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# Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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

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United States figures are generally presented only in the table on page 4, as are also estimates of condition and production with comparisons of some of the important state crops.

**General Conditions**—Moisture conditions continued generally favorable, throughout Colorado during September, and were favorable to the planting of fall wheat and rye, but were unfavorable to the maturing of sugar beets, potatoes, corn and grain sorghums and delayed harvesting of beans, and hay crops. The estimated moisture in the soil compared with normal on October 1, was rated as 108 per cent, compared with 58 last year, 86 on October 1, 1921, and 108 on September 1, of this year. In amount and general distribution, moisture conditions are more favorable at this season than for many years. The composite condition for all crops of the state was 94.4 per cent of the ten-year average condition for this date. This was a decline of 4.7 points during September, and was 5.6 points below the ten-year average for October 1. The composite condition for all crops of the state was 4 points above the figure for October 1, last year.

**Corn**—On the first of the month, corn was generally in the highest condition in the history of this crop in this state. It had not only received ample and timely moisture, but, to date, had suffered practically no frost damage in any important district. The condition of the crop on October 1 was 97 per cent compared with 70 last year and 80 the ten-year average for October 1. On the basis of present prospects, assuming that the entire 1,431,000 acres planted are to be harvested for grain, the forecast is 31,926,000 bushels compared to last year's crop of 18,820,000 bushels. All indications are that the crop will be fully matured, and of good quality. As a single crop, corn leads in Colorado this year both in acreage and production, and at present price ratios bids for first place in value.

**Wheat, Oats and Barley**—All small grains made no material gains or declines during September. Based on an average yield of 15.5 bushels per acre, the spring wheat crop is now placed at 5,611,000 bushels, compared to 5,370,000 bushels last year. The preliminary estimates of the combined production of winter and spring wheat, now amount to 20,938,000 bushels, compared with 21,176,000 bushels last year. The oats crop is estimated at 6,373,000 bushels and barley at 5,460,000 bushels. Oats and barley have generally been better than usual, making average yields of 33 bushels for oats, and 30 bushels per acre for barley. On the other hand, excessive moisture and warm weather at the critical period about August 1, and shortly after, developed heavy damage from black rust to both spring and fall wheat, and especially to the latter. Complete threshing returns and other information concerning acreage harvested and average yields will doubtless warrant a still further and considerable reduction for the total of all wheat, as the preliminary estimate on winter wheat was made August first before growers had opportunity to entirely realize the extent of rust damage. Many rust-stricken fields were not cut, and many others that were cut, produced too little to pay harvesting and threshing expenses.

According to reports, about 43 per cent of this year's crop has been marketed by October 1, compared to 52 per cent last year, and 60 per cent to the same date in 1921.

**Potatoes**—Colorado potatoes made the exceptional decline in condition of 9 points (1,820,000 bushels) during September and settled below the 15,000,000 mark, and on the basis of 128,000 acres, the October 1 forecast is 14,966,000 bushels compared to 16,786,000 bushels a month ago, and 18,460,000 bushels the final figure for last year. The condition of the crop on October 1 was rated at 74 compared with the same figure on October 1 last year, and with 80, the ten-year average for this date. The heavy depreciation in the

crop was due largely to the more than usual amount of disease in potatoes caused by inferior seed, and the continuation of unusually favorable moisture conditions for the development of such disease through the latter part of the season. The December revision of acreage for final estimates in line with acreage harvested compared to the preliminary estimate of acreage planted, will probably show a further lowering of the production figures. While prospects were generally declining in Colorado, and other western states, the crop was gaining in eastern sections, particularly in Maine, New York and Michigan, until the net advance during September for the United States crop was about 12,000,000 bushels. Comparative figures for leading states are as indicated below:

STATE	Forecasts 1923		Final Estimate Dec., 1922	*Gains or -Declines Dur- ing Sept., 1923
	October 1	September 1		
Maine .....	31,310,000	27,454,000	21,600,000	* 3,556,000
New York .....	34,264,000	29,813,000	37,400,000	* 4,451,000
Pennsylvania .....	22,844,000	20,539,000	28,512,000	* 2,305,000
Ohio .....	11,778,000	11,533,000	11,214,000	* 245,000
Michigan .....	32,970,000	30,013,000	37,842,000	* 2,957,000
Wisconsin .....	26,634,000	27,287,000	40,672,000	- 653,000
Minnesota .....	38,902,000	38,815,000	43,740,000	* 87,000
Illinois .....	10,539,000	10,696,000	7,497,000	- 157,000
North Dakota .....	12,321,000	12,764,000	17,820,000	- 443,000
Nebraska .....	9,506,000	9,912,000	11,676,000	- 406,000
Montana .....	4,618,000	5,091,000	5,796,000	- 473,000
Colorado .....	14,966,000	16,786,000	18,460,000	-1,820,000
Idaho .....	10,609,000	11,733,000	15,910,000	-1,124,000
Totals, 13 States.....	261,261,000	252,436,000	298,139,000	* 8,825,000
Totals, United States.....	401,424,000	389,764,000	451,185,000	*11,660,000

