

Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
(Division of Crop and Livestock 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*

Preliminary Acreage Estimates.—The estimates of acreage for 1922 crops in Colorado, given in this bulletin, are preliminary estimates of acreage left for harvest, and not necessarily equal to acres planted. While reasonably accurate, the acreages are established in comparison in a percentage way, with the acreages of corresponding crops for 1921 and former years, and are subject to revision in December, when general revisions of all acreage and production figures will be made in harmony with the acreages indicated by special reports and the annual findings of county assessors. In reference to some of the principal crops, present information indicates that revisions may show small increases in the acreage for harvest of winter wheat, spring wheat, and rye, but a marked decline in the production of all wheat. In this state there are many acres of small grains harvested for hay and forage, pastured or abandoned, varying in different seasons. The amount of this acreage is not well determined at this time from the data available.

United States figures are not reproduced in the text on account of lack of space, but will be found in the table on page 4.

With the exception of fruits practically all of the major crops and some of the minor crops have condition figures below those of last year and below the ten-year average. The composite figure for all crops in Colorado on July 1 was 96.5 per cent of the average (not normal) condition for that date and indicated 1.8 points depreciation during June. Last year the composite figure for all crops on July 1 was 106.2 per cent of the average condition for that date, and there had been the unusual improvement during June of 6.6 points.

Corn.—Colorado corn reached July 1, with a condition of 90 per cent, 5 points less than a year ago and 4 points above the ten-year average for that date. The preliminary estimates of the area planted to this crop, based upon a 3 per cent increase, indicated by reporters and assessors' returns, is about 1,135,000 acres for this year, compared with 1,102,000 acres last year and 1,021,000 acres in 1919. The results of special inquiries indicate that during the past three years only from 75 to 80 per cent of the total acreage of corn was harvested for grain. This year now promises an equally high percentage. If 80 per cent of the planted acreage is harvested for grain then 908,000 acres will be harvested for corn, compared with the final estimate of 888,000 acres harvested exclusively for this grain last year. Assuming that the entire acreage planted during the past four years is considered as producing grain, then the crop of this year based on present condition figures, which indicates an average yield of 20.7 bushels per acre, would amount to 23,495,000 bushels, compared with 15,979,000 bushels last year. The average yield last year was only 14.5 bushels to the acre for the acreage for grain. Only in case conditions become more favorable and so continue until harvest, can the corn crop of the state reach an average yield much above the figure of last year.

Winter Wheat.—The winter wheat of the state had a condition of 80 per cent on July 1, 9 points less than a year ago, and 6 points below the ten-year average. Based upon an area of 1,173,000 acres left for harvest, and the condition at this time, the forecast indicates a crop of 22,053,000 bushels, compared with 16,152,000 bushels last year. It is likely the final out-turn will be much less than the forecast indicates. This production would require an average yield of nearly 19 bushels per acre, while the average yield last year was only 12 bushels to the acre, and 17.5 bushels per acre in 1920 and 13.2 bushels per acre shown by the census in 1919. With a continuation of the drouth period, a high average yield can scarcely be expected.

Spring Wheat.—The condition of spring wheat on July 1 was 78 per cent, 14 points below June 1, 7 points less than last year on July 1, and 12 points below the ten-year average for this date. The present indicated average yield is about 18.7 bushels per acre. Based on this figure, a crop of 7,675,000 bushels is indicated, compared with 7,087,000 bushels last year, when the average yield was 19 bushels per acre.

The stocks of old wheat on farms is less than a year ago and is estimated at 6 per cent, totaling 1,394,000 bushels, compared with 2,022,000 bushels last year.

Potatoes.—Nearly complete returns from county assessors, reporters and other information indicate a very heavy increase in the acreage devoted to potatoes. It is estimated that 150,000 acres have been planted in the state for harvest this year, compared with 106,000 acres planted last year. The condition on July 1 was 86 per cent, 12 points less than a year ago at this time, and 3 points below the ten-year average. The condition indicates an average yield of about 125 bushels per acre, in which case the crop this year will amount to 18,705,000 bushels, compared with 11,070,000 bushels last year. The increase in acreage is heaviest in the important irrigated and commercial districts, where the crop is generally in excellent condition, except in the Greeley-Weld County District, where an acute shortage of irrigation water exists. The carlot movement of potatoes from the 1921 Colorado crop totaled 17,801 acres, compared with 11,345 cars from the 1920 crop.

