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Crop Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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Winter Wheat.—Colorado winter wheat held about steady in condition during the month of April and the first forecast for the 1924 season promises a possible crop of 27,142,000 bushels, or more than twice that of last year. This estimate is based upon the May 1 condition of 94 percent, which represents an equivalent of about 19.7 bushels per acre upon 1,375,000 acres, the revised estimate of the acreage left for harvest. Due to favorable moisture conditions since last fall, winter wheat came to May 1 with the very light abandonment of 4.5 percent of the acreage sown last autumn. The abandonment last year was 33 percent, and the average for the past five years has been 9.9 percent. The crop harvested last year amounted to 12,720,000 bushels, or an average yield of 10.5 bushels per acre on 1,060,000 acres harvested. In 1919 the average yield was 13.2 bushels per acre. Approximately 93 percent of the winter wheat of Colorado is grown upon non-irrigated land, and the unusually favorable moisture condition this season accounts for the present high forecast of about 19.7 bushels per acre. However, unless conditions continue more favorable than usual from now on, the final average this season is not likely to be over 16 or 17 bushels per acre for the acreage now remaining for harvest. Only since 1917 have these yields been exceeded. Moisture conditions and the present outlook for the state as a whole are more favorable at the present time than at this date for more than ten years, and much better than last year at this time.

The United States winter wheat crop improved 1.8 points in condition during the month of April and was rated on May 1 at 84.8 compared with 83.0 on April 1, 80.1 on May 1, 1923, and 86.3 the average for the past ten years on May 1. The condition at this time indicates an average yield per acre of approximately 15.0 bushels, assuming average variations to prevail thereafter. The 10-year average actual yield has been 15.2 bushels per acre. The percent of abandonment this year is 7.6, considerably less than the 10-year average abandonment of 10.6. The area of winter wheat to be harvested is estimated at 36,898,000 acres or 3,035,000 less than the acreage planted last autumn, and 2,624,000 acres less than the acreage harvested last year. The average harvested acreage of the past ten years was 39,222,000 acres. On the estimated area to be harvested, the forecast of production is 553,013,000 bushels or 3.4 per cent less than in 1923 and 7.0 percent less than the average of the past ten years. The final out-turn, however, will depend upon conditions during the remaining crop year.

For other and more complete state and United States figures for winter wheat, rye, hay, pastures, plowing, spring planting and livestock, see tables on pages 3 and 4.

Rye.—The condition of the 68,000 acres of fall rye of the state left for harvest as grain is 95 percent of normal. This high condition is also due to the generally excellent moisture conditions of the past six months. This figure justifies a forecast of over 13 bushels per acre or a grain production of fall rye of 904,000 bushels, compared with 876,000 harvested last year. There will also probably be some 15,000 acres or more of spring rye cut for grain, making a total rye production of about 1,100,000 bushels. In addition to the rye cut for grain last year, there were about 16,000 acres cut green for hay, and 11,000 acres mostly used for pasture and some that was abandoned. Similar conditions are likely to prevail this year. Prac-

*Howard D. Sullivan, who has been the representative of the Colorado State Board of Immigration in the co-operative crop reporting service maintained by that department and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on May 10. The appointment of a successor to continue his work will probably be announced on June 1.

tically the entire acreage of rye in this state is grown upon non-irrigated land. It is a valuable and quite sure crop for hay, pasture or grain.

The average condition of the United States rye crop on May 1 was 88.2, compared with 83.5 on April 1, 85.1 on May 1, 1923, and 90.0 the average for the past ten years. The condition on May 1 permits a production forecast of about 61,739,000 bushels, compared with 63,033,000 last year's estimated production and 66,370,000 the average for the past ten years.

