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# Crop Report for Colorado

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

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**Winter Wheat.**—The area sown to winter wheat in Colorado in the fall of 1922 was approximately 1,578,000 acres, compared with about 1,262,000 acres harvested from the 1922 crop and 1,032,000 acres harvested in 1919. On April 1, the condition was estimated at 65 per cent of normal, compared with 77 per cent on April 1, last year, and a ten-year average of 87 per cent. The present condition of 65 per cent is a decrease of 3 points from the December figure and 1 point lower than for March. While a preliminary estimate of production of winter wheat is not generally made for April 1, present conditions would warrant a forecast about equal to the final estimate of last year's crop of 16,406,000 bushels. The production reported by the census for 1919 was 13,622,000 bushels. The estimate for this year is based on the assumption that there will be about 15 per cent winter abandonment. The winter abandonment of the past 8 years has ranged from as low as 1 per cent in 1919 to as high as 20 per cent in 1917 and 1922, and the average for the period has been 9.9 per cent. Much of the winter wheat crop was sown last fall in dry ground, and either did not sprout or did not have sufficient moisture to promote vigorous growth, so the extent of the abandonment is still uncertain. Much of the principal winter wheat area of the state has been deficient in moisture throughout last fall and winter, but the very favorable moisture conditions that prevailed during March may reduce the abandonment to some extent. The tentative estimate of production is based upon a 13-bushel average yield per acre, compared with 13.2 bushels in 1919 and 13 bushels in 1922.

The United States winter wheat crop declined in condition 4.3 points from December 1 to April 1, as compared with an average decline in the past ten years of 3.8 points between these dates. From other state figures and United States figures for wheat, rye and brood sows see table on page 3.

**Winter Rye.**—The outlook for the winter or fall rye crop of Colorado is about the same as for wheat. The condition declined about 5 points during the period since December 1, and reached April 1 around 64 per cent of normal, compared with 86 per cent last year, and a ten-year average of 89 per cent. The condition on April 1, justifies a forecast of approximately 8.6 bushels per acre and a production of 748,000 bushels, compared with 873,000 bushels harvested in 1922. The forecast is based on 87,000 acres planted to fall rye for grain, compared with 97,000 acres a year ago, with no allowance for abandonment. Fall rye has suffered to some extent in this respect the same as winter wheat. In 1922 nearly 86 per cent of the area devoted to the rye crop was fall rye. Much of the rye acreage of this state is used for pasture and not harvested for grain. Practically the entire acreage of rye in the state is upon non-irrigated lands.

**Brood Sows.**—Reports generally show continued interest in the further development of the swine industry of the state, and indicate an additional increase in the number of brood sows of about 10 per cent during the past year. The abundance of cheap feed and the heavy corn reserves have brought about the tendency towards rapid increases in numbers. The demand for brood sows has continued fairly good for several months. The estimated number in the state on April 1 is 97,000. Only about the usual amount of disease is reported. There have been some small losses attributed to flu and pneumonia, and some complaint of losses in spring litters. The total number of swine in the state on January 1, was estimated at 523,000, compared with the census number of 450,000 January 1, 1920. The number of mature hogs assessed in the state on April 1, 1922, was 206,017, compared with 172,844 on April 1, 1921; 177,497 on April 1, 1920; 135,188 on April 1, 1919, and 194,576 on April 1, 1918. The federal census reported the

number of sows and gets for breeding purposes in the state, January 1, 1920, as 79,658, or 36.4 per cent of all swine. The agricultural enumeration made by the county assessors for April 1, 1922, indicated that the farmers of the state then held about 13.5 per cent more brood sows than on April 1, 1921. The county assessors in listing hogs for taxation purposes only list those of fair size, nearly six months of age or older.

