

BULLETIN NO. 62
OCTOBER, 1924

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 presented only in the table on page 4 as are also estimates of condition, average yields, and production with comparisons for some of the important state crops. All estimates of acreage, average yields and production for 1924 are preliminary and subject to revision in December.

General Conditions—Colorado corn and beans making further declines, potatoes with the lowest production estimate since 1918, with spring grains and fruits holding about steady, compared with a month ago, a marked improvement in sugar beets in the past 30 days and the hay crop totalling about the same as a year ago with the highest quality in years are the outstanding features of this report. The drought period which began after the last spring rain, which was May 30, and extended to September 10, when good general rains occurred over the northern, northeastern and a part of the eastern sections of the state and rendered conditions in these sections favorable for plowing and seeding of winter wheat and rye and further promoted excellent growth of sugar beets. Other portions of the state are still unusually dry, needing rain for fall plowing and seeding. Light frosts occurred September 26 and 27 in localities in the northern, northeastern and higher altitude sections of the state, and stopped further development of corn, beans, potatoes, tomatoes and other tender vegetation, while freezing temperatures injured prospects for head lettuce in the higher altitudes. As there were no injurious frosts in the southeast, the harvesting of cantaloupes continued in the Arkansas Valley. As a result of the drought, many thousands of acres of non-irrigated beans and corn will not be harvested except possibly for forage. Where production has been sufficient to warrant the expense, harvesting of all crops has been seasonable and well advanced with generally sufficient labor supplies to meet the demands. On October 1, the estimated moisture in the soil was rated at 74 per cent of normal, compared with 108 last year, 58 on October 1, 1922, and 59 on September 1 of this year. The composite condition for all crops of the state was 87.5 per cent of the ten-year average condition for this date. This was a decline of 2.2 points during September and was 12.5 points below the ten-year average for October 1. The composite condition for all crops of the state was 6.9 points below the figure for October 1 last year.

Corn—The preliminary estimate of 17,254,000 bushels of corn is made for October 1, compared with a record crop of 37,250,000 bushels last year. This estimate is based on the assumption that the entire 1,565,000 acres planted will be harvested for grain and the estimate is based upon a condition of 46 per cent of normal, the lowest condition figure of record for Colorado corn, compared with 97 last year and 79 the 10-year average for October 1. In Colorado, usually only about 70 to 80 per cent of the corn acreage is harvested for grain. This year the percentage will apparently be much less, due to the disastrous effects of the drought which has injured the crop until there are thousands of acres upon which there is no corn and will be harvested only as forage if harvested at all. As a single crop, corn leads all others in acreage, but has dropped behind winter wheat in total production, which is second in acreage.

Small Grains—Spring wheat suffered a slight decline during September and is placed at 5,280,000 bushels, or the same as a year ago and is estimated to have an average yield of 16 bushels per acre. The preliminary estimate for winter wheat was 20,625,000 bushels, compared with 12,720,000 bushels last year. The combined production of both winter and spring wheat is now estimated at 26,209,000 bushels, compared with 18,000,000 bushels a year ago. Oats are estimated at 5,928,000 bushels, (26 bushels per acre) compared with 6,336,000 bushels last year (24 bushels per acre).

The barley crop is placed at 6,360,000 bushels compared with 6,409,000 bushels last year. All small grains suffered seriously with the drought, in some sections a considerable per cent was cut for hay. Complete threshing returns and other information concerning acreage harvested and average yields may require a further reduction for the total of all wheat, as the preliminary estimate on winter wheat was made as of August 1, before growers had opportunity to entirely determine the extent of damage from dry weather. According to reports, about 28 per cent of this year's crop has been marketed by October 1, compared with 43 last year, and 52 per cent to the same date in 1922.

Potatoes—Colorado potatoes made a slight decline of 4 points in condition during September, reaching October 1 with a condition of 70 compared with 74 a year ago and 80, the ten-year average for this date. With the present condition, the production estimate hovers around the 10,864,000 bushels mark, the lowest estimate since 1921, compared with 13,530,000 bushels last year, and 18,460,000 bushels, the record crop of 1922. This year's acreage planted is placed at 97,000 acres, compared with 110,000 acres harvested last year. This year's small crop is mostly due to a heavy decrease in acreage, though the dry land crop is largely a failure, while the irrigated crop has done nearly as well as usual. The rains after September 10, materially improved the potato crop in northern Colorado. Indications are now that the December revision of acreage and production will not materially change the state estimate. While prospects have generally been somewhat unsatisfactory in Colorado and western states, the potato crop has gained in eastern sections, particularly in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan, until the net advance during September for the United States estimate was about 10,800,000 bushels. Comparative figures for leading late potato states are as indicated below:

