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Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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(Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates)

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Preliminary Acreage Estimates—The estimates of acreage for 1923 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 1922 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 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 this early in the season.

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

With the exception of winter wheat, the tree fruits, and a few truck crops, all of the major crops and some of the minor crops have condition figures above those of last year and nearly equal to or above the ten-year average. The composite figure for all crops in Colorado on July 1 was 99.5 per cent of the average (not normal) condition for that date and improved 3.4 points during June. Last year the composite figure for all crops on July 1 was 96.5 per cent of the average condition for that date, and there was an improvement during June of 1.8 points.

Corn—Colorado corn on July 1 registered a condition of 93 per cent, 3 points more than a year ago and 4 points above the ten-year average for this date. The preliminary estimates of the area planted to this crop, based upon a 25 per cent increase, indicated by reporters and assessors' returns, is about 1,431,000 acres for this year, compared with 1,145,000 acres last year and 1,102,000 acres in 1921. The results of special inquiries indicate that during the past four years only from 70 to 80 per cent of the total acreage of corn was harvested for grain. This year now promises a high percentage. If 80 per cent of the planted acreage is harvested for grain, then 1,145,000 acres will be harvested for corn, compared with the final estimate of 756,000 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, indicating an average yield of 21.0 bushels per acre, would amount to 23,713,000 bushels, compared with 18,320,000 bushels last year, when the average yield was only 16.0 bushels to the acre. With the exception of the season being a little late, conditions are generally highly favorable and Colorado should produce a bumper crop of corn.

Winter Wheat—The winter wheat of the state had a condition of 72 per cent on July 1, 8 points less than a year ago, and 12 points below the ten-year average. Based upon an area of 1,057,000 acres left for harvest, and the condition at this time, the forecast is for a crop of 16,743,000 bushels, compared with 16,406,000 bushels last year. Winter wheat made a marked improvement during June and the present excellent prospects for many fields point to a final outturn possibly better than the forecast now represents. This production would require an average yield of nearly 16 bushels per acre. The average yield last year was only 13 bushels to the acre, compared with 17.5 bushels per acre in 1920, and 13.2 bushels per acre shown by the census in 1919. Wheat was affected by the severe drouth of last fall and winter, which resulted in the unusually heavy abandonment of 33 per cent. The acreage left has improved much beyond expectations since the middle of March, and especially during May and June.

Spring Wheat—The condition of spring wheat on July 1, was 90 per cent, 12 points better than last year on July 1, and 4 points above the ten-year average for this date. The present indicated average yield is about 20.2 bushels per acre. Based on this figure, a crop of 7,331,000 bushels is in prospect, compared with 5,370,000 bushels last year, when the average yield was 15 bushels per acre.

The stocks of old wheat on farms is less than a year ago and now estimated at 4.5 per cent, totaling 1,103,000 bushels, compared with 1,394,000 bushels last year.

Potatoes—Returns from about 40,000 farmers to county assessors, reporters and other information indicate about a ten per cent decrease in the acreage devoted to potatoes. It is estimated that 128,000 acres have been planted in the state for harvest this year, compared with 152,000 acres planted last year, from which 142,000 acres were harvested. The condition on July 1 was 93 per cent, 7 points higher than a year ago at this time, and two points above the ten-year average. The condition indicates an average yield of about 134 bushels per acre, with present crop prospects amounting to 17,142,000 bushels, compared with 13,460,000 bushels last year. The decrease in acreage is heaviest in the important irrigated commercial districts. The crop is generally in excellent condition with favorable temperatures and moisture to date, and abundant irrigation water available. The carlot movement of potatoes from the 1922 Colorado crop to April 30 this year totaled 14,333 cars, compared with 16,557 cars to same date last year and a total of last year's shipments of 17,742 cars.

Fruits—The prospects for good crops of all kinds of fruit are regarded as excellent though not quite up to last year. Detailed figures will be found in the table on last page, except for cherries.

Cherries—The cherry crop of the state is almost uniformly good and above average condition and rated at 80 per cent of normal on July 1, as compared with about 92 last year, 50 per cent in 1921 and 75 per cent in 1919. The crop this year should amount to 180,000 bushels or more. 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 of commercial cantaloupes this year is about 69 per cent of last year and is estimated to be about 9,660 acres. About 460 per cent increase in the acreage of broom corn is indicated, totaling 56,000 acres, compared to 10,000 acres harvested in 1922. The very large increase in the acreage of beans should be noted, 170,000 acres planted, which is more than twice that harvested last year. In 1917 and 1918 large acreages were planted, amounting to about 250,000 acres each year. The July 1 condition figures for 1923, 1922, 1921, in order named for crops not mentioned in the table on page 4 are as follows: Alfalfa, 86-86-92; grain sorghums, 92-85-96; field peas, 95-93-93; broom corn, 95-85-95; millet, 92-85-92; tomatoes, 79-86-90; cabbage, 88-85-95; onions, 89-89-94; blackberries, 84-86-90; watermelons, 78-85-85; cantaloupes, 75-85-83; pastures, 98-82-102.