**Farm Labor Supply.**—The supply of farm labor is less plentiful than last year, and at this time the demand is nearly the same. The present supply is about 93 per cent of a year ago and 92 per cent of normal, while the present need is indicated as only 92 per cent of normal, compared with 88 per cent last year. Thus the supply is about equal to the actual demand. Assuming that normally the supply of and demand for farm labor are about equal, it appears from the records of the past four years, that the low point of supply was in 1920, and the high point of demand for farm labor was in 1919. There are now about 100 men for each 100 jobs on Colorado farms, last year there were 124 men for each 100 jobs, while in 1920 there were only 84 men available for each 100 jobs. These figures indicate there is either less acreage to be farmed or that such crops are to be grown as will require less labor. Correspondents report a general tendency to hire as little help as practicable. Improved farm machinery and low prices paid for farm products have considerable influence upon farm labor demands. In general farmers are unable to finance their farm operations as fully as they desire. However, in comparison with the above figures, the prevailing opinion is held that there is a shortage of farm labor, and that the shortage will develop more fully as the season advances. In the United States the farm labor supply is indicated as only 82.8 per cent of normal, while the demand is 94.6 per cent of normal, making the supply about 12.6 per cent below the demand, compared with 11.4 per cent above the demand last year. This year there are about 87.4 men for each 100 jobs compared with 111 men last year, 109 men in 1921 and 69 men in 1920.

**Farm Wages.**—Reports concerning the wages of farm labor in Colorado show the average for the state to be, when hired by the month with board, \$36, compared with \$33.60 last year, \$37.80 for 1921, \$65.30 for 1920 and \$32.50 for 1916. Corresponding figures for men hired by the month, board not furnished, are about \$55 per month, compared with \$52 last year, \$62.37 in 1921, \$95 in 1920 and \$47.50 in 1916. The variations between the extremes of high and low average wages in the different counties is about \$18 per month.

**Potato Acreage—1922.**—Colorado farmers now intend to plant about 30,000 acres less to potatoes this year than last year, according to the special preliminary inquiry and report of April 1. This is a decrease of about 20 per cent, and would mean the planting of about 122,000 acres in the state, as compared with 152,000 acres estimated to have been planted last year. On the basis of the reductions in the irrigated plantings will be about 100,000 acres, and the non-irrigated acreage about 22,000 acres. Seed potatoes are said to be generally ample in supply and reasonable in price. This inquiry was made on April 1, and the results reported at this time, in order that farmers throughout the state may have this knowledge of the trend of the potato industry, and, if they so desire, may increase or decrease their plantings accordingly.

The estimated production of potatoes in Colorado in 1922 was 18,460,000 bushels, compared to 14,916,000 bushels in 1921. The carlot shipments from the 1922 crop to April 7 have amounted to 13,404 cars, compared to 15,308 cars to the same date a year ago, and a total from the 1921 crop of 17,742 cars.

According to a recent forecast by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the early and intermediate states, potatoes have been and will be planted on about 260,380 acres. This acreage is about one-fourth smaller than the exceptionally large acreage of 1922, and is smaller than the planted acreage of this crop in these two groups of states in any year since 1919.

In the early states the acreage of the early crop is forecast at 172,830 acres, or 77 per cent of 1922. In the intermediate states a forecast of 87,550 acres is made, or 76 per cent of the similar acreage in 1922.

**Agricultural Outlook.**—The average amount of moisture in the soil is estimated as 90 per cent of normal for this time of year, compared with 84 per cent last year on April 1, 87 per cent two years ago, and 86.5 per cent April 1, 1920. A marked deficiency in precipitation and stored moisture in the soil for non-irrigated lands has prevailed in the plains sections of the state for more than a year, and still exists in an acute way in the southeastern quarter, and especially south of the Arkansas river. The precipitation that occurred during the month of March reduced the deficiency materially in the northcentral and northeastern counties. Opportune and ample snows and rain will be required to mature satisfactory crops even where moisture is fairly good at present.

