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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August 5, 1936, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the eleventh of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the three Prairie Provinces. Fifty 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

As a result of long-continued and still unbroken drought, wheat is being harvested 3 or 4 weeks earlier than usual. Both yield and quality have suffered from this forcing. Most southern districts have a high percentage of the grain cut and threshing and combining have begun. Deliveries of new wheat at scattered southern points have set a record for earliness. Except in the extreme north, weekly temperatures were above normal, the excesses ranging up to 10 degrees. As in the previous week, effective rains were fairly well confined to central and northern Alberta. Although this limited rainfall came in the form of spotty showers, it brought more optimistic reports from the area covered. Standing grain in most areas was rushed toward maturity too rapidly for adequate filling. Sawfly damage is serious and general in Saskatchewan while rust will cause shrunken kernels in east-central Saskatchewan and west-central Manitoba. High temperatures and lack of rain intensified the serious feed situation, causing a further decline in pastures and range lands and limiting the possibility of new growth during this season. The severe damage to late-sown coarse grains adds another serious note but early threshing will permit some pasturing on stubble land.

Manitoba -

The persistence of heat and drought throughout the province caused a further decline in prospective grain production and in pastures. The harvest of coarse grains is virtually a failure in the south and far below normal in the north. A wide variation in wheat yields is reported, with some surprisingly high returns on good summerfallow. The weather has been excellent for harvesting and an exceptionally early completion is forecasted. Rain is badly needed for late-sown crops, gardens and pastures. Rust damage is feared in the west-centre and north-west, but only late crops will suffer seriously.

Saskatchewan -

The wheat harvest is general in the south and the grain still standing is ripening prematurely under the extremely adverse moisture conditions. The good crops are now practically confined to the east-centre of the province but wheat on good fallow land in some other areas will give profitable returns. Serious and general losses of wheat are being caused by sawflies. Rust is quite prevalent in the good crop area of eastern Saskatchewan and the late crops can hardly escape without shrunken kernels. Pastures are bare over most of the province and the continued absence of rain is reducing the promise of late-sown coarse grains, potatoes and gardens.

Alberta -

In southern Alberta, the harvest is in full swing with a heavy abandonment of acreage reported. Wheat left for harvest is reported to be turning out better than expected in both yield and grade. The scarcity of pastures and hay is of serious concern to stockmen. Some improvement in prospects in the west-centre and north resulted from the rains. The added moisture will assist filling. Late crops also showed an improvement. The harvest will be general in the northern part of the province within a week or ten days, thus reducing the possibility of frost damage.

HAIL DAMAGE

Saskatchewan

No hail loss reported during past week.

Alberta

Hail damage in Alberta in the past week confined to three local storms.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The following precipitation (in inches) was reported by the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, for the week ending Monday, August 3, at 7 a.m.:

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Brandon	-0.1	Prince Albert	-0.1	Calgary	-0.1
Pierson	-0.1	Macklin	-0.1	Drumheller	-0.1
Virden	-0.1	Maple Creek	-0.1	Jasper	-0.1
Birtle	-0.1	Battleford	-0.1	Coronation	-0.1
Portage la Prairie	-0.1	Yorkton	-0.1	Foremost	-0.1
Swan River	-0.1	Kamsack	-0.1	Hughenden	-0.1
Le Pas	0.1	Rabbit Lake	-0.1	Taber	-0.1
Dauphin	0.1	Outlook	0.1	Glendon	0.1
		Melfort	0.1	Midale	0.1
		Rosthern	0.1	Beaverlodge	0.2
		Consul	0.1	Fort McMurray	0.2
		Manyberries	0.2	Cardston	0.3
		Meadow Lake	0.3	Naco	0.3
		Lloydminster	0.7	Raymond	0.3
				Edmonton	0.4
				Red Deer	0.4
				Vegreville	0.4
				Edson	0.4
				Stettler	0.5
				High Prairie	0.5
				Sedgewick	0.5
				Olds	0.6
				Fairview	0.8
				Viking	0.8
				Fort Vermilion	0.9
				Wetaskiwin	1.3
				Kinuso	1.2

(Minus signs denote less than the amount of rain indicated).

Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, Qu'Appelle, Winnipeg, Brooks, Empress, Lethbridge, Macleod, Assiniboia, Broadview, Elbow, Estevan, Humboldt, Indian Head, Moosomin, Regina, Shaunavon, Yellow Grass, Boissevain, Cypress River, Emerson, Morden, Russell, Gem, High River, Vauxhall, Aneroid, Strasbourg, Val Marie, Graysville, Morris, Sprague recorded no rain during the week, while traces were reported at Swift Current, Minnedosa, Kindersley, Saskatoon, Biggar, Davidson, Lintlaw, Ninette.

Mean temperatures for the week were above normal everywhere except in extreme northern districts, the largest excesses above normal being along the international border.

Differences from normal mean temperature, by districts, were as follows:

Manitoba: 2 degrees above normal - Districts 13 and 14; 3 degrees above normal - Districts 11 and 12; 4 degrees above normal - Districts 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10; 5 degrees above normal - Districts 3, 8 and 9; 6 degrees above normal - Districts 4 and 7.

Saskatchewan: 2 degrees above normal - Districts 8 and 9; 4 degrees above normal - District 5; 5 degrees above normal - District 2; 6 degrees above normal - Districts 1 and 6; 7 degrees above normal - District 7; 10 degrees above normal - Districts 3 and 4.

Alberta: 1 degree below normal - District 17; normal - Districts 13, 14 and 16; 1 degree above normal - Districts 11 and 15; 3 degrees above normal - Districts 10 and 12; 4 degrees above normal - Districts 6, 8 and 9; 5 degrees above normal - District 4; 6 degrees above normal - District 7; 7 degrees above normal - Districts 1 and 2; 8 degrees above normal - Districts 3 and 5.

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg

Drought continues and fields are now exceedingly dry. Cutting almost completed in earliest districts and is well advanced everywhere. Forty to sixty per cent of all Manitoba's grain is cut. Some threshing done including more combine threshing than usual.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden

Drought unbroken. Wheat seventy per cent cut. Yields vary from three to eighteen bushels per acre, grading not above two. Oat crop a failure. Barley very bad. Potato crop sprouting. Pastures burned up.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon

Dry weather continues but temperature lower. Good harvest weather. Considerable wheat cut, also oats and barley. Very few good oat fields and grain badly shrunk. Pasture and hay aftermath poor. Fodder corn would greatly benefit by rain.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon

Continued dry weather favourable to grasshopper egg laying.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Melita

Weather continues hot and dry. About sixty per cent of cutting done. Will be very little more than seed wheat threshed. Practically no oats or barley. Potatoes very poor. Pastures dry.

Agricultural Representative, Carman

Over 30 per cent of wheat and coarse grain cut. Threshing started. Wheat yield seven to twenty-seven bushels; some grading one northern. Oats and barley a poor crop. Rain needed for pastures and gardens. Potatoes poor to fair.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Kelwood

Still no rain. Continues hot and dry. Harvest in full swing July thirtieth. Pastures drying up. Unless rain comes soon will be serious. The crop will not be a failure altogether.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Russell

Continued dry weather all week accompanied by temperature of 98 on Tuesday with strong south wind is rapidly ripening all grain without properly filling, which is daily reducing the probable yield, particularly of oats and barley. Thermometer dropped to 38 last night. Rust indications are not likely to cause any serious damage as most of the grain is too far advanced to be affected. Cutting of wheat and barley is the earliest on record.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin

Cutting now general. Wheat is giving surprisingly good return on good summerfallow. Coarse grain yields will be reduced and quality impaired. Rust has developed very fast but is too late to cause serious damage. Pastures are nearly done and stock will need the early-threshed fields to pick up.

Agricultural Representative, Toulon

Fair crop now being harvested. Wheat is good, barley fair and oats poorer. Hay crop good and stacked in good condition. Pastures bare and stock condition just fair. Gardens and potatoes need rain badly or the yield will be low.

SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina

Cutting of early wheat has started in most districts and harvesting is rapidly becoming general over the province. There has been no improvement in conditions during the past week. Weather generally has been hot and dry. With the exception of the northern area rust is quite prevalent in eastern Saskatchewan. The early crops do not appear to have suffered much damage and the average crop should reach the harvesting stage without serious injury. The late crop, however, can hardly escape without shrunken kernels. Farmers in the dry areas are busy putting up all available fodder and wherever necessary are cutting the grain crops for feed.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head

Weather continues dry. All crops ripening rapidly. Wheat harvest general this district. First combine wheat delivered local elevator July thirtieth. Variety Reward; estimated yield fifteen bushels per acre. Pastures completely dried up.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current

No precipitation this week. Weather hot and dry. Harvesting general throughout district. Many crops cut for feed. Estimate fallow to yield three to five bushels. Considerable grasshopper damage south and west part of district. Sawfly damage severe making harvesting difficult. Very little oats threshed this year.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern

Weather conditions hot and dry with shower of 0.17 inch on August first. Crops ripening prematurely due to hot weather and cutting general. Summerfallow wheat fair with estimated yield between ten and fifteen bushels. Feed and coarse grain crops poor. Feed situation fair.

Dominion Experimental Station, Melfort

Wheat cutting general and all grain ripening rapidly due to continued drought. Threshing has started and will be general in ten days.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon

Serious losses of wheat caused by sawfly becoming apparent generally as grain ripens. Heavy damage being reported in Saskatoon and Swift Current areas and undoubtedly present in other districts.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries

Hot weather with much wind continues. Harvest and haying general now. Crops Etzikom and Foremost district fair with ten to twelve bushels yield in sight. Combining under way now. Crops north and south of Manyberries complete failures. No precipitation. Serious shortage of grass and water.

Dominion Experimental Station and Supervisor of Illustration Station, Lethbridge

Still no rain. Harvesting by headers and binders in full swing. An occasional combine has started but not enough results yet obtained to warrant safe forecast of yield but perhaps guess of eight bushels from area will not be wide of mark. About 35 to 40 per cent of seeded area will be harvested.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge

Harvesting and combining general in south. Yields slightly better than anticipated. Some grasshopper migration.

ALBERTA - (Concl'd.)

Telegraphic Correspondent, Cardston

About one half inch of rainfall this morning, the only rain for two months; too late to be of any benefit to the wheat and all coarse grains have already been cut for hay. Pastures are burned brown and stockmen sacrificing their cattle on account of scarcity of hay and pasture. The wheat left to harvest will average about ten to fifteen bushels and grade fairly well.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary

Temperatures moderate during past week, but only few light scattered showers received. Harvesting now fairly general this district with farmers having difficulty gathering the short crops. Binders with and without canvas, swathers, headers and mowers being used with stock being turned into some fields unable to cut profitably. Looks like forty to fifty per cent normal crop.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Olds

Cooler weather for past few days. Had a heavy shower on August first. Lasted for fifteen minutes; will help coarse grains considerably. Harvest will commence this week. Some nice fields still. Yield thirty bushels. Spring ploughing from 10 to 15.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe

Cooler weather and 0.53 inch rain since July thirtieth should help late seeded grains and pastures. Early seeded grains, which suffered heavy damage from drought and hail, have ripened prematurely and cutting will be general this week; ten days early. Heavy loss from hail north west of Lacombe on July thirtieth.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Sedgewick

Half inch of rain will help fill crop. Late-sown grain very poor with summerfallow grain forty per cent crop. Average for district around five bushels. Haying in progress with very light crop. Harvesting will be general end of week.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler

Weather much cooler with local showers. Wheat ripening fast and some cutting being done. Cutting will not be general for a week or ten days. Crops on summerfallow fair; spring ploughing and stubble land very light. Oats and barley very light. Hay crop fair. Pastures poor.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton

Crop conditions continue same as last report. Fair rains received. Weather not hot; nights cool. Odd field early wheat and barley being cut; expect fairly general harvest in a week or ten days.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion

Wheat harvesting will be general in a few days; possible average thirteen bushels. Summer fallow and breaking fair but stubble crops very poor. Oat crop very poor, some being cut for green feed. Haying nearly finished; crop light. One shower during past week. Weather now fair and warm.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca

Since last wire rainfall in showers for total 1.69 inches. Some hail Saturday night but no reports of damage to hand. Later crops showing improvement. With no early frosts, average yield will be fair. Some cutting expected this week but not general for ten days.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge

Weather favourable and crop maturing rapidly. Some cutting will be done this week at scattered points but harvest will not be general before ten days. Very little damage reported.



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