

# Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
(Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates)

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Stocks of grain on Colorado farms the first day of March were over 3,200,000 bushels less than a year ago. The reserves of the four principal cereals grown in the state totalled 11,983,000 bushels, compared with 15,194,000 bushels last year, and 28,668,000 bushels in 1921. Corn reserves are larger than for any other grain, and nearly the same as a year ago, while all other cereals showed a marked reduction. Generally smaller crops of each grain, except corn, and the producer's need for cash together with the large increase in livestock on feed in the state are the principal factors in bringing about 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 18,320,000 bushels estimated for the state last year only about 35 percent, same as 10-year average, remained on the farms March 1, compared with 38 percent a year ago and 54 percent in 1921. Expressed in bushels, the reserve this year is 6,412,000 bushels, compared with 6,072,000 bushels the same date last year. The reserve of 1921 was 13,085,000 bushels. The shipments of the 1922 crop from the counties where grown are indicated as 30 percent or about 5,496,000 bushels compared with 27 percent or 4,314,000 bushels for the preceding year and 18 percent the 10-year average. The season of 1922 was generally favorable for maturing corn. The quality of last year's crop is rated at 83 percent merchantable quality, 2 points lower than for 1921 and 3 points above the 10-year average. Special reports during the past three years indicate that approximately 75 to 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.

**Wheat**—The reserves of wheat rank second in number of bushels on farms of Colorado March 1, and amounted to about 16 percent of last year's total crop of 21,776,000 bushels or 3,484,000 bushels compared with a hold-over last year of 18 percent, amounting to 4,183,000 bushels, and a hold-over of the 1921 crop of 7,076,000 bushels (28 percent). The shipments of wheat from the 1922 crop amount to 15,243,000 bushels (70 percent), compared with 15,105,000 bushels (65 percent) of the 1921 crop, and 16,175,000 bushels (64 percent) of the 1920 crop. In this state a large percent of the wheat is shipped out of the counties where grown, and 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 4,625,000 bushel crop of oats, produced in the state in 1922, only 26 percent are held as reserves, or about 1,203,000 bushels, compared with 3,027,000 bushels (50 percent) of the preceding crop. Oats shipments are expected to be about 1,017,000 bushels compared to about 1,951,000 bushels from the 1921 crop.

**Barley**—Of the 3,534,000 bushel barley crop, of last year, about 883,500 bushels (25 percent) were held on the farms March 1, compared with 1,866,000 bushels (42 percent) of the crop of the preceding year. About 761,000 bushels less barley are being moved out of the counties where grown than for last year, or about 884,000 bushels (25 percent) compared to 1,644,000 bushels (37 percent) shipped from the 1921 crop.

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

**Lands**—The average values of lands in Colorado compared with last year show general declines ranging from a few cents in the case of the less valuable classes to as much as \$15.00 per acre in the case of all good irrigated plow lands. For all lands taken together the declines range generally from seven to eleven 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 lands 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 1921 and 1922. It will be noted that the average values thus returned are generally a little lower than the estimated average values. The county assessors for 1922 reported to the State Tax Commission 2,263,954 acres of irrigated farm lands, and 11,037,221 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 further reduced during the past year. The average cash rent of irrigated farm land per farm is estimated at \$8.70 per acre, as compared with \$8.20 per acre a year ago; the average rental for irrigated plow land is \$9.50 per acre, as compared with \$11 per acre a year ago. For non-irrigated farm land, the average cash rental is estimated at \$1.05 per acre, compared with \$1.55 per acre per farm a year ago, while the average rental for plow land per acre is \$1.75, as compared with \$2.65 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 term of rental are ½ the hay, ⅓ of grain and potatoes, and from ⅓ to ⅔ 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		Approximate*	
						With Impr'v'm'ts	Without Impr'v'm'ts	Minimum	Maximum
1923 .....	\$42.20	\$55.80	\$56.30	\$113.70	\$ 97.40	\$105.45	\$ 80.45	\$55.00	\$174.00
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 values per acre.

1923 .....	9.70	20.60	15.30	29.20	22.60	26.30	19.20	16.70	37.70
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

\*Average 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
1923 .....	\$ 8.70	\$ 9.50	\$1.05	\$1.75
1922 .....	8.20	11.00	1.55	2.65
1921 .....	10.15	14.00	1.90	3.80

