BULLETIN NO. 47
JUNE, 1923

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*
Washington *Denver*
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 acreages for 1923 crops in Colorado, given in this bulletin, are preliminary estimates of acreage left for harvest and not necessarily equal to acreage planted. While reasonably accurate, the acreages are established in comparison in a percentage way with the acreages of corresponding crops for 1922 and former years, and are subject to revision later, probably in December, when there will be general revisions of all acreage and production figures. In reference to some of the principal crops, reports of county assessors indicate that revisions will show material decreases in the acreage for harvest of winter wheat and rye, small increases for spring wheat and oats, with a possible decrease in the acreage of barley. 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 very well determined as yet 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.

Winter Wheat—Colorado winter wheat reached June 1 with a condition of 68 percent, 3 points higher than on May 1, 12 points lower than June 1 last year, and 19 points below the ten-year average for June 1, and indicated a crop of 15,094,000 bushels based on an average yield of 14.3 bushels for 1,057,000 acres left for harvest. In comparison, the crop harvested last year from 1,262,000 acres amounted to 16,406,000 bushels. The crop of 1919, as shown by the federal census report, was 13,270,000 bushels harvested from 1,032,000 acres. Weather conditions during May this year were generally favorable for the development of this crop. However, much of the winter wheat is spotted with thin stands. In many fields weeds are becoming a menace to the crop. It is doubtful if the indicated yield can be maintained and harvested.

Spring Wheat—The acreage of spring wheat for harvest in Colorado this year is estimated at 101 percent of that of last year, the preliminary estimate amounting to 362,000 acres. The condition on June 1 was 93 percent, compared with 92 last year and a ten-year average of 93 percent on June 1. Based on the condition of 93 percent or about 19.3 bushels per acre, if conditions continue favorable until harvest, the production will amount to 6,987,000 bushels, compared with 5,370,000 bushels last year, and 4,574,000 bushels produced in 1919 from 297,000 acres as reported by the census.

All Wheat—The forecast of total production of all wheat for the state this year is now placed at 22,081,000 bushels, compared with a final estimate of 21,776,000 bushels last year, and 17,844,000 bushels reported by the census for 1919.

Figures for oats, barley, rye, all hay, alfalfa, pastures, cabbage, onions, cantaloupes, sugar beets and other crops are presented quite fully in the table on page 4, and not reproduced in the text.

Fruit—Comparative figures on condition and forecast of production on apples, peaches, and other fruits are shown in the table on page 4. Similar to last year Colorado has most promising prospects for large crops of all kinds of fruit. All commercial fruit growing sections, except one or two minor localities, are in excellent condition and far above the ten-year average.

Cherries—The cherry crop of the state had a condition of 89 percent of normal on June 1, compared with 95 percent a year ago, 60 percent in 1921 and 35 percent

in 1920. The crop should amount to 180,000 to 200,000 bushels. In 1919 the crop totalled 165,000 bushels according to the federal census. The added growth of all trees during the past four years, together with the increase in numbers of bearing age, should add much to the production. The principal cherry counties are Larimer, Fremont, Jefferson, Otero and Crowley.

Small Fruits—Prospects are for large crops of strawberries (97 percent) and blackberries (94), which are better condition ratings, with moisture supplies and prospects much more favorable than a year ago for properly maturing the crop. In 1919 the census reported a production of 944,000 quarts of strawberries and 2,295,000 quarts for the combined production of raspberries, blackberries and loganberries. The crops this year should be much larger.

Truck Crops—The truck crops of the State, cabbage, onions and cantaloupes, are coming on in generally good condition, though delayed. Cabbage is regarded as 90 percent of normal, compared with 95 a year ago; onions 90, compared to 93; and cantaloupes 90, compared with 97 at this time last year. The heavy rains and some hail together with flood waters have materially damaged these crops, as cabbage and onion lands are frequently located upon the river bottoms. Cantaloupes are about two weeks late for this date, and some replanting has been necessary in a few instances to other crops.

Reports indicate there is considerable reduction in the acreage of cantaloupes planted this year, compared with the 14,000 acres harvested last year, from nearly 17,000 acres planted. The reduction is heaviest in Crowley and Otero Counties. In Otero County, especially, some reduction has occurred since planting, account of total losses of some fields by heavy hail and rains. The cabbage acreage appears to be much the same as a year ago, when there were about 5,200 acres for harvest. The onion acreage is reported as considerably increased, especially in Delta and Montrose counties. Last year the total acreage for harvest in the State was 1,905 acres.

Agricultural Outlook—The soil condition on June 1, as indicated by the average of reports improved 12 points during May and raised the general average of moisture conditions above normal, or 102, compared with 90 percent last year on June 1 and 112 at this date in 1920. Moisture conditions in the western part of the state have been quite favorable throughout the past fall and winter and during the spring while the eastern plains sections were very dry until March 15, since which time (to June 15) rains have fallen frequently and with increasingly heavy precipitation until moisture conditions for the entire state are highly optimistic, in an all-around way perhaps the best in years. Irrigation water has been plentiful in all sections and reservoirs generally filled to capacity with nearly all rivers at flood stage and vast quantities of flood waters going by, causing considerable damage to truck gardens and other crops upon the bottom lands along the rivers in the northern part of the state and in the Arkansas Valley.

