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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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Ottawa, July 28, 4 p.m.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the ninth of a series of weekly telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces.

SUMMARY.

The past week of excessively high temperatures, hot winds and almost negligible precipitation was one of the most disastrous of the season in its effect on western crops. Wheat, which is mostly in head, is ripening prematurely over practically the entire area of the three provinces where the farmers specialise in its production. In southern and western Manitoba, south-central Saskatchewan and southern Alberta, the crops, which were already very light and patchy, suffered greatly as moisture supplies were soon exhausted. More promising reports come from the outskirts of the wheat area-- in northern and eastern Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan, and west-central and northern Alberta, but even in these districts, crop conditions were sustained rather than improved. In some areas of Alberta, the heat was welcomed for its effect in maturing the backward growth.

Rye and barley are now being cut and are generally showing very poor yields. The earliest yields of wheat will be ready for the binder within a few days, and cutting will be general over wide areas before mid-August. Most of the wheat is now in head, with some colouring and filling prospects still problematical.

Grasshoppers are reported as particularly destructive in Manitoba and Alberta and their numbers suggest further damage next year.

As in the previous week, destructive hail storms covered considerable areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The following wire on rust conditions was received from the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory at Winnipeg:

"Stem rust of wheat is now quite general in southern Manitoba. Traces of rust are present in the northern part of the province. Heaviest infections occur on common wheat in the Red River Valley where severity of infections ranges from five to forty per cent, with infections averaging about twenty per cent. In southern Manitoba early sown varieties are fast approaching maturity and will not be appreciably damaged by rust. Trace of rust only on durum. No stem rust is reported in Saskatchewan".

Meteorological Report

The following telegram was received from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, covering western weather in the week ending July 27 at 8 a.m.:

"Generally high to excessive temperatures with rain at only a few points. Less than .1 inches at Winnipeg, Battleford, Prince Albert, Calgary, Coronation and Beaverlodge; .1 inches at Swan River; .3 inches at Edmonton; .4 inches at Le Pas, Lloydminster and Vegreville; .5 inches at Macklin and Kamsack; others nil."

The weather in the West has become cooler since yesterday morning and scattered rains and thunderstorms have been reported in the three provinces, with more forecasted for today.

Hail Damage.

Our correspondent at Regina wires as follows: "Hail storm reported July 26, three miles wide and thirty miles long south of Macklin and north of Salvador. No other losses of any importance during past week."

The Hail Insurance Board of Alberta wires: "Severe hail losses are reported from Edmonton, Wetaskiwin, Rockyford, Hardisty, Hayter and Provost."

REPORTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS.M A N I T O B ADepartment of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Grain prospects in much of northern and eastern Manitoba well sustained on basis previous reports. Past week brought some good local showers but parts of southern Manitoba urgently requiring more rain. Grasshoppers very bad over large areas. Situation not greatly changed during past week. Potato outlook poor.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Treesbank.

Grasshoppers continue to provide the most pressing insect problem with which farmers are confronted. While the losses to date have not been heavy the abundance of the insects in more than fifty separate localities suggests that their number may be vastly greater next year. Potato beetles are very plentiful and they are doing considerable damage.

Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Warm, dry weather has hastened maturity of early plots. Cutting wheat crop commenced on Experimental Farm. Some fields of nearly ripe grain have a green appearance due to presence of second growth that has developed since early July rains. As expected, hay crop is light.

Agricultural Representative, Carman.

No rain; mostly hot and windy. Ripening very fast. Binders started on Barley. Some wheat nearly ready. Rust prevalent. Hopper damage serious. Considerable crop cut for hay. Some good crop. More rain needed. Live stock good. Gardens fair.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Deloraine.

The excessive heat and hot winds with no rain during the past week have been the most disastrous to crop conditions this season. Grain is changing color rapidly without being properly filled; doubtful if many farmers will get sufficient for seed. Feed situation getting more serious.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

No rain this week. Last three days have been exceptionally hot and will reduce yield. Moisture getting pretty well exhausted; need good rain soon. Considerable grain is being fed off or plowed up. Crop will give a very low yield.

Agricultural Representative, Portage la Prairie.

Past four days very hot; no rain for ten days. Reward heads poorly filled. Wheat on heavy land may make eighteen; light land; seven. Hoppers all over, but damage small. Stem maggot damage very small. Hay has done well and sweet clover practically all cut. Wheat cutting on light land in a day or two.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin.

