

Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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

H. C. Taylor, *Chief*
Washington

W. W. Putnam, *Agricultural Statistician*
Denver

In Cooperation with

Colorado State Board of Immigration

Division of Agricultural Statistics

Edward D. Foster, *Commissioner*

Howard D. Sullivan, *Deputy*

Stocks of grain on Colorado farms the first day of March were 10,620,000 bushels more than a year ago. The reserves of the four principal cereals grown in the state totalled 22,603,000 bushels, compared with 11,983,000 bushels last year, and 15,194,000 bushels in 1922. Corn reserves are larger than for any other grain and more than double that of last year, all other cereals, except wheat, also showed marked increases. Generally larger crops of each grain, except wheat, together with a mild winter, less stock in feed lots and on ranges, are responsible for the large reserves.

Corn—Based on the assumption that the entire acreage planted to corn in the state has been harvested for grain during the past year, of the 37,250,000 bushels estimated for the state last year about 41 percent, 6 points above the 10-year average, remained on the farms March 1, compared with 35 per cent a year ago and 38 percent in 1922. Expressed in bushels, the reserve this year is 15,273,000 bushels, compared with 6,412,000 bushels the same date last year. The reserve of 1922 was 6,072,000 bushels. The shipments of the 1923 crop from the counties where grown are indicated as 30 percent or about 11,175,000 bushels compared with 30 percent or 5,496,000 bushels for the preceding year and 27 percent the 5-year average. The season of 1923 was reasonably favorable for maturing corn though the abundance of moisture kept some fields growing and soft until the time of the general frost about October 17. The quality of last year's crop is rated at 82 percent merchantable quality, 3 points lower than for 1922 and about the same as the 10-year average. Special reports during the past five years indicate that approximately 70 to 80 percent of the acreage planted for corn each year has been 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 17 percent of last year's total crop of 18,000,000 bushels or 3,060,000 bushels, compared with a hold-over last year of 16 percent, amounting to 3,484,000 bushels, and a hold-over of the 1921 crop of 4,183,000 bushels (18 percent). The shipments of wheat from the 1923 crop amounted to 11,700,000 bushels (65 percent), compared with 15,243,000 bushels (70 percent) of the 1922 crop, and 15,105,000 bushels (65 percent) of the 1921 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 6,336,000 bushel crop of oats produced in the State in 1923, about 33 percent are held as reserves, or about 2,091,000 bushels, compared with 1,203,000 bushels (26 percent) of the preceding crop and 3,027,000 bushels (50 percent) of the 1921 crop. Oats shipments out of the counties where grown are expected to total about 1,267,000 bushels (20 percent) compared with 1,017,000 bushels (22 percent) the preceding year.

Barley—Out of the 6,409,000 bushels of the barley crop of last year, about 2,179,000 bushels (34 percent) were held on the farms March 1, compared with 884,000 bushels (25 percent) of the preceding crop and 1,866,000 bushels (42 percent) of the 1921 crop. About 718,000 bushels more barley are being shipped out of the counties where grown than last year, or about 1,602,000 bushels (25 percent), compared with 884,000 bushels (25 percent) shipped from the 1922 crop. This increase is probably due to the fact that the 1923 crop was nearly double that of 1922.

Lands—The average value of lands in Colorado compared with last year generally show further declines although a slight increase is noted in irrigated