Hay.—Based upon a condition of 95 percent of normal, the hay crop of the state is placed at 3,039,000 tons this year compared with a condition of 90 percent at this time last year and a final estimate of 2,798,000 tons. This year's estimate is based on the assumption that the acreage of all hay will be about the same as a year ago when the acreage of all tame hay was 1,203,000 acres, and that of wild hay 373,000 acres. There is considerable variation in the acreage devoted to tame hay on account of the grains cut green, millet and other tame grasses that make up the area devoted to this crop. On May 1, about 14 percent of last year's hay crop or 392,000 tons remained on the farms of the state, compared with 8 percent or 217,000 tons of the 1922 crop on hand a year ago, and 495,000 tons (17 percent) of the 1921 crop on May 1, 1922. The winter was generally regarded as mild, but required a long feeding period in some localities, notwithstanding pastures appeared to be unusually good last fall. Though abundant, they had, however, been injured by frost reducing the quality. Practically no shortage of hay was reported from any district, although there was considerable complaint of inferior quality due to damage by rains during the harvesting season.

Livestock.—Generally the stock on the farms and ranges of Colorado reached May 1 in good condition, being slightly higher than last year except swine, which are reported as the same, and with all classes about equal to the 10-year average. No unusual, in fact, very little disease or loss from exposure was reported, and the losses per thousand head show little variation from last year, being also considerably below the 10-year average. Pastures of the state are rated at 92 percent, which is 2 points above the 10-year average and 14 points above the condition a year ago.

Dry Beans.—Replies to special inquiries on intentions to plant indicate that unless the farmers of the state materially revise their plans, the bean acreage in Colorado this year will be about 60 percent greater than last year when approximately 170,000 acres were planted and harvested. This would mean that about 272,000 acres will be planted this year. In 1922 approximately 108,000 acres were planted, of which, due to dry season, 81,000 were harvested. The results of this bean inquiry are issued that growers may have information regarding the trend in this crop. The leading counties in bean production as indicated by the interpolated acreage figures for 1923 are as follows: (Acres.) Elbert, 35,500; El Paso, 31,000; Weld, 30,000; Lincoln, 13,000; Pueblo, 9,500; Arapahoe, 8,200; Las Animas, 7,700; Morgan, 7,600; Adams, 5,700; Otero, 2,700.

For the United States, the bean crop last year was 15,740,000 bushels, compared to 12,734,000 bushels in 1922. The acreage and production appear to be on the increase from the low point of 9,150,000 bushels in 1921.

Potatoes.—Replies to the same kind of an inquiry on the intentions of farmers to plant potatoes in Colorado this year indicate that the acreage to be planted will be considerably decreased, being reported on May 1 as 92 percent of last year. This would mean that approximately 109,000 acres will be planted, and assuming about the usual abandonment of 7 to 10 percent, approximately 98,000 to 102,000 will be harvested. If nearly the same percentages prevail as last year about 80 percent of the planted area or 87,000 acres will be irrigated and about 20 percent or 22,000 acres non-irrigated. In 1923 there were approximately 118,000 acres planted and 110,000 acres harvested of which 81 percent were on irrigated lands and 19 percent non-irrigated. This inquiry on prospective potato planting was made in March and April and also on May 1, and the results reported at this time, in order that farmers throughout the state may have some knowledge of the trend in the potato business, and if they so desire, may increase or decrease their plantings accordingly. The shipments of potatoes, from Colorado points to May 3, this season, amount to 13,127 cars compared with 14,570 cars to May 5 last year and total last season of 15,469 cars. The number of cars shipped to date from nineteen leading late potato states have been 176,306 cars, compared to 171,211 cars to the same date last year and a total from these states last year of 186,055 cars.

Agricultural Outlook.—Moisture conditions in practically all sections of the state have been unusually favorable throughout the past fall and winter and are almost uniformly good at the present date. The soil moisture condition on May 1 averaged 9 points lower than on April 1 but was 105 percent of normal. The condition on May 1 a year ago was 91 percent, 95 percent in 1922, 102 percent in 1921 and 110 percent in 1920. Reservoirs are generally well filled, and prospects for ample direct flow irrigation water are highly satisfactory.

