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Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture
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Winter Wheat.—The condition of winter wheat improved 3 points during the month of April, due to good rains in the eastern portion of the state after April 15 and especially during the last week of the month, when precipitation amounting to 2 to 5 inches occurred in the northeastern counties where moisture was most needed. The preliminary estimates of May 1 placed the acreage of winter wheat left for harvest in the state at 1,173,000 acres (1,466,000 acres sown last fall), compared with 1,346,000 acres harvested last year. The abandonment or the acreage that was sown last fall and will be plowed up and put into other crops or is otherwise considered unfit for harvest amounted to 20 per cent of the area sown, compared with 8 per cent reduction last year, 12 per cent abandonment in 1920, 1 per cent in 1919 and 20 per cent in 1917. The condition of the crop on May 1 is estimated at 80 per cent of normal, compared with 90 per cent a year ago, and 92 per cent the 10-year average. The condition of 80 per cent is equivalent to about 15 bushels per acre, which would produce a crop of 17,830,000 bushels this year. Last year the crop harvested amounted to 16,152,000 bushels with an average yield of 12 bushels per acre. In 1919 the average yield was only 13.2 bushels per acre. Only under very favorable conditions during the remainder of the season can the yield for these two years be exceeded. Approximately 92 per cent of the winter wheat of Colorado is grown upon non-irrigated land.

The United States winter wheat crop improved in condition 5.1 points during the month of April, and was rated on May 1 at 83.5 per cent of normal, compared with 88.8 per cent on May 1 a year ago, and 87.1 per cent, the average for the past ten years on May 1. The condition at this time is indicative of a yield of approximately 15.3 bushels per acre, assuming that average variations prevail. The estimated production is 584,793,000 bushels, or 0.4 per cent less than last year, 4.2 per cent less than in 1920 and 23.1 per cent less than in 1919, and 9.0 per cent more than the average of the past ten years. For other and more complete state and United States figures for winter wheat, rye, hay, pastures, plowing, spring planting, and livestock see table on page 4.

Rye.—The acreage of rye for grain in Colorado is estimated at 90,000 acres, compared with 92,000 acres harvested for grain last year. In 1921 about 82 per cent of the area devoted to the rye crop was fall rye. The acreage planted last fall was estimated at 79,000 acres. Much of the rye acreage of this state is used for pasture and not harvested

for grain. Practically the entire acreage of rye in this state is grown upon non-irrigated lands. About 70 per cent of the acreage devoted to rye in 1921 was harvested for grain, the remainder cut green for hay or used as pasture. The condition of rye on May 1 was 85 per cent, compared with 95 per cent a year ago and 92 per cent the ten-year average on May 1. The present condition indicates an approximate average yield of 11 bushels per acre, and the total crop of grain would amount to 995,000 bushels. The average yield last year was 11.5 bushels, and in 1919 was 8.8 bushels.

All Hay.—The acreage of tame hay in Colorado this year is estimated as practically the same as last year, and wild hay has a prospective increase of about 1 per cent, making the acreage of all hay equal to 1,605,000 acres (1,194,000 acres tame, and 411,000 acres wild), compared with 1,601,000 acres last year and 1,638,000 acres in 1919. The condition of hay meadows this year is rated as 93 per cent of normal, compared to 97 per cent last year and 95 per cent the ten-year average. These figures indicate a production of 2,783,000 tons for this season, compared with 2,914,000 tons harvested last year. The amount of hay from last year's crop remaining on the farms of the state on May 1 was estimated at 17 per cent of last year's crop or 495,000 tons, compared with 25 per cent or 785,000 tons last year and 9 per cent or 260,000 tons in 1920, and 6 per cent or 160,000 tons on the farms May 1, 1919. The mild open winter, the abundance of all kinds of forage and hay in this state and other states, and the smaller amount of stock in the feed yards of the state account largely for the comparatively heavy stocks held over.

The May 1 production forecast for the United States hay crop is 103,579,000 tons, compared with an estimated production of 96,802,000 tons in 1921 and 105,315,000 tons in 1920. The stocks of hay on farms for the country as a whole on May 1 are estimated as 10,792,000 tons, or slightly below the five-year average for May 1.

Dry Beans.—Replies to special inquiries on intentions to plant indicate that, unless the farmers materially revise plans, the bean acreage in Colorado this year will be about 80 per cent more than that of last year, when approximately 46,000 acres were planted and 38,000 acres harvested. This would mean from 80,000 to 100,000 acres will be planted this year. The results of this bean inquiry are issued that growers may have information regarding the trend in this crop.

