

22-002
no. 10
1937
Aug. 31
c. 1

Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Agricultural Branch: T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August 31, 1937, 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. Fifty-four 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 a number of selected private observers and grain men also cooperate in this service. The Meteorological Service of Canada, Toronto, supplies official weather data.

SUMMARY

During the past week, rapid progress has been made with the harvesting of grain crops on the Canadian prairies. High temperatures and an almost complete absence of rain in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have enabled the work to go ahead without interruption. Threshing is well advanced in Manitoba and yields on the whole are satisfactory. Durum wheats and the rust resistant varieties of common spring wheat are yielding and grading well except in the dry sections and while rust has done some damage to susceptible varieties, the injury is not extensive. Practically all the wheat in Saskatchewan has been cut and much is already threshed. Except for the northwestern section, most of the coarse grains have been cut. While yields for the province will be very low, more than half the wheat should grade number one and most of the balance number two or three. Continued dry weather has further reduced the available feed supplies while forcing the maturity of late crops with consequent deterioration of yield prospects. In Alberta, good wheat yields should be obtained over much of the province if frost holds off for another ten days. Cool showery days have delayed ripening and crops require a period of hot dry weather to bring them to maturity. In southern districts cutting and threshing are well in hand. Grasshopper damage has been fairly extensive to green crops in all three provinces and there are indications of a heavy infestation next season.

Manitoba

Threshing of wheat and coarse grains is now well advanced and while there is some variability in yield and grade according to districts, on the whole the outturn is highly satisfactory. In the better sections, wheat yields are averaging 25 bushels or more. Rust has done some damage to yield and grade of common varieties which are susceptible to infection but Thatcher has given good yields wherever grown. Oats and barley are turning out well except in the dry areas where yields will run between ten and twenty bushels. Pastures are fairly good despite the recent hot dry weather and live stock are in good condition. Some slight hail damage occurred on August 27.

Saskatchewan

With the past week mostly hot and dry, rapid progress has been made with harvest operations. Practically all wheat has been cut and cutting of coarse grains is well advanced in all but the west central and northwestern districts where the work is little more than half done. Threshing is proceeding with little interruption. The best yields are reported from well to the north of Melfort and Prince Albert and across the extreme north of the wheat belt to the Alberta boundary. Indications are that more than half the wheat will grade number one with most of the balance grading two or three. Late crops have suffered further deterioration from dry weather and extensive damage to forage in southern areas is reported. Where stubble is providing pasture, live stock are in fairly good condition. Grasshoppers are very numerous and damage to green stuff continues.

Alberta

Good yields of wheat will be harvested if no heavy frosts occur within the next ten days. In west central Alberta, from Calgary to Edmonton and in the district east of Edmonton, the wheat is late, due to continued cool wet weather. Cutting is only now becoming general in these districts and there is danger that the second growth which will be cut along with the ripened first growth will result in some shrunken kernels in the sample. Coarse grains are ripening slowly in this area but good yields should be obtained if frost holds off. In the southern districts most of the crop is cut and threshing far advanced in the eastern parts and well started in the west. Frequent showers in the Peace River area have impeded the progress of harvest. Some late grain is filling well where not frosted but yield and grade may prove low.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The following precipitation in inches was reported by the Meteorological Service, Toronto, for the week ending August 30 at 8 a.m.

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Winnipeg	-.1	Moosomin	-.1	Medicine Hat	-.1
Portage la Prairie	-.1	Kindersley	-.1	Lethbridge	-.1
Pierson	-.1	Lloydminster	-.1	Cardston	-.1
Birtle	-.1	Melfort	-.1	Foremost	-.1
Morris	-.1	Regina	-.1	Hughenden	-.1
Le Pas	.1	Prince Albert	-.1	Drumheller	.1
Sprague	.1	Aneroid	-.1	Macleod	.1
Dauphin	.2	Meadow Lake	-.1	Kinuso	.1
Emerson	.2	Rabbit Lake	-.1	Fairview	.2
Pinawa	.2	Assiniboia	.1	McMurray	.2
Minnedosa	.3	Naicam	.1	Brooks	.2
		Shaunavon	.1	Stettler	.2
		Consul	.5	Edmonton	.3
		Val Marie	.6	Sedgwick	.3
				Wetaskiwin	.3
				Jasper	.4
				Glendon	.4
				Vegreville	.5
				Edson	.6
				High Prairie	.6
				Beaverlodge	.7
				Viking	.8
				Red Deer	.9
				Keg River	1.0
				Olds	1.0

