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CROP REPORT FOR COLORADO

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Preliminary Acreage Estimates—The estimates of acreage for the 1927 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 1926 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 fully determined this early in the season.

Figures and text description for Colorado crop conditions for March, April, May, June and July have been issued in mimeograph form and the figures have also been published in the "Crops and Markets," a monthly publication of the United States Department of Agriculture. Detailed printed bulletins for these months for Colorado have not been issued this year.

United States figures are not reproduced in the text for lack of space, but will be found in the table on page 4.

General Conditions—In 1926, during May and June, excellent moisture conditions prevailed over most of the state, with the exception of the southeast, until after the middle of July. After this time, there was practically no rain or moisture of much importance in any section of the state throughout the fall and winter until about March 15th of this year. Much of the winter wheat was sown in dry ground and some of it with sufficient moisture to sprout it but not enough to sustain it, and the winter abandonment was heavy, amounting to over 22 per cent. About the middle of March the drought was broken and good moisture fell in most parts of the state except the southeast and prevailed until about the middle of April, after which no rains occurred in the principal agricultural sections until after the 5th of June. During this period winter wheat and rye and all other crops suffered from the spring drought. After June 5 there were general rains over nearly the entire state and since June 15th, included the southeast. Crops had a very low condition on June 1, being only 84.9 per cent of the 10-year average for that date. With the rains during June, a considerable improvement occurred, so that crops had a condition on July 1 of 93.8 per cent of the 10-year average, or a gain of 8.9 points during June. With the continuation of rains during July, there has been a further improvement, until the composite figure for all crops for Colorado on August 1 this year was 95.2 per cent of the 10-year average, 1.4 points above July 1. On August 1 a year ago, the composite figure for all crops for Colorado was 104.4 per cent of the 10-year average. This year on August 1, the general condition of all crops is 9.1 points lower than a year ago. At this time last year the severe drought that followed had not yet seriously affected the crops, hence the high condition at that time compared with this year. In most of the state the rains this year since June 5 have been very beneficial to nearly all crops and particularly to potatoes, corn, beans, truck crops and pastures, but in many instances have seriously delayed the harvest and damaged grain and hay. There has been as much or more than the usual amount of hail thus far this season. On July 13 one of the most disastrous hail storms in the history of the state

swept across Weld county, covering a strip from three to more than five miles in width and more than sixty miles in length.

Corn—The August 1 forecast for corn in this state is 20,123,000 bushels, compared with the final estimate of 10,472,000 bushels last year. The condition at this time is 74 per cent, compared with 83 a year ago and 82, the ten-year average. The area devoted to corn this year is 1,361,000 acres, compared with 1,496,000 acres a year ago. The low condition is due mostly to a poor stand and slow start during the spring months, caused by damage from cut worms, cool weather, wind, and poor seed. A large per cent of the corn crop is located in the extreme eastern and northeastern portions of the state. Generally speaking, the crop is a little late, and an extended growing season without frost is necessary for a satisfactory final out-turn.

Winter Wheat is now estimated at 18,465,000 bushels, compared with 14,484,000 bushels last year and a five-year average of 14,008,000 bushels. The preliminary estimate of average yield is 15 bushels per acre, compared with 12 bushels a year ago. The acreage in this crop for harvest is 1,231,000 acres, compared with 1,207,000 last year. In Colorado, 98 per cent of the winter wheat is located east of the mountains and about 90 per cent of the acreage is non-irrigated. The crop thus far this season has met with varying conditions, including serious drought throughout the fall and winter, relieved by excellent moisture conditions during the latter part of March and forepart of April, and again set back by drought during May and then greatly improved by rains after June 5th, and harvest somewhat delayed and quality reduced by excess rains during the harvest period. The quality at this time is rated at 89 per cent, compared with 92 a year ago.

Spring Wheat on August 1 was estimated at 5,385,000 bushels, compared with 3,968,000 bushels last year. The condition was 77 per cent, compared with 79 a year ago and 80, the ten-year average. In Colorado, about 55 per cent of the spring wheat acreage is on non-irrigated lands, and the dry weather in certain localities during May reduced the prospects of this crop but in many sections, due to the rains of June and July, a very satisfactory production is expected. In nearly all irrigated sections the crop is highly satisfactory. The area in this crop this year is 333,000 acres, compared with 256,000 acres last year.

Oats for grain warrant an estimate of 5,195,000 bushels, compared with 4,680,000 bushels a year ago. The crop condition is 82 per cent, the same as last year, compared with 83, the ten-year average. In this state, about 56 per cent of the acreage is non-irrigated, and this portion of the crop suffered somewhat with the drought during May. Most of the irrigated portion is in excellent condition, though rains are delaying harvest and reducing the quality. The oats area for grain this year is 181,000 acres, compared with 195,000 acres last year.

