

Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Crop Estimates

H. C. Taylor, *Chief*

W. W. Putnam, *Agricultural Statistician*

In Cooperation with
Colorado State Board of Immigration
Division of Agricultural Statistics

Edward D. Foster, *Commissioner*

Howard D. Sullivan, *Deputy*

Stocks of grain on Colorado farms the first day of March were nearly 10,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. The reserves of the four principal cereals grown in the state totalled 15,194,000 bushels, compared with 28,668,000 bushels last year, and 10,421,000 bushels in 1920. All cereals showed a reduction with the exception of oats. Smaller crops of each grain, except oats, and the producers' need for cash are the principal factors in the greatly reduced stocks of this year.

Corn—Based on the assumption that the entire acreage planted to corn in the state has been harvested for grain during the past three years, of the 15,979,000 bushels estimated for the state last year only about 38 percent remained on the farms March 1, compared with 54 percent a year ago and 35 percent in 1920. Expressed in bushels, the reserve this year is 6,072,000 bushels, compared with 13,084,000 bushels the same date last year. The reserve of 1920 was 5,360,000 bushels. The shipments of the 1921 crop from the counties where grown are indicated as 27 percent or about 4,314,000 bushels, compared with 32 percent or 7,512,000 bushels for the preceding year. The season of 1921 was favorable for maturing the corn. The quality of last year's crop is rated at 85 percent of normal, 1 point better than for 1920, and 6 points above the 10 year average. Special reports during the past three years indicate that approximately 80 percent of the acreage planted for corn each year was harvested for grain, about 5 percent usually harvested for silage, and the remainder either harvested for forage alone, fed in the fields or abandoned. Of the reserves mentioned above approximately 20 percent are in the four forms last mentioned.

Wheat—The reserve of wheat on the farms March 1 in Colorado amounted to about 18 percent of last year's total crop of 23,239,000 bushels, or 4,183,000 bushels, compared with a hold-over last year of 28 percent, amounting to 7,076,000 bushels. The shipment of wheat from the 1921 crop amounts to 15,164,000 bushels (65 percent), compared with 16,175,000 bushels (64 percent) of the 1920 crop, and 11,464,000 bushels (63 percent) of the 1919 crop. In this state a large percent of the wheat is shipped out of the counties where grown, as it is marketed principally in states east, and to mills in Colorado which are located in the larger industrial centers, and in counties adjacent to or somewhat remote from the counties in which most of the wheat is grown.

Oats—Of the 6,727,000 bushel crop of oats, produced in the state in 1921, nearly half are held as reserves, or about 3,027,000 bushels, compared with 3,020,000 bushels (47 percent) of the preceding crop. Oats shipments are expected to be about 700,000 bushels more than last year, and will amount to about 1,951,000 bushels.

Barley—Of the 4,444,000 bushel barley crop, of last year, about 1,867,000 bushels (42 percent) were held on the farm March 1, compared with 2,487,000 bushels (47 percent) of the crop of the preceding year. About 200,000 bushels less barley are being moved out of the counties where grown than for last year, or about 1,644,000 bushels (37 percent), compared to 1,852,000 bushels (65 percent) shipped from the 1920 crop.

For comparative figures, see detailed table on pages 2 and 3.

Lands—The value of lands in Colorado compared with last year show declines ranging from a few cents in the case of the less valuable classes to as much as \$24.00 per acre in the case of all irrigated plow

