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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 the 1926 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 1925 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 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 generally reproduced in the text for lack of space. Estimates for important crops will be found on the table on page 4, which also shows details for the most important state crops.

**General Conditions**—Colorado corn reduced three and one-half million bushels, beans cut nearly a half million and material reductions in small grains and potatoes, with a marked increase in sugar beets and hay, and fruits holding about the same as a month ago are the principal items of the October 1 Colorado Federal-State crop report. The reductions are largely due to the continuance of the severe drought that prevailed over the state from the latter part of July to October 1, and the heavy frosts, amounting to a light freeze, on September 23-24. The drought was especially damaging to the non-irrigated crops in the eastern plains sections of the state. On October 1 weather was especially favorable to the harvesting of all crops, but dry weather continues and is unfavorable for the fall seeding of winter wheat and rye, most of which is being put into dry ground with here and there enough moisture to start the grain but not enough to sustain growth. The outlook for the fall seeding of small grains is especially discouraging at this time. Pastures and forage crops are generally poor, though grass made an excellent growth early in the season and cured well, and ranges are regarded as very good. Some stock is being sold to equalize the feed situation in the non-irrigated sections. There was generally ample water for irrigation this season both for direct flow and reservoir supplies, and crops under irrigation are mostly above the average.

The combined condition of all Colorado crops declined about 5.4 points during September, and reached October 1 with a figure of 11.4 per cent below the 10-year average for this date. The composite figure of all crops of the state equaled 88.6 per cent of the average for the past ten years on this date, 3.2 points above the figure for last year at this time.

**Corn**—The October forecast shows a possible production of 10,516,000 bushels, compared with 14,021,000 bushels a month ago and the final outturn in 1925 of 22,410,000 bushels. The present condition is only 30% of normal and represents a yield of 6.5 bushels per acre. The corn crop was hurt by the dry weather and hot winds during the blossom period, which caused a large per cent of barren stalks, resulting in thousands of acres making a complete failure. The condition of 30% at this time is compared with 40% a month ago and 70% a year ago, and 77%, the ten-year average.

This is regarded as the poorest prospect for corn in this state since 1911. In Colorado usually about 70 to 80% of the corn acreage is harvested as grain and the remainder cut for fodder or pastured. This season, however, the percentages are practically reversed; there is very little cut green except under irrigation. While frosts were heavy, amounting to a light freeze on September 23-24, they did but little damage to corn, as most of it was beyond injury at that time.

**Small Grains**—The spring wheat crop is placed at 4,108,000 bushels compared with 3,780,000 bushels last year, and the total wheat crop of the state is estimated at 21,005,000 bushels compared with 14,532,000 bushels a year ago. Oats promise 5,520,000 bushels, compared with 6,210,000 bushels last year. Barley is placed at 7,740,000 bushels, compared with 8,610,000 bushels a year ago. The rye crop of the state amounts to about 1,024,000 bushels compared with 850,000 bushels in 1925. Threshing returns are showing very low yields and many failures, and complete information from threshers may still further reduce the outcome and final estimates of these grain crops. On the other hand, very high yields are reported by some individual farmers, especially under irrigation.

**Potatoes**—The Colorado potato crop dropped 6 points during the month, due to unfavorably high temperatures, continued dry weather and frosts which ripened the vines and checked the usual vigorous growth. The forecast is placed at 11,563,000 bushels, compared with 14,190,000 last year. The condition of the crop is rated at 73% of normal, compared with 85 a year ago. Weather and soil conditions, especially under irrigation, are very favorable to harvesting this season as compared with a year ago when extensive rains were improving soil conditions but delaying harvesting and resulted in heavy loss by freezing about the middle of last October and heavily reduced the production in the Greeley district. The Colorado car lot shipments amounted to 4,604 cars to October 2, compared with 4,311 cars to the same date last year and a total car lot movement from the 1925 crop of 15,422 cars.

