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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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**Winter Wheat.**—The area sown to winter wheat in Colorado in the fall of 1923 was approximately 1,312,000 acres, compared with about 1,060,000 acres harvested from the 1923 crop and 1,032,000 acres harvested in 1919. On April 1, the condition was estimated at 94 per cent of normal, compared with 65 per cent on April 1, last year, and a ten-year average of 84 per cent. The present condition of 94 per cent is an increase of 1 point from the December figure and 5 points higher 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 of about 21,760,000 bushels or nearly double the final estimate of last year's crop of 12,720,000 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 2 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 33 per cent in 1923, with the average for the five-year period, 1918-1922, of about 10 per cent. The winter wheat crop was sown last fall under favorable conditions with little severe winds and frost damage throughout the winter so the abandonment will be light. The abandonment last year was extremely heavy and this was increased by further abandonment at harvest time due to rust. The principal winter wheat area of the state had excellent moisture conditions throughout last fall and winter. The tentative estimate of production is based upon a 16.9 bushel average yield per acre, compared with 13.2 bushels in 1919 and 10.5 bushels in 1923.

The condition of the United States winter wheat crop was 83.0, having declined in condition 5 points from December 1 to April 1, as compared with an average decline in the past ten years of 4.0 points between these dates. For 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 2 points during the period since December 1, and reached April 1 around 95 per cent of normal compared with 64 per cent last year, and a ten-year average of 86 per cent. The condition on April 1 justifies a forecast of approximately 12.4 bushels per acre and a production of 988,000 bushels, compared with 876,000 bushels harvested in 1923. The forecast is based on 80,000 acres planted to fall rye for grain, compared with 73,000 acres a year ago, with no allowance for abandonment, or spring rye to be planted. In 1923 nearly 83.6 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.**—A decrease of 8 per cent is noted in the number of brood sows, for although the large corn producing counties have held their own, a decrease in noted in the counties where irrigated crops are largely grown and where the farmers in a large measure have to buy corn. The estimated number in the state on April 1 is 97,000 compared with 105,000 a year ago. 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 622,000, compared with 592,000 last year and the census number of 450,000 January 1, 1920. The number of mature hogs assessed in the state on April 1, 1923, was 250,717, compared with 206,017 on April 1, 1922; 172,844 on April 1, 1921; 177,497 on April 1, 1920; 195,188 on April 1, 1919, and 194,576 on April 1, 1918. The federal census reported the number of sows and gels for breeding purposes in the state, Janu-

ary 1, 1920, as 79,658, or 36.4 per cent of all swine. The agricultural enumeration made by the county assessors for April 1, 1923, indicated that the farmers of the state then held about 10 per cent more brood sows than on April 1, 1922. 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 slightly more plentiful than last year, and at this time the demand is nearly the same. The present supply is about 94 per cent of a year ago, and 94 per cent of normal, while the present need is indicated as only 93 per cent of normal, compared with 92 per cent last year. Thus the supply is equal to or slightly greater than 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, when it was 103. There are now about 101 men for each 100 jobs on Colorado farms, last year there were 100 men for each 100 jobs, while in 1922 there were 124 men for each 100 jobs. In 1920 there were only 84 men available for each 100 jobs. These figures indicate that about the same acreage will be farmed as last year or that such crops are to be grown as will require about the same 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 83.4 per cent of normal, while the demand is 90.4 per cent of normal, making the supply about 92.3 per cent of the demand, compared with 87.4 per cent of the demand last year. This year there are about 92 men for each 100 jobs compared with 88 men last year, 111 men in 1922, 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 \$37.00 compared with \$36.00 last year, \$33.60 for 1922, \$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 \$58.00 per month, compared with \$55 last year, \$52 in 1922, \$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 \$20 per month.

**Potato Acreage—1923.**—Colorado farmers now intend to plant about 14,000 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 12 per cent, and would mean the planting of about 101,000 acres in the state as compared with 115,000 acres estimated to have been planted last year, and about 110,000 acres harvested. On the basis of the area planted the irrigated plantings this year will be about 82,000 acres, and the non-irrigated acreage about 19,000 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 1923 was 15,530,000 bushels compared to 18,460,000 bushels in 1922. The carlot shipments from the 1923 crop to April 5 have amounted to 12,617 cars, compared to 13,473 cars to April 7 a year ago, and a total from the 1922 crop of 15,469 cars. The total cars shipped from the 18 leading late potato states up to April 5 have amounted to 161,274 cars compared to 153,421 cars to April 7 last year and a total from the 1922 crop of 186,055 cars. The total potatoes (early and late) for all States shipped to April 5 amounted to 210,571 compared to 221,084 to April 7 last year and 254,158 for the entire 1922 crop.