The carlot shipments of potatoes from Colorado to September 30, this year, were 2,995 cars, compared to 3,096 cars to the same date last year, and a total from the 1922 crop of 15,383 cars. The average of all shipments for the past five seasons was 13,406 cars. The shipments for the entire 1923 crop of the United States to October 7, amount to 82,318 cars, compared to 97,389 cars to same date last year, and a total of 252,980 cars from the entire 1922 crop. The average for five seasons has been 207,022 cars. The total late potato state shipments from 1922 crop were 184,935 cars. The corresponding average for five seasons is 154,776 cars.

**Beans**—Colorado beans showed a slight reduction from the September 1 estimate, and the forecast is placed at 1,360,000 bushels, on the basis of 170,000 acres. Last year, upon 81,000 acres harvested, the crop amounted to 405,000 bushels, in 1921, upon 39,000 acres it was only 312,000 bushels. The crop at this time is regarded as showing 90 per cent of normal production per acre, compared with 53 per cent a year ago. The crop suffered slight damage from blight and rust during August, but in general matured better than usual, as no killing frosts occurred until October 12th, and by this time the crop was about all in the shock or ready for harvest. Continued wet weather has somewhat delayed harvesting and threshing and caused some depreciation in quality.

The United States crop held about steady compared to a month ago, in estimated production and the forecast is placed at 14,936,000 bushels compared to 11,893,000 bushels last year.

The October 1 estimate in bushels, for leading states, and last year's production figures (second), are as below: New York, 1,526,000—1,302,000; Michigan, 6,248,000—4,809,000; Wisconsin, 154,000—76,000; Colorado, 1,360,000—405,000; Idaho, 990,000—364,000; New Mexico, 276,000—135,000; California, 4,336,000—4,778,000.

**Fruits**—The Colorado apple crop declined about a quarter of a million bushels, or 5 points, during the month of September and was estimated at 2,994,000 bushels on October 1. Last year the crop was estimated at 4,250,000 bushels.

The decline during the month was due chiefly to a continuation of and the resultant damage by codling moth and minor losses on account of wind. The crop had a condition of 73 per cent on October 1, compared with 80 on October 1, last year, and 65 the ten-year average for this date. The total United States crop held about steady during the month, while the commercial end declined about .8 of one per cent. The total crop is estimated at 190,727,000 bushels compared with 189,787,000 bushels on September 1, and 201,000,000 bushels, the final estimate for last year. The commercial crop is placed at 33,104,000 barrels compared with 33,390,000 barrels a month ago, and the total of 31,000,000 barrels last year. The estimate for October 1 (commercial apples) in barrels, compared with last year (second figures), for the leading states, are as follows: Maine, 620,000—631,000; New York, 4,680,000—6,000,000; Pennsylvania, 1,227,000—1,216,000; Virginia, 1,760,000—1,100,000; West Virginia, 1,159,000—881,000; Ohio, 959,000—698,000; Illinois, 781,000 (September)—1,620,000; Michigan, 1,994,000—1,699,000; Missouri, 614,000 (September)—1,250,000; Arkansas, 741,000—520,000; Colorado, 799,000—1,034,000; Idaho, 1,311,000—975,000; Washington, 9,240,000—7,104,000; Oregon, 1,692,000—1,260,000; California, 1,549,000—1,200,000. General comments are to the effect that the total produc-

of apples is approximately 10 million bushels or 5 per cent less than last year, and slightly above the indications of a month ago. New York and Michigan crop conditions have declined somewhat during September, due to a failure of apples to make the normal increase in size. The quality in New York is poor, due chiefly to scab. In Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, there is practically no change since a month ago. In the central group of states from Ohio to Missouri, the fruit crop has shown only the normal increase in size. The Washington crop is slightly larger than indicated a month ago and is coloring up well. In the other box apple states in the northwestern area, there is little change.