lands. In the case of all lands taken together the declines amount generally to from three to nine percent. The peak in values of irrigated lands was apparently reached in 1920, while that of the non-irrigated lands was reached in 1921. The term "All Plow Land" as used in these tables is comparable with the census classification, "Improved Farm Land" and includes all land that is now or has been under cultivation, or is occupied by farm buildings. The census of 1920 gave the number of acres included in this class as about 7,745,000. The term "All farm lands," as used in the tables, includes improved and unimproved farm lands as reported by the census bureau, and covers all lands used for agricultural purposes, including pasture, and aggregated in 1920, 24,460,000 acres. The average value of all farm lands as shown by the census bureau was \$31.22 per acre. The average number of acres of all farm land per farm in 1920 was 408.1 acres. The average number of acres of improved land per farm was 129.2 acres. The average value of the land per farm in 1920 was \$12,741.00. The average value of improvements per farm was \$1,709.00, or about \$4.14 per acre. The average values of the different classes of land in the tables that follow on this and pages 3 and 4 for the state as a whole are the averages of the opinions of all reporters from all counties without modification. The range in value of farm lands in the counties varies widely, not so much on account of difference in the value of land for actual agricultural production, but because of the varied demand for farm lands in the different sections of the state. Demand is one of the main controlling factors in fixing the price at which farm lands sell.

The county table published on page 4 of this bulletin shows the average assessed valuation of lands per acre, as returned to the State Tax Commission by the county assessors for taxation purposes, for April 1. of each of the years 1920 and 1921. It will be noted that the average values thus returned are generally a little lower than the estimated average values. The county assessors for 1921 reported to the State Tax Commission 2,292,701 acres of irrigated farm lands, and 11,161,376 acres of dry farming lands. Not all dry farming lands suitable for farming purposes are under cultivation.

Land Rentals—In general cash rents have been reduced during the past year. The average cash rent of irrigated farm land per acre is estimated at \$8.17 per acre, as compared with \$10.15 per acre a year ago; the average rental for irrigated plow land is \$11 per acre, as compared with \$14 per acre a year ago. For non-irrigated farm land, the average cash rental is estimated at \$1.55 per acre, compared with \$1.90 per acre per farm a year ago, while the average rental for plow land per acre is \$2.65, as compared with \$3.80 a year ago. Very little of the dry farming lands are rented for cash, while cash rent is paid for a considerable percentage of the rented irrigated farm lands in the intensively farmed and truck growing sections. The usual form of rental in Colorado is the share or crop plan. The usual terms of rental are $\frac{1}{2}$ the hay, $\frac{1}{3}$ of grain and potatoes, and from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the beets, the tenant furnishing himself with seed, teams and equipment.

COLORADO COMPARATIVE LAND VALUES

IRRIGATED LANDS: Approximate estimated average values per acre.

| | Pasture | Native Meadows | Poor Plow Land | Good Plow Land | All Plow Lands | All Farm Lands With Impr'vmts | All Farm Lands Without Impr'vmts | Minimum | Maximum |
|------------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| 1922 | \$53.40 | \$65.20 | \$63.00 | \$128.30 | \$105.05 | \$113.00 | \$ 92.90 | \$57.00 | \$165.10 |
| 1921 | 54.65 | 77.80 | 70.70 | 133.50 | 129.70 | 131.00 | 106.70 | 72.00 | 237.70 |
| 1920 | 60.00 | 82.00 | 70.00 | 145.00 | 125.00 | 140.00 | 110.00 | 75.00 | 243.00 |

NON-IRRIGATED LANDS: Approximate estimated average values per acre.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1922 | 12.30 | 24.00 | 17.20 | 34.40 | 25.80 | 31.30 | 22.80 | 12.30 | 35.85 |
| 1921 | 14.70 | 30.00 | 20.00 | 37.35 | 28.90 | 34.50 | 26.45 | 15.50 | 45.90 |
| 1920 | 13.70 | 29.00 | 17.70 | 35.70 | 27.80 | 33.00 | 25.00 | 15.90 | 41.00 |

*Averages of all reported minima and maxima.

COLORADO LAND CASH RENTS
(Estimated average cash rentals per acre.)