Weather very hot past few days. Grain ripening prematurely. Damage not particularly serious yet. Crops treated with fertilizer are standing the heat better than the untreated. Corn doing well. Haying almost completed. No sign of rust damage.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Russell.

A week of intense heat, high winds and no rain has resulted in marked deterioration of all crops, many fields turning white; potato crop suffering; prospects for half crop fading rapidly.

S A S K A T C H E W A N

Crops during the past week have deteriorated in some districts due to the excessively hot weather according to telegraphic reports received over the week end by the Statistics Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture. During the previous week some good rains fell in different parts of the province, which improved crop prospects. Hot dry weather was experienced last week, however, and in districts where the supply of soil moisture was low, crops were seriously affected and expectations of production of cereal crops and feed materially reduced.

S A S K A T C H E W A N (Cont'd.)

Good rains are urgently needed. Crops in central and southern Saskatchewan vary from poor to a complete failure. In other parts they are better and there are some fair crops in the northern districts. Cutting of fall rye, most for hay, has started; the crop generally being reported patchy and poor. Grasshoppers are quite numerous in some districts and some reports of damage have been received. The crop is comparatively free of disease. Quite a number expect harvesting to start from the 10th to the 15th of August. Live stock are generally in fair condition, but pastures in most districts need rain.

Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Five days of hot winds and high temperatures. Crop gradually burning up. Feed situation serious. Rain urgently needed.

Experimental Station, Swift Current.

Extreme heat of past week forced wheat to maturity. Binder cutting will start this week. Feed prospects materially reduced, but rain would still help feed. Large part of area Swift Current to Regina and South will harvest neither feed nor seed.

Experimental Station, Scott.

Indications are that wheat will average twenty bushels per acre north of Main line Canadian National Railways from Saskatoon to Alberta boundary, but south of that line stubble wheat varies from failure to eight bushels and fallow wheat might average ten bushels per acre with considerable variation.

A L B E R T ADepartment of Agriculture, Edmonton.

Excellent crop conditions in North Central and Northern parts of province. Rain needed Calgary to Macleod and south. Continued drought has greatly reduced prospects in the south eastern area. Ninety percent of wheat in head; early varieties coloring. Hot weather of past week has hastened maturity in Edmonton district. Some hail reported, but loss not serious. Feed situation somewhat improved with the exception of south eastern part of the province where drought continues.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge.

Week of unprecedented hot weather has matured grasshoppers and started migrations. Wheat being stripped of leaves in many districts and rye in stock being injured by hoppers destroying kernels. Poisoning being curtailed as hoppers spread to green fields and outbreak area increases.

Experimental Stations and Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Lethbridge.

Weather for past week south of Calgary was dry with intense heat. Grain crops and pasturage on dry land suffered severely. Good wheat crops receded to fair, fair to poor, and poor to failure. Even corn wilted and trees show effect of drought. Conversely, irrigated crops developed rapidly.

Agricultural School, Olds.

Crop made rapid headway with warm weather of past week. Wheat and Barley in head with plenty of straw. Excellent growing conditions continue.

Experimental Station, Lacombe.

Abundant moisture and warm weather forcing very rapid growth. In many early-sown fields where stand is thin, rank growth of weeds will lower yields; in later-sown fields, bad lodging will delay ripening and lower yields and grades. Considerable scattered hail damage. General crop prospect slightly below average.

ALBERTA (Cont'd.)Agricultural Representative, Sedgewick.

Hot weather last week with rain today hastens ripening. Prospects twenty two bushels wheat. Heavy hail damage over small area. Haying general; fair crop. Pastures good. Warm weather with occasional showers needed to ripen crop before frost. Harvest 10 days late at least.

Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

All the northern points in the Peace River still report crop prospects good and fairly early maturity in view except Fort. St. John, which has had abundant moisture, but needs warmer weather. Some parts of Grande Prairie district need rain badly and crops are turning prematurely. At Beaver Lodge past seven days' precipitation .02 inches with highest temperature 87.

LATE REPORTS.Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba.

Hot, dry wind during past week has hastened maturity of all crops. Considerable wheat already cut. Much difficulty in cutting crop on fall ploughing. Corn, roots and pasture badly in need of rain. Moisture badly needed as some wells are beginning to dry up. Harvest ten days earlier than normal.

Dominion Range Experimental Station, Manyberries, Alberta.

Exceedingly high temperatures and hot winds of past week have damaged crops and hastened maturity. All grains well headed and wheat ripening rapidly. Some grain not well filled.

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