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

The following stations reported no rain during the week: Calgary, Battleford, Swift Current, Qu'Appelle, Coronation, Empress, Broadview, Elbow, Estevan, Humboldt, Indian Head, Kamsack, Outlook, Saskatoon, Boissevain, Cypress River, Russell, High River, Naco, Vauxhall, Biggar, Carlyle, Davidson, Maple Creek, Midale, Strasbourg, Graysville, Traces of rain fell at Moose Jaw, Macklin, Yellow Grass, Yorkton, Brandon, Morden, Swan River, Virden, Rosetown and Rosthern.

The following are the deviations from normal mean temperature for the week: Manitoba: Eight degrees above normal - districts 9, 13; nine degrees above - districts 8, 12, 14; ten degrees above - districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7; eleven degrees above - districts 5, 6, 10; twelve degrees above, district 11.

Saskatchewan: Three degrees above normal - district 4; four degrees above - district 7; five degrees above - districts 8, 9; six degrees above - districts 3, 6; seven degrees above - district 2; nine degrees above - district 5; twelve degrees above - district 1.

Alberta: Four degrees below normal - district 16; three degrees below - district 15; two degrees below - 4, 12, 17; one degree below - districts 2, 9, 11; normal - districts 6, 8, 14; one degree above - districts 3, 13; two degrees above - districts 1, 5, 7, 10.

INSECT DAMAGE

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon, Manitoba.

Insect conditions in Manitoba for 1937 may be summarized thus. Grasshoppers occurred in a light and patchy outbreak in the southwest necessitating some poisoning. Their numbers were greatly increased in this area by extensive flights from the southeast in late July and early August and considerable head damage was done to late crops. If a normal number of eggs are laid a very severe outbreak may be expected there next year. Army worms occurred at numerous points in late July and did considerable damage to oats, barley and wheat.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Exceptionally severe and general outbreaks of grasshoppers are indicated for next spring. Preliminary surveys have revealed important infestations practically throughout the agricultural area and while these are light in many newly infested districts the severe outbreak area has also spread markedly, especially in the northwest. Egglaying is well advanced in northern sections especially of species which breed in sod, but is progressing slowly in stubble fields of Prairie districts.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Grasshopper damage has lessened considerably with the ripening of the crop but green feed and late oats continue to suffer. Wheat stem sawfly losses from Monarch to Vulcan are severe but some recovery being made with pickup attachments on machinery.

PLANT DISEASES

Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

No unusual plant disease development of economic importance has been observed or reported. Dry weather has masked disease symptoms and prevented widespread infections generally.

HAIL DAMAGE

Manitoba

Hail damage up to fifty per cent reported from storm of August 27 Franklin west of Cordova and Brookdale. Small area affected each point.

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Durum yielding twenty, grading two, common wheat fifteen bushels. Marquis grading four and five, Ceres three and four, Reward two and three. Thatcher yielding well, grading one and two. Oats yielding thirty-five bushels, good grade. Barley yielding thirty to thirty-five, good grade. Encephalomyelitis causing heavy death rate among horses. Epidemic continuing unabated.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

One-third threshing done. Grain yields are Thatcher, thirty; common wheat, twenty; barley, twenty-five; oats, thirty-five. Wheat grading two and three northern. Wages two dollars per day. Sufficient men. Gardens fairly good. Horse disease prevalent.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Woodnorth.