IRRIGATED

NON-IRRIGATED

Farm land Plow land

Farm land Plow land

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1922 | \$10.15 | \$14.00 | \$1.90 | \$3.80 |
| 1921 | 8.17 | 10.95 | 1.55 | 2.65 |

AVERAGE PRICES PAID PRODUCERS FOR CORN, WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY

MARCH 1.

| COLORADO | | | | UNITED STATES | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| March 1 | Corn | Wheat | Oats | Barley | Corn | Wheat | Oats | Barley |
| 1922 | 42 | 106 | ..... | 48 | 54.8 | 116.9 | 36.6 | 49.6 |
| 1921 | 42 | 135 | ..... | 50 | 64.5 | 147.2 | 41.9 | 56.8 |
| 1920 | 115 | 209 | ..... | 93 | 148.5 | 226.6 | 84.5 | 129.3 |
| 1919 | 131 | 188 | ..... | 146 | 137.2 | 208.0 | 62.6 | 85.4 |
| 1918 | 150 | 190 | ..... | 140 | 154.3 | 202.7 | 86.2 | 161.1 |
| 1917 | 91 | 150 | ..... | 88 | 100.9 | 164.4 | 56.9 | 96.9 |
| 1916 | 63 | 97 | ..... | ..... | 68.2 | 102.9 | 42.7 | 59.6 |
| 1912-16 ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Average ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 66.2 | 98.2 | 43.3 | 63.7 |

COLORADO

| Crop | Acres for grain* | Production Bushels | Grain of Preceding Year on Farms March 1 | | Shipped out of County | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | | | Per Cent | Bushels | Per Cent | Bushels |
| CORN—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 38 | 6,072,020 | 27 | 4,314,330 |
| 1921 | 1,102,000 | 15,979,000 | 54 | 13,085,000 | 32 | 7,512,000 |
| 1920 | 1,182,000 | 24,231,000 | 35 | 5,360,000 | 18 | 2,757,000 |
| 1919 | 1,021,000 | 15,315,000 | 30 | 4,646,000 | 29 | 4,492,000 |
| 1918 | 885,000 | 15,488 | 35 | ..... | 15 | ..... |
| WHEAT—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 18 | 4,183,000 | 65 | 15,105,000 |
| 1921 | 1,719,000 | 23,239,000 | 28 | 7,076,000 | 64 | 16,175,000 |
| 1920 | 1,405,000 | 25,273,000 | 15 | 2,730,000 | 63 | 11,464,000 |
| 1919 | 1,329,000 | 18,196,000 | 16 | 2,354,000 | 55 | 8,092,000 |
| 1918 | 1,196,000 | 14,712,000 | 21 | ..... | 49 | ..... |
| OATS—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 45 | 3,027,000 | 29 | 1,951,000 |
| 1921 | 217,000 | 6,727,000 | 47 | 3,020,000 | 18 | 1,157,000 |
| 1920 | 204,000 | 6,426,000 | 32 | 1,459,000 | 16 | 730,000 |
| 1919 | 174,000 | 4,559,000 | 34 | 1,795,000 | 15 | 792,000 |
| 1918 | 176,000 | 5,280,000 | 32 | ..... | 16 | ..... |
| BARLEY—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 42 | 1,867,000 | 37 | 1,644,000 |
| 1921 | 202,000 | 4,444,000 | 47 | 2,487,000 | 35 | 1,852,000 |
| 1920 | 216,000 | 5,292,000 | 39 | 872,000 | 15 | 436,000 |
| 1919 | 153,000 | 2,907,000 | 30 | 994,000 | 10 | 331,000 |
| 1918 | 184,000 | 3,312,000 | 27 | ..... | 17 | ..... |

