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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 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, similar to this, 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: Nearly all crops improved during August, due to generally beneficial rains that prevailed in nearly all sections of the state during the past month. During much of the time temperatures were reported as 2° to 3° below normal and the excessive moisture delayed harvesting and reduced the quality of hay. Beans held about steady in condition, though greatly damaged in Weld county from rust, and further loss by hail in El Paso county. The composite figure for all crops of Colorado was 7.4 points higher than the 95.2 per cent on August 1, and on September 1 was 102.6 per cent of the ten-year average, compared with a composite figure of 104.4 per cent on September 1 a year ago.

Corn—The September forecast for corn is 24,852,000 bushels, compared with the final estimate of 10,472,000 bushels last year and a five-year average of 20,584,000 bushels. The condition on September 1 was 83 per cent, compared with 40 per cent a year ago and 72, the ten-year average. At this time the crop is in excellent condition, except for a poor stand in some localities. The crop is considered about ten days late. The final outcome will depend upon an extended growing period without killing frost. Favorable weather and temperatures are needed until about October 1 to fully mature the crop. The area in corn this year is 1,361,000 acres, compared with 1,496,000 acres last year. In Colorado about 92 per cent of the corn is on non-irrigated lands.

Spring Wheat on September 1 was estimated at 5,994,000 bushels, compared with 3,968,000 bushels last year. The crop improved 3 points during the month and was rated at 80, compared with 73 a year ago and 75, the ten-year average. The area this year is 333,000 acres, compared to 256,000 acres last year. The **Winter Wheat** crop was estimated at 18,465,000 bushels on August 1, compared with 14,484,000 bushels harvested a year ago. The entire wheat crop of Colorado is now placed at 24,459,000 bushels, compared to 18,452,000 bushels in 1926. In Colorado about 55 per cent of the spring wheat acreage and 90 per cent of the winter wheat acreage is on non-irrigated lands. Dry weather during May particularly reduced the prospects of these crops in many sections. Rains in June and July improved conditions somewhat, but delayed harvest and reduced the quality to some extent. The acreage in winter wheat for harvest this year is 1,231,000 acres, compared to 1,207,000 acres harvested last year. If the Colorado farmers carry out their intentions to increase winter wheat sown in the state as indicated by the report of August 15, there will be approximately 1,660,000 acres sown this year compared to 1,509,000 acres sown last

year, and for the United States as a whole the indicated increase was about 13.7 per cent and the total area to be sown would be about 48,600,000 acres, compared with 41,805,000 acres sown in the autumn of 1926. With a ten-year abandonment of 12.4 per cent, there would remain for harvest in 1928 approximately 42,000,000 acres, and with an average yield equal to that of the past ten years (14.9 bushels) a winter wheat crop of around 626,000,000 bushels would be produced next year. With a winter wheat crop of 626,000,000 bushels and a spring wheat crop of 250,000,000 bushels, the average of the past five years, there would be provided an export surplus of over 250,000,000 bushels in 1928, the largest since 1924. The domestic demand for wheat is but slightly larger than before the war and per capita consumption in the United States seems to be declining nearly as rapidly as population increases. The increased production, therefore, means increased dependence upon foreign countries for a market. With a gradually increasing world wheat acreage, world wheat supplies will probably be greater next year unless yields fall below the average. The world crop now being harvested will probably be little, if any, larger than that of last year. The world wheat area this year will probably be the largest ever harvested. Should conditions for seeding in important producing countries of the world this fall and next spring prove favorable, the world wheat acreage for harvest in 1928 will be further increased, and given favorable conditions for the growing crops, the result will be an increase in world production.

Colorado Oats now promise a production of 5,343,000 bushels, compared to 4,680,000 bushels a year ago and a five-year average of 5,623,000 bushels. The area in this crop is 181,000 acres, compared to 195,000 acres last year. The condition on September 1 was 82, compared with 75 last year and 81, the ten-year average. In this state about 56 per cent of the acreage is non-irrigated.

Barley is estimated at 11,780,000 bushels, compared with 6,672,000 bushels in 1926 and 6,811,000, the five-year average. The barley acreage has been increasing rapidly the past few years and amounts to 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 been, valuable as a non-irrigated crop, as good production is quite certain and it affords an excellent substitute for corn for feeding operations. The condition on September 1 was 76 per cent of normal, compared with 70 a year ago and 79, the ten-year average.

Rye has a forecast of 935,000 bushels, compared with 1,024,000 bushels last year. 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. The acreage harvested for grain is about 84 per cent fall sown and the remainder spring rye. Very little rye is grown under irrigation.