Potatoes.—Replies to the same kind of an inquiry on the intentions of farmers to plant potatoes in Colorado this year, indicate that the acreage to be planted will be about 22 per cent more than that of last year, which would mean that approximately 129,000 acres will be planted, compared with 106,000 acres estimated as planted last year from which 90,000 acres were harvested, producing approximately 11,070,000 bushels. The reports indicate the increase in the irrigated planting will be about 27 per cent more and aggregate about 103,000 acres, while there will be a small increase of about 5 per cent in the non-irrigated area, totalling approximately 26,000 acres. This is an increase of about 19,000 acres over the April 1 estimate of plantings. Seed potatoes are said to be generally plentiful in supply and reasonable in price. This inquiry on prospective potato plantings was made on April 1 and also again on May 1, and the results reported at this time in order that farmers throughout the state may have some knowledge of the trend of the potato business, and if they so desire, may increase or decrease their plantings accordingly.

Agricultural Outlook.—The soil condition for Colorado on May 1, as indicated by average of reports improved 11 points over April 1, and was 95 per cent of normal, as compared with 102 per cent May 1 last year, and 110 per cent on May 1 in 1920. Moisture conditions in the western part of the state have been favorable throughout the past fall and winter, while the eastern plains section and especially the north-eastern counties and counties along the Arkansas River have generally been very deficient. The present good condition is due to heavy precipitation since about the middle of April and especially during the last week of the month.

ACREAGE OF WINTER WHEAT AND RYE COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR, AND CONDITION OF WINTER WHEAT, RYE, ALL HAY AND PASTURES, AND PERCENTAGE OF SOIL MOISTURE, COMPARED WITH NORMAL.

Districts and Counties	Winter Wheat Acreage			Winter Wheat Condition			Rye		Pas-tures Soil		
	Irrigated Per cent	Non-Irrigated Per cent	All—per cent	Irrigated Per cent	Non-Irrigated Per cent	All—Per cent	Acreage Per cent	Condition Per cent	Condition Per cent	Condition Per cent	Moisture Com-pared with Normal—Per ct
1. Northwest.											
Grand	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	82	.....	100	90	96	96
Jackson	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	80	.....	100	100	100	98
Moffat	100	72	72	85	68	68	.....	80	93	83	88
Rio Blanco	100	88	92	100	85	90	100	95	97	100	93
Routt	87	82	83	85	81	82	100	98	98	91	96
2. North Central.											
Adams	105	102	102	88	83	84	97	86	95	84	95
Boulder	91	85	90	82	72	80	90	90	90	83	98
Denver	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Larimer	98	90	94	84	78	81	97	97	96	91	82
Weld	83	72	76	81	69	73	97	72	94	78	83
3. Northeast.											
Logan	88	68	69	81	72	72	81	85	90	63	84
Morgan	95	82	82	92	78	78	85	85	94	69	83
Phillips	.....	83	83	.....	80	80	75	75	95	78	85
Sedgwick	93	88	88	87	70	70	98	87	93	75	95
Washington	95	72	72	95	72	72	87	72	93	78	87
Yuma	100	88	88	95	76	76	89	81	91	76	76
4. West Central.											
Delta	102	105	102	100	98	100	100	98	100	97	105
Eagle	98	100	98	99	99	99	100	100	99	100	104
Garfield	98	95	97	98	98	98	100	100	98	100	107
Gunnison	.....	.....	98	.....	.....	98	.....	100	100	95	105
Mesa	93	98	94	98	108	99	100	125	97	83	106
Montrose	80	90	80	98	100	98	.....	99	99	97	102
Ouray	.....	.....	90	.....	.....	98	.....	98	100	100	100
Pitkin	100	.....	100	100	.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
5. Central.											
Chaffee	50	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	100	100	87	79	63
Clear Creek	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
Fremont	60	80	75	70	70	70	.....	80	60	.....	40
Gilpin	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jefferson	95	.....	90	85	85	85	93	91	96	95	.....
Lake	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	90	.....
Park	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	98	105	95
Summit	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	85
Teller	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	103	100	.....
6. East Central.											
Arapahoe	95	91	91	85	85	85	95	92	91	88	94
Cheyenne	.....	210	210	.....	89	89	230	90	90	84	139
Douglas	.....	100	100	.....	90	90	.....	92	95	90	102
Elbert	.....	98	98	.....	89	89	92	92	100	92	104
El Paso	105	91	92	95	91	91	96	95	90	91	99
Kit Carson	.....	102	102	.....	89	89	92	92	103	78	100
Lincoln	.....	105	105	100	94	94	.....	90	95	86	123
7. Southwest.											
Archuleta	100	80	85	97	70	73	.....	82	100	55	97
Dolores	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hinsdale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	100	100
La Plata	105	101	103	98	96	96	.....	97	99	69	110
Mineral	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	118
Montezuma	107	109	108	92	91	91	105	100	86	83	103
San Juan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
San Miguel	100	100	100	95	98	97	105	97	98	98	95
8. South Central.											
Alamosa	100	100	100	.....	.....	90	.....	.....	98	95	93
Conejos	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	88	84
Costilla	150	.....	150	118	80	99	100	100	100	115	85
Custer	90	80	87	85	65	80	80	75	100	75	73
Huerfano	90	85	87	90	85	86	95	100	100	100	95
Rio Grande	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	95	93	85	97
Saguache	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	90	105
9. Southwest.											
Baca	80	70	71	60	64	64	50	85	93	85	90
Bent	98	80	93	93	88	91	100	90	96	96	106
Crowley	90	90	90	100	100	100	.....	100	100	100	100
Kiowa	.....	110	110	.....	95	95	100	95	85	.....	120
Los Animas	97	83	83	78	73	73	90	83	89	82	80
Otero	99	63	98	93	75	93	100	100	99	90	103
Prowers	98	119	110	96	83	84	96	90	97	95	107
Pueblo	100	100	100	70	85	80	60	85	95	91	83