UNITED STATES

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|------|---------------|------|-------------|
| CORN—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 42.6 | 1,313,120,000 | 19.2 | 590,505,000 |
| 1921 | 103,850,000 | 3,080,372,000 | 48.8 | 1,564,832,000 | 22.0 | 705,889,000 |
| 1920 | 101,639,000 | 3,208,584,000 | 37.2 | 1,045,575,000 | 16.7 | 469,488,000 |
| 1919 | 97,170,000 | 2,811,302,000 | 34.2 | ..... | 14.5 | ..... |
| 10 yr. Av. .... | ..... | ..... | 37.5 | ..... | 19.0 | ..... |
| WHEAT—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 16.5 | 131,136,000 | 61.6 | 489,654,000 |
| 1921 | 62,408,000 | 794,893,000 | 26.1 | 217,037,000 | 58.9 | 490,653,000 |
| 1920 | 61,143,000 | 833,027,000 | 17.6 | 169,904,000 | 61.1 | 591,429,000 |
| 1919 | 75,694,000 | 967,979,000 | 14.0 | ..... | 58.8 | ..... |
| 10 yr. Av. .... | ..... | ..... | 19.2 | ..... | 58.0 | ..... |
| OATS—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 38.1 | 404,461,000 | 23.8 | 252,455,000 |
| 1921 | 44,826,000 | 1,060,737,000 | 45.7 | 683,759,000 | 28.9 | 432,425,000 |
| 1920 | 42,491,000 | 1,496,281,000 | 34.6 | 409,730,000 | 26.4 | 312,584,000 |
| 1919 | 40,359,000 | 1,184,030,000 | 38.4 | ..... | 27.4 | ..... |
| 10 yr. Av. .... | ..... | ..... | 37.1 | ..... | 28.9 | ..... |
| BARLEY—1922 ..... | ..... | ..... | 27.1 | 40,950,000 | 36.1 | 54,525,000 |
| 1921 | 7,240,000 | 151,181,000 | 34.5 | 65,229,000 | 36.3 | 68,728,000 |
| 1920 | 7,600,000 | 189,332,000 | 22.9 | 33,820,000 | 34.2 | 50,482,000 |
| 1919 | 6,720,000 | 147,608,000 | 31.9 | ..... | 39.0 | ..... |
| 10 yr. Av. .... | ..... | ..... | 24.4 | ..... | 44.0 | ..... |

COLORADO

| Corn of Mer- chantable quality— | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 | 1918 | 1917 | 10-yr. Av. |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|------------|
| Percent | 85 | 84 | 85 | 89 | 72 | 79 |
| Bushels | 13,589,150 | 20,354,010 | 13,582,000 | 13,784,720 | ..... | ..... |

UNITED STATES

| Corn of Mer- chantable quality— | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 | 1918 | 1917 | 10-yr. Av. |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Percent | 87.5 | 86.9 | 87.1 | 82.4 | 60.0 | 80.1 |
| Bushels | 2,695,194,000 | 2,789,720,000 | 2,448,204,000 | 2,062,041,000 | 1,837,728,000 | 2,811,266,000 |

*See text, Corn, page 1.

LAND VALUES PER ACRE

| | COLORADO | | | | | UNITED STATES | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | Average of Poor Flow Lands | Average of Good Flow Lands | Average of All Flow Lands | Average of All Farm Lands | | Average of Poor Flow Lands | Average of Good Flow Lands | Average of All Flow Lands | Average of All Farm Lands | | |
| | | | With Improve-ments | Without Improve-ments | | | | | | With Improve-ments | Without Improve-ments |
| 1922 | \$35 | \$84 | \$61 | \$70 | \$53 | \$47.01 | \$9.01 | \$69.89 | | | |
| 1921 | 40 | 86 | 67 | 75 | 55 | 56.66 | 106.33 | 83.78 | | | |
| 1920 | 40 | 88 | 66 | 75 | 55 | 60.76 | 113.34 | 90.01 | 99.24 | 74.41 | |
| 1919 | 36 | 80 | 60 | 66 | 50 | 51.26 | 91.83 | 74.31 | | | |
| 1918 | 35 | 74 | 55 | 64 | 48 | 47.86 | 85.48 | 68.38 | | | |
| 1917 | 32 | 75 | 55 | 62 | 45 | 42.67 | 78.34 | 62.17 | 74.52 | 50.54 | |
| 1916 | 27 | 68 | 50 | 59 | 42 | 40.08 | 72.79 | 58.39 | 69.45 | 45.53 | |