**CONDITION OF CROPS, SOIL MOISTURE, PLOWING AND SPRING
PLANTING COMPLETED ON MAY 1, PER CENT
COMPARED WITH NORMAL**

Districts and Counties	Winter Wheat			Rye	Hay	Spring Sowing and Plant- ing		Pas- tures	Soil Mois- ture
	Irrig- ated	Non- Irrig- ated	Total			Plow- ing	Plant- ing		
1. Northwest.									
Grand	100	100	100	.....	100	5	5	100	105
Jackson .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	100	95
Moffat	100	92	93	107	105	47	27	115	95
Rio Blanco	100	92	92	100	97	7	17	94	99
Routt .....	.....	100	100	100	92	2	.....	102	100
2. North Central.									
Adams	100	97	98	97	97	61	60	97	110
Boulder	98	98	98	95	97	45	65	103	115
Denver .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Larimer	98	99	99	.....	89	72	73	93	104
Weld	94	90	91	94	92	51	43	92	107
3. Northeast.									
Logan	100	97	97	100	103	75	64	100	102
Morgan	99	96	96	100	100	45	39	100	104
Phillips .....	.....	95	95	90	90	42	50	95	100
Sedgwick	98	96	96	100	90	70	70	87	97
Washington .....	.....	87	87	95	.....	56	52	90	.....
Yuma .....	.....	93	93	95	96	61	53	86	101
4. West Central.									
Delta	100	100	100	100	101	82	80	97	92
Eagle .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	33	12	85	90
Garfield	90	92	90	.....	100	81	59	94	96
Gunnison .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92	27	15	85	103
Mesa	100	80	98	95	96	71	55	86	92
Montrose	100	92	100	100	91	75	70	88	106
Ouray .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	20	2	50	85
Pitkin	100	.....	100	.....	100	75	70	100	100
5. Central.									
Chaffee .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93	40	30	103	115
Clear Creek .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fremont	95	90	94	92	102	37	20	106	117
Gilpin .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jefferson	93	93	93	90	97	43	45	91	100
Lake	100	.....	100	.....	75	.....	.....	100	.....
Park .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	.....	.....	90	90
Summit .....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Teller	100	100	100	.....	100	3	3	80	95
6. East Central.									
Arapahoe .....	.....	90	90	90	95	41	24	100	117
Cheyenne .....	.....	100	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Douglas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Elbert .....	.....	100	100	100	90	25	25	95	137
El Paso	99	97	97	97	100	39	37	97	118
Kit Carson .....	.....	90	90	94	97	43	49	94	99
Lincoln .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	75	25	100	140
7. Southwest.									
Archuleta .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	25	75	110
Dolores .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hinsdale .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	25	5	60	100
La Plata	103	75	89	80	108	80	60	100	108
Mineral .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Montezuma	95	97	97	90	96	67	63	92	101
San Juan .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
San Miguel	95	92	92	95	97	20	15	92	115
8. South Central.									
Alamosa .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	52	45	100	101
Conejos .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	18	19	.....	.....
Costilla	100	100	100	.....	100	70	70	110	120
Custer	100	100	100	.....	100	75	50	100	100
Huerfano .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	75	50	100	100
Rio Grande .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	91	42	45	89	120
Saguache .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	100	100
9. Southwest.									
Baca .....	.....	100	100	90	75	50	33	85	120
Bent	99	90	97	100	100	70	60	98	100
Crowley .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kiowa .....	.....	95	95	.....	.....	20	15	100	120
Las Animas	98	105	105	.....	108	48	38	105	.....
Otero	104	82	104	90	98	88	75	109	.....
Provers	97	96	97	80	98	85	72	98	115
Pueblo	90	97	95	90	95	65	22	100	107
State Total	98	94	94	95	95	52	47	92	105

