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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—Potatoes, beans, sugar beets, broom corn and nearly all other crops improved slightly or held steady during September, and are mostly above the 10-year average and better than last year except in the case of fruit, tame hay and beets. Generally, beneficial rains prevailed in most sections of the state. Temperatures were mild and there was very little damage from frost. Some extensive hail damage occurred in El Paso county but mostly there was sufficient sunshine to make conditions favorable for all agricultural operations. The composite figure for all crops of Colorado on October 1 was 102.6 per cent of the 10-year average and the same as on September 1, but was 16 points higher than last year.

Corn—The October 1 forecast for corn is 23,886,000 bushels, compared with the final estimate of 10,472,000 bushels last year and the five-year average of 20,584,000 bushels. The condition on October 1 was 78%, compared with 30% a year ago and 72 the 10-year average. A large per cent of the corn matured in excellent condition, though there will be some soft corn. Favorable weather and temperatures are needed to give the corn an opportunity to harden up before freezing weather. The area in corn this year is 1,361,000 acres, compared with 1,496,000 acres last year. In Colorado, about 92% of the corn is on non-irrigated lands, in most sections of which much better than usual yields are in prospect.

Spring Wheat on October 1 is estimated at 6,327,000 bushels, compared with 3,968,000 bushels last year. The preliminary estimate of average yields is 19 bushels per acre, compared with 15.5 bushels, the final estimate last year, and 17 bushels the 10-year average. About 333,000 acres were devoted to this crop this year, compared to 256,000 acres in 1926. The forecast for the **Winter Wheat** crop is 18,465,000 bushels, compared with 14,484,000 bushels a year ago, and the entire wheat crop of the state is now placed at 24,792,000 bushels, compared with 18,452,000 bushels last year. In Colorado, about 55% of the spring wheat acreage and 90% of the winter wheat acreage is on non-irrigated lands. Dry weather during May partly reduced the prospects of these crops in many sections, and rains later delayed harvest and reduced the quality to considerable extent.

The area devoted to winter wheat for harvest this year is 1,231,000 acres, compared to 1,207,000 acres for harvest last year. If the Colorado farmers carry out their intentions to increase the winter wheat sown in the state as indicated by their reports of

August 15, there will be approximately 1,660,000 acres sown this year, compared to 1,509,000 sown last year. Conditions for sowing winter wheat this season have thus far been favorable.

Colorado **Oats** are now placed at 5,792,000 bushels, compared with 4,680,000 bushels last year, and the five-year average of 5,623,000 bushels. The area devoted to this crop for grain is 181,000 acres, compared with 195,000 acres last year. About 56% of the oat acreage is non-irrigated. **Barley** is now estimated at 12,000,000 bushels, compared with 6,672,000 bushels in 1926, and 6,811,000 bushels, the five-year average. About 500,000 acres were devoted to the crop this year, compared with 417,000 acres last year, and about 75% of the acreage is non-irrigated. This crop has proved valuable under dry land farming conditions, affording quite certain production, and is an excellent substitute for corn in feeding operations. The forecast for **Rye** is 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% fall sown and the remainder spring rye. Very little rye is grown under irrigation.

Potatoes held about steady and show a condition of 78% on October 1, compared with 73% a year ago and 78, the 10-year average. This condition warrants a forecast of 15,725,000 bushels, compared with 11,760,000 bushels in 1926, and 14,142,000 bushels, the five-year average. The great increase in production this year, compared with last year, is due to the large increase in acreage planted, which amounted to 112,000 acres, compared with 84,000 last year. Blight and other disease factors, particularly in the early potato sections in the western part of the state, caused very unsatisfactory and low yields in certain localities. The unfavorable disease conditions also extended somewhat to the late potatoes in certain sections. In most parts of the state, however, the yield is nearly as good as last year, and much better in the non-irrigated sections, where about 15% of the potato acreage is grown.

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

States	1927 Oct. 1, Forecast	1926 Harvested	5-year Average	States	1927 Oct. 1, Forecast	1926 Harvested	5-year Average
Colorado	15,725	11,760	14,142	Maine	32,035	36,830	34,572
Idaho	21,758	16,198	13,720	New York	28,350	29,016	34,273
California	7,871	6,923	7,778	New Jersey	10,530	7,250	9,411
Oregon	5,678	4,500	4,365	Pennsylvania	22,237	22,176	25,076
Washington	12,324	10,720	8,907	Ohio	11,448	10,058	11,020
Nebraska	8,345	5,329	7,986	Michigan	23,771	29,880	32,346
North Dakota	11,696	7,520	11,654	Wisconsin	25,645	27,140	29,803
Minnesota	33,153	29,800	37,178				
				United States Total	394,757	356,123	394,135