AVERAGE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND PER ACRE AS RETURNED BY COUNTY ASSESSORS FOR 1920 AND 1921

| | Improved Fruit Land | | Irrigated Land | | Natural Hay Land | | Dry Farming Land | | Grazing Land | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| | 1920 | 1921 | 1920 | 1921 | 1920 | 1921 | 1920 | 1921 | 1920 | 1921 |
| Adams | \$ | \$ | \$92.94 | \$91.58 | \$ | \$ | \$13.76 | \$12.82 | \$ 9.20 | \$ 8.77 |
| Alamosa | | | 48.00 | 48.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 4.35 | 4.16 |
| Arapahoe | | | 126.09 | 139.62 | | | 13.50 | 13.56 | 8.10 | 8.10 |
| Archuleta | | | 41.35 | 39.88 | | | 10.21 | 10.11 | 3.42 | 3.16 |
| Baca | | | 25.00 | 15.00 | | 34.90 | 5.42 | 5.82 | 3.25 | 3.33 |
| Bent | | | 110.96 | 97.58 | | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 5.05 | 5.08 |
| Boulder | | | 113.09 | 112.79 | 17.71 | 16.00 | 36.05 | 36.12 | 9.49 | 9.47 |
| Chaffee | | | 56.93 | 50.15 | | | | | 4.53 | 3.93 |
| Cheyenne | | | | | | | 12.67 | 13.99 | | |
| Clear Creek | | | | | | | | | 9.15 | 10.87 |
| Conejos | | | 45.00 | 44.97 | 22.06 | 20.00 | | | 3.07 | 2.31 |
| Costilla | | | 30.00 | 28.65 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 10.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Crowley | 120.00 | 83.00 | 89.32 | 112.08 | | | 20.53 | 10.19 | 4.66 | 4.56 |
| Custer | | | 40.00 | 28.12 | | 40.00 | 20.88 | 10.00 | 4.23 | 4.69 |
| Delta | 107.60 | 103.72 | 89.09 | 83.41 | | | 24.74 | 24.58 | 3.09 | 2.88 |
| Denver | | | 481.10 | 468.81 | | | | | | |
| Dolores | | | 20.00 | 20.00 | | | 10.01 | 10.00 | 4.50 | 5.03 |
| Douglas | | | 79.03 | 78.97 | 50.04 | 50.99 | 18.09 | 13.04 | 6.16 | 6.12 |
| Eagle | | | 69.89 | 69.63 | | | | | 4.18 | 4.16 |
| Elbert | | | 46.06 | 46.06 | 37.30 | 29.47 | 16.54 | 16.44 | 7.03 | 7.48 |
| El Paso | 150.00 | 150.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 | 46.50 | 46.50 | 13.96 | 14.00 | 8.99 | 8.00 |
| Fremont | 397.80 | 396.07 | 66.94 | 100.47 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 8.74 | 9.10 | 4.15 | 3.98 |
| Garfield | 108.49 | 102.82 | 70.73 | 70.38 | | | 15.89 | 16.47 | 3.52 | 2.54 |
| Gilpin | | | | | | | | | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Grand | | | 35.67 | 36.45 | | | | | 3.47 | 3.57 |
| Gunnison | | | 46.76 | 48.53 | | | | | 4.13 | 3.72 |
| Hinsdale | | | 14.00 | 15.21 | | | | | 3.71 | 3.36 |
| Huerfano | 150.00 | 150.00 | 38.20 | 41.22 | | | 7.00 | 10.02 | 4.00 | 4.61 |
| Jackson | | | 29.77 | 24.79 | | | | | 4.86 | 3.78 |
| Jefferson | | | 148.00 | 145.83 | | | 33.00 | 44.88 | 7.07 | 7.25 |