STATE	Condition			Area		Production		Carlot 1923 Crop	Shipments 1922 Crop
	1924 Oct. 1	1923 Sept. 1	1924	1924 (1000 Acres)	1923 (1000 Acres)	Forecast 1924 (1000 Bus.)	1923 (1000 Bus.)		
Maine	98	101	90	130	124	33 761	31,992	34,735	21,357
New York	86	78	87	333	223	40,093	30,729	11,406	11,898
Pennsylvania	83	70	81	244	219	26 328	26,145	3,954	5,748
New Jersey	85	58	84	74	80	9 750	7,600	6,364*	10,471*
Virginia	94	69	89	160	152	21 056	14,136	322†	357‡
Ohio	70	82	71	123	126	9,815	12,348	91*	28*
Michigan	86	81	88	301	314	33,911	35,796	19 237	19,670
Total 7 Eastern States....				1,365	1,368	174,714	167,746	76,112	72 532
Wisconsin	88	72	89	250	272	30,140	26,112	16,883	21 709
Minnesota	89	75	89	367	399	42,462	38 304	33,515	28 910
North Dakota	86	75	85	153	158	14 737	13,114	10,333	8 349
Nebraska	75	76	80	105	111	8 505	8 880	4 811	5 564
Montana	69	78	75	37	36	3,957	3 960	1,266*	1 571*
Colorado	70	74	74	97	110	10 854	13 530	14,074	15 468
Idaho	80	78	81	67	67	10,881	11,725	15,495	16 203
California	85	85	81	50	52	6 970	7,800	5,818‡	6 337‡
Oregon	62	89	62	45	44	3,766	4,180	1,618*	1,179*
Washington	70	82	74	49	52	6,346	8,060	6,223	5 061
Total 10 Western States				1,220	1,301	138 628	135,665	110,069	110,351
Total 17 States.....				2,585	2,669	313,342	303,411	186,181	182,883
Total U. S.	84.3	78.2	83.9	3,753	3,816	423,508	412,392	240,152	253,685

* Shipments up to April 30.

† Shipments up to April 30 from Eastern Shore, late crop.

‡ Shipments to April 30 from northern district.

Shipments of potatoes to October 4, from Colorado this year were 3,229 cars compared with 3,420 cars to the same date last year.

Beans—Colorado beans showed a slight reduction from the September 1 estimate and the forecast is 1,132,000 bushels on the basis of 306,000 acres planted, compared with 1,360,000 bushels upon 170,000 acres harvested last year and 405,000 bushels upon 81,000 acres in 1922. The crop at the present time is regarded as only 40 per cent of normal, compared with 90 per cent a year ago. The bean crop started out under excellent conditions, but the present estimate is the result of long continued dry weather from June 1, to September 10. On September 26 and 27, quite general frosts in the north and northeastern portions of the state checked further growth. The

average yield is estimated at 3.7 bushels per acre. This low yield is the result of the continued dry weather. Beans are generally of good quality, except for some unevenness of size. The crop is practically all cut and stacking and threshing under way with no serious delays in these operations thus far. The United States crop made a slight advance over the figures of a month ago and the production is estimated at 12,782,000 bushels, compared with 16,045,000 bushels last year.

Fruits—The fruit crops held up to earlier estimates, pears surpassing previous shipments, the crop being estimated at 435,000 bushels, compared with 400,000 bushels a year ago, and shipments amounting to 381 cars this year, compared to 661 cars for last year.

The peach crop this year amounted to 765,000 bushels, compared to 792,000 bushels a year ago. The carlot shipments this season amounted to 1,781 cars compared to 254 cars last year.

Apples declined about 130,000 bushels and are estimated at 2,884,000 bushels, compared with 3,010,000 last year. This crop was damaged materially in some sections by codling moth and heavy winds that occurred about September 23. The Colorado carlot shipments to October 4, this year, were 458 cars compared to 519 cars to the same date last year, and 2,716 cars, the total from the 1923 crop. The western states have shipped 9,209 cars to October 4, this year compared to 11,900 cars to the same date last year, and compared to a total for the western states of 61,335 cars from the 1923 crop, and 45,194 cars from the 1922 crop.

Sugar Beets—The condition of the sugar beet crop on October 1, was 95 per cent, compared with 95 a year ago. The forecast at this time is 2,487,000 tons from 23,000 acres planted, compared to 1,962,000 tons from 165,000 acres harvested last year.

Cabbage—The forecast of commercial production of domestic cabbage, as of September 1, in Colorado for 1924, acreage in parenthesis, indicates a production of 21,500 tons (1,560 acres), compared with 31,000 tons (2,110 acres) last year, and 28,900 tons (2,310 acres) in 1922. For the United States, the forecast for the same date is 36,700 tons, compared with 270,700 tons last year and 321,000 tons in 1922. New York is the leading state with 131,800 tons, compared to 82,500 tons last year. Wisconsin is second with 55,000 tons, compared to 49,600 tons last year. Then Ohio (31,900 tons), Michigan (30,800 tons), and Virginia (22,200 tons), follow in order with Colorado in sixth place with the tonnage above stated.

Onions—The estimated production of onions in Colorado this year is 1,040,000 bushels for 3,200 acres planted, compared with 658,000 bushels upon 2,638 acres harvested last year. The preliminary estimate for the eleven late states is 12,602,000 bushels upon 38,770 acres, compared with 12,791,000 bushels upon 39,000 acres last year. The Colorado onion crop is reported as of fair size and good quality. Harvesting is well advanced.