Potatoes held about steady, with a condition of 80 per cent, indicating a production forecast of 15,232,000 bushels compared with 11,760,000 bushels last year. The condition a year ago was 79 per cent, and the ten-year average 82 per cent. This season 112,000 acres were planted, compared with 84,000 acres last year. Due to disease factors, the early potato sections in the western part of the state continue to show unsatisfactory yields, some crops being practically a failure. In northern Colorado the early crop met with more favorable conditions and good production was obtained. The late crop in most sections still promises fair to good results, and with favorable weather conditions the remainder of the season should hold up to the present estimate.

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

States	1927 Sept. Forecast	1926 Harvested	5-year Average	States	1927 Sept. Forecast	1926 Harvested	5-year Average
Colorado	15,232	11,760	14,142	Maine	34,644	36,830	34,572
Idaho	22,218	16,198	13,720	New York	31,995	29,016	34,273
California	7,691	6,923	7,778	New Jersey	9,135	7,250	9,411
Oregon	5,949	4,500	4,365	Pennsylvania	26,214	22,176	25,076
Washington	11,692	10,720	8,907	Ohio	11,267	10,058	11,020
Nebraska	7,809	5,329	7,986	Michigan	24,217	29,880	32,346
North Dakota	10,716	7,520	11,654	Wisconsin	25,284	27,140	29,803
Minnesota	32,361	29,800	37,178				
				United States Total	399,798	356,123	394,135

Beans registered a small decrease compared with a month ago, and reached September 1 estimated at 2,161,000 bushels, compared with the final outcome of 1,086,000 bushels last year. The condition was 78, compared with 85 a month ago and 50 at this time in 1926. There were about 326,000 acres planted to beans, compared with 362,000 acres last year. The excessive moisture during the latter part of August was unfavorable to beans in some localities, particularly in Weld county, where the pinto bean crop is badly rusted, causing a heavy reduction in prospects. They have also been damaged considerably since the first of the month by hail in portions of El Paso county. A large per cent of beans are a little late and favorable temperatures with dry weather are needed until

about October 1, to permit full maturity of the remainder of the crop and bring it to harvest time in a satisfactory condition. In Colorado only 15 per cent of the acreage of the general crop is under irrigation.

The **Tame Hay** crop held about steady in condition at 82, compared with 85 a year ago, and the present forecast is 2,034,000 tons, compared with 2,905,000 tons last year. The area in tame hay is 1,260,000 acres, compared with 1,258,000 acres last year. The condition of **Alfalfa Hay** at this time is 84, compared to 88 at this time last year and 75, the ten-year average. Owing to a considerable reduction in the alfalfa acreage, the prospective crop is much less than a year ago. The excessive rains delayed harvest somewhat and damaged considerable of the first and second cuttings.

The condition of **Wild Hay** is about the same as a month ago, when it was 84, compared with 89 in 1926. The estimated average yield of wild hay is 1.2 tons, compared with 1 ton a year ago. Assuming the acreage to be about the same as last year, the present prospect is 432,000 tons, compared to 360,000 tons in 1926. The moisture condition has been favorable for wild hay this year and more acreage is being cut in the non-irrigated sections than usual.

Sugar Beets promise 2,279,000 tons, compared to 2,912,000 tons last year. The condition improved three points during August and is 93, compared to 96 a year ago, and 89, the ten-year average. The area planted to sugar beets is estimated at 217,000 acres and the probable harvest at 193,000 acres, compared with 211,000 acres harvested last year.

The **Broom Corn** crop showed a condition of 73, compared to 75 a month ago and 50 on September 1 last year. The present forecast is 4,234 tons, compared to 2,400 tons in 1926. The United States crop is now 40,223 tons, compared with 51,500 tons a year ago. In Colorado conditions at planting time were unfavorably dry; however, rains occurred late in June and about 29,000 acres were planted, compared with 32,000 acres last year. In line with some other crops, broom corn is late and the final production will depend upon favorable temperatures and opportunity for full maturity until after October 1.

Grain Sorghum reached September 1, with a condition of 79, compared with 60 last year. This crop is largely grown in the southeastern part of the state and much of it was planted late and will require an opportunity to grow until the last of the month to fully mature. About 345,000 acres were planted to this crop this year, compared to 314,000 acres last year. Usually only about 15 per cent of the entire acreage planted is harvested as grain, the remainder being fed as mixed grain and stover ration or pastured. Assuming all the grain sorghum acreage to be on a grain basis, the grain equivalent is estimated at 4,234,000 bushels. In addition to grain sorghum (kaffir, milo, etc.), there are also about 115,000 acres of sweet sorghum, mostly amber cane, grown chiefly for forage and used largely in the place of hay in the non-irrigated sections.

Millet reached September 1, in highly satisfactory condition and is rated at 97. The acreage is much larger than last year, and is mostly located in northern and eastern Colorado. The area a year ago was 85,000 acres.

Pastures are in highly satisfactory condition in nearly all sections of the state and rated as 97 per cent of normal, compared with 80 a year ago and 87, the ten-year average for September 1.