Barley is estimated at 12,320,000 bushels, compared with 6,672,000 bushels in 1926. The condition of the crop is 80 per cent, compared with 73 a year ago and 80, the ten-year average. The acreage included in the barley crop has been increasing rapidly during the past few years and reached 500,000 acres this year, compared with 417,000 acres last year. In Colorado, about 75 per cent of the acreage devoted to barley is non-irrigated. This crop has become valuable as a non-irrigated crop, as good production is quite certain and it affords a good substitute for corn for feeding operations and usually has a ready market. The forecast of the rye crop for this year is 935,000 bushels, compared with 1,024,000 bushels last year. The average yield is 10.5 bushels per acre, compared with 11.5 a year ago. A considerable per cent of the rye planted in this state is for pasture and hay. The portion to be harvested for grain is estimated at 89,000 acres, or about the same as a year ago. The total rye area is about 122,000 acres. Of the acreage harvested for grain, about 84 per cent is fall sown and the remainder spring rye.

Potatoes declined slightly in condition during July and promise a crop of 14,336,000 bushels, compared with 11,760,000 bushels harvested last year. Due to disease factors in the early potatoes in the western sections and to severe hail in northern Colorado, the condition at this time is 80 per cent, compared with 84 a year ago and 86, the ten-year average. The area planted to the crop this season was greatly increased and is 112,000 acres, compared with 84,000 acres last year.

Beans show a slight increase over a month ago and are estimated at 2,217,000 bushels, compared with 1,086,000 bushels last year and 2,240,000 bushels in 1925. The condition on August 1 was 85 per cent, compared with 86 per cent last year and 82, the ten-year average. The preliminary estimate of acreage this year is 326,000 acres, compared with 362,000 acres in 1926, but later plantings, due to crop changes, may increase the final estimate of 1927 acreage to approximately 340,000. This crop was dam-

aged considerably by hail, particularly in northern Colorado, but the pinto beans are showing remarkable recovery in the hailed sections. Growing conditions thus far have been quite favorable, though the excess moisture has induced some blight and rust in certain localities.

The **Tame Hay** crop is estimated at this time at 2,470,000 tons, compared with 2,905,000 tons harvested last year. The condition is 80 per cent, compared with 90 a year ago and 76, the ten-year average. The total tame hay acreage is about the same as a year ago, or 1,260,000 acres, compared with 1,258,000 acres last year. Excessive rains have delayed harvest and damaged considerable of the crop. The condition of **Wild Hay** at this time is 84 per cent, compared with 89 a year ago and 80, the ten-year average.

The **Sugar Beet** production is estimated at 2,181,000 tons, compared with 2,912,000 tons last year. The condition at this time is 89 per cent, compared with 98 per cent a year ago and 89, the ten-year average. It is estimated that about 217,000 acres were planted to the crop this year, of which the probable harvested area will be 193,000 acres, compared with 211,000 acres harvested last year.

Grain Sorghums reached August 1 with a condition of 80 per cent, compared with 84 a year ago and 70 in 1925. Due to early drought conditions, much of this crop was planted late, after the rains of June 5 and 15th, and will require an extended growing season to fully mature. About 345,000 acres are devoted to this crop. Usually only about 15 per cent of the acreage is harvested as grain, the remainder being fed as a mixed grain and stover ration or pasture. The grain sorghum forecast, assuming all to be harvested for grain, is 4,416,000 bushels. In addition to the grain sorghums (kaffir, milo, etc.,) there are also about 115,000 acres of sweet sorghums, mostly amber cane, grown chiefly for forage and largely used as hay in the non-irrigated sections. This is also supplemented by about 25,000 to 30,000 acres of sudan grass.

Millet has a condition of 83 per cent at this time, compared with 85 a year ago. This crop is grown most extensively in northeastern Colorado, and in 1926 amounted to about 85,000 acres.

The **Broom Corn** crop had a condition of 75 per cent on August 1, compared with 90 a year ago and 50 in 1925. The forecast of production is now 4,350 tons, compared with 2,400 tons, the total for last year. The forecast for the United States crop is now 38,400 tons, compared with 51,500 tons in 1926. In Colorado conditions were unfavorably dry at planting time, but rains late in June made conditions more favorable and about 29,000 acres were planted, compared with 32,000 acres last year. Much of the crop is late and the final production will depend upon a late growing fall, and opportunity to fully develop without frost.

The **Fruit** crops of the state show a further decline and are less promising than on July 1. These crops were more severely damaged by the low temperatures during May than early inspections indicated. The total **Apple** crop is placed at 1,118,000 bushels, compared with 3,444,000 bushels last year, and the commercial crop at 547,000 barrels, compared with 967,000 barrels in 1926. The condition is 50 per cent, compared with 85 a year ago and 73, the ten-year average for August 1. **Peaches** similarly showed a marked decline during the month to 613,000 bushels, compared with 976,000 bushels last year. The condition is regarded as 69 per cent, compared with 92 last year and 63, the ten-year average. **Pears** held steady at about 536,000 bushels, compared with 564,000 bushels last year, and have a condition of 91 per cent, compared with 95 a year ago and 79, the ten-year average. **Grapes** are placed at 252 tons, compared with 320 last year and have a condition of 78 per cent, compared with 86 a year ago and 80, the ten-year average.