Broom Corn—The forecast of broom corn for Colorado, October 1, was 2,900 tons, compared to the final estimate of 7,200 tons last year. The preliminary estimate of acreage in Colorado this year is 34,000 acres, compared with 48,000 harvested a year ago.

The preliminary estimate of acreage this season for the United States is 438,000 acres, compared with the final estimate of 498,000 acres last year, 275,000 in 1922, and 22,000 acres in 1921. The forecast of production for the United States crop dropped from 79,200 tons on September 1, to 75,900 tons on October 1, as compared with a total of 69,300 tons in 1923, 37,300 tons in 1922 and 38,200 for 1921. The forecasts in tons for leading states for this year and last year (second figure) are as follows: Illinois, 9,600-8,800; Missouri, 1,000-1,000; Kansas, 6,800-10,700; Texas, 4,800-5,400; Oklahoma, 43,100-29,800; Colorado, 2,900-7,200; New Mexico, 7,700-6,400; United States, 5,900-69,300.

Miscellaneous Crops—Estimates of condition and production of other important late crops, with comparisons are presented in the table on page 4. The October 1 condition figure for 1924 and 1923, in the order named, for crops not mentioned on page 4, are as follows: Pasture, 65-98; field peas, 83-91; grapes, 80-95; grain sorghums, 0-97.

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

Subject	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1924	1923	Average	1924	1923	Average
CORN—						
Acres	1,565	1,490	1,145‡	104,604	104,158	101,984*
Condition, per cent	46	97	79	65.3	82.0	78.4
Production, bus grain.....	17,254	37,250	18,320‡	2,459,000	3,046,000	2,899,000
ALL WHEAT ACRES—						
Acres for harvest	1,705	1,390	1,620‡	52,818	58,308	64,967*
Production, bushels	26,209	18,000	21,776‡	856,000	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	14.6*
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	21,721*
Average Yield, bushels	16	16	15.0‡	15.7	11.4	11.8*
Production, bushels	5,280	5,280	5,370‡	266,000	213,000	256,336*
OATS—						
Acres for harvest	228	198	185‡	41,625	40,768	45,697*
Average Yield, bushels	26	32	25.0‡	36.3	31.8	30.5*
Production, bushels	5,928	6,336	4,625‡	1,509,000	1,300,000	1,302,516*
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest	265	221	186‡	7,558	7,905	7,758*
Average Yield, bushels.....	24	29.0	19.0‡	26.6	25.1	24.9*
Production, bushels	6,350	6,409	3,534‡	201,000	198,000	186,039*
RYE—						
Acres for harvest.....	68	73	97‡	4,337	5,157	5,666*
Average Yield, bushels.....	10	12.0	9.0‡	15.2	12.2	13.8*
Production, bushels	630	876	873‡	65,800	63,000	78,416*
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest	97	110	142‡	3,753	4,307	4,948*
Condition, per cent	70	74	80	84.3	78.2	71.0
Production, bushels	10,864	13,530	18,460‡	424,000	412,000	391,000*
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres planted	238	....	....	917	....	....
Acres harvested .....	....	165	148‡	....	657	701*
Condition, per cent	95	95	90	82.8	92.1	88.8*
Production, tons	2,487	1,962	1,466‡	7,430	7,006	6,773*
Sugar production, tons.....	....	240	183‡	950	881	854*
ALL HAY—						
Acres harvested	1,586	1,576	1,557‡	....	75,884	74,095*
Production, tons	2,701	2,797	2,618‡	....	106,626	102,172*
TAME HAY—						
Acres harvested	1,239	1,203	1,191‡	61,020	60,162	58,131*
Average Yield, tons	1.9	2.0	1.9‡	1.56	1.48	1.4*
Production, tons	2,354	2,406	2,263‡	95,100	89,098	85,800*
WILD HAY—						
Acres harvested	347	373	366‡	....	15,722	15,961*
Average Yield, tons	1.0	1.05	0.97‡	0.94	1.11	1.0*
Production, tons	347	391	355‡	14,100	17,528	16,372*
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest	306	170	81‡	1,353	1,297	1,099*
Average Yield, bushels.....	3.7	8.0	5.0‡	9.2	12.1	11.2*
Production, bushels	1,132	1,360	405‡	12,800	15,740	12,341*
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent	72	73	65	57.0	64.2	58*
Agr'l Prod'n, bushels.....	2,884	3,010	4,250‡	175,000	197,000	202,700*
Commercial barrels	779	803	1,034‡	26,900	34,303	31,000*
PEACHES—						
Total Prod'n 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	85	80	73	67.4	66.4	65*
Agr'l Prod'n, bushels.....	435	400	519‡	17,610	17,390	20,700*

NOTES: The figures on acreage and production enumerate thousands and require the three ciphers (000) be added to complete the numbers. †1919 revised estimates. *1919-1922 average. ‡1918-1922. 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.