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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.

General Conditions—During October nearly all crops held about steady except for slight increases shown in corn, sugar beets and apples, together with slightly more favorable prices on potatoes by November 1. There was generally but little precipitation and no extreme temperatures. Colorado weather conditions were favorable for all harvesting operations. A severe drought that prevailed over the state from the latter part of July to October 1 continued through the month, and in some sections the outlook for fall sown wheat and rye was quite unfavorable. Most of the crop was planted in dry ground and needed moisture. In places there was moisture enough to start the grain but not enough to fully sustain the growth. Grass made a good growth early in the season, cured well, and ranges are regarded as very good. There is some shortage of forage crops, especially in the east and southeast. Some stock is being sold to equalize the feed situation. There has generally been ample water for irrigation throughout the season, both for direct flow and reservoir supplies. Crops under irrigation are mostly above the average.

In combined yields of all Colorado crops in proportion to their relative importance, the composite of yields per acre this season is 90.9. This indicates that crop yields were 9.1 per cent below the average of the last ten years. This composite of 90.9 is 2.3 points above the composite based on condition of crops on October 1, and 7.3 above the composite of per acre yields last year. Similarly, the composite yields per acre this season for the United States were 103.0 or 3.0 per cent above the average of the last ten years.

Corn.—On November 1 the Colorado corn crop was placed at 10,668,000 bushels, compared with 22,410,000 bushels harvested last year. This represents a 7-bushel per acre average for the entire estimated acreage of 1,524,000 acres planted, and is 8 bushels per acre less than last year. Moisture conditions throughout the season were very spotted and the large corn area in the eastern portion of the state suffered with an excessive drought from the middle of July to the end of the season. Accompanying this drought were hot winds, which caught the corn in the blossom stage and resulted in thousands of acres of barren stalks, with a consequent almost complete failure of the crop in many sections. Corn made the best showing in the irrigated sections and in the north-central part of the state. Most of the corn was matured before the first killing frost of September 23-24; a small per cent, however, was injured by this early freeze.

The merchantable quality is rated at 72 per cent of the entire production, compared with 85 per cent a year ago and 61 per cent in 1924. The small carry-over of stocks on farms as shown by reports is estimated at 560,000 bushels, compared with 313,000 bushels

last year and 1,129,000 bushels in 1924. Tentative estimates indicate that about 65 per cent of the corn acreage will be harvested as grain, about 5 per cent cut for silage and 30 per cent of the acreage grazed or abandoned. Reports indicate an average of about 6.5 tons per acre for the corn that was cut for silage; non-irrigated silage corn will make about 3 tons and the irrigated about 9 or 10 tons per acre. The hold-over for the United States corn is estimated at 181,454,000 bushels, compared to 58,000,000 bushels last year. The United States crop is figured at 72.5 per cent merchantable, compared with 83.6 last year and 63.2 in 1924.

Potatoes.—The Colorado potato crop is estimated at 11,440,000 bushels, about the same as a month ago and compared to 14,190,000 bushels in 1925. The weather was favorable for harvesting and the crop was gathered in good condition. The reduction from a year ago was due to unfavorably hot, dry weather throughout the latter part of the season and the frosts of September 23-24, which checked full develpment, showing smaller tubers and a lighter set than a year ago. The United States crop is placed at 360,727,000 bushels, compared with 350,821,000 bushels last month, and with 326,000,000 bushels a year ago, and a 5-year average of 396,000,000 bushels. Material increases were recorded for Maine, New York and Michigan, with other states holding about steady compared with the October 1 report.

