms, where last year there were only 81, and two years ago only about 87 men available for each 100 jobs. These figures indicate that there is either less acreage to be farmed or that such crops are to be grown as will require less labor. Farmers in many sections express discouragement and uncertainty on account of the continued low prices of farm products and comments are to the effect that many will plant only such acreages and crops as they can care for with their own labor. Indications are that seed supplies are plentiful but that farm owners and renters are seriously affected by the stringency in the money situation, and unwilling to assume any unnecessary financial risks. Reports indicate that about 12.7 per cent of the non-irrigated farms and 3.5 per cent of the irrigated farms will not be operated this season. Many farms are also for lease.

In the United States the farm labor supply at present is estimated at 95.2 per cent of normal, compared with 92.4 per cent of normal reported on April 1 a year ago and 84.4 per cent of normal April 1, 1919. There has been generally a heavy decrease in the demand for farm labor, so that the demand is now only 87.5 per cent of normal, compared with 85.3 per cent a year ago. Assuming that normally the supply of and demand for farm labor are equal, these figures indicate that there are now about 199 men for each 100 jobs, where last year there were only about 69 men and on April 1, 1919, about 83 men available for each 100 jobs. The great change in the labor supply and demand that has taken place is about equally due to greater numbers of men seeking farm work and smaller numbers of farmers desiring to hire.

Farm Wages.—Reports concerning wages of male farm labor in Colorado show the average for the state to be, when hired by the month with board, \$37.80, compared with \$65.30 last December and \$32.50 in December, 1916. Corresponding figures for men hired by the month, board not furnished, were \$62.37 at the present time, compared with \$95.00 last December and \$47.50 in December, 1916. Complete figures indicate that the wages for farm labor have materially decreased during the past few months and are closely approaching the figures of the pre-war period.

Potato Acreage, 1921.—Replies to preliminary inquiries on the intentions of farmers to plant potatoes indicate that the acreage to be devoted to this crop in Colorado this year will be about 103 per cent of last year's acreage. This would mean a planting of about 80,000 acres, compared with 77,629 acres last year and 92,500 acres in 1919. This inquiry was made, and these figures are reported in order that farmers throughout the state may understand the trend of the potato business and, if they so desire, may increase or decrease their acreage. Reports from all parts of the state indicate that seed potatoes are generally ample and reasonable in price. Similar reports also show that there are ample supplies of nearly all kinds of grains and other seeds available and usually at fair figures.

Agricultural Outlook.—Replies to the special inquiry concerning the approximate amount of moisture in the soil as compared with normal for April 1 show an average for all parts of the state of about 87 per cent, with a marked deficiency in the non-irrigated sections immediately east of the mountains, including parts of Larimer, Boulder, Weld, Arapahoe, Jefferson and Pueblo counties; while exceptionally good conditions are reported as prevailing in the northwest counties and in the extreme southeastern parts of the state.

PER CENT OF NORMAL CONDITION OF WINTER WHEAT AND RYE, AND THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK COMPARED WITH NORMAL APRIL 1, AS REPRESENTED BY ESTIMATES OF SOIL MOISTURE.

| District and County | Winter Wheat | | | Moisture Rye | Moisture | District and County | Winter Wheat | | | Moisture Rye | Moisture |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|-----|--------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|-----|--------------|----------|
| | Irrig. | Non-irrig. | All | | | | Irrig. | Non-irrig. | All | | |
| 1. Northwest— | | | | | | 6. East Central— | | | | | |
| Grand | 90 | 95 | 91 | 95 | 93 | Arapahoe | 95 | 84 | 84 | 83 | 74 |
| Jackson | | | | | 100 | Cheyenne | | 88 | 88 | 85 | 89 |
| Moffat | 94 | 96 | 96 | 100 | 104 | Douglas | 100 | 98 | 98 | 103 | 85 |
| Rio Blanco | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 100 | Elbert | | 93 | 93 | 98 | 91 |
| Routt | 98 | 91 | 91 | 80 | 99 | El Paso | | 92 | 92 | 96 | 88 |
| 2. North Central— | | | | | | 7. Southwest— | | | | | |
| Adams | 88 | 84 | 84 | 86 | 86 | Archuleta | | | | | |
| Boulder | 88 | 88 | 88 | 85 | 70 | Dolores | | | | | |
| Denver | | | | | | Hinsdale | | | | | |
| Larimer | 77 | 74 | 75 | 77 | 45 | La Plata | 96 | 93 | 95 | | 89 |
| Weld | 84 | 69 | 73 | 79 | 75 | Mineral | | | | | |
| 3. Northeast— | | | | | | 8. South Central— | | | | | |
| Logan | 87 | 78 | 78 | 79 | 79 | Alamosa | | | | | 78 |
| Morgan | 99 | 85 | 86 | 89 | 89 | Conejos | 80 | | 80 | | 80 |
| Phillips | | 85 | 85 | 83 | 80 | Costilla | | | | 100 | 90 |
| Sedgwick | 90 | 84 | 84 | 95 | 80 | Custer | | | | | 80 |
| Washington | 90 | 89 | 89 | 88 | 86 | Huerfano | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 92 |
| Yuma | | 87 | 87 | 90 | 90 | Rio Grande | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 78 |
| 4. West Central— | | | | | | 9. Southeast— | | | | | |
| Delta | 99 | | 99 | | 86 | Baca | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 150 |
| Fagle | | | | | 98 | Bent | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Garfield | 100 | 99 | 100 | 98 | 104 | Crowley | 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gunnison | | | | | 100 | Kiowa | | 80 | 80 | 90 | 90 |
| Mesa | 95 | 95 | 95 | | 95 | Las Animas | 96 | 100 | 100 | 95 | 106 |
| Montrose | 98 | 100 | 99 | 110 | 91 | Otero | 96 | 40 | 96 | 90 | 92 |
| Ouray | | | | | 100 | Prowers | 99 | 104 | 99 | 97 | 92 |
| Pitkin | 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | Pueblo | 95 | 61 | 65 | 78 | 54 |
| 5. Central— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chaffee | | | | | 83 | | | | | | |
| Clear Creek | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fremont | 89 | 90 | 90 | 92 | 88 | | | | | | |
| Gilpin | | | | | 100 | | | | | | |
| Jefferson | 95 | 88 | 92 | 90 | 70 | | | | | | |
| Lake | | | | | 100 | | | | | | |
| Park | | | | | 90 | | | | | | |
| Summit | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Teller | | | | | 95 | | | | | | |