Planting of corn and other late crops, thinning of beets, cultivation and other farm operation have generally been much delayed or prevented account wet weather. Temperatures have been below normal. Sunshine and warmer weather are needed for rapid growth of crops.

On June 1 Colorado had a combined condition of 96.1 of the ten-year average for all crops reported upon. This is 2.2 points lower than the similar figure of a year ago.

General Review of United States Crop Conditions June 1.—The composite condition of all crops of the United State on June 1 was about 4.7 percent below their ten year average condition on that date. Last year the June 1 condition of all crops was 0.8 percent below the average. The condition of the various crops on June 1, expressed in percentages of ten-year averages (not the normal) on June 1, was as follows: Winter wheat, 92.7; spring wheat, 97.7; oats, 96.2; barley, 98.9; rye, 90.9; all hay, 94.8; alfalfa hay, 100.2; field beans, 96.1; cotton, 96.5; apples, 108.9; peaches, 107.2; pears, 103.9; cherries, 99.6; oranges, 106.6; prunes, 78.3; blackberries, 99.8; grapefruit, 118.7; pastures, 93.2.

Trend of farm prices—The level of prices paid producers of the United States for the principal crops decreased about 0.8 percent during May. In the past ten years the price level increased about 2.5 percent during May. On June 1 the index figure of prices was about 17 percent higher than a year ago, 29 percent higher than two years ago, and 16.8 percent lower than the average of the past ten years on June 1.

The prices of meat animals—Hogs, cattle, sheep and chickens to producers of the United States decreased 1.8 percent from April 15 to May 15; in the past ten years prices increased in like period 0.4 percent. On May 15 the index figure of prices for these meat animals was about 10.9 percent lower than a year ago, 37.0 percent lower than two years ago, and 25.1 percent lower than the average of the past ten years on May 15.

CCNDITION OF CROPS AND AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK ON JUNE 1, PER CENT, COMPARED WITH NORMAL.

Counties	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Hay (All)	Alfalfa	Pasture	Agr'l Outlook
1. Northwest—									
Grand	85	100	100	100	100	98	96	93	105
Jackson	.....	.....	90	95	.....	80	.....	75	110
Moffat	72	99	102	111	107	100	106	105	117
Rio Blanco	88	100	100	.....	100	107	105	107	115
Routt	.....	73	94	110	100	101	101	99	.....
2. North Central——									
Adams	79	73	104	99	90	94	93	97	108
Boulder	75	98	98	98	.....	97	92	97	107
Denver	.....	92	95	91	.....	95	98	98	95
Larimer	73	90	96	96	90	87	98	101	109
Weld	70	95	96	94	88	96	96	97	109
3. Northeast—									
Logan	78	97	99	97	73	100	100	95	122
Morgan	76	90	94	97	95	101	100	97	100
Phillips	57	88	100	100	90	100	100	100	138
Sedgwick	44	93	95	97	70	95	90	93	130
Washington	55	96	89	94	83	110	120	97	115
Yuma	54	87	86	92	59	93	98	101	91
4. West Central—									
Delta	95	99	94	110	100	106	107	80	99
Eagle	.....	100	100	100	.....	90	90	95	100
Garfield	99	103	104	108	.....	102	97	101	104
Gunnison	.....	.....	68	79	.....	95	95	93	95
Mesa	96	100	100	.....	.....	102	100	100	105
Montrose	86	92	93	98	.....	95	95	97	95
Ouray	150	98	97	90	.....	95	100	98	95
Pitkin	100	100	100	100	.....	100	100	103	100
5. Central—									
Chaffee	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Clear Creek	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fremont	75	88	97	95	95	90	87	82	93
Gilpin	100	.....	100	.....	100	95	.....	100	100
Jefferson	92	86	87	90	95	94	94	94	104
Lake	100	100	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	100	100
Park	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Summit	.....	.....	95	100	.....	100	.....	98	100
Teller	.....	.....	100	100	.....	98	.....	93	98
6. East Central—									
Arapahoe	73	83	100	87	73	100	95	100	119
Cheyenne	43	80	100	100	90	100	100	90	102
Douglas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Elbert	70	90	100	.....	90	100	105	105	100
El Paso	63	84	95	100	88	92	89	88	95
Kit Carson	56	80	83	93	80	93	100	102	108
Lincoln	60	89	90	90	80	90	90	93	93
7. Southwest—									
Archuleta	98	95	98	88	.....	95	103	93	92
Dolores	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hinsdale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
La Plata	98	100	100	100	100	100	104	98	104
Mineral	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	.....	90	90
Montezuma	89	98	96	96	90	85	90	88	105
San Juan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
San Miguel	86	94	95	95	95	95	98	95	95
8. South Central—									
Alamosa	.....	83	83	85	.....	102	99	99	88
Conejos	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Costilla	100	95	90	95	.....	90	100	95	90
Custer	95	100	100	.....	.....	100	100	100	100
Huerfano	100	100	100	.....	.....	80	100	100	.....
Rio Grande	.....	85	84	87	.....	.....	94	84	80
Saguache	.....	87	83	.....	.....	80	88	82	70
9. Southeast—									
Baca	40	75	.....	87	100	95	80	75	100
Bent	41	63	77	75	75	72	73	67	99
Crowley	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kiowa	20	75	.....	.....	95	90	.....	100	110
Las Animas	62	71	82	82	75	75	80	73	70
Otero	83	86	88	84	88	81	87	73	100
Prowers	71	72	100	85	.....	87	85	85	95
Pueblo	100	97	100	98	100	105	100	83	83
State Total	68	93	93	93	84	95	97	92	102

SUMMARY OF JUNE 1, 1923, CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES.