**Beans**—With the heavy frosts of about September 23, the Colorado bean crop completed a most unfavorably hot dry season, and the production estimate received a still further cut of nearly a half-million bushels, showing a possible production of about 1,197,000 bushels compared with 2,240,000 bushels last year. Moisture and temperature conditions were generally highly favorable for this crop early in the season, which maintained splendid condition until the middle of July, after which time dry weather and some excessively hot winds prevailed, which caused the blossoms to fall and permitted a comparatively light set of pods. There were here and there in some sections, due to local showers, fields that continued exceptionally green. Most of these had not matured sufficiently and were ruined by the frosts the last of the month. These unfavorable factors caused a large per cent of failure and low yield. By the end of the month most of the crop had been cut, and some of it stacked or threshed, but a considerable part was still in the fields in the shock. The heavy wind of September 3<sup>d</sup>, which swept the eastern part of the state, partly covered by sand or partly blew from the fields many of the beans that were in the shock. The condition at this time is estimated at 35% of normal, which represents an average yield of 3.4 bushels per acre as compared with 7 bushels last year and 3.4 bushels in 1924. In 1924, there were nearly 1,500 cars shipped from points in Colorado; from the 1925 crop 3,360 cars. The present estimate, after deducting seed and other local requirements, may permit the shipment of a possible 1,500 cars from this year's crop. But few threshers' returns are yet available and more complete information may still further reduce the present estimate, as some extensive non-irrigated sections are reported as only averaging about 100 pounds per acre for the entire acreage planted, while still other sections are reporting a little more. In Colorado, most of the beans are grown in the north and central portions of the state, east of the mountains. Nearly all counties show an increase in acreage for 1926, compared with 1925. The most important bean producing counties in order as shown by the acreage reported in 1925 are Weld county with 84,000, followed by Elbert, with 47,000; El Paso, 43,000; Lincoln, 30,000; Arapahoe, 21,000; Adams, 17,000; Morgan, nearly 15,000; Pueblo, 12,000; Washington and Las Animas, with about 9,000 each. The total acreage devoted to dry beans for market in the state is estimated at 352,000 acres compared with 320,000 last year. In addition to the acreage of dry beans for the general market there is a large acreage of garden varieties of beans grown under contract to various seed companies for seed. In 1925, there were about 19,000 acres of these, and this year approximately 11,000 acres, of which about 2,000 acres are baby limas. Most of the seed beans are grown in northern Colorado, except the baby limas, which are grown in the Arkansas valley.

**Hay**—The Colorado tame hay crop shows but a slight reduction, the forecast being 2,402,000 tons, compared with 2,676,000 tons harvested last year. Generally, there was ample water for irrigation and the hay crop did well except in limited localities. The

wild hay crop is estimated as about the same as a year ago, when the production was about 360,000 tons. Wild hay meadows and pastures started off well early in the season and had a good growth before drought conditions set in. Nearly all hay was put up in good to excellent condition and is mostly of good quality.

**Sugar Beets**—The October 1 estimate for sugar beets in Colorado is 2,642,000 tons compared with 1,117,000 tons last year. A very high condition figure of 95 is shown, as compared with 65 a year ago, and 90, the ten-year average. Some very heavy yields are reported, especially in northern Colorado; present indications are for a state average of 12 tons per acre. The crop is mostly in excellent condition, especially in the northern part of the state, but has somewhat less favorable prospects in the southern and western sections. The September 23rd freeze injured the tops and stopped the growth to some extent and no doubt materially reduced the yield from what was expected. Some "curly leaf" is reported in the western sections.

**Sorghums**—The grain sorghum crops in Colorado are grown without irrigation in the eastern and southeastern portions of the state. The drought which has continued since July 15th took a heavy toll from this crop and reduced the prospects to a 40% condition, compared to 82 a year ago and 82, the ten-year average. The estimated production of grain sorghums for grain alone, based on an 8-bushel average, is 384,000 bushels, compared to 600,000 bushels last year. In Colorado there are about 281,000 acres devoted to this crop, of which only about 48,000 acres are considered as harvested for grain, most of the acreage being cut for forage. In addition to the grain sorghums there is usually about 130,000 acres of sweet sorghums also grown for forage in this state.

**Pastures**—Pastures of the state are materially lower than a month ago, being 70% compared with 80 last month, 84 last year, and 85, the ten-year average. Grass on ranges made a good growth early in the season and cured well. Ranges are considered as mostly in excellent condition at this time.

**Broom Corn**—Reports on broom corn for October 1 showed a further decrease from a month ago. Based on the entire acreage devoted to this crop, the crop is estimated at 30% of normal and represents a production of about 2,100 tons, compared with about 1,800 tons shipped from the crop of 1925. Other states held about steady and the total United States crop for October 1 is estimated as 47,700 tons, compared with 30,300 tons produced in 1925, and much below the 1924 crop of 78,200 tons.

**Fruits**—The fruit crops of the state continue to show a high condition and slight improvement with the advance of the season. The apple crop is the largest that has been produced in recent years. Marketing conditions are discouraging and it may not all be harvested. The cherry crop is perhaps the largest that was ever produced in the state, exceeding the 5,500 ton crop of 1919, and amounts to over 6,000 tons. Details for other fruit crops will be found in the table on page 4.

**Truck Crops**—Many of the truck crops of the state were severely injured or further development completely checked by the frosts and light freeze of September 23-24, though the hardier crops, cabbage, onions and celery, are still being harvested in good condition. The conditions for each of these crops is as follows: Cabbage, 92%; onions, 75%, and celery, 80%. Shipments of cantaloupes have been completed, showing 3,952 cars forwarded in 1926, compared with 3,050 cars from the 1925 crop. The lettuce harvest is nearly finished. On October 2, 2,711 cars had been shipped, compared with 2,787 cars to the same date last year and a total of 3,059 cars for 1925. Unofficial reports indicate about another 100 cars this season. There is still some cauliflower to be harvested. On October 2, 150 cars had been shipped, compared to 105 cars last year.