Fruits.—The prospects for good crops of all kinds of fruit are regarded as the best in the history of the state. Detailed figures will be found in the table on last page, except for cherries.

Cherries.—The cherry crop of the state is almost uniformly in good condition and rated at 92 per cent of normal on July 1, as compared with about 50 per cent last year and 75 per cent in 1919. The crop this year should amount to 200,000 bushels. In 1919 165,000 bushels were reported by the Census as harvested. The principal cherry counties are in Larimer, Fremont, Jefferson, Otero and Crowley.

Miscellaneous Crops.—Estimates of condition and production of other important state crops with comparisons are presented in the table on page 4. The acreage devoted to cantaloupes this year is about twice that of last year and is estimated to be about 16,000 acres. About a 16 per cent increase in the acreage of broom corn is indicated, totaling 14,000 acres. The very large increase in the acreage of beans should be noted, which is more than twice of that of last year. In 1917 and 1918 large acreages were planted, amounting to about 250,000 acres each year. The July 1 condition figures for 1922, 1921, 1920 and 1919 in the order named for crops not mentioned in the table on page 4 are as follows: Alfalfa, 86-92-98-83; grain sorghums, 85-96-94-93; field peas, 93-93-92-98; broom corn, 85-95-95-85; millet, 85-92-92-93; tomatoes, 90-90-86-75; cabbage, 85-95-88-85; onions, 89-94-82-86; blackberries, 86-90-79-75; watermelons, 85-85-85-75; cantaloupes, 85-83-90-75; pastures, 82-102-99-85.

Agricultural Outlook is based upon reports from all sections of the state, indicating the estimated amount of moisture in the soil as compared with normal. On July 1 the figure was 76 per cent of normal, compared with 101.2 per cent of normal July 1 last year. There was a decline of 14 points during June. Since June 1 there has been but little precipitation except in the middle eastern and northeastern portions of the state.

In that portion of the state immediately east of the mountains and extending about 150 miles eastward to a line drawn from north of Sterling in Logan County to Limon in Lincoln County, the drought has been continued and severe. In this territory irrigation water has been limited and reservoir supplies insufficient. Early crops have been seriously injured. Pastures in all parts of the state generally need moisture, especially in the lower altitudes. Corn, beans, potatoes, and other late planted crops are mostly in fair to excellent condition, and will make good if seasonable moisture is obtained.

General Review of United States Crop Conditions, July 1, 1922.—The composite condition of all crops of the United States on July 1 was about 2.1 per cent below their ten-year average condition on that date, as compared with a condition 0.8 per cent below average on June 1, indicating some decline in crop prospects during the past month. Final yields per acre of crops last year were about 8.3 per cent below average. Preliminary estimate of acreage in cultivated crops is about 1.0 per cent less than last year. The total production of important products this year, compared with last year, expressed in percentages, is estimated as follows: Corn, 92.8; wheat, 102.8; oats, 111.9; barley, 120.5; rye, 141.6; white potatoes, 123.9; sweet potatoes, 112.9; tobacco, 131.6; flaxseed, 132.2; rice, 107.1; hay (all), 110.3; sugar beets, 65.9; cotton, 139.1; apples, 193.2; peaches, 166.1; pears, 145.8; broom corn, 161.5; grain sorghums, 105.2; beans, 139.6; peanuts, 87.4; hops, 113.8; sorghum (syrup), 88.3 per cent.

**CONDITION OF CROPS AND AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK ON JULY 1, PERCENT
COMPARED WITH NORMAL.**