**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	District and County	Winter Wheat				Moisture
	Irrig.	Non-Irrig.	All	Rye			Irrig.	Non-Irrig.	All	Rye	
<b>1. Northwest—</b>						<b>Summit</b>					
Grand	100	100	100	.....	105	Teller	.....	.....	.....	.....	103
Jackson	.....	.....	.....	.....	112	<b>6. East Central—</b>					
Mo'at	80	45	45	30	95	Arapahoe	85	75	76	70	95
Pio Blanco	.....	50	50	100	105	Cheyenne	.....	37	37	25	53
Routt	100	100	100	100	100	Douglas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>2. North Central—</b>						Elbert	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Adams	60	77	76	85	112	El Paso	.....	65	65	68	94
Boulder	71	57	69	.....	86	Kit Carson	.....	59	59	68	57
Denver	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Lincoln	.....	57	57	63	82
Larimer	75	63	63	80	108	<b>7. Southwest—</b>					
Weld	86	65	72	69	104	Archuleta	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>3. Northeast—</b>						Dolores	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Logan	87	63	65	80	89	Hinsdale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Morgan	70	62	63	58	99	La Plata	97	100	97	.....	98
Phillips	.....	67	67	70	67	Mineral	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sedgwick	66	55	56	66	83	Montezuma	87	88	88	93	94
Washington	.....	57	57	62	78	San Juan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tuma	.....	54	54	55	59	San Miguel	73	87	83	85	93
<b>4. West Central—</b>						<b>8. South Central—</b>					
Delta	86	.....	86	.....	83	Alamosa	.....	.....	.....	.....	78
Eagle	100	.....	100	.....	119	Conejos	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Garfield	98	97	97	95	97	Costilla	100	75	107	.....	90
Garrison	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	Custer	88	88	88	100	100
Mesa	86	100	87	.....	101	Huerfano	100	80	81	.....	100
Montrose	91	87	91	100	84	Rio Grande	.....	.....	.....	.....	105
Guray	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	Saguache	.....	.....	.....	.....	97
Pitkin	100	.....	100	.....	103	<b>9. Southeast—</b>					
<b>5. Central—</b>						Baca	.....	80	80	75	85
Chaffee	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	Bent	62	35	55	50	57
Clear Creek	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Crowley	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fremont	60	.....	60	.....	112	Kiowa	.....	65	65	73	71
Gilpin	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Las Animas	75	45	45	75	73
Jefferson	91	93	91	97	110	Otero	70	38	68	90	64
Lake	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Prowers	71	32	52	60	46
Park	.....	100	100	100	120	Pueblo	.....	94	94	.....	100
						State Average....	80	63	65	64	90

**COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL DATA FOR APRIL 1.**

	COLORADO					UNITED STATES				
	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
<b>Winter Wheat—</b>										
Acreage	1,578*	1,262	1,346	1,044	1,032	46,069	42,127	43,414	40,016	54,494
Condition, per cent.....	65	77	85	75	100	75.2	78.4	91.0	75.6	99.8
Production, bushels.....	16,400	16,406	16,152	18,270	13,622	572,317	586,204	600,316	610,597	760,377
<b>Winter Rye—</b>										
Acreage	87	97	92	100	124	5,508	6,210	4,628	4,409	6,307
Condition, per cent.....	64	86	90	75	100	81.8	89.0	90.3	86.8	90.6
<b>Breeding Sows—</b>										
Per cent compared with last year.....	110	110	100	88	88	106.7	111.1	97.8	90.1	.....
Number of brood sows April 1.....	97	88	80	80	91	13,256	12,424	11,183	11,446	12,736
Number of all swine Jan. 1	523	455	414	450	450	63,424	67,834	56,097	59,344	74,584
<b>Farm Labor Supply—</b>										
Per cent compared with normal	92	109	105	80	90	82.8	99.5	95.2	72.4	84.2
<b>Farm Labor Requirements—</b>										
Per cent demand compared with normal	92	88	87	99	103	94.6	89.3	87.5	105.8	101.8
Per cent of supply compared to demand....	100	124	121	81	87	87.4	111.4	108.8	63.5	82.9

\*Area sown. Colorado winter wheat production is based upon a tentative estimate of 15 per cent abandonment.  
 Figures on acreage, production and numbers of swine, require (000) to complete them.