Beans are rated as slightly less than a month ago and are estimated at 2,119,000 bushels, compared with 1,086,000 bushels last year and 2,240,000 in 1925. The condition is estimated at 64%, compared with 78 per cent a month ago and 35 at this time last year. The present estimate is about 6½ bushels per acre for 326,000 acres planted to beans this year, compared to 362,000 acres last year, when the final estimated yield was 3 bushels per acre. The excessive moisture during the latter part of August was particularly unfavorable to beans in certain localities, especially in Weld county, where the pinto bean crop was greatly reduced by rust. There was also considerable damage from hail in Weld and El Paso counties. Weather conditions were generally favorable for the development of a large per cent of the crop except where affected by rust and hail, and in some sections exceptionally heavy yields are reported.

DRY BEANS: Colorado and other states: Production, bushels:

State	Oct. 1, 1927 Forecast	1926 Final Est.	State	Oct. 1, 1927 Forecast	1926 Final Est.
New York	1,282,000	1,005,000	Colorado	2,119,000	1,086,000
Michigan	6,289,000	6,624,000	New Mexico	1,284,000	838,000
Montana	864,000	410,000	Arizona	48,000	56,000
Idaho	1,500,000	999,000	California	4,384,000	5,460,000
Wyoming	248,000	200,000			
Other States	466,000	460,000	Total U. S.	18,484,000	17,138,000

The **Tame Hay** crop held about steady and the estimated production is 2,646,000 tons, compared with 2,905,000 tons last year, and 2,676,000 tons in 1925. The area in tame hay this year is 1,260,000 acres, compared with 1,258,000 acres in 1926. There was considerable reduction in the alfalfa acreage compared with a year ago, offset by a marked increase in other tame hay, such as millet and sudan grass. Excessive rains throughout the season delayed harvesting and damaged considerable of the first and second cuttings of alfalfa. The preliminary estimate of average yield for alfalfa hay this year is 2.5 tons per acre, compared with 2.6 tons last year, and 2.3 tons in 1925.

Wild Hay is estimated at 432,000 tons, compared with 350,000 tons in 1926. This estimate is based on an average yield of 1.2 tons per acre, compared with 1 ton a year ago and about the same acreage as last year. Moisture conditions were generally favorable for wild hay, and considerably more acreage was cut in the non-irrigated sections than usual.

Sugar Beets are now estimated at 2,258,000 tons, compared with 2,912,000 tons last year. The condition is placed at 90%, compared with 95 a year ago. The area planted to sugar beets this year is 217,000 acres and the probable acreage to be harvested is 193,000 acres, compared with 211,000 acres harvested last year. This production is based on acreage reports made during June. Recent measurements by the sugar companies indicate that the actual acreage is about 10% greater than the preliminary estimate. The final estimates will no doubt make quite an advance over the present figures.

The **Broom Corn** crop shows a forecast of 5,075 tons, compared with 2,400 tons in 1926. Conditions at planting time were unfavorably dry but the rains that occurred late in June enabled growers to plant about 29,000 acres, compared with 32,000 acres last year. Up to October 1, there had been but very little damage from frost and a larger per cent of the crop was maturing than seemed possible early in the season. The U. S. estimate is 40,708 tons, compared with 51,500 tons last year, and 28,439 tons in 1925.

BROOM CORN: Colorado and other states: Production, tons:

State	Oct. 1, 1927 Forecast	Final Estimates 1926	Final Estimates 1925	State	Oct. 1, 1927 Forecast	Final Estimates 1926	Final Estimates 1925
Illinois	5,320	7,800	8,400	Texas	1,320	3,100	1,700
Missouri	438	400	600	Colorado	5,075	2,400	1,900
Kansas	5,400	5,100	3,100	New Mexico	3,380	4,400	2,700
Oklahoma	19,775	28,300	11,100				
				United States	40,708	51,500	29,500

Pastures of the state are slightly lower than a month ago, being rated at 93%, compared with 97 last month, 74 at this time last year and 84, the 10-year average. Grass on ranges made excellent growth during nearly the entire season and has cured well. At this time, ranges are considered in highly satisfactory condition.

The **Fruit** crops held about in line with earlier estimates, and **Apples** are placed at 2,085,000 bushels, compared with 3,444,000 bushels last year. The total production of **Peaches** is figured at 893,000 bushels, compared to 976,000 bushels in 1926. **Pears** are reported at 483,000 bushels, compared to 564,000 bushels a year ago. **Grapes** are estimated at 282 tons, compared with 320 tons last year.