According to a recent forecast by the U. S. Department of Agriculture the acreage for both early and late potatoes in all States will be about 3,740,000 acres. This acreage is about 2 per cent smaller than the acreage of 1923. In the 9 early states the acreage of the early crop is forecast at 188,610 acres, or 114 per cent of 1923.

**Agricultural Outlook.**—The average amount of moisture in the soil is estimated as 114 per cent of normal for this time of year, compared with 90 per cent last year on April 1, 84 per cent two years ago, 87 per cent in 1921, and 86.5 per cent April 1, 1920. In nearly all sections of the State, moisture conditions are reported as highly favorable.

**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					District and County	Winter Wheat				
	Non-Irrig.	Irrig.	All	Rye	Mois-ture		Non-Irrig.	Irrig.	All	Rye	Mois-ture
<b>1. Northwest—</b>						Summit .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Teller .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
<b>6. East Central—</b>											
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Arapahoe .....	105	105	100	140	
.....	87	75	76	83	92	Cheyenne .....	96	96	96	132	
.....	100	75	76	95	100	Douglas .....	96	96	.....	.....	
.....	.....	85	85	.....	72	Elbert .....	97	97	100	150	
<b>2. North Central—</b>						El Paso .....	95	97	97	95	117
.....	100	100	100	100	117	Kit Carson .....	94	94	94	117	
.....	96	97	96	90	108	Lincoln .....	96	96	96	142	
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	<b>7. Southwest—</b>					
.....	99	100	100	98	115	Archuleta .....	100	.....	100	.....	
.....	93	90	91	94	125	Dolores .....	95	94	95	.....	
<b>3. Northeast—</b>						Hinsdale .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	110
.....	97	95	95	97	107	La Plata .....	100	96	98	100	102
.....	95	91	91	97	107	Mineral .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	100	100	100	200	Montezuma .....	93	81	83	75	104
.....	100	90	90	97	126	San Juan .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	85	85	97	110	San Miguel .....	95	97	97	95	100
.....	.....	96	96	98	104	<b>8. South Central—</b>					
<b>4. West Central—</b>						Alamosa .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
.....	100	.....	100	100	101	Conejos .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	120
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	110	Costilla .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	175
.....	100	102	100	90	101	Custer .....	95	95	95	.....	.....
.....	96	96	96	.....	85	Huerfano .....	100	105	102	100	114
.....	100	90	100	.....	101	Rio Grande .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	120
.....	96	.....	96	.....	101	Saguache .....	100	100	.....	.....	113
.....	.....	.....	96	.....	.....	<b>9. Southeast—</b>					
.....	100	.....	100	.....	100	Baca .....	112	94	95	85	137
<b>5. Central—</b>						Bent .....	100	100	100	.....	100
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75	Crowley .....	97	98	97	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75	Kiowa .....	.....	96	96	.....	.....
.....	90	91	90	92	109	Las Animas .....	99	99	99	100	112
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Otero .....	97	.....	97	.....	120
.....	85	87	86	100	108	Frowers .....	98	96	97	.....	127
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pueblo .....	100	100	100	.....	125
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Total .....	96	94	94	95	114

**COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL DATA FOR APRIL 1**

	COLORADO					UNITED STATES				
	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920
<b>Winter Wheat—</b>										
Acres sown .....	1,312*	1,060	1,262	1,346	1,044	40,191	39,522	42,358	43,414	40,016
Production, per cent .....	94	65	77	85	84	83.0	75.2	78.4	91.0	82.5
Production, bushels .....	21,760	12,720	16,406	16,152	18,270	549,415	572,340	586,878	600,316	610,597
<b>Winter Rye—</b>										
Acres sown .....	80	73	97	92	100	4,377	5,157	6,672	4,528	4,409
Production, per cent .....	95	64	86	90	86	83.5	81.8	89.0	90.3	87.9
<b>Breeding Sows—</b>										
Per cent compared with last year .....	92	119	110	100	88	89.2	106.7	111.1	97.8	90.1
Number of brood sows April 1 .....	97	105	88	80	80	11,751	13,256	12,424	11,187	11,417
Number of all swine Jan. 1 .....	622	592	455	414	450	65,501	68,427	58,327	56,097	59,344
<b>Farm Labor Supply—</b>										
Per cent compared with normal .....	94	92	109	105	80	83.4	87.6	99.5	95.2	72.4
<b>Farm Labor Requirements—</b>										
Per cent demand compared with normal .....	93	92	88	87	99	90.4	91.6	89.3	87.5	105.3
Per cent of supply compared to demand .....	101	100	124	121	81	92.3	88.4	111.4	108.8	68.3

