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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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Preliminary Acreage Estimates—The estimates of acreage for 1924 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 1923 and former years, and are subject to revision in December, when general revisions of all acreages 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.

Owing to the dry weather during June, nearly all of the crops on non-irrigated lands and pastures deteriorated materially and came to July 1 with condition figures below the average. The composite figures for all crops for Colorado on July 1 was 63 per cent of the average (not normal) condition for that date and declined 6.6 points during June. Last year the composite figure for all crops on July 1 was 99.5 per cent of the average condition for that date and there was an improvement during June of 3.4 points.

Corn—Colorado corn on July 1 registered a condition of 76 per cent, the lowest condition figure of record since 1907 on July 1, 17 points less than a year ago and 2 points below the 10-year average for this date. Again, this year, same as last year, corn is the leading crop of the state in point of acreage compared with any other single crop. The preliminary estimates of the area planted to this crop, based upon a 5 per cent increase indicated by reporters and assessors' returns, is about 565,000 acres for this year, compared with 1,490,000 acres last year, and 1,145,000 acres for 1922. Last year was exceptional and nearly all corn planted was harvested for grain or the equivalent, as silage. Special inquiries, however, indicate that in past years only 70 to 80 per cent of the total acreage of corn is harvested for grain, this year now promises to be one of the years when considerable acreage cannot be harvested for grain unless conditions are unusually favorable for maturing the crop and frost holds off until late in the fall. Assuming that the entire acreage planted is to be considered as producing grain or its equivalent, then the crop of this year based upon present condition figures, indicating an average yield of 16.7 bushels per acre, would amount to 26,167,000 bushels, compared with 37,250,000 bushels produced last year when the average yield was 25 bushels per acre. Owing to exceptionally wet weather in the latter parts of April and May, corn planting was generally delayed and the crop is considered from one to three weeks late. This condition will require that the first killing frost occur late in October in order that the crop may be fully matured. In 1923 the general killing frost occurred about October 16.

Winter Wheat—The winter wheat of the state had a condition of 80 per cent on July 1, 8 points higher than a year ago, and three points below the 10-year average. After deducting 4.5 per cent for May 1 abandonment, leaving an area of 375,000 acres for harvest, and based upon the condition at this time, the forecast is a crop of 23,650,000 bushels compared with 12,720,000 bushels last year. Winter wheat was in excellent condition on June 1, but the protracted dry weather seriously injured the crop and the final outturn is likely to be considerably below the present forecast. The indicated production would require an average yield of 17.2 bushels per acre. The average yield last year was 12 bushels to the acre, compared with

13 bushels in 1922, and 13.2 bushels per acre shown by the federal census in 1919 and 11.2 bushels in 1918. Owing to the severe dry weather much of the present acreage is now being cut for hay and will not be harvested for grain. This will materially reduce the production and the average yield for the acreage left for harvest on May 1.

Spring Wheat—The condition of spring wheat on July 1 was 77 per cent, 10 points below last year on July 1, and 9 points below the 10-year average for the date. The present indicated average yield is about 17 bushels per acre. Based on this figure, a crop of 5,590,000 bushels is in prospect, compared with 5,280,000 bushels last year when the average was 16 bushels per acre. The drought conditions have seriously affected this crop and the final outturn is likely to be considerably below the present forecast. Last year the production was seriously decreased by rust.

The stocks of old wheat on farms is less than a year ago and now estimated at 4.3 per cent, totalling 774,000 bushels, compared with 980,000 bushels last year.

Potatoes—Returns from about 32,000 farmers to county assessors upon the intended plantings, reporters and other special information, indicate about a 12 per cent decrease in the acreage devoted to potatoes. It is estimated that 97,000 acres have been planted in the state for harvest this year, compared with 118,000 acres planted last year, from which 110,000 acres were harvested. The condition on July 1 was 88 per cent, 5 points lower than a year ago at this time and two points under the 10-year average. The condition indicates an average yield of about 113 bushels per acre, the present crop prospects amount to 11,950,000 bushels, compared with 13,530,000 bushels last year. The decrease in acreage is heaviest in the important irrigated commercial districts. The crop is generally in good condition though late. There have been favorable temperatures and reasonable moisture supplies to date and ample irrigation water has thus far been available. The carlot movement of potatoes from the 1923 Colorado crop to July 1 this year totalled 14,074 cars, compared with 15,468 cars to the same date and total for last year.

Fruits—The prospects for good crops of all kinds of fruits are regarded as excellent and slightly above last year with the exception of cherries. Detailed figures except for cherries will be found in the table on last page.

Cherries—The cherry crop of the state varies in different sections and is rated at 45 per cent of normal on July 1 as compared with about 80 per cent last year and 92 in 1922, 50 in 1921 and 75 per cent in 1919. The crop this year should amount to about 2,700 tons, as compared with 1919 when 5,500 tons were reported by the census as harvested. The principal cherry counties are Larimer, Fremont, Jefferson, Otero and Crowley.