pasture lands. The minimum price paid for all irrigated land taken together approximated \$56.50 per acre or \$1.50 more than the minimum a year ago. The maximum price, however, shows a decided decrease approximating \$147.80 per acre or \$26.20 less than last year. All classes of non-irrigated land have decreased in value. The minimum approximating \$9.53 per acre or \$1.17 less than last year and the maximum approximating \$26.60 or a decrease of \$8.90 per acre. For all lands taken together, both irrigated and non-irrigated, the decline ranges from 2 to 22 percent, a much wider range than that of last year when declines in land value ranged generally from 7 to 11 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 to 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 1922 and 1923. It will be noted that the average values thus returned are generally a little lower than the estimated average values. The county assessors for 1923 reported to the State Tax Commission 2,286,592 acres of irrigated farm lands, and 11,167,030 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 \$7.83 per acre, as compared with \$8.70 per acre a year ago; the average rental for irrigated plow land is \$8.17 per acre, as compared with \$9.50 per acre a year ago. For non-irrigated farm land, the average cash rental is estimated at 85 cents per acre, compared with \$1.05 per acre per farm a year ago, while the average rental for plow land per acre is \$1.52, as compared with \$1.75 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 terms of rental are 1/2 the hay, 1/2 of grain and potatoes, and from 1/2 to 1/3 of the beets, the tenant furnishing himself with seed, teams and equipment.

COLORADO COMPARATIVE LAND VALUES

IRRIGATED LANDS: Approximate estimated average values per acre.

	All Farm Lands.							Approximate*	
	Pasture	Native Meadows	Poor Plow Land	Good Plow Land	All Plow Lands	With Impr'v'm'ts	Without Impr'v'm'ts	Minimum	Maximum
1924	\$42.60	\$52.70	\$54.80	\$ 96.40	\$ 86.20	\$ 89.70	\$ 70.70	\$56.50	\$147.80
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	165.70
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.									
1924	\$ 9.20	\$17.00	\$14.40	\$ 23.51	\$ 19.60	\$ 21.30	\$ 13.80	\$ 9.53	\$ 26.60
1923	9.70	20.60	15.30	29.20	22.60	26.30	19.20	10.70	37.70
1922	12.30	24.00	17.20	34.40	25.80	31.30	22.80	12.30	35.50
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
1924	\$ 7.83	\$ 8.17	\$.85	\$1.52
1923	8 70	9 50	1.05	1.75
1922	8.20	11.00	1.35	2.65
1921	10.15	14.00	1.90	3.80

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
CORN—1924			41	15,273,000	30	11,175,000
1923	1,490,000	37,250,000	35	6,412,000	30	5,496,000
1922	1,145,000	18,320,000	38	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
WHEAT—1924			17	3,060,000	65	11,700,000
1923	1,390,000	18,000,000	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
OATS—1924			33	2,091,000	20	1,267,000
1923	198,000	6,336,000	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
BARLEY—1924			34	2,179,000	25	1,602,000
1923	221,000	6,409,000	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	1,352,000
1920	216,000	5,292,000	30	872,000	15	436,000
1919	153,000	2,907,000	30	994,000	10	331,000
RYE—1924			27	236,000	41	359,000
1923	73,000	876,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
HAY—1924			36	†1,007,000	24	†671,000
1923	1,576,000	†2,798,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
POTATOES—1924			31	4,194,000	56	7,577,000
1923	110,000	13,530,000	.....	.....	.....	.....

UNITED STATES

CORN—1924			37.7	1,153,175,000	19.6	598,661,000
1923	104,158,000	3,054,395,000	37.6	1,093,306,000	17.9	520,178,000
1922	102,846,000	2,906,020,000	42.5	1,305,559,000	19.2	590,505,000
1921	103,740,000	3,068,569,000	48.3	1,564,832,000	22.0	705,889,000
1920	101,699,000	3,208,584,000	37.2	1,046,575,000	16.7	469,488,000
1919	97,170,000	2,811,302,000	34.2	.....	14.5	.....
WHEAT—1924			17.1	133,871,000	63.3	498,215,000
1923	58,308,000	785,741,000	17.8	155,474,000	67.3	574,452,000
1922	62,317,000	867,598,000	16.5	134,253,000	61.7	549,190,000
1921	63,696,000	819,905,000	26.1	217,037,000	58.9	551,796,000
1920	61,143,000	833,027,000	17.6	169,904,000	61.1	591,429,000
1919	75,694,000	967,979,000	14.0	.....	58.8	.....
OATS—1924			34.2	444,810,000	24.7	320,859,000
1923	40,833,000	1,299,823,000	34.7	421,118,000	25.0	300,303,000
1922	40,790,000	1,215,803,000	38.2	411,934,000	23.9	269,585,000
1921	45,495,000	1,078,341,000	45.7	683,759,000	28.9	432,425,000
1920	42,491,000	1,496,281,000	34.6	409,730,000	26.4	312,584,000
1919	40,359,000	1,184,030,000	38.4	.....	27.4	.....
BARLEY—1924			22.6	44,844,000	34.6	68,589,000
1923	7,905,000	198,185,000	23.4	42,469,000	36.6	62,996,000
1922	7,317,000	182,068,000	27.3	42,294,000	36.0	56,710,000
1921	7,414,000	154,946,000	34.5	65,229,000	36.3	68,728,000
1920	7,600,000	189,332,000	22.9	33,820,000	34.2	50,482,000
1919	6,720,000	147,608,000	31.9	.....	39.0	.....
HAY—1924			31.4	†33,434,000	13.0	†13,850,000
1923	75,884,000	†106,626,000	.....	.....	.....	.....