The **Truck** crops of the state are generally in excellent condition and compare favorably with last year, and are mostly above the ten-year average. Condition figures for August 1, 1927, 1926 and 1925, in order, for truck crops and some other crops are as follows: Alfalfa, 80-91-73; peas, 80-94-90; lettuce, 90-80-92; cabbage, 92-88-87; onions, 90-90-90; watermelons and cantaloupes, 85-85-90; celery, 90-80-92; tomatoes, 82-89-91. Lettuce, cauliflower and peas suffered considerable damage from floods and hail in the San Luis valley along the Rio Grande river during July. In that section, the lettuce crop was reduced about 1,000 acres from the two causes, and between 500 and 600 acres of peas were lost. Some cabbage and onions were also destroyed by hail in Weld county.

Pastures are mostly in excellent condition and considered as 88 per cent, compared with 90 a year ago and 83, the ten-year average. The outlook for good fall and winter range is highly encouraging.

**SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 1, 1927, CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT FOR
COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES**

	COLORADO			UNITED STATES		
	1927	1926	Average	1927	1926	Average
CORN						
Acres planted.....	1,361	1,496	1,467‡	97,638	99,492	101,359‡
Condition, per cent.....	74	83	82	71.2	72.5	80.3
Production, bus. grain...	20,123	10,472	20,584‡	2,385,000	2,647,000	2,767,000‡
ALL WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	1,564	1,463	1,156	58,498	56,526	52,255‡
Production, bushels	23,850	18,452	14,652‡	851,000	833,000	808,000‡
WINTER WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	1,231	1,207	896‡	38,185	36,913	31,234‡
Average yield, bus.....	15	12	13.9	14.5	17.0	15.0‡
Production, bushels	18,465	14,484	14,008‡	553,000	627,000	556,000‡
SPRING WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	333	256	260‡	20,213	19,613	21,021‡
Condition, per cent.....	77	79	80	86.4	60.2	70.6
Production, bushels	5,385	3,968	4,526‡	298,000	206,000	252,000‡
OATS—						
Acres for harvest.....	181	195	214‡	42,914	44,394	44,872‡
Condition, per cent.....	82	82	83	74.8	71.4	79.4
Production, bushels	5,195	4,680	5,623‡	1,279,000	1,250,000	1,352,000
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest.....	500	417	410‡	9,456	8,200	8,088‡
Condition, per cent.....	80	73	80	33.3	69.8	78.4
Production, bushels	12,320	6,672	6,811‡	249,000	188,000	193,000‡
RYE—						
Acres for harvest.....	89	89	85‡	3,860	3,513	3,974‡
Average yield, bus.....	10.5	11.5	10‡	15.9	11.4	13.6‡
Production, bushels	935	1,024	850‡	61,500	41,000	63,900‡
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest.....	112	84	80‡	3,495	3,151	3,002‡
Condition, per cent.....	80	84	86	33.8	78.8	80.4
Production, bushels	14,336‡	11,760	14,142‡	411,000	356,000	394,000‡
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres planted.....	217	763
Acres for harvest.....	193	211	130‡	633	677	647‡
Condition, per cent.....	90	98	87	87.5	85.3	86.0
Production, tons	2,206	2,912	1,717	6,850	7,220	6,850‡
TAME HAY—						
Acres.....	1,260	1,258	1,245‡	60,262	58,840	58,231‡
Condition, per cent.....	80	90	76	91.6	73.6	78.0‡
Production, tons	2,470	2,905	2,596	102,000	86,200	90,900‡
WILD HAY—						
Condition.....	84	89	80‡	92.6	56.0	72.9‡
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest.....	326	362	320‡	1,749	1,659	1,606‡
Condition, per cent.....	85	86	82	81.3	81.5	81.5
Production, bushels	2,217	1,086	2,240‡	18,700	17,100	16,300‡
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent.....	50	85	73	41.8	73.2	58.5
Agr'l prod'n, bushels.....	1,886	3,444	3,386‡	128,000	246,000	199,000‡
Commercial, barrels	547	969	912‡	39,400	33,700‡
PEACHES—						
Condition, per cent.....	69	92	68	46.9	74.4	60.4
Agr'l prod'n, bushels.....	746	976	799‡	44,800	69,700	54,300‡
PEARS—						
Condition, per cent.....	91	95	79	51.1	74.8	62.3
Agr'l prod'n, bushels.....	586	564	510	18,000	25,600	20,800‡
GRAPES—						
Condition.....	78	86	83	81.8	81.4	82.5
Production, tons.....	282	320	289‡	2,540	2,350	2,100‡

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 1926 are the last December final estimates and revisions. ‡1925 (a). Planted in Colorado only 217,000 acres. Averages unless otherwise designated are 10-year averages.