Districts Counties	Corn	Win- ter Wheat	Spring Wheat	Oats	Bar- ley	Rye	Pota- toes	All Hay	Al- falfa	Pas- ture	Agr'l Out- look
1. Northwest—											
Grand .....	....	68	....	75	74	80	82	90	85	90	60
Jackson .....	....	70	....	100	100	100	100	80	....	80	80
Moffat	90	72	89	89	92	85	87	86	86	88	89
Rio Blanco	80	56	66	69	87	86	85	88	85	83	68
Routt	80	69	66	72	72	84	85	88	87	77	66
2. North Central—											
Adams	82	47	66	77	72	58	77	84	78	61	42
Boulder	62	71	76	68	69	....	72	76	78	58	42
Denver .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	87	76	78	76	71
Larimer	78	63	77	74	78	84	87	74	72	71	62
Weld	84	52	75	71	72	66	83	74	72	71	62
3. Northeast—											
Logan	97	82	78	86	85	95	93	97	97	95	89
Morgan	89	70	78	92	82	86	95	90	86	80	79
Phillips .....	....	87	85	75	87	95	97	98	78	95	95
Sedgwick	103	82	58	60	82	82	93	85	95	86	73
Washington	99	84	81	91	94	93	84	86	88	93	87
Yuma	90	91	84	83	86	86	87	88	89	93	87
4. West Central—											
Delta	91	90	89	94	80	90	76	87	89	71	87
Eagle .....	....	....	88	85	75	....	83	75	73	73	60
Garfield	90	83	85	85	78	90	72	72	71	70	68
Gunnison .....	....	88	87	85	87	....	92	95	95	75	30
Mesa	94	91	79	92	85	....	92	91	94	87	92
Montrose	96	92	94	83	91	100	91	91	92	82	78
Ouray .....	....	93	95	91	86	93	93	95	95	80	70
Pitkin .....	....	100	100	85	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
5. Central—											
Chaffee .....	....	....	89	90	80	93	74	85	85	80	85
Clear Creek .....	....	....	....	....	....	85	80	85	100	75	79
Fremont	55	74	75	....	67	80	....	100	100	60	80
Gilpin .....	....	....	....	....	80	85	....	83	....	75	....
Jefferson	97	84	78	80	84	96	93	85	80	78	77
Lake .....	....	....	....	....	80	....	....	95	....	93	86
Park .....	....	....	100	90	90	95	100	95	95	85	88
Summit .....	....	....	....	80	95	95	90	90	....	85	85
Teller .....	....	....	....	90	100	100	98	93	90	85	92
6. East Central—											
Arapahoe	90	62	61	75	74	84	70	87	88	75	61
Cheyenne	96	92	80	87	88	92	99	100	101	93	113
Douglas	100	90	88	87	90	93	100	95	95	90	95
Elbert	100	90	90	87	90	97	87	95	110	98	75
El Paso	87	81	83	81	87	86	90	79	78	79	80
Kit Carson	96	92	88	96	97	103	92	101	97	101	104
Lincoln	89	88	68	50	74	83	90	99	102	85	74
7. Southwest—											
Archuleta .....	....	100	100	100	100	....	90	110	95	93	75
Dolores .....	....	85	82	....	80	....	81	87	86	78	78
Hinsdale .....	....	....	....	....	....	85	70	80	70	50	50
La Plata	86	81	87	92	75	85	88	81	79	73	83
Mineral .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	83	....	80	85
Montezuma	92	87	88	84	84	75	79	87	87	88	93
San Juan .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	87	90
San Miguel	90	90	87	88	90	90	95	93	92	87	90
8. South Central—											
Alamosa .....	....	....	90	95	100	110	95	75	100	75	100
Conejos	90	....	80	105	92	90	96	91	85	105	100
Costilla	90	90	105	100	100	95	97	90	90	90	90
Custer	96	100	100	100	96	97	100	100	100	100	90
Huerfano	100	100	100	100	100	98	85	75	65	80	83
Rio Grande .....	....	100	90	95	94	....	91	96	93	93	96
Saguache .....	....	98	96	98	96	....	89	99	99	99	100
9. Southeast—											
Baca	70	70	70	70	70	96	....	100	100	88	70
Bent	73	67	64	40	70	70	....	92	93	50	33
Crowley	50	35	45	50	75	50	....	80	80	25	25
Kiowa	100	110	85	50	70	100	100	95	96	110	115
Las Animas	74	42	68	74	60	30	50	63	78	61	51
Otero	97	90	75	81	70	100	....	101	98	93	103
Powers	87	75	45	65	60	65	....	93	100	91	79
Pueblo	98	93	98	66	100	93	....	93	98	90	90
State	90	80	78	84	85	86	86	87	....	....	78