COLORADO

Corn or Merchandisable quality—	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Percent	83	83	85	84	85
Bushels	30,545,000	15,206,000	13,589,150	20,354,040	13,582,000

UNITED STATES

Percent Bushel—	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Percent	80.6	88.3	87.5	86.9	87.1
Bushels	2,461,842,000	2,566,016,000	2,685,000,000	2,789,720,000	2,448,200,000

*See text, Corn page 1. †Tons.

COLORADO

LAND VALUES PER ACRE

UNITED STATES

Year	Colorado		Average of All Farm Lands		Colorado		United States		Average of All Farm Lands	
	Average of Poor Flow Lands	Average of Good Flow Lands	With Improvements	Without Improvements	Average of Poor Flow Lands	Average of Good Flow Lands	Average of All Flow Lands	With Improvements	Without Improvements	
1924	\$ 32.8	\$ 67	\$ 56	\$ 40	\$ 30.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 56.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 50.00	
1923	32.8	75	62	45	47.01	89.01	69.89	67.00	50.00	
1922	33	84	70	53	56.66	106.33	83.78	67.00	50.00	
1921	35	86	75	55	60.76	113.34	90.01	67.00	50.00	
1920	40	88	75	55	51.26	91.83	74.31	67.00	50.00	
1919	36	80	66	50	47.86	85.48	68.38	67.00	50.00	
1918	35	74	64	48	42.67	78.34	62.17	67.00	50.00	
1917	32	75	62	45	40.08	72.79	58.39	67.00	50.00	
1916	27	68	50	59				67.00	50.00	

AVERAGE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND PER ACRE AS RETURNED BY COUNTY ASSESSORS FOR 1922 AND 1923

