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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*

Tolbert R. Ingram, *Deputy and Statistician*

United States figures are generally present only in the table on page 4, as are also estimates of condition and production with comparisons for some of the important state crops. The composite condition figures by counties for both irrigated and non-irrigated crops combined are given in the table on page 3. All estimates of acreage and production for 1924 are preliminary and subject to revision in December.

General Conditions—The combined condition of all Colorado crops declined materially about 3.3 points during August and reached September 1 with a figure of 10.3 per cent below the ten-year average for this date. The composite figure for all crops of the state equaled 89.7 per cent of the average for the past 10 years on this date. 10.2 points below the figure for last year at this time.

Corn—Due to damage by the drought which continued from June 1 to September 1, much Colorado corn was badly damaged and practically a failure, and many fields of corn still green will require 30 days to fully mature. The condition on September 1 was only 50 per cent of normal, a decline of 20 points during August and compared with 95 per cent a year ago and the 10-year average of 78 for September 1. The present condition figure permits an estimate of 18,780,000 bushels compared with 37,250,000 bushels a year ago and 18,320,000 bushels in 1922. These estimates are based on the assumption that all corn producing grain will be harvested for that purpose. In Colorado usually only about 70 to 80 per cent of the acreage is harvested as grain. This year the percentage will apparently be much less as there are thousands of acres upon which there is no grain and will have to be harvested as forage, if at all.

Corn—Conditions affecting the United States corn crop have been bad in practically all parts of the country, according to the Crop Reporting Board, and the estimated condition of 66.4 per cent is 11.5 below the 10-year average. Only three times in the last 40 years has the condition been lower at this time of the year. Extremes of temperature and rainfall have been unfavorable to the crop. It was planted late, is extremely irregular in stand and development, and has not been able to catch up except in some sections where drought is ripening the crop prematurely. The extreme lateness of the crop is causing general apprehension that a considerable portion of it may not mature in time to escape frost. A frost at the average date would injure much of it in many important states. Even with a long autumn the crop will fall considerably below average, having already been injured by drought and other causes to such an extent that complete recovery is impossible.

Small Grains—The spring wheat crop is placed at 5,584,000 bushels compared with 5,280,000 bushels last year, oats at 6,075,000 bushels compared with 6,336,000 bushels a year ago, and barley at 6,614,000 bushels compared with 6,409,000 bushels last year. All these small grains suffered seriously with the drought, much of it scarcely being good enough for harvest.

Potatoes—The Colorado potato crop took a further slump during August and reached September 1 rated as 74 per cent of normal compared with 81 a month ago, 83 a year ago, and 83 the 10-year average. The production is only 10,623,000 bushels, the smallest crop since 1921, compared with 13,530,000 bushels last year and 18,460,000 bushels, the record crop of 1922. Moisture conditions have been

particularly unfavorable in the dry land sections, causing nearly a complete failure, while the irrigated crop is fair to good. In most of the commercial irrigated sections there has been sufficient water to mature the crop. Colorado ranks 10th among the 17 leading states and 5th among the 10 competing late potato producing states from Wisconsin west. Usually about 70 to 80 per cent of the total production of the Colorado crop is considered as commercial. Of the entire acreage in the state, about 80 per cent is upon irrigated farms, where practically all of the commercial acreage is grown.

Field Beans—With the continuation of the drought, the Colorado bean crop declined 30 points during August, reaching September 1 with a showing of only 43 per cent of normal, compared with 73 per cent a month ago and 91 a year ago. This low condition figure permits an estimate of only 1,224,000 bushels compared with 2,020,000 bushels estimated a month ago and 1,360,000 bushels last year. About 85 to 90 per cent of the area devoted to beans in Colorado is upon non-irrigated land. The dry weather prevented polinization and full development of the beans. Vines kept remarkably green, and had moisture come in time a large crop would have been produced, but as it is there are thousands of acres that will not be harvested, or harvested only as forage, and many thousands more with but small production of beans. The crop on irrigated lands continued in excellent condition and slightly better than usual, but cannot balance the losses upon the non-irrigated areas.

Fruit—In general, the fruit crops of the state are good and much above the 10-year average, although there have been declines, especially in apples, due to hot weather and extreme difficulty in combatting the coddling moth. The apple crop is placed at 3,052,000 bushels compared with 3,010,000 bushels last year and 4,250,000 bushels, the large crop of 1922. The total production of peaches is placed at 765,000 bushels compared with 792,000 bushels last year and 900,000 bushels, the good crop of 1922. The pear crop still continues in good form, having a 92 per cent condition compared with 80 a year ago. The production is placed at 471,000 bushels compared with 400,000 bushels last year.

Sugar Beets—The condition of the sugar beet crop of the state on September 1 was 85 per cent compared with 95 last year and 90 the 10-year average. About 238,000 acres were planted this year compared with 165,000 acres harvested last year. Based upon a normal of about 11 tons per acre, the production is placed at 2,199,000 tons compared with 1,962,000 tons last year.

Miscellaneous Crops—On September 1, condition figures for other crops of the state for 1924, 1923 and 1922 in the order named for the years are as follows: Alfalfa, 67-90-88; field peas, 75-86-76; grain sorghums, 50-97-85; millet, 53-92-78; pastures, 61-104-75; broom corn, 50-86-82; tomatoes, 83-79-85; cabbage, 84-91-85; onions, 82-88-87; watermelons and cantaloupes, 80-79-85.

Truck Crops are generally doing well. Cantaloupes are the best that have been produced in years, both in quality and probable final production, though this will depend upon good weather without killing frost until late in the month. Onions, cabbage and tomatoes are doing well, while head lettuce has suffered seriously from the continued drought and much of it will be a failure. Preliminary unofficial estimates indicate that only about 800 cars will be available for shipment as compared with nearly 1,500 cars last year.