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

	COLORADO				UNITED STATES			
	1922	1921	1920	Average	1922	1921	1920	Average
Corn—								
Acres planted	1,135	1,102	1,182	1,021*	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acres for grain	908	888	887	752*	103,234	103,850	101,699	97,170*
Condition, percent	90	95	90	86	85.1	91.1	84.6	84.8
Production, bus. grain.....	23,495	15,979	24,231	15,315*	2,860,245	3,080,372	3,208,584	2,811,301*
All Wheat Acres—								
Percent remaining on farms	6.0	8.0	4.0	2.0*	4.0	6.9	5.1	2.1*
No. bushels remaining on farms	1,394	2,022	728	308*	31,641	57,457	49,368	19,950*
Acres for harvest	1,583	1,719	1,405	1,329*	56,770	62,408	61,143	75,694
Condition, percent	79	88	90	87	78.9	78.2	82.0	82.7
Production, bus.	29,728	23,239	25,273	18,196*	817,936	794,893	833,027	967,975*
Winter Wheat—								
Acres for harvest	1,173	1,346	1,044	1,032§	38,131	42,702	40,016	50,494*
Condition, percent	80	89	89	86	77.0	77.2	79.7	81.0
Production, bus.	22,053	16,152	18,270	13,622*	569,276	587,032	610,597	760,377*
Spring Wheat—								
Acres for harvest	410	373	361	297*	18,639	19,706	21,127	25,200*
Condition, percent	78	85	92	90	83.7	80.8	88.0	85.7
Production, bus.	7,675	7,087	7,003	4,574*	247,660	207,861	222,430	207,602*
Oats—								
Acres for harvest	288	217	204	174*	41,822	44,826	42,491	40,359*
Condition, percent	84	95	92	90	74.4	77.6	84.7	85.5
Production, bus.	7,182	6,722	6,426	4,559*	1,186,626	1,060,737	1,496,281	1,412,602*
Barley—								
Acres for harvest	202	202	216	153*	7,550	7,240	7,600	6,720*
Condition, percent	85	95	92	90	82.6	81.4	87.6	86.6
Production, bus.	5,666	4,444	5,292	2,907*	181,586	151,181	189,332	147,608*
Rye—								
Acres for harvest	90	92	100	124*	5,148	4,228	4,409	6,307*
Condition, percent	86	97	92	88	89.9	86.9	83.5	86.5
Production, bus.	1,161	1,058	1,180	1,088*	81,998	57,918	60,490	75,483*
White Potatoes—								
Acres for harvest	150	90	73	77*	4,228	3,815	3,657	3,544*
Condition, percent	86	94	95	89	87.3	83.4	89.3	87.6
Production, bus.	18,705	11,070	9,490	8,855*	428,607	347,000	403,296	322,867*
Sugar Beets—								
Acres planted	165	214	252	205†	606	882	979	826†
Acres harvested .....	.....	200	220	183*	.....	815	872	695†
Condition, percent	86	94	87	88	86.2	90.3	90.3	88.8
Production, tons .....	.....	2,159	2,166	1,656*	.....	7,782	8,538	6,421*
Production, tons forecast	1,577	2,279	.....	1,882†	5,132	.....	.....	.....
All Hay—								
Acres	1,605	1,601	1,675	1,638*	.....	.....	.....	.....
Condition, percent	87	94	98	90	88.7	79.5	85.5	85.3
Production, tons	2,703	2,914	3,140	2,881§	106,780	96,802	105,315	104,760*
Field Beans—								
Acres for harvest	92,000	38	52	66*	.....	771	838	1,060*
Condition, percent	88	93	91	88	83.8	83.8	87.0	86.2
Production, bus.	810	342	416	429	.....	9,118	9,077	13,349
Apples—								
Condition, percent	90	65	72	66	66.8	35.3	70.7	60.9
Agr'l Prod., bus.	4,691	3,200	2,830	3,418§	189,549	96,881	223,667	142,086*
Commercial bbls.	1,022	812	736	855*	31,413	20,098	33,905	26,159*
Peaches—								
Condition, percent	94	60	50	60	74.3	42.8	61.8	57.8
Agr'l Prod., bus.	910	860	670	722§	54,302	32,733	45,620	53,178*
Pears—								
Condition, percent	94	65	80	66	69.8	40.9	68.4	60.2
Agr'l Prod., bus.	402	483	386	270§	.....	14,705	16,805	15,104*

Notes—Figures on acreage and production merely enumerate thousands and require the addition of three ciphers (000) to complete them. * Figures with the star (*) are for the 1919 final estimates. † represents the 1916-1920 five-year average. Estimates on acreage and production in the table above are preliminary and subject to revision in December as indicated in the first paragraph. § indicates census figures for 1919.

Abbreviations—Agricultural, Agr'l; Condition, Cond'n; Commercial, Com'l; Percent, Pct.; Production, Prod'n.