Miscellaneous Crops—Estimates of condition and production of other important state crops and comparisons are presented on page 4. The acreage of commercial cantaloupes this year is about 84 per cent of last year and is estimated to be about 7,250 acres. About a 40 per cent decrease in the acreage of broom corn is indicated, totalling 34,000 acres, compared with 48,000 harvested in 1923. There is again this year a very large increase of 80 per cent, in the acreage of beans, reaching 300,000 acres planted, which is nearly twice the 170,000 acres of last year, and also the largest acreage of this crop in the history of the state. In 1917 and 1918 large acreages were planted amounting to 250,000 acres each year. The July 1 condition figures for 1924, 1923 and 1922 in order named for crops not mentioned on page 4 are as follows: Alfalfa, 87-88-86; grain sorghums, 80-92-85; field peas, 94-95-93; broom corn, 86-95-85; millet, 78-92-85; tomatoes, 88-79-86; cabbage, 90-88-85; onions, 90-89-89; blackberries, 86-84-86; water melons, 81-78-85; cantaloupes, 81-75-85; pastures, 86-98-82.

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 86 per cent of normal compared with 78 last year, 76 on July 1, 1922, and 101 in 1921. There was a decline of 20 points during June. During the last week of May there were abundant rains over nearly the entire state with the exception of the southeastern portion. Since May 30, but little moisture except in the form of local showers has occurred. Pastures in all parts of the state made a good growth of grass during April and May and the fore part of June, but grass is now curing and the pastures are becoming dry. Practically all sections of the state need rain. Irrigation water has been ample in most sections and overabundant in some rivers during June. Reservoir supplies are in satisfactory condition.

General Review of United States Crop Conditions, July 1, 1924—The composite condition of all crops of the United States on July 1 was 6.0 per cent below their 10 year average condition on that date as compared with a condition of 7.3 per cent below average on June 1, indicating some improvement in crop prospects during the past month. The final yields per acre of crops last year were about 3.3 per cent below average.

**CONDITION OF CROPS AND SOIL MOISTURE ON JULY 1, 1924,
PER CENT, COMPARED WITH NORMAL**

Districts and Counties	Corn	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Potatoes	All Hay	Alfalfa	Pas-ture	Soil Mois-ture
1. Northwest—											
Grand				100	90	100				100	100
Jackson											
Moffat	70	76	76	82	71	84	87	75	87	87	85
Rio Blanco	58	85	82	85	100		53	97	93	80	80
Routt		96	90	94	87		81	94	91	91	82
2. North Central—											
Adams	80	76	82	81	84	97	85	79	63	67	81
Boulder	78	93	81	86	94		90	95	82	94	91
Denver									91	89	90
Larimer	80	93	92	95	93	93	95	81	83	94	92
Weld	79	86	89	90	88	87	89	83	80	89	86
3. Northeast—											
Logan	77	84	87	91	88	93	95	91	89	86	97
Morgan	80	75	81	93	91	84	92	82	81	79	79
Phillips		60		65					70	85	75
Sedgwick	66	80	84	92	90	90	90	100	95	97	92
Washington	76	78	69	71	71	82	79	58	80	92	80
Yuma	69	69	56	53	62	79	73	71	62	73	70
4. West Central—											
Delta	74	90					92		90		90
Eagle		80	100	97	97		100	93	97	90	90
Garfield	80	88	94	92	82		92	91	89	86	91
Gunnison				98	98		95	99	95	90	90
Mesa	97	94	97	100	100				100	100	102
Montrose	76	89	86	85	91	100	92	87	85	85	90
Ouray	77	90	90	84	95		93		80	80	85
Pitkin		95	100		100	90	90	85	82	100	90
5. Central—											
Chaffee			92	83	85		89	93	87	92	96
Clear Creek				91	84	90	90	74	77	95	83
Fremont	79	92	82								
Gipin		96	96	90	97	95	87	90	92	89	85
Jefferson	86									90	100
Lake			102	101	103	105	94	105	100	96	90
Park											
Summit					92	95	94	100		100	92
Teller											
6. East Central—											
Arapahoe	76	84	80	77	85	89		90	81	88	82
Cheyenne	80	82	94	100	94	85	85		90	100	100
Douglas	90	90	80	95	87	90	75		80	70	60
Ebert	78	84	90	95	82	85	95	86	92	98	97
El Paso	95	98	94	97	97	97	93	98	95	100	96
Kit Carson	76	69	64	59	67	77	81	85	82	76	69
Lincoln	87	78	78	85	87	90	70	96	95	90	83
7. Southwest—											
Archuleta											
Dolores		75	75								
Hinsdale											
La Plata	69	74	75	73	74	82	81	81	81	71	52
Mineral											
Montezuma	90	95	96	94	93	90	97	91	105	92	92
San Juan											
San Miguel	95	92	90	93	92	96	93	99	96	93	98
8. South Central—											
Alamosa	80		96	90	90		93	87	95	88	90
Conejos			90	87	93		80	82		60	89
Costilla		95	92	89	82		87	104	101	91	87
Custer	86	90	78	88	85	77	81	94	90	93	82
Huerfano		91	41	91	60		75	100	80	80	70
Rio Grande			94	96	94	100	91	90	86	90	85
Saguache			94	90	94		89	100	91	90	92
9. Southeast—											
Baca	80	70	80		75	65			100	50	72
Bent	81	84	100	83	85	45		87	92	83	90
Crowley	92	80		95	95	85			95	80	80
Kiowa		80	98			85					
Las Animas	50	56	53	61	77	60	75	81	95	49	61
Otero	90	95	92	96	97	95		74	85	85	93
Powers	92	93	95	96	94	110		100	97	90	96
Pueblo	86	88	87	93	87	80		89	91	82	103
State Total.....	76	80	77	82	81	88	88	88	87	86	86