TRUCK CROPS: October 1, 1927, Forecast, and final estimate for 1926:

	COLORADO 1927	COLORADO 1926	UNITED STATES 1927	UNITED STATES 1926
Danish Cabbage, tons	13,000	22,100	370,100	337,300
Celery, crates	282,000	282,000	3,038,000	3,078,000
Onions, bushels	1,290,000	1,018,000	18,031,000	15,759,000

CARLOT SHIPMENTS: To Oct. 15, 1927 (a), to Oct. 16 1926 (b), Total 1926 Crop (c)

Crop	COLORADO (a)	COLORADO (b)	COLORADO (c)	UNITED STATES (a)	UNITED STATES (b)	UNITED STATES (c)
Cabbage, cars	559	933	1,274	23,441	25,184	40,491
Celery, cars	143	187	211	11,554	9,365	20,961
Cantaloupes, cars	2,996	3,574	3,574	30,410	26,940	26,940
Lettuce, cars	2,781	2,761	2,795	45,859	38,630	39,261
Onions, cars	318	389	1,758	18,005	17,910	33,076
Potatoes—						
Late Crop*, cars	5,395	6,063	14,199	50,780	52,161	180,739
Total Crop†, cars	5,395	6,063	14,199	117,235	107,135	236,716
Sweet Potatoes, cars	....	....	....	7,916	8,203	25,688
Mixed Vegetables, cars	3,052	3,127	3,473	29,505	25,486	30,651
Apples, cars	666	892	2,877	31,480	52,016	133,909
Pears, cars	727	739	750	16,381	22,698	25,190
Peaches, cars	1,780	1,271	1,271	41,734	58,374	58,465

* From 19 surplus producing states. † From other late producing states and the states producing early potatoes.

SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 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	78	30	72	73.6	72.4	77.4
Production, bus. grain	23,885	10,472	20,584†	2,603,437	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	24,792	18,452	14,652‡	866,538	833,000	808,000†
WINTER WHEAT—						
Acres for harvest	1,231	1,207	896‡	38,185	36,913	31,234‡
Average yield, bushels	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	20,313	19,613	21,021‡
Average yield, bus.	19	15.0	17.1†	15.4	10.5	12.9‡
Production, bushels	6,327	3,968	4,526†	313,771	205,000	252,000†
OATS—						
Acres for harvest	181	195	214‡	42,914	44,394	44,872‡
Average yield, bushels	32	24	29.1	28.1	28.2	31.3
Production, bushels	5,792	4,680	5,623†	1,205,639	1,250,000	1,352,000†
BARLEY—						
Acres for harvest	500	417	410‡	9,456	8,200	8,088‡
Average yield, bushels	24	16	22.2	28.0	23.3	25.2
Production, bushels	12,000	6,672	6,811†	264,703	188,000	193,000†
RYE—						
Acres for harvest	89	89	85‡	3,860	3,513	3,974‡
Average yield, bushels	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	94	80‡	3,495	3,151	3,002‡
Condition, per cent	78	73	78	75.3	76.5	75.9
Production, bushels	15,725	11,750	14,142†	394,757	356,000	394,000†
SUGAR BEETS—						
Acres planted	217a	....	....	763	.....	.....
Acres for harvest	193	211	130‡	683	677	647‡
Condition, per cent	90	95	88	85.8	83.2	86.7
Production, tons	2,258	2,912	1,717‡	6,757	7,220	6,850‡
TAME HAY—						
Acres for harvest	1,260	1,258	1,245‡	60,262	58,840	58,231‡
Average yield, tons	2.10	2.31	2.18†	1.72	1.47	1.52†
Production, tons	2,646	2,905	2,596†	103,773	86,200	90,900†
WILD HAY—						
Production, tons	432	432	360	.....	.....	.....
FIELD BEANS—						
Acres for harvest	326	362	320‡	1,749	1,659	1,606‡
Average yield, bushels	6.5	3.0	7.0‡	10.5	10.3	11.2‡
Production, bushels	2,119	1,086	2,240‡	18,484	17,100	16,300†
APPLES—						
Condition, per cent	53	35	70	41.1	77.8	58.7
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	2,085	3,414	3,386†	123,115	246,000	199,000†
Commercial, barrels	605	969	912†	24,330	39,411	33,700†
PEACHES—						
Total prod'n, per cent	85	93	64	49.4	79.9	62.4
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	892	976	799†	45,963	69,700	54,300†
PEARS—						
Condition, per cent	76	95	78	54.7	80.8	68.3
Agr'l prod'n, bushels	483	564	510	17,831	25,600	20,800†
GRAPES—						
Condition, per cent	77	88	82	77.8	78.7	78.1
Production, tons	282	320	289†	2,552	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.