**AVERAGE PRICES PAID PRODUCERS FOR CORN, WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY MARCH 1.**

March 1	COLORADO				UNITED STATES			
	Corn	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Corn	Wheat	Oats	Barley
1923 .....	63	98	....	60	74.3	105.1	43.1	57.4
1922 .....	42	106	38	48	54.8	118.9	36.6	49.6
1921 .....	42	135	49	50	64.5	147.2	41.9	56.8
1920 .....	115	209	93	130	148.5	226.6	84.5	129.3
1919 .....	131	188	84	146	137.2	208.0	62.6	85.4
1918 .....	150	190	87	140	154.3	202.7	86.2	161.1
1917 .....	91	150	65	88	100.9	164.4	56.9	96.9
1916 .....	65	97	....	....	68.2	102.9	42.7	59.6
1912-16 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	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
<b>CORN—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	35	6,412,000	30	5,496,000
1922 .....	1,145,000	18,320,000	33	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
<b>WHEAT—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	16	3,484,000	70	15,243,000
1922 .....	1,620,000	21,776,000	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
<b>OATS—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	26	1,203,000	22	1,017,000
1922 .....	185,000	4,625,000	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	729,000
1919 .....	174,000	4,559,000	34	1,795,000	15	792,000
<b>BARLEY—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	25	884,000	25	884,000
1922 .....	186,000	3,534,000	42	1,866,000	37	1,644,000
1921 .....	202,000	4,444,000	47	2,487,000	35	1,852,000
1920 .....	216,000	5,292,000	30	872,000	15	436,000
1919 .....	153,000	2,907,000	30	994,000	10	331,000

**UNITED STATES**

<b>CORN—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	37.6	1,087,412,000	17.8	515,236,000
1922 .....	1,024,428,000	2,890,512,000	42.5	1,364,000,000	19.2	590,505,000
1921 .....	1,037,740,000	3,068,569,000	48.8	1,564,832,000	22.0	705,839,000
1920 .....	1,011,699,000	3,208,534,000	37.2	1,045,575,000	16.7	469,488,000
10 yr. Av. ....	97,170,000	2,811,302,000	34.2	.....	14.5	.....
<b>WHEAT—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	36.6	.....	19.1	.....
1922 .....	61,230,000	856,211,000	17.8	153,134,000	69.4	574,452,000
1921 .....	63,696,000	814,905,000	16.5	134,253,000	61.7	489,654,000
1920 .....	61,143,000	833,027,000	26.1	217,037,000	58.9	490,653,000
1919 .....	75,694,000	967,979,000	17.6	169,904,000	61.1	591,429,000
10 yr. Av. ....	.....	.....	14.0	.....	58.8	.....
<b>OATS—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	19.2	.....	57.7	.....
1922 .....	40,693,000	1,215,496,000	34.7	421,511,000	25.1	304,538,000
1921 .....	45,495,000	1,073,341,000	38.2	411,934,000	23.9	282,455,000
1920 .....	42,491,000	1,496,281,000	45.7	683,759,000	28.9	432,425,000
1919 .....	40,359,000	1,184,030,000	34.6	409,730,000	26.4	312,584,000
10 yr. Av. ....	.....	.....	38.4	.....	27.4	.....
<b>BARLEY—1923</b> .....	.....	.....	36.3	.....	29.1	.....
1922 .....	7,390,000	186,118,000	23.4	43,592,000	37.3	69,154,000
1921 .....	7,414,000	154,946,000	27.3	42,294,000	36.0	54,525,000
1920 .....	7,600,000	189,332,000	34.5	65,229,000	36.3	68,728,000
1919 .....	6,720,000	147,608,000	22.9	33,820,000	34.2	50,482,000
10 yr. Av. ....	.....	.....	31.9	.....	39.0	.....
.....	.....	.....	22.9	.....	45.4	.....

**COLORADO**

Percent of Mar. shantable quality	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	10-yr. Av.
Bushels .....	83	85	84	85	89	79
.....	15,206,000	13,589,150	20,354,040	13,582,000	13,784,720	.....

**UNITED STATES**

Percent Bushels .....	88.3	87.5	86.9	87.1	82.4	80.1
.....	2,552,322,000	2,685,000,000	2,789,720,000	2,448,204,000	2,062,041,000	2,811,266,000

\*See text, Corn, page 1

**COLORADO LAND VALUES PER ACRE UNITED STATES**

Year	Average of All Farm Lands		Average of All Farm Lands		Average of All Farm Lands	
	With Improve-ments	Without Improve-ments	With Improve-ments	Without Improve-ments	With Improve-ments	Without Improve-ments
1923	\$62.70	\$45.53	\$30.00	\$75.00	\$66.00	\$67.00
1922	70.53	53.55	47.01	89.01	69.89	69.89
1921	75.55	55.55	56.66	106.33	83.78	83.78
1920	67.75	55.55	60.76	113.34	90.01	90.01
1919	66.66	50.50	51.26	91.83	74.31	74.31
1918	64.48	48.48	47.86	85.48	68.38	68.38
1917	62.45	45.45	42.67	78.34	62.17	62.17
1916	59.42	42.42	40.08	72.79	58.39	58.39

**AVERAGE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND PER ACRE AS RETURNED BY COUNTY ASSESSORS FOR 1921 AND 1922**