VALUE OF LIVESTOCK PER HEAD AS REPORTED BY COUNTY ASSESSORS IN 1921 AND 1922

COUNTY	Horses		Mules		Range Cattle		Milch Cows		Sheep		Swine	
	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922
Adams	\$65.94	\$66.70	\$73.16	\$71.20	\$30.85	\$32.80	\$50.35	\$64.40	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.98	\$ 9.67	\$11.44
Alamosa	54.37	48.89	92.53	84.15	27.43	27.36	59.37	56.44	3.67	4.57	8.42	7.67
Arapahoe	47.96	44.81	64.03	54.38	30.58	33.92	61.93	50.85	3.57	4.08	10.25	8.94
Archuleta	63.21	60.07	86.70	62.95	29.59	26.47	54.64	43.83	3.77	4.07	6.43	6.83
Baca	37.89	34.00	57.53	40.00	25.01	25.09	53.46	41.00	3.54	4.00	6.59	6.00
Bent	45.39	43.16	69.00	54.09	26.69	25.06	50.03	45.83	3.83	4.03	7.88	9.57
Boulder	90.18	71.29	90.04	85.97	32.68	30.74	59.50	50.85	6.70	5.31	12.53	12.14
Chaffee	65.86	61.13	67.85	56.20	27.94	28.42	58.42	50.60	3.54	4.70	8.16	8.10
Cheyenne	34.45	34.42	59.03	49.88	25.65	26.05	51.38	41.14	3.53	4.03	10.28	10.67
Clear Creek	63.35	62.77	60.00	50.00	25.05	25.00	60.00	60.50	3.50	4.23	9.64	11.66
Conejos	64.76	57.60	65.85	60.00	25.64	25.51	52.77	44.47	3.60	4.04	7.90	8.26
Costilla	55.13	44.03	71.36	61.63	27.80	27.77	52.00	54.36	3.56	4.05	8.27	8.18
Crowley	50.34	42.79	55.10	49.36	25.10	27.42	82.67	43.67	5.85	5.00	3.89	7.85
Custer	52.15	39.65	66.30	46.26	28.31	26.94	52.97	40.08	3.57	5.59	8.02	6.76
Delta	68.78	59.58	69.31	53.75	26.14	25.26	52.98	51.10	3.83	4.34	7.00	8.54
Denver	83.50	72.72	117.50	114.60	.....	.....	75.50	59.50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dolores	58.16	62.20	81.48	71.93	27.30	27.10	50.00	47.72	3.92	4.35	10.27	11.47
Douglas	57.59	46.35	75.95	65.64	29.86	26.89	58.23	51.33	4.23	5.00	11.41	12.98
Eagle	85.41	87.21	94.60	87.10	30.62	31.17	63.23	55.57	3.86	4.23	9.84	9.06
Elbert	52.21	42.46	62.00	53.23	27.57	28.37	53.41	43.27	3.56	4.22	10.12	8.32
El Paso	49.38	41.19	61.63	51.05	29.12	25.00	50.67	50.00	4.09	4.25	10.80	12.00
Fremont	49.29	44.50	68.67	52.65	27.46	25.28	53.95	43.96	3.71	4.20	8.20	8.65
Garfield	67.59	66.08	87.01	84.32	26.40	25.69	56.16	52.50	4.00	4.25	7.61	7.11
Gilpin	58.00	56.06	75.00	63.50	28.57	26.68	50.00	40.00	5.00	5.00	9.50	8.80
Grand	57.65	37.29	48.22	29.45	31.94	30.08	60.10	58.98	3.99	4.43	9.88	10.31
Gunnison	57.50	54.00	83.00	82.71	26.66	26.06	53.40	54.88	4.00	6.10	7.90	8.44
Hinsdale	40.40	38.95	46.80	53.22	25.70	26.54	50.36	50.00	3.55	4.00	5.00	6.06
Huerfano	59.27	47.10	108.40	96.15	29.12	27.34	51.94	47.18	3.52	4.10	8.98	7.68
Jackson	33.98	30.07	50.87	44.30	30.81	26.06	65.00	50.00	4.00	4.00	7.38	5.63
Jefferson	57.89	43.88	76.63	81.66	34.14	28.55	62.61	49.10	4.74	4.91	10.10	12.14