**Sugar Beets**—The condition of the sugar beet crop on October 1 was 95, compared with 81 a year ago. The forecast at this time is 1,898,000 tons from 182,000 acres planted, compared to 1,466,000 tons from 148,000 acres harvested last year.

**Cabbage**—The revised forecast of commercial production of cabbage, in Colorado for 1923, based on the condition of the crop reported by growers on October 1, acreage (in parenthesis), indicates a production of 63,200 tons (5,270 acres), compared with 62,900 tons (5,240 acres) last year, and 46,800 tons (4,000 acres) in 1921. For the United States, the forecast for 1923 is 497,700 tons, compared with 637,300 tons last year and 341,200 tons in 1921. New York is the leading state with 170,100 tons, compared to 224,100 tons last year. Wisconsin is second with 125,700 tons, compared to 184,000 tons last year. Colorado is third with the tonnage above stated.

**Broom Corn**—The forecast of broom corn, for Colorado, October 1, was 8,400 tons, compared to final estimate of 1,800 tons last year. The preliminary estimate of acreage in Colorado this year is 56,000 acres, compared with 10,000 harvested a year ago.

The preliminary estimate of acreage this season for the United States is 508,000 acres, compared with the final estimate of 257,000 acres last year, 227,000 in 1921, and 56,000 acres in 1920. The forecast of production for the United States crop dropped from 74,800 tons on September 1 to 68,500 tons on October 1, as compared with a total of 34,500 tons in 1922. The forecasts in tons, for leading states, for this year and last year (second figure) are as follows: Illinois, 6,600—7,100; Missouri, 1,000—800; Kansas, 3,800—3,100; Texas, 5,400—2,200; Oklahoma, 25,500—18,600; Colorado, 8,400—1,800; New Mexico, 8,800—1,500; United States, 68,500—34,500.

The prices for the crop show some advance, especially in good broom corn. In a few instances sales represented about \$20.00 a ton higher. Best medium grades sold around \$185 with good medium stock up to \$200 or slightly higher. The poor end offerings brought around \$150. The bulk of the sales range between \$185 and \$200.

**Miscellaneous Crops**—Estimates of condition and production of other important crops, with comparisons, are presented in the table on page 4. The October 1 condition figure for 1923, and 1922, in the order named, for crops not mentioned on page 4, are as follows: Pasture, 98—60; field peas, 91—90; grapes, 95—88.

The average yields (1923—1922) for cabbage (tons), 12—11; onions (bushels), 20—24; broom corn (pounds), 300—350.

**General Review of United States Crop Conditions, October 1, 1923**—The composite condition of all crops of the United States on October 1, or at time of harvest, was 1.6 per cent lower than the ten-year average condition on that date, as compared to the condition of 1.7 per cent below average on September 1. Final yields per acre of crops last year were about 3.3 per cent below the average. The index number of aggregate crop production this year is about 3.7 per cent lower than last year, or 6.9 per cent below average. This year the total acreage in cultivated crops is about 0.6 per cent less than last year. The total production of important products compared with last year, expressed in percentages, is estimated as follows: Corn, 104.5; wheat, 90.7; oats, 108.4; rye, 107.0; buckwheat, 92.7; white potatoes, 89.0; sweet potatoes, 88.0; tobacco, 110.3; flaxseed, 167.5; rice, 77.9; hay (all) 91.2; clover seed, 66.7; cotton, 112.8; apples, 95.0; peaches, 80.4; pears, 79.1; cranberries, 94.7; hops, 61.4; sorghum for syrup, 60; sugar beets, 127.8; grain sorghums, 116.8; broom corn, 194.1; beans, 125.2; peas, 111.5.

**Trend of Farm Prices**—The level of prices paid producers of the United States for principal crops increased about 2.2 per cent during September; in the past ten years the price level decreased about 4.2 per cent during September. On October 1 the index level of prices was about 27.3 per cent higher than a year ago, 25.6 per cent higher than two years ago, and 11.3 per cent lower than the average of the past ten years on October 1.

**The Prices of Meat Animals**—Hogs, cattle, sheep and chickens—to producers of the United States increased 7.6 per cent from August 15 to September 15; in the past ten years prices decreased in like period 1.5 per cent. On September 15 the index figure of prices for these meat animals was about 0.1 per cent lower than a year ago, 7.9 per cent higher than two years ago, and 21.4 per cent lower than the average of the past ten years on September 15.

**SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 1, 1923, CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR COLORADO  
AND THE UNITED STATES**

Subject	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1923	1922	Average	1923	1922	Average
<b>CORN—</b>						
Acres .....	1,431	1,145	1,102‡	103,112	102,428	101,500†
Condition, per cent.....	97	70	81	82.0	78.4	76.3
Production, bushels .....	31,926	18,320	15,979‡	3,021,454	2,890,712	2,931,271†
<b>ALL WHEAT—</b>						
Acres .....	1,419	1,620	1,719‡	58,253	61,230	61,143†
Production, bushels .....	20,938	21,176	23,239‡	781,737	862,091	834,801†
Pct. mkt'd by Oct. 1						
<b>WINTER WHEAT—</b>						
Acres .....	1,057	1,262	1,346‡	39,750	42,127	40,016†
Production, bushels .....	15,327	16,406	16,152‡	568,386	586,204	589,858†
<b>SPRING WHEAT—</b>						
Acres .....	362	358	373‡	18,503	19,103	21,127†
Average yield .....	15.5	15	19‡	11.5	14.1	12.4
Production, bushels .....	5,611	5,370	7,087‡	213,351	275,887	244,943†
<b>OATS—</b>						
Yield per acre, bushels....	33	25	31‡	31.9	29.8	30.6
Production, bushels .....	6,303	4,625	6,727‡	1,302,453	1,201,436	1,377,903†
<b>BARLEY—</b>						
Yield per acre, bushels....	30	19	22	25.0	25.2	24.8
Production, bushels .....	5,460	3,534	4,444‡	199,251	186,118	191,974†
<b>EYE—</b>						
Production, bushels .....	936	873	1,058‡	64,774	95,497	70,300†
<b>WHITE POTATOES—</b>						
Acres .....	128	142	113‡	3,892	4,331	3,941†
Condition, per cent.....	74	74	78	78.2	77.3	73.0
Production, bushels .....	14,996	18,460	14,916‡	401,424	451,185	361,659†
<b>TAME HAY—</b>						
Acres .....	1,178	1,239	1,195‡	60,253	61,208	58,769†
Production, tons .....	2,356	2,354	2,510‡	86,538	96,687	83,300†
<b>WILD HAY—</b>						
Acres .....	366	366	407‡	15,776	15,842	15,632†
Production tons .....	384	355	407‡	16,376	16,104	16,200†
<b>ALL HAY—</b>						
Production, tons .....	2,740	2,709	2,917‡	102,914	112,791	97,770†
<b>GRAIN SORGHUMS (Six states)—</b>						
Acres .....	324	247	237‡	5,541	5,051	4,635†
Condition, per cent.....	97	76	86	67.5	64.9	75.6
Production, bushels .....	6,600	3,705	3,318‡	105,877	90,400	103,000†
<b>PASTURES—</b>						
Condition, per cent.....	98	60	89	83.1	76.0	81.5
<b>FIELD BEANS—</b>						
Acres .....	170	81	39‡	1,255	1,043	772†
Production, bushels .....	1,360	405	312‡	14,936	11,893	9,150†
<b>APPLES—</b>						
Condition, per cent.....	73	80	64	64.2	68.0	57.1
Agr'l Prod'n, bushels.....	2,994	4,250	2,830‡	190,727	201,252	160,000†
Com'l Prod'n, barrels.....	799	1,133	754‡	33,104	30,955	25,700†
<b>PEACHES—</b>						
Production, bushels .....	693	1,160	670‡	45,381	56,700	42,700†
<b>PEARS—</b>						
Production, bushels .....	385	519	386‡	14,561	18,661	11,207†
<b>SUGAR BEETS—</b>						
Acres .....	182	148	220‡	732	530	815†
Condition, per cent.....	95	81	90	92.1	85.1	83.2
Production, tons .....	1,898	1,466	2,279‡	6,623	5,183	7,782†

Notes—Figures on acreage and production merely enumerate thousands and require the addition of three ciphers (000) to complete them. \*Estimates on acreage and production for 1923 in the table above are preliminary and subject to revision in December as indicated in the first paragraph.

Symbols: \*Figures with the (\*) are for the 1919 final estimates. †Represents the 1911-1921 five-year average. ‡1913-1917 average. §1920. ¶1921. c1919-1920 U. S. Census. Abbreviations—Agr'l; Commercial, Com'l; Condition, cond'n; Production, Prod'n.