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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, September 4, 1935, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the last of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the three Prairie Provinces. Forty correspondents distributed over the agricultural area supply the information on which the reports are based. Most of these correspondents are agriculturists of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture but in Manitoba and Alberta, a number of selected private observers and grain men also co-operate in this service. The Meteorological Service of Canada, Toronto, supplies official weather data.

SUMMARY

Despite a considerable amount of damp and cloudy weather in some sections, harvesting has gone forward without extensive delays. Cutting is practically completed in southern Manitoba and threshing is now general. In the north there is still a considerable amount of cutting to be done. The yield of wheat is low and the grade is poor. Fair harvest weather has prevailed in Saskatchewan. Eighty per cent of the wheat is cut and threshing has commenced. Yields of grain in the rust-infested districts are somewhat worse than was formerly anticipated. In Alberta the grain has been maturing slowly due to cool, cloudy weather. Frost is taking a serious toll and promises to reduce both the yield and grade of wheat and coarse grains.

Manitoba.-

Threshing was delayed on account of rain, but has been proceeding since Friday. Cutting has continued with little interruption. The one and a half million acres of common wheat has an average yield of 8 to 10 bushels per acre of low grade grain, nearly one-half of which will not be threshed at prevailing prices. One million acres of Durum wheat may average 12 to 15 bushels per acre, the usual grades being 2 and 3 northern and most samples being bleached and below sixty pounds per bushel in weight. Barley is a good crop, and except where late and badly rusted, averages 20 to 25 bushels per acre. Grades are also better than expected, some early threshed samples are grading No. 3 Extra although the colour is not bright and only good crops reach the usual weights per bushel. Oats are light in weight, running around 28 to 30 pounds to the bushel, and yields of 20 to 35 bushels are common. Late grain crops are thin and poor, but feed is abundant and pastures are excellent. Cold, damp weather has prevented grasshoppers from laying very actively, but relatively large deposits are reported in the Red River Valley area, possibly sufficient to cause some menace next year.

Saskatchewan.-

The wheat yield map of Saskatchewan will resemble a patch-work quilt this year, the varying effects of rust, drought and frost causing a tremendous variation even within the crop districts. The worst effects of rust are evident in the south-east corner but scattered patches of fine crop land as far west as Yellow Grass, Regina and Craik, and as far north as Wadena have been severely affected. Definite rust damage is apparent over three-fifths of the provincial wheat area, the severity generally lessening to the west and north. Drought damage is most evident in the south-west and in scattered municipalities along the western and southern boundaries. Frost damage is practically confined to western districts, the largest areas running north from Rosetown and a smaller area lying south of Swift Current. The provincial yield per acre and grade will be below average. Coarse grains and feed supplies are decidedly better than in 1934 and are well up to the average. This is an alleviating condition in farm relief. The amount of low grade grain that will be threshed will depend on prices, a factor that makes the estimation of commercial supplies difficult. Cutting and threshing are proceeding but in many districts the yields and grades are disheartening.

Alberta.-

The damage from frost during August has materially reduced both the yield and quality of the Alberta wheat crop. Both the central and northern sections of the province are affected. In these areas the loss in yield is estimated at 20 to 25 per cent and some fields are rendered unfit for cutting. Two degrees of frost was reported at Edmonton on Tuesday, and since the crop is ripening slowly, a further increase in the proportion of low grade grain is inevitable. In the northern parts of the province there is a heavy crop of oats, but frost coming in the blossom stage, will reduce the prospects of an otherwise satisfactory outturn. A great deal of the grain is being cut immaturity to avoid further frost damage. There is no evidence of stem rust. The wheat stem sawfly has caused considerable destruction to standing crops in the east-central and southern parts of the province. The loss is limited to a few districts and is estimated from 5 per cent to as high as 30 per cent. Grasshoppers are continuing to do some damage in southern areas to coarse grains that have not yet been harvested.



Reports of Dominion Entomological Laboratories, Prairie Provinces.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon, Manitoba.

Grasshopper conditions for the season may be summarized as follows: A cold spring delayed hatching almost a month. Hot, wet weather in June and July started a fungus disease which has killed off most of the hoppers in central Manitoba. A cold fall has reduced the egg-laying period but hoppers are still present and have laid enough eggs in the Red River Valley to be a menace for next year. There may also be some in the south-west.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Preliminary survey of grasshopper abundance indicates that a considerable outbreak is again in prospect for 1936. Extent of infested area unchanged except for material restriction along north-east margin. Prospective average intensity approximately same as a year ago but often with marked local change. In districts where rainfall has been unusually abundant grasshopper development is late especially in heavy soil areas so that egg deposits there evidently will be considerably lighter than would normally be expected from present infestations of adults although the final result will depend partly upon the warmth during autumn. In west-central Saskatchewan heavy oviposition has occurred already.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Wheat stem sawfly is causing losses to wheat varying from five to thirty-per cent at Consort, Coronation, Drumheller, Barons and Nobleford. Grasshoppers are still causing damage to coarse grains and late wheat.

Hail Damage.

Alberta.-

No claims for hail damage received in past week. Hail for season is normal.

Meteorological Report, Prairie Provinces.

The following report from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, gives the rainfall (in inches) during the week ending at 7 a.m., Tuesday, September 3, 1935:

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Minnedosa	0.2	Assiniboia	Trace	Beaverlodge	-
Le Pas	0.4	Swift Current	Trace	Empress	-
		Macklin	- 0.1	Vegreville	-0.1
		Elbow	- 0.1	Drumheller	-0.1
		Outlook	- 0.1	Medicine Hat	-0.1
		Shaunavon	- 0.1	Macleod	0.2
		Battleford	- 0.1	Stettler	0.2
		Saskatoon	- 0.1	Brooks	0.2
		Regina	- 0.1	Edmonton	0.2
		Foremost	0.2	Fairview	0.3
		Humboldt	0.2		
		Qu'Appelle	0.3		
		Melfort	0.4		
		Consul	0.4		
		Prince Albert	0.4		

Note.- The minus signs denote less precipitation than amount indicated.