The fruit crop estimates of the state show considerable improvement over August 1, due to favorable moisture and temperature conditions, giving the fruit a larger growth than usual and permitting a full harvest of all available fruit.

Apples are estimated at 2,133,000 bushels, compared to 3,444,000 bushels in 1926. The condition at this time is 55 per cent, compared with 85 a year ago, and 69, the ten-year average. Expressed in barrels for comparison, the commercial crop is 619,000 barrels, compared with 969,000 barrels last year.

Peaches improved in size and the production amounted to 893,000 bushels, compared to 976,000 bushels last year. The condition is regarded as 85, compared with 92 a year ago. Favorable weather caused peaches to make larger size than usual.

Pears held about steady at 509,000 bushels, compared to 564,000 bushels in 1926. The condition is 80, compared to 92 last year.

The **Grape** production in Colorado is placed at 253 tons, compared with 320 tons in 1926. The condition at this time is 70, compared to 90 last year.

The **Truck Crops** of the state, except cantaloupes, are generally in excellent condition and compare favorably with last year and are mostly above the ten-year average. The September 1 condition is as follows: cabbage 90, onions 80, lettuce 80, cauliflower 87, celery 85, tomatoes 70, peas 78. Cantaloupes reached the first of the month with a condition of 80, but unfavorable moisture conditions have reduced this crop greatly since September 1, until the prospects at the present time are only about 60 to 65 per cent of a crop. Shipments are turning out much less than usual compared to acreage planted. This great reduction is due to the excessive development of rust, causing the vines to go down without sufficient vitality to mature the melons. Favorable moisture conditions since September 1 have greatly improved the quality of the lettuce crop. Cauliflower has done very well this season and prices have made for favorable results.

**SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 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.....	83	40	72	69.7	73.8	77.3
Production, bus. grain....	24,852	10,472	20,584‡	2,456,561	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.....	24,459	18,452	14,652‡	860,892	833,000	808,000‡
WINTER WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	1,231	1,207	896‡	38,185	36,913	31,231‡
Average yield, bus.....	15	12	13.9	14.5	17.0	15.0‡
Production, bushels.....	18,465	14,484	14,008‡	552,767	627,000	556,000‡
SPRING WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest.....	333	256	260‡	20,313	19,613	21,021‡
Condition, per cent.....	80	73	75	82.7	58.4	68.9
Production, bushels.....	5,994	3,968	4,526‡	308,125	206,000	252,000‡
OATS—						
Acres for harvest.....	181	195	214‡	42,914	44,394	44,872‡
Condition, per cent.....	82	75	81	70.8	67.9	79.2
Production, bushels.....	5,343	4,680	5,623‡	1,191,396	1,250,000	1,352,000‡
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest.....	500	417	410‡	9,456	8,200	8,083‡
Condition, per cent.....	76	70	80	82.9	68.7	77.0
Production, bushels.....	11,780	6,672	6,811‡	.....	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	41,900	63,900‡
WHITE POTATOES—						
Acres for harvest.....	112	84	80‡	3,495	3,151	3,002‡
Condition, per cent.....	80	79	82	77.8	77.5	76.7
Production, bushels.....	15,232	11,760	14,142‡	399,798	356,000	394,000‡
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres planted.....	217a	.....	.....	763	.....	.....
Acres for harvest.....	193	211	130‡	683	677	647‡
Condition, per cent.....	93	96	88	87.2	84.4	86.3
Production, tons.....	2,279	2,912	1,717	6,814	7,220	6,850‡
TAME HAY—						
Acres.....	1,260	1,258	1,245‡	60,262	58,840	58,231‡
Condition, per cent.....	82	85	75	91.0	75.5	79.4‡
Production, tons.....	2,034	2,905	2,596	101,269	86,200	90,900‡
WILD HAY—						
Tons.....	432	360	360	.....	.....	.....
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest.....	326	362	320‡	1,749	1,659	1,606‡
Condition, per cent.....	78	50	75	78.8	70.3	75.1
Production, bushels.....	2,161	1,086	2,240‡	17,345	17,100	16,300‡
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent.....	55	85	71	40.7	77.4	58.3
Agr'l prod'n, bushels.....	2,133	3,444	3,386‡	123,574	246,000	199,000‡
Commercial, barrels.....	619	969	912‡	24,198	39,400	33,700‡
PEACHES—						
Condition, per cent.....	85	92	65	47.9	77.9	.....
Agr'l prod'n, bushels....	892	976	799‡	44,762	69,700	54,300‡
PEARS—						
Condition, per cent.....	80	92	80	53.7	78.6	64.5
Agr'l prod'n, bushels....	509	564	510	18,026	25,600	20,800‡
GRAPES—						
Condition.....	70	90	80	80.8	78.1	80.4
Production, tons.....	253	320	289‡	2,529	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.