#### COLORADO TRUCK CROPS PRODUCTION

	1926	1925		1926	1925
Danish cabbage, tons -----	18,700	12,600	Onions, bushels-----	1,054,000	1,144,000
Domestic cabbage, tons -----	10,900	9,600	Celery, crates -----	300,000	386,000

**SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 1, 1926, CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR  
COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES**

	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1926	1925	Average	1926	1925	Average
<b>CORN</b>						
Acres planted .....	1,524	1,494	1,450†	101,074	101,639	101,076†
Condition, per cent.....	30	76	77	72.4	76.2	77.3
Production, bus. grain...	10,516	22,410	14,500†	2,679,988	2,905,000	2,849,000†
<b>ALL WHEAT—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	1,472	1,148	1,360†	57,584	52,200	52,364†
Production, bushels .....	21,006	14,532	18,182†	839,336	666,000	802,000†
<b>WINTER WHEAT—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	1,207	896	1,120†	36,700	31,269	35,489†
Average yield, bus.....	14	12	14.7	17.1	12.8	14.3†
Production, bushels .....	16,898	10,752	14,342†	626,000	396,000	549,000†
<b>SPRING WHEAT—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	265	252	240†	20,884	20,931	16,875†
Average yield, bus.....	15.5	15.0	18.1	10.2	12.9	12.9†
Production, bushels .....	4,108	3,780	3,840†	213,336	270,875	252,959†
<b>OATS—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	230	230	232†	45,945	45,160	42,756†
Average yield, bus.....	24	27	31.3	27.9	33.2	30.8†
Production, bushels .....	5,520	6,210	5,800†	1,282,414	1,512,000	1,327,000†
<b>BARLEY—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	430	410	327†	8,842	8,243	6,858†
Average yield, bus.....	18	21.0	23.8	22.3	26.4	24.7†
Production, bushels .....	7,740	8,610	6,366†	196,762	217,497	186,105†
<b>RYE—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	89	85	74†	3,601	4,088	4,019†
Average yield, bus.....	11.5	10	9.0†	11.6	11.9	13.9†
Production, bushels .....	1,024	850	666†	41,870	48,600	68,200†
<b>WHITE POTATOES—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	88	86	88†	3,202	3,113	3,348
Condition, per cent.....	73	85	79	76.5	72.5	74.6
Production, bushels .....	11,563	14,190	14,859	350,821	325,902	396,469†
<b>SUGAR BEETS—</b>						
Acres planted .....	219	186	197	764	780	785
Acres for harvest.....	.....	136	225†	.....	653	694
Condition, per cent.....	95	65	90	83.2	82.6	87.8
Production, tons .....	2,642	1,717	2,001	6,525	7,423	6,981
<b>TAME HAY—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	1,201	1,245	1,263†	59,080	59,398	61,451†
Average yield, tons.....	2.0	1.95	2.16	1.41	1.46	1.50†
Production, tons .....	2,402	2,676	2,660†	83,200	86,700	90,500†
<b>WILD HAY—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	.....	360	360†	.....	14,746	15,080†
Average yield, tons.....	.....	1.00	1.00†	.....	.88	.98†
Production, tons .....	.....	360	360†	.....	13,049	14,731†
<b>FIELD BEANS—</b>						
Acres for harvest.....	352	320	280†	1,754	1,579	1,545†
Average yield, bus.....	3.4	7.0	3.4†	9.7	12.4	11.5†
Production, bushels .....	1,197	2,240	952†	17,014	19,534	14,600†
<b>APPLES—</b>						
Condition, per cent.....	85	70	66	77.5	52.8	56.6
Agr'l prod'n, bushels....	3,380	3,200	3,337†	234,000	171,706	169,500†
Commercial, barrels .....	950	860	863†	38,508	33,044	30,109†
<b>PEACHES—</b>						
Total prod'n, per cent....	93	29	.....	79.9	60.2	.....
Agr'l prod'n, bushels....	976	450	766†	67,246	46,565	46,900†
<b>PEARS—</b>						
Condition, per cent.....	95	85	78	80.8	66.4	66.4
Agr'l prod'n, bushels....	606	510	496†	25,024	19,820	17,707†
<b>GRAPES—</b>						
Production, tons.....	.300	.260	.280†	2,357	1,970	2,010

NOTES: The figures on acreage and production enumerate thousands and require that three ciphers (000) be added to complete the numbers. †5-year average. Acreage and production figures for 1925 are the last December final estimates and revisions. †1924. Averages unless otherwise designated are 10-year averages.