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 98 per cent of normal, compared with 76 per cent of normal July 1 last year, and 101 in 1921. There was a decline of 4 points during June. During the first half of June, there was considerable rain, especially in the northern and northeastern parts of the state. Since June 15, but little moisture except in the form of local showers has occurred. Pastures in all parts of the state are almost uniformly in excellent condition. The south central and southeast quarter need more rain to fully break the drouth.

General Review of United States Crop Conditions, July 1, 1923—The composite condition of all crops of the United States on July 1 was about 3.6 per cent below their ten-year average condition on that date, as compared with a condition 4.7 per cent below average on June 1, indicating some improvement in crop prospects during the past month. Final yields per acre of crops last year were about 3.3 per cent below average.

The condition figures for July 1, 1923, and 10-year averages for United States crops not mentioned elsewhere, are: Alfalfa hay, 89.7-88.8; beans, 89.4-86.4; broom corn, 83.0-81.8; cabbage, 83.4-86.6; cotton, 69.9-76.0; flax, 85.0-84.8; grain sorghums, 85.3-85.1; melons, 75.8-79.8; millet, 85.7-83.4; onions, 85.4-87.8; pasture, 85.5-88.1; rice, 86.4-89.0; tomatoes, 81.8-82.9; cherries (California-Florida), 81.0-78.0.

The total production of important products this year, compared with last year, expressed in percentages, is estimated as follows: Corn, 99.5; wheat, 95.2; oats, 106.8; barley, 106.5; rye, 71.9; white potatoes, 87.4; tobacco, 107.5; flaxseed, 146.7; rice, 78.8; hay (all), 87.8; sugar beets, 123.1; sweet potatoes, 85.2; cotton, 116.9; apples, 94.0; peaches, 85.4; pears, 81.3; broom corn, 262.0; grain sorghums, 138.1; beans, 126.1; peanuts, 110.9; hops, 64.9; sorghums (syrup), 92.3.

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

Districts and Counties	Corn	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Potatoes	All Hay	Alfalfa	Pas- ture	Agr'l Out- look
1. Northwest—											
Grand				90				100		100	
Jackson				100	100		87	102		105	110
Moffat	74	79	84	97	79	89	92	92	88	95	86
Rio Blanco		86	90	92		100	92	88	75	93	90
Routt		83	100	99	128	100	100	101	95	99	102
2. North Central—											
Adams	79	80	87	88	93	88	88	78	78	102	98
Boulder	77	83	94	99	94		97	65	64	100	110
Denver											
Larimer	86	76	96	95	88		100	69	64	104	102
Weld	87	80	93	91	96	91	97	89	82	98	99
3. Northeast—											
Logan	87	87	97	100	99	81	95	100	100	100	86
Morgan	98	99	99	100	102	102	100	102	102	123	106
Phillips	90	63	95	93	100	100	98	100	95	98	125
Sedgwick	94	54	98	101	103	75	100	93	98	108	130
Washington	92	78	98	78	86	90	93	85	95	117	90
Yuma	84	65	87	92	90	75	91	89	97	102	90
4. West Central—											
Delta	87	95	94	94	110		93	91	91	85	86
Eagle		100	80	97	98		93	90	87	100	105
Garfield		97	100	103	100	100	96	85	86	91	91
Gunnison		95	95	88	95		98	90	90	95	95
Mesa	75	98	96	83	78		85	88	83	93	95
Montrose	94	95	93	93	94	100	81	92	92	93	86
Duray		95	94	95	95		93	90	98	97	80
Pitkin			100	100	100		90	100	90	100	100
5. Central—											
Chaffee											
Clear Creek											
Fremont	88	95	89	90	90		100	85	87	90	85
Hipkin			100	100	100	100	100	100		100	100
Jefferson	95	102	98	100	101	107		103	83	98	102
Lake											
Park											
Summit		100		100	100	100	100	100		105	102
Teller				100	100		100	100		100	100
6. East Central—											
Arapahoe	84	81	87	93	92			100	75	102	107
Beyenne	75	60	80	80	94	65	99	100	100	106	110
Bougias											
Bert	100	72	68	65	70	75	75	80	110	100	75
El Paso	93	71	89	87	96	83	87	91	90	99	96
Elt Carson	91	57	91	73	97	86	93	84	75	100	97
Lincoln	94	72	95	93	100	94	106	103	94	108	104
7. Southwest—											
Archuleta			80	90	80		80	85	80	90	90
Chloro											
Hinsdale							70	65	50	70	80
La Plata	83	91	97	96	95		95	72	72	64	95
Mineral											
Montezuma	70	80	88	88	94	95	75	95	85	80	73
San Juan								85	88	95	95
San Miguel	88	80	94	89	92	95	95	85	88	95	95
8. South Central—											
Brewer			90	93	100		100	77	75	85	103
Comanche											
Concho			75	75	75		50	110	110	80	
Dewey											
Merano	90	90	80	100				100	80	80	80
San Grande			87	84	89		85	93	97	87	89
Terrell			92	82	95		88	75	93	83	77
9. Southeast—											
Adair	90	10	78		90				90	100	100
Antelope	101	73	55	75	66			83	90	111	93
Beckham	100							80	80	80	75
Cherokee	105	55	95		110		100	95		100	115
Clallam	68	43	56	71	65	100	82		80	75	70
Combs	86	78	75	79	83	90		90	85	110	102
Conner	90	61	77	91	83	93		86	89	102	103
DeWitt	92	90	90	100	92			82	100	80	90
State Total	93	72	90	92	93	90	93	89	86	98	98