POTATOES: Colorado and other states (in thousands of bushels):

	Forecasts 1926		Harvested 1925		Forecasts 1926		Harvested 1925
	Nov. 1	Oct. 1			Nov. 1	Oct. 1	
Colorado	11,440	11,563	14,190	Maine	37,170	35,545	34,170
Idaho	16,198	16,016	14,381	New York	31,702	31,047	23,994
California	6,665	6,214	6,510	New Jersey	7,000	6,560	6,042
Nebraska	5,460	6,006	6,300	Oregon	4,560	4,930	4,368
North Dakota	7,360	7,055	7,280	Washington	11,055	9,192	8,120
Minnesota	26,800	26,773	26,772	Pennsylvania	23,408	22,580	25,461
Wisconsin	27,376	27,395	23,632	Ohio	10,434	9,851	11,978
Michigan	30,378	27,888	24,411				
Total, United State					360,727	350,821	325,902

Sugar Beets.—The sugar beet crop for Colorado, according to the November 1 estimate, is placed at 2,647,000 tons from 219,000 acres planted, compared to 1,717,000 tons from 186,000 acres planted and 136,000 acres harvested in 1925. Conditions have generally been favorable for the sugar beet crop throughout the season; in most sections there was ample irrigation water. Especially in the northern part of the state, the yield is heavy. Portions of the western part of the state suffered from "curly leaf," and resultant low yields. The United States crop is placed at 7,213,000 tons from 676,000 acres harvested, compared with 7,423,000 tons from 653,000 acres harvested last year. It is estimated that the United States sugar produced will amount to 938,000 tons, compared with 913,000 tons produced in 1925, and 1,090,000 tons in 1924. The sugar produced in Colorado is estimated at approximately 326,000 tons compared to 211,000 tons last year.

Field Beans.—There was a further reduction in the estimate for field beans in Colorado. Reports at this time are 1,056,000 bushels, compared with 2,240,000 bushels a year ago. This production represents an average yield of 3 bushels per acre for the entire acreage planted, compared to 7 bushels last year. Special reports indicate that only about 70 to 75 per cent of the acreage planted was harvested, due to damage by drought and frost. Threshing returns are generally disappointing and complete information from threshers later in the season may still further reduce the present estimate. Weather conditions have been highly favorable for the harvesting of the bean crop, and the crop is mostly harvested, with about 50 per cent of it moved at this time.

Apples.—The apple crop of the state is placed at 3,444,000 bushels, compared with 3,200,000 bushels a year ago. There was nearly a full crop in all parts of the state. With a full crop in all sections of the country, prices have been low and marketing has been delayed. Only about 1,657 cars have been shipped this season to date, compared with 2,008 cars to the same date last year, and a total last season's crop of 3,193 cars. The United States crop is estimated at 246,262,000 bushels, compared with 172,000,000 bushels last year, and a 5-year average of 169,000,000 bushels. The commercial estimate is placed at 39,949,000 barrels, compared with 33,044,000 barrels a year ago, and a 5-year average of 40,109,000 barrels. The **Pear** crop of the state is placed at 540,000 bushels, compared with 510,000 bushels in 1925, and 496,000 bushels in 1924. The crop was of excellent quality, being rated at 90 per cent, compared with 92 a year ago.

The **Tame Hay** crop this year is estimated at 2,402,000 tons, compared with 2,676,000 tons last year. The wild hay crop last year was estimated at 360,000 tons and conditions have been favorable for about the same production this year. The United States tame hay crop is placed at 83,158,000 tons, compared with 86,723,000 tons in 1925, and a 5-year average of 90,453,000 tons. In 1925 the wild hay crop amounted to 14,746,000 tons. No estimate has been made thus far this fall, 1926.