COMPARATIVE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICAL DATA FOR APRIL 1.

| | COLORADO | | | UNITED STATES | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 |
| Winter Wheat— | | | | | | |
| Acres | | 920,000 | 1,000,000 | | 40,605,000 | 41,757,000 |
| Condition, per cent | 85 | 75 | *90 | 91.0 | 75.6 | *83.6 |
| Production (forecast) bus. | 16,422,000 | 17,195,000 | 11,917,000 | 621,000,000 | 577,763,000 | 729,503,000 |
| Winter Rye— | | | | | | |
| Acres | | 111,000 | 125,000 | | 4,653,000 | 5,250,000 |
| Condition, per cent | 90 | 75 | *89 | 90.3 | 86.8 | *88.4 |
| Production (forecast) bus. | 1,448,550 | 1,357,000 | 1,188,000 | 66,386,000 | 69,318,000 | †59,933,000 |
| Breeding Sows— | | | | | | |
| Per cent compared with last year | 100 | 88 | †105 | 97.8 | 90.1 | †100.3 |
| Number of all swine January 1 | 325,000 | 382,000 | 406,000 | 66,649,000 | 72,909,000 | 74,584,000 |
| Number of brood sows April 1 | 62,000 | 62,000 | 70,000 | 8,786,000 | 8,985,000 | 9,970,000 |
| Farm Labor Supply— | | | | | | |
| Per cent compared with normal | 105 | 80 | 90 | 95.2 | 72.4 | 84.4 |
| Farm Labor Requirements— | | | | | | |
| Per cent compared with normal | 87 | 99 | 103 | 87.5 | 105.3 | 101.8 |
| Per cent of supply compared to demand | 120.6 | 81 | 87 | 120.2 | 68.8 | 82.9 |

*Ten-year average. †Compared with 1918. ‡Pre-war five-year average.

BEEF SUGAR PRODUCTION, 1920 (REVISED FIGURES)
(1 ton = 2,000 pounds.)