| Kiowa | | | | | | | | | 10.60 | 10.50 |
| Kit Carson | | | 75.00 | 75.00 | 37.08 | 35.50 | 17.78 | 17.56 | 8.45 | 7.87 |
| Lake | | | | | | | | | 7.16 | 6.87 |
| La Plata | 150.90 | 136.37 | 45.95 | 47.39 | | | 16.82 | 17.74 | 3.90 | 4.06 |
| Larimer | | | 131.00 | 133.20 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 24.96 | 24.99 | 3.81 | 3.91 |
| Las Animas | | | 59.00 | 55.63 | 31.00 | 29.48 | 20.00 | 20.02 | 4.60 | 4.61 |
| Lincoln | | | | | 29.01 | 30.00 | 13.11 | 12.63 | 8.65 | 8.11 |
| Logan | | | 82.79 | 82.70 | 25.54 | 25.00 | 26.01 | 25.60 | 7.84 | 7.20 |
| Mesa | 225.04 | 225.53 | 77.93 | 81.08 | | | | | 5.82 | 5.63 |
| Mineral | | | 11.35 | 11.03 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 12.04 | 12.69 | 4.76 | 4.49 |
| Moffat | | | 49.54 | 49.07 | | 31.10 | 18.07 | 15.21 | 3.01 | 3.02 |
| Montezuma | 50.70 | 50.60 | 37.70 | 37.08 | | | 15.04 | 20.70 | 4.04 | 5.68 |
| Montrose | 103.50 | 99.15 | 71.51 | 73.93 | | | 15.82 | 14.36 | 6.09 | 5.83 |
| Morgan | | | 93.02 | 94.00 | 23.51 | 23.50 | 13.84 | 13.38 | 4.22 | 4.13 |
| Otero | 191.69 | 184.41 | 122.48 | 118.60 | 10.35 | 2.12 | 15.82 | 12.03 | 4.00 | 4.05 |
| Ouray | | | 68.29 | 59.47 | 37.16 | 36.66 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 3.12 | 3.20 |
| Park | | | | | | | 31.30 | 31.55 | 9.14 | 7.21 |
| Phillips | | | | | | | 22.92 | 20.00 | 3.15 | 3.16 |
| Pitkin | | | 58.08 | 57.95 | | | 26.65 | 7.20 | 5.26 | 4.97 |
| Prowers | | | 86.78 | 77.02 | 30.32 | 29.62 | 16.81 | 16.55 | 4.03 | 4.02 |
| Pueblo | 151.63 | 146.07 | 98.82 | 95.02 | | | 22.43 | 22.25 | 4.60 | 4.62 |
| Rio Blanco | | | 67.45 | 65.79 | 38.96 | 40.17 | 24.00 | 24.00 | 6.08 | 6.20 |
| Rio Grande | | | 87.40 | 85.41 | 32.50 | 32.50 | 27.22 | 28.24 | 6.00 | 5.76 |
| Routt | 97.27 | 93.50 | 41.58 | 48.95 | | | | | 5.10 | 5.00 |
| Saguache | | | 39.53 | 43.45 | 28.10 | 28.00 | | | 6.40 | 6.40 |
| San Juan | | | | | | | | | 4.96 | 4.87 |
| San Miguel | | | 40.00 | 39.51 | | | 24.00 | 24.07 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| Sedgwick | | | 63.61 | 62.92 | 15.25 | 15.00 | 29.16 | 29.18 | 3.75 | 3.76 |
| Summit | | | 25.00 | 35.06 | | | | | 2.16 | 2.49 |
| Teller | | | | | 15.38 | 15.10 | 10.18 | 10.25 | 9.80 | 9.33 |
| Washington | | | 117.94 | 117.28 | | | 17.86 | 18.54 | 5.93 | 5.83 |
| Weld | | | 110.64 | 110.14 | 24.50 | 22.56 | 13.75 | 15.85 | 5.50 | 4.60 |
| Yuma | | | 61.00 | 71.30 | 29.00 | 30.50 | 21.00 | 24.50 | | |
| State | \$168.47 | \$163.76 | \$83.52 | \$83.45 | \$29.25 | \$27.88 | \$16.16 | \$15.91 | \$ 5.87 | \$ 5.66 |