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

	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1926	1925	Average	1926	1925	Average
CORN						
Acres	1,524	1,494	1,450‡	101,074	101,639	101,076‡
Average yield per acre, bus	7	15	16.9	26.7	28.6	27.4
Production, bus. grain	10,668	22,410	21,767†	2,693,963	2,905,053	2,849,189†
Stocks, old corn on farms bushels	560	335	1,118‡	181,454	58,000	102,000‡
ALL WHEAT—						
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	666,009	802,000†
WINTER WHEAT—						
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†
SPRING WHEAT—						
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†
OATS—						
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†
BARLEY—						
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†
RYE—						
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‡
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest	88	86	88‡	3,202	3,137	3,710†
Average yield, bushels	130	165	140	112.7	103.9	106.9†
Production, bushels	11,440	14,190	14,859†	360,727	325,902	396,469†
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres planted	219	186	197	764	780	785
Acres harvested	199	136	225‡	676	653	694
Average yield, tons	13.3	12.62	11.32‡	10.67	11.37	9.20‡
Production, tons	2,647	1,717	2,001	7,213	7,423	6,981
Sugar produced, tons	326	211	364	938	913	1,090‡
TAME HAY—						
Acres harvested	1,201	1,245	1,263‡	59,080	59,425	60,134†
Average yield, tons	2.	1.95	2.16	1.41	1.46	1.50†
Production, tons	2,402	2,676	2,660	83,158	86,723	90,453†
WILD HAY—	E					
Acres harvested	360	360	360‡	.....	14,746	15,080‡
Average yield, tons	1.00	1.00	1.00‡	.....	.88	.98‡
Production, tons	360	360	360‡	.....	13,049	14,731‡
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest	352	320	280‡	1,754	1,575	1,266†
Average yield, bus	3.	7.0	3.4‡	9.7	12.4	11.5†
Production, bushels	1,056	2,240	952‡	16,970	19,534	14,552
APPLES—						
Quality	81	80	79	84.0	76.6	71.4
Agricultural production	3,444	3,200	3,337†	246,262	171,706	169,500†
Commercial, barrels	969	860	863†	39,949	33,044	30,109†
PEACHES—						
Total prod'n, per cent	93	64	85‡	79.9	59.0	68.8‡
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	976	450	766†	67,242	46,565	46,904†
PEARS—						
Quality	89	92	89	89.8	85.7	87.1
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	564	510	496†	25,269	19,820	17,707†

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. E unofficial estimate.

AVERAGE YIELDS OF PRINCIPAL CROPS PER ACRE AS REPORTED BY THE U. S. CENSUS BUREAU FOR YEARS 1919 AND 1924

(Note: Except for hay, county figures have been rounded to nearest whole number.)