Frost was reported at Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, and Minnedosa, Manitoba, on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 27 and 28; at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, on Friday, August 30, and at Brandon, Manitoba, on Saturday, August 31. The temperature was 4 below normal at Battleford and 5 below normal at Edmonton during the week ending August 31.



REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

In most southern parts practically all fields are cut that are considered worth cutting. In north, about ten per cent of the fields are still standing. Due to showers, threshing has not proceeded rapidly; even in the south there is only about ten to thirty per cent done, while threshing has only started in the north. In four-fifths of Manitoba bread wheats are so ruined by rust that a large percentage of the fields, perhaps twenty-five to forty per cent, will not be cut. Portions cut are threshing from five to ten bushels of feed grade which will have no milling value. In the very most northern districts the crop is much better and will average about eight to twenty bushels of grade three, but the acreage there is small. Durum wheat is somewhat better, but sown acreage after being reduced somewhat by summer drowning will not all be cut and yield from remainder might average about twelve to fifteen bushels per acre. Oats everywhere, though generous in straw, are light in weight of grain with some fields worth little more than cost of cutting. Barley is the best all-round crop and runs all the way from quite heavy crops down to some that are scarcely worth cutting, averaging possibly twenty bushels. Fodder corn is good, potatoes fair to good. Only a few places had killing frosts. Pastures are good.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Threshing is well under way. Some fields are not paying for threshing. Yields are as low as 5 bushels per acre. The average yield for the district is poor and the grade is low. Some fields of oats and barley are yielding 50 and 40 bushels per acre.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Cool, damp weather has delayed threshing and the completion of cutting. A large acreage of common wheat is yielding six bushels per acre of low grade grain. A few fields are returning almost normal yields of all cereals. There is a higher percentage of Durum wheat and barley giving satisfactory output than other grains.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

Very little threshing has been done due to the weather. Too wet, raining now, very little wheat will be threshed, yield about five bushels per acre, barley about twenty. Only about half of the oats will be threshed. Oats will yield about twenty bushels per acre. Gardens are good. Pastures are fair. Stock is doing well.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Swan River.

About twenty-five per cent of the coarse grains is yet to cut. Rust has damaged wheat about one-third in yield, and grades are running three and four with some two. Considerable damage in coarse grains. Threshing has just started. About fifteen per cent threshed. Weather is showery and cool. All classes of feed are plentiful and stock is looking good. Garden produce is good, average crop. First severe frost August thirtieth.

Agricultural Representative, Teulon.

Threshing is well underway but the weather is damp. Wheat is of poor quality and yields five to twelve bushels per acre. Oats vary greatly, mostly poor and yielding eighteen to twenty-five bushels per acre. Barley is fair, but light in weight and yield. Pastures are good and animals are thriving. Only light frost as yet.

SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Generally little change in crop situation during the past week. Weather has been cool with showers at some points. Possibly eighty per cent of the wheat has been cut, and if the weather is favourable, threshing will become fairly general this week. Yields and grades are showing wide variations. Most of the wheat in rust areas, and much of that cut after the mid-August frosts in west-central districts is grading low. Grasshoppers are numerous and oat cutting is proceeding rapidly to prevent greater loss. Some further frost injury during the past week is reported in the western portion of south-central Saskatchewan.



SASKATCHEWAN (Concluded)

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

Eighty per cent of the wheat is out. Ninety per cent of the coarse grains is cut. Threshing has just started in a few places. The frost damage to late crops varies slight to severe, but is not general. No other damage to field crops. Live stock condition good and pastures are satisfactory.

Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Saskatoon.

Stem rust is practically absent from wheat fields of Alberta and crop will be harvested before loss can occur. Slight leaf rust only and not general. Usual amount of smut on all grains. Usual amount of root rot of wheat prevalent, with losses greatest in black soil areas. In general diseases of foliage of grains unusually light. Average amount of diseases in other crops.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Fine weather has prevailed for the past week. Wheat is 90 per cent harvested. Threshing is just beginning, yielding 4 to 10 bushels per acre and grading number one. No frost damage to crops. Prospects for winter feeds and pasture are only fair throughout the district.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

A favourable week for all crops; bright warm days but 6.2 inches of rain Tuesday and light frost on two nights. Crops ripened rapidly and on August 31 the cutting of heavy crops was well started. Much of the wheat and barley is ready to cut but oats is very green and in danger from frost.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Olds.

Weather has been cold and cloudy during the past week. Grain is ripening slowly. August frosts did considerable damage to all grains. Some fields are so badly frosted that they are hardly worth cutting. The damage is estimated at about 20 per cent. Cutting has commenced but will not be general for another week. Grades will be from 3 Northern to feed.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler.

Harvesting is general. The wheat crop is a good stand but expect a poor sample. Oats and barley will be a fair crop. Some damage by frost and root rot. Pastures are good. There is a good crop of hay.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Harvesting is general. Two degrees of frost last night will result in further damage. Expect a certain percent of the lower grades in all grains. Estimate that average general yield will be cut twenty-five per cent.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Crops seem to have matured slowly after the mid-August frost, but are now filling perceptibly. Much wheat and barley is heavily reduced in yield and grade. Many oats injured where stands were lodged but otherwise doing well though late. Harvesting has commenced at many points, but much grain is being cut extremely immature.

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