General Review of United States Crop Conditions September 1, 1924—The composite condition of all crops of the United States on September 1 was 4.0 per cent below their 10-year average on that date, 0.1 per cent higher than on August 1 and 0.1 per cent below their final yields of last year. The total acreage in cultivation in 20 crops is about 0.1 per cent more than last year. The condition figures for September 1 and the 10-year averages in order for United States crops not mentioned elsewhere are: Alfalfa hay, 77.2-87; broom corn, 77.6-72.7; buckwheat, 86.0-86.1; grain sorghums, 80.9-75.2; flax, 82.4-70.6; grapes, 68.4-83.7; peanuts, 69.8-80.6; rice, 80.3-85.7; sugar cane (La.), 52.0-79.0; sweet potatoes, 64.0-82.7; pasture, 80.8-82.1; (Calif. and Fla.) grape fruit, 85.0-78.4; oranges, 84.6-77.8; prunes, 65.0-78.2.

Total production of important products this year compared with last year expressed in percentages is estimated as follows: Corn, 82.5; wheat, 106.1; oats, 114.3; barley, 98.0; rye, 104.4; buckwheat, 109.4; white potatoes, 100.2; sweet potatoes, 77.2; tobacco, 80.1; flax seed, 166.7; rice, 97.3; hay (tame), 99.3; sugar beets, 100.9; cotton, 126.3; apples, 90.9; peaches, 113.1; pears, 99.4; grain sorghums, 118.9; broom corn, 114.3; beans, 79.0; peanuts, 96.7; hops, 100.5; sorghum for syrup, 88.8.

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

Subject	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1924	1923	Average	1924	1923	Average
COEN—						
Acres	1,565	1,490	1,145‡	104,604	104,158	101,984
Condition, per cent.....	50	95	78	66.4	83.3	77
Production, bushels grain.....	18,780	37,250	18,320‡	2,513,000	3,046,000	2,899,000
ALL WHEAT ACRES—						
Acres for harvest.....	1,705	1,390	1,620‡	53,818	58,308	64,406
Production, bushels	26,209	18,000	21,776‡	837,000	786,000	881,000
WINTER WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	1,375	1,060	1,262‡	36,898	39,522	42,682
Average yield, bushels.....	15	12.0	18.1	16.0	14.5	14
Production, bushels	20,625	12,720	16,406‡	589,000	572,000	624,653
SPRING WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	330	330	358‡	16,920	18,786	21,724
Condition, per cent.....	72	65	79	82.3	65.1	63
Production, bushels	5,584	5,280	5,370‡	247,000	213,000	256,336
OATS—						
Acres for harvest.....	228	198	185‡	41,625	40,768	42,697
Condition, per cent.....	73	92	84	89.3	80.3	75
Production, bushels	6,075	6,336	4,625‡	1,486,000	1,300,000	1,302,516
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest.....	265	221	186‡	7,558	7,905	7,758
Condition, per cent.....	73	92	84	82.5	79.5	79
Production, bushels	6,614	6,409	3,534‡	194,000	198,000	186,936
RYE—						
Acres for harvest.....	68	73	97‡	4,337	5,157	5,661
Average yield, bushels.....	10	12.0	13.0	15.2	12.2	12
Production, bushels	680	876	873‡	65,800	63,000	78,110
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest.....	97	110	142‡	3,753	4,307	4,948
Condition, per cent.....	74	84	83	83.9	77.7	75
Production, bushels	10,623	13,530	18,460‡	413,000	412,000	391,000
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres planted.....	238	.....	.....	917	.....	.....
Acres harvested.....	.....	165	148‡	.....	657	701
Condition, per cent.....	85	95	90	79.1	91.0	89
Production, tons	2,199	1,962	1,466‡	7,070	7,006	6,773
Sugar production, tons.....	.....	240	183‡	904	881	854
ALL HAY—						
Acres harvested.....	1,612	1,576	1,557‡	.....	75,884	74,085
Production, tons	2,452	2,797	2,618‡	.....	106,626	102,172
TAME HAY—						
Acres harvested.....	1,239	1,203	1,191‡	61,020	60,162	58,134
Condition, per cent.....	74	92	.....	84.3	81.5	.....
Production, tons	2,109	2,406	2,263‡	88,500	89,098	85,800
WILD HAY—						
Acres harvested.....	373	373	366‡	.....	15,722	15,961
Condition, per cent.....	80	97	.....	76.3	84.7	.....
Production, tons	343	391	355‡	.....	17,528	16,372
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest.....	306	170	81‡	1,353	1,297	1,099
Condition, per cent.....	43	91	83	65.4	80.6	73
Production, bushels	1,224	1,360	405‡	12,423	15,740	12,311
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent.....	75	78	64	57.9	63.6	56
Agr'l prod'n, bushels.....	3,052	3,010	4,250‡	179,000	197,000	202,702
Commercial barrels.....	824	803	1,034‡	28,100	34,303	31,000
PEACHES—						
Total production, per cent	85	88	.....	68.8	61.0	.....
Agr'l prod'n, bushels.....	765	792	900‡	51,700	45,702	55,852
PEARS—						
Condition, per cent.....	92	80	72	64.7	64.0	64
Agr'l prod'n, bushels.....	471	400	519‡	17,300	17,390	20,705

NOTES: The figures on acreage and production enumerate thousands and require three ciphers (000) to be added to complete the numbers. 1919 revised estimates. *5-yr average. 1918-1922. Acreage and production figures for 1923 and 1922 are the last Decem- final estimates and revisions. \$1919 Federal Census. †1922. Averages unless other- designated are 10-year averages.