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

	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1924	1923	Average	1924	1923	Average
CORN—						
Acres planted	1,565	1,490	1,145‡	105,604	104,158	101,984‡
Condition, per cent	76	93	88	72.0	84.9	85.0
Production, bus. grain	26,167	37,250	18,320‡	2,515,313	3,046,000	2,899,000‡
ALL WHEAT ACRES—						
Per cent remaining on farms	4.3	4.5	6.0‡	3.9	4.1	4.2
Number bushels remaining on farms	774	980	1,394‡	30,696	35,894	35,187‡
Acres for harvest	1,705	1,390	1,620‡	53,818	58,308	64,406‡
Condition, per cent	79	76	84	79.0	78.3	82.6
Production, bushels	29,240	18,000	21,776‡	742,000	786,000	881,000‡
WINTER WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest	1,375	1,060	1,262‡	36,898	39,522	42,682‡
Condition, per cent	80	72	83	77.9	76.8	80.0
Production, bushels	23,650	12,720	16,406‡	542,551	572,000	624,653‡
SPRING WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest	330	330	358‡	16,920	18,786	21,724‡
Condition, per cent	77	90	86	81.9	82.4	86.0
Production, bushels	5,590	5,280	5,370‡	197,461	213,000	256,336‡
OATS—						
Acres for harvest	228	198	185‡	41,625	40,768	42,687‡
Condition, per cent	82	92	88	86.9	83.5	84.7
Production, bushels	6,450	6,336	4,625‡	1,356,338	1,300,000	1,302,516‡
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest	265	221	186‡	7,553	7,905	7,753‡
Condition, per cent	81	93	90	80.2	86.1	87.0
Production, bushels	6,225	6,409	3,534‡	170,011	198,000	186,036‡
RYE—						
Acres for harvest	68	73	97‡	4,337	5,157	5,661‡
Condition, per cent	88	90	88	86.9	75.0	85.3
Production, bushels	862	876	873‡	64,768	63,000	78,410‡
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest	97	110	142‡	3,753	4,307	4,948‡
Condition, per cent	88	93	90	86.3	86.4	87.4
Production, bushels	11,950	13,530	18,460‡	372,968	412,000	391,000‡
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres harvested	238	165	148‡	917	657	701‡
Condition, per cent	84	88	88	81.3	88.2	88.4
Production, tons	2,253	1,962	1,466‡	7,344	7,096	6,775‡
Sugar, tons	275	240	183‡	939	881	854‡
TAME HAY—						
Acres	1,239	1,203	1,191‡	61,020	60,162	58,134‡
Condition, per cent	87	89	90	83.4	80.3	85.1
Production, tons	2,458	2,406	2,263‡	90,076	89,100	85,800‡
WILD HAY—						
Acres	373	373	366‡	.....	15,722	15,961‡
Condition, per cent	88	89	.....	.....	86.1	.....
Production, tons	387	391	355‡	.....	15,700	16,372‡
ALL HAY—						
Acres	1,612	1,576	1,557‡	.....	75,824	74,095‡
Condition, per cent	87	89	91	82.9	81.1	85.7
Production, tons	2,845	2,742	2,618‡	.....	104,800	102,172‡
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest	306	170	81‡	1,353	1,297	1,099‡
Condition, per cent	85	93	89	83.5	89.4	86.5
Production, bushels	2,237	1,360	405‡	13,629	15,740	12,341‡
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent	85	84	68	66.5	67.0	60.8
Agr'l Prod., bushels	3,208	3,010	4,250‡	196,000	197,000	202,702‡
Commercial barrels	866	803	1,034‡	32,000	34,300	31,000‡
PEACHES—						
Condition, per cent	90	78	62	70.2	63.8	58.3
Agr'l Prod., bushels	810	792	900‡	53,701	45,700	55,852‡
PEARS—						
Condition, per cent	95	85	69	65.2	63.2	60.6
Agr'l Prod., bushels	506	400	519‡	18,427	17,390	20,705‡

NOTES: The figures on acreage and production enumerate thousands and require the 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. †1922. Averages unless otherwise designated are 10-year averages.