County	Improved Fruit Land		Irrigated Land		Natural Hay Land		Dry Farming Land		Grazing Land	
	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922
Adams	\$	\$	\$ 91.58	\$ 93.48	\$	\$	\$12.82	\$10.57	\$9.77	\$8.00
Alamosa			48.00	42.00	30.00	26.00	15.00	18.00	4.16	4.24
Arapahoe			139.62	138.64			13.56	11.12	8.10	7.04
Archuleta			39.88	40.93	34.90	32.91	10.11	10.10	3.16	3.19
Baca			15.00	12.50			5.82	6.00	3.33	3.60
Bent			97.53	91.32			15.00	15.00	5.08	5.00
Boulder			112.79	112.40	16.00	14.46	36.12	35.05	9.47	9.41
Chaffee			50.15	55.50					3.93	4.50
Cheyenne							13.99	14.12		
Clear Creek									10.87	11.34
Conejos			44.87	45.00	20.00	20.00			2.31	2.02
Costilla			28.65	29.86	20.00	20.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Crowley	83.00	92.74	112.08	102.72			10.19	8.89	4.56	4.50
Custer			28.12	28.56	40.00	39.70	16.00	10.00	4.69	4.25
Delta	103.72	109.30	83.41	83.43			24.58	24.80	2.88	2.35
Denver			468.81	472.44						
Dolores			20.00	20.00			10.00	10.94	5.62	4.64
Douglas			78.97	79.12	50.99	50.49	18.04	18.01	6.12	6.08
Eagle			69.63	105.70					4.16	7.04
Elbert			46.06	50.00	29.47	42.19	16.44	16.36	7.48	7.41
El Paso	150.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	46.50	46.50	14.00	16.03	8.00	7.00
Fremont	396.07	398.70	100.47	101.19	35.00	35.00	9.10	7.96	3.98	4.01
Garfield	102.82	106.31	70.38	70.29			16.47	14.88	2.54	2.76
Gilpin									3.00	3.12
Grand			36.45	36.82					3.57	3.56
Gunnison			48.53	47.12					3.72	3.68
Hinsdale			15.21	15.00				10.00	3.56	3.57
Huerfano	150.00	100.00	41.22	40.00		44.06	10.02	6.98	4.61	3.36
Jackson			24.79	20.00					3.78	3.78
Jefferson			145.83	146.02			44.88	44.50	7.25	7.26
Kiowa									10.50	10.24
Kit Carson			75.00	38.50	35.50	36.91	17.56	17.48	7.87	8.53
Lake									6.87	6.42
La Plata	136.37	154.35	47.39	46.73			17.74	15.44	4.06	3.91
Larimer			133.20	131.31	25.00	25.00	24.99	25.00	3.91	3.97
Las Animas			55.63	55.40	29.48	30.70	20.02	10.00	4.61	4.54
Lincoln					30.00	27.50	12.63	12.61	8.11	7.81
Logan			82.70	83.00	25.00	22.50	25.60	22.00	7.20	5.45
Mesa	225.53	224.01	84.08	83.11					5.69	5.70
Mineral			11.03	13.67	25.00	25.00			5.00	5.00
Moffat			49.07	43.72	31.10	29.10	12.69	8.26	4.49	4.07
Montezuma	50.60	50.00	37.08	37.25			15.21	15.01	3.02	3.00
Montrose	99.15	97.20	73.93	72.53			20.70	19.02	5.08	4.17
Morgan			94.00	87.00	23.50	23.50	13.38	13.28	5.82	5.97
Otero	184.41	190.68	118.60	117.98			14.36	16.02	4.05	4.00
Ouray			59.47	63.67	2.12	6.61	12.03	12.00	3.30	3.27
Park					36.66	37.45	15.00	15.00	7.21	7.65
Phillips							31.55	31.41	7.21	7.16
Pitkin			57.95	57.40			20.00	20.00	3.16	3.16
Prowers			77.02	72.00	29.62	26.00	7.30	6.90	4.97	4.65
Pueblo	146.07	149.19	95.02	93.62			16.55	16.21	4.02	4.27
Rio Blanco			65.79	60.10	40.17	38.80	22.26	16.21	4.62	4.62
Rio Grande			85.41	85.78	32.50	32.50	24.00	26.12	6.20	6.43
Routt	93.50	92.19	48.95	49.43			28.24	28.98	5.76	4.27
Saguache			43.45	44.00	28.00	28.00			5.00	6.40
San Juan									6.40	4.71
San Miguel			39.51	40.00			24.07	23.86	4.87	5.00
Sedwick			62.92	62.71	15.00	15.32	29.18	29.18	5.00	5.75
Summit			35.06	35.00					3.76	3.70
Teller					15.40	15.45	10.25	10.40	2.49	2.87
Washington			117.28	101.65			18.54	16.85	9.33	5.98
Weld			110.14	108.92	22.56	23.12	15.85	14.14	5.83	3.71
Yuma			71.30	61.00	30.50	30.00	24.50	26.00	4.60	4.60
Totals	\$163.76	\$168.59	\$ 83.45	\$ 82.76	\$27.88	\$28.60	\$15.91	\$15.26	\$5.66	\$5.47