SUMMARY OF MAY 1, 1924, CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES

Subject	Colorado				United States			
	1924	1923	1922	Average	1924	1923	1922	Average
WINTER WHEAT—								
Abandoned, percent	4.5	3.3	2.0	9.9†	7.6	14.3	14.5	10.6
Acres for harvest.....	1,375	1,060	1,262	1,032*	36,898	39,522	42,358	39,222
Condition, percent	94	65	80	88	84.8	80.1	83.5	86.3
Average yields	19.7	10.46	12.08	13.2§	14.9	14.5	13.8	15.2
Forecast—								
Production, bushels.....	27,142	12,720	16,406	13,622*	553,013	572,340	586,878	596,174
RYE FOR GRAIN—								
Acres for harvest.....	68	73	97	124*	4,337	5,157	6,672	3,151†
Condition, percent	95	75	85	91	88.2	85.1	91.7	80.0
Average yields.....	13.3	12.0	9.0	8.8	14.2	12.2	15.5	12.9*
Forecast—								
Production, bushels....	904	876	873	1,088*	61,739	63,023	103,362	66,370
HAY—ALL KINDS—								
Condition, percent	95	90	93	96	86.4	87.0	90.1	90.1
Forecast—								
Production, tons	3,039	2,798	2,618	.....	106,626	112,013	97,770	.....
Old on hand, percent..	14	8	17	6*	12.0	12.0	11.2	12.2
Old on hand, tons.....	392	217	495	160*	12,823	13,392	10,919	12,452
PASTURES—								
Condition, percent	92	78	86	90	80.2	77.0	84.5	84.9
PLOWING—								
Percent completed	52	60	63	64	71.5	68.9	63.5	71.2
SPRING PLANTING—								
Percent completed	48	55	55	56	58.1	55.4	53.6	58.2
LIVESTOCK—MORTALITY OF—PER 1,000—								
Horses & Mules, dis....	14	14	19	18	15.2	15	15.7	18.0
Cattle, disease	15	15	18	20	17.8	16.7	17.8	19.1
Cattle, exposure	13	14	15	29	12.7	12.7	13.1	14.2
Sheep, disease	17	20	18	21	20.0	22.4	21.5	22.4
Sheep, exposure	15	16	20	39	17.5	23.4	26.4	26.8
Lambs, dis. and exp....	35	31	45	57	50.2	49.7	62.3	56.8
Swine, disease	22	23	30	32	52.9	50.5	54.4	66.4
LIVESTOCK—CONDITION—								
Horses	96	95	96	97	93.9	94.3	94.2	95.7
Cattle	95	93	96	96	93.1	93.2	93.2	95.0
Sheep	97	96	96	97	94.7	94.6	92.8	95.2
Swine	96	96	96	97	91.9	92.5	92.9	93.6

NOTES: The figures on acreage and production enumerate (thousands and require that three ciphers (000) be added to complete the numbers. *1919 revised estimates. †5-year average. Acreage and production figures for 1923 and 1922 are the last December final estimates and revisions. §1919 Federal Census. †1914-18 average. Averages unless otherwise designated are 10-year averages.

Mortality of Livestock.—Based upon the number of livestock in the state on January 1, 1924, the losses of each class total as follows: Horses and mules, from disease, 6,062; cattle, from disease, 23,100; from exposure, 20,020; swine, from disease, 13,684; sheep, from disease, 16,320; from exposure, 14,440; lambs, including feeder lambs, from all causes, approximately 50,000. For the United States: Horses and mules, from disease, 360,225; cattle, from disease, 1,189,058; from exposure, 848,373; sheep, from disease, 767,220; from exposure, 671,318; swine, from disease, 3,454,423. Based on estimated values on January 1, 1923, in Colorado the losses of each class of stock in dollars was as follows: Horses, \$254,604; cattle, disease \$579,810., exposure \$502,502; swine, from disease \$129,998; stock and range sheep, from disease \$122,400; from exposure, \$108,300. In addition to the above there are the losses of lambs estimated at 35 per thousand, amounting to approximately 50,000 head, and valued on January 1 at \$7.50 per head, amounting to \$375,000. As all this stock is not on hand through the entire year, the actual losses would be somewhat less.