District and Counties	Wheat 1919	Wheat 1924	Corn 1919	Corn 1924	Oats 1919	Oats 1924	Barley 1919	Barley 1924	Potatoes 1919	Potatoes 1924	Hay 1919	Hay 1924
1—Northwest												
Grand	12	26	..	..	22	18	34	12	74	77	1.2	1.2
Jackson	..	..	..	..	12	30	9	20	83	51	.9	1.1
Moffat	8	9	11	4	19	18	22	15	46	40	1.2	1.0
Rio Blanco	13	14	16	11	35	34	18	19	109	67	1.7	1.6
Routt	14	13	12	..	27	22	19	13	99	90	1.9	1.7
2—North Central												
Adams	6	11	10	8	16	27	13	14	77	89	2.3	1.7
Boulder	19	30	18	20	25	34	21	33	81	47	1.9	1.3
Denver	21	20	19	15	38	17	11	23	35	56	3.2	2.2
Larimer	18	30	12	14	32	19	22	34	61	115	1.8	1.7
Weld	13	17	9	9	24	34	21	25	94	192	2.0	1.7
3—Northeast												
Logan	12	9	10	7	19	24	19	15	31	56	1.3	1.4
Morgan	7	8	10	9	30	36	24	27	68	206	1.9	1.8
Phillips	16	10	19	10	15	12	16	10	36	56	.7	1.0
Sedgwick	16	12	15	9	21	20	24	19	42	110	.9	1.3
Washingt'n	12	7	8	7	14	13	10	11	26	37	.7	1.4
Yuma	17	13	10	10	28	17	20	14	24	43	1.0	1.9
4—West Central												
Delta	22	23	31	26	31	32	24	26	156	112	1.9	2.2
Eagle	25	34	48	..	48	51	27	27	230	152	2.0	1.6
Garfield	19	24	29	20	33	36	20	22	177	150	2.0	1.7
Gunnison	..	12	..	20	29	20	20	13	110	65	1.5	1.4
Mesa	22	24	29	24	32	34	29	27	97	118	2.4	2.1
Montrose	27	27	31	22	36	31	20	26	177	162	2.6	2.0
Ouray	23	18	..	..	30	31	18	8	126	142	1.7	1.5
Pitkin	31	29	..	..	39	43	33	28	223	157	1.8	1.6
5—Central												
Chaffee	22	20	..	..	32	33	29	27	71	97	1.5	1.3
Clear Creek	..	..	..	..	20	..	54	..	50	33	1.1	1.0
Fremont	15	19	23	17	32	32	21	26	47	32	1.9	1.6
Gilpin	5	..	..	..	12	..	13	20	68	22	1.0	.7
Jefferson	20	25	19	16	21	30	20	26	78	40	2.0	1.6
Lake	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.7	.7
Park	..	9	15	..	18	12	16	9	54	24	.8	.8
Summit	..	3	..	..	22	8	11	8	84	42	1.4	1.1
Teller	..	11	..	..	9	8	12	9	49	19	.9	.6
6—East Central												
Arapahoe	8	11	10	6	21	26	16	19	52	41	2.6	1.8
Cheyenne	12	9	18	11	14	11	16	9	25	30	1.1	..
Douglas	10	15	11	11	17	17	14	10	30	18	1.4	1.5
Elbert	8	11	14	8	13	12	10	12	25	24	1.1	1.1
El Paso	10	12	14	6	15	11	11	11	27	17	1.1	1.0
Kit Carson	9	8	10	7	13	10	14	8	28	41	1.0	1.6
Lincoln	8	13	15	8	13	12	11	13	23	41	.8	1.2
7—Southwest												
Archuleta	21	13	13	15	38	20	28	14	60	42	1.7	1.3
Dolores	18	8	20	11	25	9	11	4	67	33	1.5	1.3
Hinsdale	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	73	1.4	1.3
La Plata	21	17	26	15	34	26	26	27	102	85	2.0	1.6
Mineral	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	34	.9	.9
Montezuma	16	16	19	13	33	29	27	22	99	63	2.2	1.7
San Juan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
San Miguel	19	18	24	12	38	23	21	10	115	44	1.7	1.4
8—South Central												
Alamosa	13	22	..	..	19	25	16	22	103	148	1.2	1.1
Conejos	18	18	13	40	11	31	23	25	77	124	1.2	1.1
Costilla	16	18	10	9	26	28	23	23	29	82	1.2	1.2
Custer	19	16	13	7	24	18	20	18	42	28	1.4	1.1
Huerfano	12	9	13	6	25	20	27	23	23	34	1.9	1.1
Rio Grande	24	21	16	..	29	29	20	17	201	176	1.3	2.3
Saguache	21	18	19	..	24	23	19	19	126	165	1.1	.9
9—Southeast												
Baca	13	7	20	9	16	11	15	9	38	19	1.2	..
Bent	30	27	24	26	35	34	29	34	56	..	2.1	2.2
Crowley	22	25	19	13	25	27	26	23	24	12	2.5	2.0
Kiowa	13	12	20	13	20	15	17	13	24	34	1.2	..
Las Animas	15	7	15	7	26	23	23	23	33	13	1.7	1.6
Otero	34	30	34	23	50	44	37	35	65	37	2.9	2.1
Prowers	25	14	27	16	33	37	27	17	104	22	1.9	2.3
Pueblo	13	13	21	12	29	30	20	25	27	43	3.6	2.3
State	13.7	11.8	13.4	9.4	26.0	24.1	18.3	15.7	114.6	150.9	1.65	1.57