| State and Year | Sugar Made | Area Harvested | Beets Worked | | Beets Paid For | | Average Price Paid for Beets, per Ton | Total Amount Paid for Beets | Number of Acres in Operation | Days of Operation | Average Extraction Based on Weight of Beets* | Average Sugar in Beets† | Average Purity of Beet Juice‡ |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Amount | Average per Acre | Amount | Average per Acre | | | | | | | |
| California: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 157,997 | 132,813 | 1,051,889 | 8.56 | 1,072,828 | 8.74 | 14,096,000 | 10 | 90 | 15.97 | 15.97 | 17.66 | 81.44 |
| 1919..... | 131,172 | 107,174 | 804,642 | 7.51 | 815,896 | 7.61 | 11,551,000 | 10 | 76 | 16.30 | 16.30 | 17.87 | 82.02 |
| Colorado: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 294,482 | 219,847 | 2,165,737 | 9.85 | 2,325,003 | 10.58 | 27,637,000 | 17 | 98 | 13.60 | 13.60 | 15.81 | 85.15 |
| 1919..... | 193,890 | 182,616 | 1,456,113 | 9.07 | 1,764,772 | 9.66 | 19,143,000 | 15 | 87 | 11.71 | 11.71 | 13.62 | 83.85 |
| 1918..... | 191,880 | 135,882 | 1,353,277 | 10.83 | 1,443,846 | 11.47 | 14,474,000 | 14 | 76 | 14.07 | 14.07 | 16.10 | 86.96 |
| Idaho: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 57,603 | 45,810 | 413,178 | 9.02 | 404,078 | 8.82 | 4,889,000 | 6 | 72 | 13.29 | 13.29 | 16.26 | 86.41 |
| 1919..... | 26,159 | 30,331 | 196,847 | 6.48 | 203,168 | 6.70 | 2,235,000 | 9 | 50 | 15.48 | 15.48 | 16.48 | 86.15 |
| Michigan: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 155,899 | 149,559 | 1,495,868 | 8.32 | 1,312,883 | 8.78 | 13,226,000 | 17 | 87 | 13.34 | 13.34 | 15.79 | 84.04 |
| 1919..... | 130,385 | 123,375 | 1,032,018 | 8.36 | 1,211,018 | 9.82 | 15,158,000 | 16 | 84 | 12.63 | 12.63 | 14.57 | 81.78 |
| Nebraska: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 89,518 | 72,296 | 669,666 | 9.26 | 717,956 | 9.93 | 6,587,000 | 5 | 110 | 13.37 | 13.37 | 15.74 | 83.94 |
| 1919..... | 60,870 | 59,113 | 554,100 | 9.37 | 600,730 | 10.16 | 4,108,000 | 4 | 112 | 10.39 | 10.39 | 13.14 | 82.80 |
| Ohio: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 47,073 | 49,199 | 332,273 | 7.77 | 435,928 | 8.86 | 4,313,000 | 5 | 100 | 12.31 | 12.31 | 15.44 | 82.45 |
| 1919..... | 31,864 | 30,909 | 291,583 | 9.43 | 326,962 | 10.58 | 4,108,000 | 5 | 79 | 10.93 | 10.93 | 14.15 | 82.13 |
| Utah: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 162,588 | 112,567 | 1,261,041 | 11.20 | 1,339,843 | 12.35 | 16,713,000 | 18 | 102 | 12.89 | 12.89 | 15.62 | 84.27 |
| 1919..... | 101,023 | 103,247 | 808,122 | 8.30 | 1,013,873 | 9.34 | 11,148,000 | 18 | 84 | 11.12 | 11.12 | 13.87 | 83.39 |
| Wisconsin: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 20,943 | 20,686 | 168,854 | 8.16 | 190,203 | 9.19 | 1,940,000 | 5 | 80 | 12.40 | 12.40 | 15.86 | 82.53 |
| 1919..... | 10,636 | 12,100 | 105,578 | 8.73 | 117,443 | 9.71 | 1,411,000 | 4 | 60 | 10.07 | 10.07 | 13.16 | 81.73 |
| Other: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 83,918 | 79,539 | 642,746 | 8.07 | 636,471 | 8.75 | 8,025,000 | 12 | 70 | 13.06 | 13.06 | 15.46 | 83.12 |
| 1919..... | 40,450 | 43,539 | 338,564 | 7.77 | 365,616 | 8.75 | 4,050,000 | 11 | 52 | 11.95 | 11.95 | 14.27 | 83.14 |
| United States: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920..... | 1,090,021 | 872,376 | 7,939,222 | 9.17 | 8,546,193 | 9.80 | 99,426,000 | 98 | 91 | 13.63 | 13.63 | 15.99 | 83.97 |
| 1919..... | 726,451 | 692,456 | 5,882,557 | 8.50 | 6,421,478 | 9.27 | 75,426,000 | 89 | 89 | 12.84 | 12.84 | 14.48 | 82.84 |
| 1918..... | 760,950 | 594,010 | 5,577,506 | 9.39 | 5,948,798 | 10.01 | 59,494,000 | 91 | 84 | 13.64 | 13.64 | 16.18 | 84.70 |
| 1917..... | 765,207 | 664,797 | 5,625,545 | 8.46 | 5,980,377 | 9.00 | 44,192,000 | 91 | 71 | 14.21 | 14.21 | 16.28 | 82.80 |
| 1916..... | 820,667 | 665,308 | 5,919,673 | 8.90 | 6,228,256 | 9.36 | 38,199,000 | 74 | 82 | 13.86 | 13.86 | 16.20 | 84.74 |
| 1915..... | 874,220 | 611,301 | 6,150,293 | 10.1 | 6,511,274 | 10.7 | 36,950,000 | 67 | 80 | 14.21 | 14.21 | 16.49 | 84.38 |

* Acreage and production of beets are credited, as in former reports, to the State in which the beets were made into sugar. For preliminary reports of acreage and beet tonnage by States where grown, see monthly Crop Reporter for December, 1920, p. 148.

† Based upon weight of beet.

‡ Percentage of sucrose (pure sugar) in the total soluble solids of the beets.