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

	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1923	1922	Average	1923	1922	Average
CORN—						
Acres planted.....	1,431	1,145	1,182†	103,112	102,428	101,699
Condition, per cent.....	93	90	87	84.9	85.1	85.2
Production, bus. grain.....	28,713	18,320	24,231‡	2,877,437	2,890,712	2,931,271
ALL WHEAT ACRES—						
Per cent remaining on farms.....	4.5	6.0	8.0§	4.1	4.0	6.5
Number bushels remaining on farms.....	1,103	1,394	1,859§	35,634	32,359	29,839
Acres for harvest.....	1,419	1,620	1,405†	58,253	61,230	61,143
Condition, per cent.....				78.3	78.9	82.2
Production, bushels.....	24,074	21,776	25,273‡	820,678	862,091	834,801
WINTER WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	1,057	1,262	1,044†	39,750	42,127	40,016
Condition, per cent.....	72	80	84	76.7	77.0	81.5
Production, bushels.....	16,743	16,406	18,270‡	585,889	586,204	589,838
SPRING WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	362	358	361†	18,503	19,103	21,127
Condition, per cent.....	90	78	86	82.4	83.7	85.5
Production, bushels.....	7,331	5,370	7,003‡	234,789	275,887	244,943
OATS—						
Acres for harvest.....	191	185	204†	40,768	40,693	45,498
Condition, per cent.....	92	84	90	83.4	74.4	81.1
Production, bushels.....	6,414	4,625	6,426‡	1,283,717	1,201,436	1,377,903
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest.....	182	186	216†	7,980	7,390	7,414
Condition, per cent.....	93	85	89	86.5	82.6	86.2
Production, bushels.....	5,332	3,534	5,292‡	198,105	186,118	191,974
RYE—						
Acres for harvest.....	78	97	100†	5,234	6,210	3,151
Condition, per cent.....	90	80	90	75.0	89.9	86.2
Production, bushels.....	1,011	873	1,180‡	68,704	95,497	70,300
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest.....	128	142	73†	3,892	4,331	3,657
Condition, per cent.....	93	86	91	86.4	87.3	87.1
Production, bushels.....	17,142	18,460	9,490‡	381,726	451,185	388,000
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres harvested.....		148	220§		530	815
Condition, per cent.....	88	86	88	88.2	86.2	88.2
Production, tons.....		1,466	2,279§		5,183	7,782
ALL HAY—						
Acres.....	1,544	1,605	1,493	76,031	77,050	73,889
Condition, per cent.....	89	87	91	81.1	88.7	85.2
Production, tons.....	2,715	2,709	2,881	99,000	113,000	99,500
FIELD BEANS						
Acres for harvest.....	170	81	39§		1,043	777
Condition, per cent.....	93	88	90	89.4	87.1	86.2
Production, bushels.....	1,423	405	312§		11,893	9,159
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent.....	84	90	68	67.0	66.8	60.1
Agr'l Prod., bushels.....	3,294	4,250	2,830†	188,608	201,000	160,000
Commercial barrels.....	878	1,133	754	33,068	31,000	25,000
PEACHES—						
Condition, per cent.....	78	94	62	63.8	74.3	58.2
Agr'l Prod., bushels.....	604	1,160	670†	48,358	56,700	42,700
PEARS—						
Condition, per cent.....	85	94	69	63.2	69.8	60.1
Agr'l Prod., bushels.....	332	519	386†		18,661	11,297

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 1917-1921 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. § 1920. ¶ 1913-1917 average. § 1921.

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