SUMMARY OF MAY 1, 1922, CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES.

Subject	Colorado				United States			
	1922	1921	1920	Average	1922	1921	1920	Average
WINTER WHEAT—								
Abandoned per cent..	20	8	12	8.8	14.5	4.6	11.9	10.4
Acres for harvest.....	1,173	1,346	1,044	1,032*	38,131	42,702	40,016	36,789
Condition, per cent..	80	90	85	92	83.5	88.8	79.1	87.1
Average yields.....	15.2	12	17.5	13.2*	15.3	13.7	15.3	15.1*
Forecast—								
Production, bus.....	17,830	16,152	18,270	13,622*	584,793	587,032	610,597	536,500
RYE FOR GRAIN—								
Acres for harvest.....	90	92	100	124*	5,184	4,228	4,409	6,507*
Condition, per cent..	85	95	85	91	91.7	92.5	85.1	90.2
Average yields.....	11.05	11.5	11.8	8.8*	.....	13.7	13.7	12.0*
Forecast—								
Production, bus.....	995	1,058	1,180	1,088*	79,152	57,918	60,490	57,060
HAY—ALL KINDS—								
Acres for harvest.....	1,605	1,601	1,675	1,638*	74,345	74,225	73,888	74,038*
Condition, per cent....	93	97	95	95	90.1	91.5	89.4	89.8
Forecast—								
Production, tons.....	2,783	2,914	3,140	2,881*	103,579	96,802	165,315	97,331
Old on hand, per cent	17	25	9	6*	11.1	17.8	10.9	12.1*
Old on hand, tons.....	495	785	260	160*	10,792	18,771	11,377	12,417†
PASTURES—								
Condition, per cent....	86	92	82	89	84.5	91.8	79.8	85.6
PLOWING—								
Per cent completed....	63	73	52	64	63.5	77.8	60.1	70.0
SPRING PLANTING—								
Per cent completed....	55	66	45	56	53.6	63.5	50.2	57.8
LIVESTOCK—MORTALITY OF—PER 1,000—								
Horses & Mules, dis.	19	17	21	19	15.6	14.7	17.7	18.8
Cattle, disease.....	18	19	20	20	17.0	17.0	19.6	19.7
Cattle, exposure.....	15	18	45	30	13.0	9.3	18.4	15.0
Sheep, disease.....	18	20	21	22	15.5	22.9	21.0	23.3
Sheep, exposure.....	20	20	45	44	19.0	14.8	22.8	20.2
Lambs, dis. and exp..	45	38	50	63	53.7	46.2	65.6	57.5
Swine, disease.....	30	25	20	31	55.0	44.2	51.2	65.3
LIVESTOCK—CONDITION—								
Horses	96	98	93	97	94.1	96.2	93.0	96.0†
Cattle	96	99	89	96	93.2	95.8	91.9	95.2†
Sheep	96	98	94	96	92.8	95.4	91.6	95.7†
Swine	96	98	96	98	93.0	94.4	92.4	92.1

NOTES: The figures on acreage and production enumerate thousands and require that three ciphers (000) be added to complete the numbers. *1919 revised estimates. †5-year average. Acreage and production figures for 1921, 1920 and 1919 are the last December final estimates and revisions.

Mortality of Livestock.—Based upon the numbers of each class of livestock in the state, on Jan. 1, 1921, the losses of each class total as follows: Horses and mules, from disease, 8,960; cattle from disease, 30,300; from exposure, 25,250; swine, from disease, 12,400; sheep, from disease, 41,500; from exposure, 46,000. Corresponding losses for the United States aggregate as follows: Horses and mules, from disease, 386,000; cattle, from disease, 1,165,000; from exposure, 851,000; sheep, from disease, 581,000; exposure, 712,000; lambs, from disease and exposure, 563,000; swine, from disease, 3,083,000.