Kiowa	39.60	39.74	60.63	47.29	26.10	25.00	50.90	40.00	3.50	4.00	12.64	16.13
Kit Carson	43.68	33.72	47.16	33.21	26.23	27.89	50.02	39.64	3.64	4.35	11.15	9.73
Lake	67.37	64.52	35.00	41.33	30.42	30.19	57.20	50.07	3.51	4.85	.....	12.50
La Plata	58.83	44.40	66.21	51.28	25.00	25.00	50.58	40.58	3.50	4.00	7.37	7.70
Larimer	74.37	64.10	110.32	91.05	30.36	25.00	52.51	53.16	3.51	4.55	9.05	9.85
Las Animas	35.26	38.38	84.82	72.19	33.91	25.52	61.56	50.68	3.99	4.00	8.21	7.42
Lincoln	36.92	28.80	55.96	44.75	26.50	25.57	50.32	41.80	4.00	4.13	11.11	8.95
Logan	62.54	56.77	78.36	62.61	28.32	26.27	50.00	45.61	5.81	7.56	10.44	8.27
Mesa	61.08	59.70	69.66	68.30	26.25	25.15	55.11	52.40	4.10	4.65	.....	.....
Mineral	38.35	37.41	75.00	71.84	26.54	25.60	65.00	62.37	3.56	4.11	8.75	8.96
Moffat	39.42	30.22	76.48	50.01	26.64	31.98	53.24	44.33	3.69	4.47	8.52	8.12
Montezuma	51.26	47.08	58.85	51.48	29.58	27.21	53.52	44.99	3.96	4.38	5.88	7.78
Montrose	68.20	50.46	72.84	57.06	27.42	24.96	54.37	45.83	3.99	4.01	7.61	8.58
Morgan	60.86	47.36	70.03	52.00	27.90	25.10	51.88	47.35	3.50	4.00	9.35	8.16
Otero	61.64	48.69	77.25	57.61	27.60	26.45	55.41	45.98	3.78	4.31	8.55	8.45
Ouray	64.14	54.48	66.61	61.15	26.90	27.00	55.42	50.00	3.87	3.97	10.02	7.06
Park	59.53	56.66	76.07	71.80	28.27	28.26	54.50	52.47	3.73	4.24	9.18	9.96
Phillips	52.20	43.83	59.60	53.68	26.26	26.27	50.95	44.81	.....	4.35	8.77	10.11
Pitkin	73.13	66.80	100.00	60.16	27.65	30.07	50.00	50.56	3.49	4.00	8.92	8.20
Prowers	50.77	38.00	65.92	46.00	28.56	25.00	57.28	55.00	3.81	4.00	9.84	8.10
Pueblo	60.57	56.55	88.18	78.96	31.00	29.50	55.43	55.69	4.00	4.77	9.42	7.42
Rio Blanco	54.00	47.20	88.00	75.80	27.91	25.96	53.27	51.42	4.50	4.51	12.70	9.57
Rio Grande	64.65	66.58	105.31	101.71	25.93	25.77	58.37	50.23	3.71	4.23	8.90	8.83
Routt	57.42	48.85	77.00	67.12	34.24	30.46	58.32	49.98	4.00	5.00	9.00	9.04
Saguache	47.30	41.07	61.07	48.95	26.27	26.03	55.15	56.18	3.61	4.17	11.10	9.49
San Juan	66.41	57.82	64.23	57.14	25.00	26.43	53.58	45.58	3.69	4.36	.....	.....
San Miguel	67.32	60.93	70.60	61.82	32.60	28.91	60.32	52.44	3.72	4.46	7.88	7.66
Sedgwick	56.40	50.46	84.30	58.47	28.45	25.00	50.00	51.06	.....	5.00	9.82	8.97
Summit	64.21	62.90	75.00	66.66	29.60	29.42	60.13	60.00	10.00	.....	14.77	15.90
Teller	53.60	54.16	104.48	71.45	27.20	27.10	56.52	56.51	.....	.....	10.55	10.00
Washington	35.82	31.98	47.39	39.15	27.20	25.06	62.43	.....	3.51	4.00	10.29	9.90
Weld	76.57	63.43	74.66	58.36	31.00	28.91	55.36	50.10	3.68	5.05	9.07	9.17
Yuma	42.17	38.12	60.10	53.41	25.47	25.92	50.00	42.63	4.00	6.00	10.50	10.25
State	\$55.42	\$48.15	\$69.56	\$56.31	\$28.35	\$26.72	\$55.01	\$48.92	\$ 3.76	\$ 4.22	\$ 9.37	\$ 9.14