Subject	Colorado 1923	1922	1921	Average	United States 1923	1922	1921	Average
WINTER WHEAT—								
Acres for harvest	1,057	1,262	1,346	1,032*	39,750	42,127	43,414	38,416
Condition, percent	68	80	89	87	76.3	81.9	77.9	82.3
Production, bus	15,094	16,406	16,152	13,622*	580,541	586,204	600,316	589,858†
SPRING WHEAT—								
Acres for harvest	362	358	373	361‡	18,503	19,103	20,282	21,127‡
Condition, per cent	93	92	92	93	90.2	90.7	93.4	92.3
Production, bus	6,987	5,370	7,087	7,003‡	236,039	275,887	214,589	244,943‡
ALL WHEAT—								
Acres for harvest	1,419	1,620	1,719	1,393‡	58,253	61,230	63,696	69,543‡
Production, bus	22,081	21,776	23,239	20,625‡	816,580	862,091	814,905	834,861
OATS—								
Acres for harvest	191	185	217	204‡	40,768	40,693	45,495	42,491
Condition, percent	93	94	93	96	85.6	85.5	85.7	89
Production, bus	6,112	4,625	6,727	6,426‡	1,256,456	1,201,436	1,078,341	1,317,903
BARLEY—								
Acres for harvest	182	186	202	216‡	7,980	7,390	7,414	7,600
Condition, percent	93	92	91	93	89.0	90.1	87.1	90.0
Production, bus	5,078	3,534	4,444	5,292‡	196,110	186,118	154,946	192,400†
RYE—								
Acres for harvest	78	97	92	124*	5,324	6,210	4,528	3,151¶
Condition, percent	84	92	94	92	81.1	92.5	90.3	89.2
Production, bus	917	873	1,058	1,088*	72,473	95,497	61,675	70,324†
HAY—								
Acres for harvest	1,544	1,605	1,602	1,493	76,031	77,050	74,401	73,888
Coondition, percent	95	94	95	94	84.4	91.1	85.0	89.0
Production, bus	2,726	2,709	2,904	2,881	.....	.....	.....	.....
ALFALFA—								
Condition, percent	97	93	94	94	92.5	.....	.....	.....
PASTURES—								
Condition, percent	92	92	94	93	84.8	93.8	.....	91.0
FIELD PEAS—								
Condition, percent	98	95	94	95	.....	.....	.....	.....
FIELD BEANS—								
Condition, percent	93	90	93	92	.....	.....	.....	.....
CABBAGE—								
Condition, percent	90	95	81	91	.....	.....	.....	.....
ONIONS—								
Condition, percent	90	93	92	91	.....	.....	.....	.....
APPLES—								
Condition, percent	88	94	55	75	75.5	72.8	42.2	69.3
Production, bus	3,171	4,250	3,200	.....	187,000	201,000	99,002	160,000†
PEACHES—								
Condition, percent	86	99	60	63	66.7	77.1	45.6	62.2
Production bus	.....	1,160	810	722§	47,000	57,000	32,602	43,000†
PEARS—								
Condition, percent	90	98	55	75	.....	72.8	43.8	73.4†
Production, bus	.....	519	502	270§	.....	18,661	11,297	16,805†
BLACKBERRIES—								
Condition, percent	94	85	87	84	.....	.....	.....	.....
CHERRIES—								
Condition, percent	89	95	60	35‡	.....	.....	.....	.....
WATERMELONS—								
Condition, percent	90	96	94	94	.....	.....	.....	.....
CANTALOUPES—								
Condition, percent	90	97	94	86	.....	.....	.....	.....
SUGAR BEETS—								
Acres harvested	.....	148	200	220‡	.....	.....	.....	.....
Condition, percent	92	87	94	92	.....	.....	.....	.....
Production, tons	.....	1,466	2,279	2,325‡	.....	.....	.....	.....
AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK—								
Percent normal moisture in soil for this time	102	90	99	112‡	.....	.....	.....	.....

NOTES: * 1919 revised estimates; § 1919 Federal Census; averages, unless otherwise designated, are ten-year averages; estimates on acreage and production for 1923 in the above table, are preliminary and forecasts and subject to revision as indicated in the first paragraph, page 1. The figures on acreage and production merely enumerate thousands and require the addition of three ciphers (000) to complete them.

‡ 1920; † 1918-22 5-year average; ¶ 1913-17 average.

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