COUNTY	Improved Fruit Land		Irrigated Land		Natural Hay Land		Dry Farming Land		Grazing Land	
	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923
Adams	\$	\$	\$ 93.48	\$ 87.00	\$	\$	\$10.57	\$12.56	\$ 8.09	\$ 6.96
Aiamosa			42.00	38.00	26.00	30.00	18.00	16.00	4.24	4.36
Arapahoe			138.64	139.00			11.12	11.64	7.04	7.10
Archuleta			40.93	44.15	32.91	32.74	10.10	10.00	3.19	3.12
Baca			12.50	12.03			6.00	6.28	3.00	4.19
Bent			91.32	82.44			15.00	14.01	5.00	4.56
Boulder			112.40	112.31	14.46	10.87	35.65	34.92	9.41	8.92
Chaffee			55.50	50.00					4.50	4.13
Cheyenne							14.12	13.11	11.34	11.58
Clear Creek									2.02	1.92
Conejos			45.00	45.00	20.00	20.00			3.00	3.00
Costilla			29.86	30.23	20.00	20.00	3.00	3.00	4.50	4.54
Crowley	92.74	78.27	102.72	68.63			8.89	8.84	4.50	4.54
Custer			28.56	28.72	39.70	39.93	10.00	10.00	4.25	4.03
Delta	109.30	115.72	83.43	78.66			24.80	22.90	6.53	7.60
Denver			472.44	475.74					4.04	4.00
Dolores			20.00	20.00			10.90	11.00	6.08	6.07
Douglas			79.12	78.29	50.49	51.60	18.01	18.00	7.04	4.48
Eagle			105.70	68.74					7.41	7.37
Elbert			50.00	49.48	42.19	42.62	16.36	15.43	7.00	7.00
El Paso	150.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	46.50	46.50	16.03	16.88	4.01	3.76
Fremont	398.70	379.34	101.19	64.34	35.00	35.00	7.96	7.20	2.76	2.71
Garfield	106.31	109.48	70.29	64.01			14.88	15.44	3.12	3.08
Gilpin									3.56	3.56
Grand			36.82	35.32					3.68	3.71
Gunnison			47.12	46.80					3.57	3.69
Hinsdale			15.00	15.00			10.00	10.00	3.86	3.50
Huerfano	100.00	100.00	40.00	40.00	44.06	41.58	6.98	7.00	3.78	3.82
Jackson			20.00	20.00					7.26	7.00
Jefferson			146.02	147.33			44.50	45.00	10.24	9.35
Kiowa									8.53	7.93
Kit Carson			38.50	35.00	36.91	35.68	17.48	15.18	6.48	6.52
Lake									3.91	3.85
La Plata	154.35	149.32	46.73	44.34		6.99	15.44	15.32	3.97	4.15
Larimer			131.31	129.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	4.54	4.51
Las Animas			55.40	54.00	30.70	31.81	10.00	10.00	7.81	8.00
Lincoln					27.50	29.03	12.61	12.63	5.45	5.00
Logan			83.00	80.00	22.50	22.50	22.00	20.00	5.70	5.45
Mesa	224.01	223.75	83.11	83.09					5.00	5.06
Mineral			13.67	13.74	25.00	25.00			4.07	3.25
Moffat			43.72	42.00	29.10	26.58	8.26	7.11	3.06	2.95
Montezuma	50.00	50.07	37.25	39.84			15.01	20.26	4.17	3.69
Montrose	97.20	90.28	72.53	62.50			19.02	19.10	5.97	5.89
Morgan			87.00	81.98	23.50	23.50	13.28	13.14	3.96	3.96
Otero	190.68	188.23	117.98	118.02			16.02	15.92	4.00	3.84
Ouray			63.67	60.00	6.61	4.15	12.00	10.40	3.27	3.28
Park					37.45	37.36	15.00	15.00	7.65	6.43
Phillips							31.41	30.89	3.16	3.16
Pitkin			57.40	59.11			20.00	20.00	4.70	4.86
Prowers			72.00	72.56	26.00	25.43	6.90	6.96	4.05	4.05
Pueblo	149.19	149.38	93.62	95.05			16.21	16.18	4.27	4.07
Rio Blanco			60.10	60.07	38.80	32.29	16.21	21.78	6.43	6.04
Rio Grande			85.78	84.99	32.50	32.50	26.12	26.00	5.47	4.50
Routt	92.19	100.00	49.43	49.53	28.00	25.00	28.98	20.85	4.37	4.21
Saguache			44.00	44.00					6.40	6.40
San Juan									4.71	4.58
San Miguel			40.00	40.32			23.86	23.80	5.00	5.01
Sedgwick			62.71	63.50	15.32	15.17	29.10	29.04	3.75	3.75
Summit			35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00			2.50	2.64
Teller					15.45	17.85	10.40	10.40	8.37	7.23
Washington			101.65	96.83			16.83	14.46	5.98	5.54
Weld			108.92	108.24	23.12	21.46	14.14	12.35	3.71	3.78
Yuma			61.00	66.25	30.00	28.12	26.00	20.26		
State	\$168.59	\$163.86	\$ 82.76	\$ 79.80	\$23.60	\$28.34	\$15.26	\$14.40	\$ 5.42	\$ 5.14