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

State and Year <sup>1</sup>	Sugar made Tons	Area har- vested 1000 Acres	Beets worked.		Beets paid for		Average price paid for beets- per ton Dollars	Amount paid for beets- Dollars	Number of fac- tories in opera- tion	Ave. number of days in opera- tion	Average extra- tion of sugar <sup>2</sup> Percent	Average sugar in beets <sup>3</sup> Percent	Average purity cohen- cent <sup>4</sup> Percent	
			Amt. 1000 Tons	Av. Tons	Amt. 1000 Tons	Av. Tons								
California:														
1922	73,000	57	424	7.38	424	7.40	10.14	4,806	7	74	17.28	18.48	82.71	
1923	100,000	61	579	9.35	581	9.89	13.57	7,385	6	88	17.83	18.35	82.94	
Colorado:														
1922	183,000	148	1422	9.63	1466	9.93	7.79	11,426	15	63	12.90	14.66	82.69	
1923	240,000	164	1890	11.50	1986	12.15	7.59	15,186	16	78	12.73	14.59	82.34	
Idaho:														
1922	40,000	24	258	10.94	273	11.59	8.28	2,282	5	55	15.44	16.58	86.21	
1923	68,000	43	447	10.95	498	11.68	7.21	3,590	9	61	14.64	16.39	86.74	
Michigan:														
1922	81,000	84	648	7.72	692	8.23	7.22	4,994	15	48	12.52	14.38	84.16	
1923	110,000	109	815	7.49	883	8.11	9.33	8,240	16	57	13.51	15.29	84.40	
Nebraska:														
1922	87,000	55	671	12.21	703	12.78	7.79	5,477	5	5	12.94	14.79	84.26	
1923	74,000	58	597	10.30	640	11.04	7.45	4,769	5	82	12.82	14.98	82.38	
Ohio:														
1922	25,000	26	206	7.98	220	8.51	6.88	1,512	4	60	11.94	14.65	82.81	
1923	39,000	41	367	8.85	391	9.43	9.25	3,616	5	79	10.54	13.39	82.02	
Utah:														
1922	110,000	73	775	10.69	819	11.29	7.96	6,519	16	55	14.16	16.11	85.17	
1923	137,000	83	1008	12.10	1075	12.91	7.08	7,611	17	67	13.59	15.66	85.02	
Wisconsin:														
1922	8,000	8	65	7.96	67	8.27	7.22	484	4	31	13.08	16.06	83.14	
1923	14,000	15	113	7.75	122	8.36	8.70	1,064	4	51	12.33	15.71	85.32	
Other States:														
1922	68,000	55	494	8.79	519	9.32	7.77	4,086	11	54	13.79	15.91	82.54	
1923	99,000	83	749	8.99	820	9.82	8.37	6,860	11	71	13.12	15.08	82.55	
United States:														
1918	761,000	594	5578	9.39	5949	10.01	10.00	59,494	89	81	13.64	16.18	84.70	
1919	726,000	692	5888	8.50	6481	9.27	11.74	75,420	89	78	12.34	14.48	82.84	
1920	1,089,000	872	7991	9.17	8538	9.79	11.63	99,324	97	91	13.63	15.99	83.96	
1921	1,020,000	815	7414	9.10	7782	9.55	6.35	49,392	81	76	13.76	15.77	83.09	
1922	675,000	530	4663	9.36	5183	9.77	7.91	41,016	81	58	13.61	15.44	83.76	
1923	881,000	657	6665	9.99	7006	10.66	8.39	58,789	89	70	13.41	15.34	83.43	

<sup>1</sup> Acreage and production of beets are credited, as in former reports, to the State in which the beets were made into sugar. For preliminary report of acreage and beet tonnage by States where grown, see Weather Crops and Markets for December 29, 1923, page 682.

<sup>2</sup> In most cases the 1923 figures represent payments to about April 1, 1924. Additional payments may be made later.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage of sucrose actually extracted by factories based upon the weight of beets as worked (sliced). Compared with beets actually delivered (paid for) the beet sugar production of the United States in 1920 equalled 12.76 per cent of the beets paid for; in 1921, 13.11 per cent; in 1922, 13.03 per cent; and in 1923, 12.37 per cent.

<sup>4</sup> Based upon weight of beets immediately after slicing, except possibly in the case of a very few factories.

<sup>5</sup> Percentage of sucrose (pure sugar) in the total soluble solids of the beets.

<sup>6</sup> Including beets and sugar from acreage in Canada grown for United States factories.

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