Threshing progressing well given favourable weather and about eighty per cent will be completed this week. Wheat will average about ten bushels per acre, oats and barley probably from ten to twenty bushels. Gardens and potatoes satisfactory. Live stock taking on flesh but shortage of coarse grains will prevent winter feeding.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Kelwood.

Cutting finished, threshing should be completed this week, some machines are through. Lowest yield reported on wheat eighteen, highest 48, average around twenty-five. All Thatcher yielded well. Oats and barley turning out well. More money around than has been seen for a long time. This year will long be remembered as a good one. Gardens good, pastures fair, live stock in good condition, no horse disease yet. Preparations for next year's crop should be one hundred per cent. We have a great deal to be thankful for.

SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina.

With favourable weather prevailing for the most part during the past two weeks, rapid progress has been made with harvesting operations. Wheat cutting is completed in southern and eastern districts while only a very small percentage remains in central and north western Saskatchewan. In the west centre district however, cutting is not so far advanced, due partly to delay on account of the presence of weeds in the crop and about twenty per cent still remains standing. Coarse grains range from seventy-five to one hundred per cent completed in southern central and eastern areas while in west central and north western Saskatchewan, only slightly more than fifty per cent is cut. Except for some delay in a few places due to high winds, threshing has proceeded uninterrupted and between eighty-five and ninety per cent of the wheat is threshed throughout eastern Saskatchewan with possibly seventy-five per cent of the light crop in central Saskatchewan completed. Only forty per cent is finished in west central and north western districts where the crop is extremely poor. As previously reported, there is little if any grain to be threshed over the greater portion of southern Saskatchewan. Threshing of coarse grains is fairly well advanced but in many districts the greater portion has been cut for fodder rather than for threshing. While comparatively little wheat has been delivered indications are that somewhat more than half will grade No. 1 Northern or better with the greater portion of the balance going No. 2 or 3 Northern. Some deterioration due to continued dry weather and rather extensive injury to Russian Thistle in southern districts by the beet webworm is reported. Grasshoppers are very numerous and further damage to green stuff is noted. In those districts where

ab

Pro

SASKATCHEWAN (Cont'd.)

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina (Cont'd.)

stubble is providing pasture, stock are reported in fairly good condition. Very little fall ploughing has been done owing to the dry condition of the soil and lack of power.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head

Threshing and combining practically completed. Crop returns disappointing. Feed situation serious. Grasshoppers doing considerable damage to late feed and garden crops.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Practically no amount of wheat will be marketed in west central Saskatchewan and previous prospects of feed from oats following late July rains have diminished with continuance of hot dry weather. Harvesting of oats for grain and hay commencing. Light frost August twenty-eighth damaged tender vegetables.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Continued warm dry weather has hastened maturity of all crops not previously dried up. Late sown grain and pastures have suffered severely and feeding of stock will necessarily start earlier this fall. Threshing is being done at odd times as opportunity is afforded between other operations.

Dominion Experimental Station, Melfort.

Weather dry and windy. Threshing three-fourths completed. Pastures becoming very bare. Farmers busy with fall cultivation.

ALBERTA

Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge

Frost damage to tender vegetation with some possible injury to wheat reported from several localities Calgary south but as eighty per cent of grain is cut, damage would not be excessive. Threshing almost completed dry eastern district and commencing west with good grade and yields slightly better than expected. Slight hail damage reported from scattered districts.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

With cool cloudy weather and rain on three days totalling decimal six inch. Heavy second growth in all crops filling well but ripening very slowly. Ninety per cent wheat cut but very little barley or oats. Light frost on two nights would lower grades on some wheat but yield little affected.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Harvest impeded by daily showers totalling at Beaverlodge point 69 for past week. Three or four hour frosts seem to have done comparatively little further damage so far as learned from reluctant informants. Some late grain filling well where not frosted but yields and grades liable to prove generally low.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler

Cool wet weather not good for harvest. This week will see all wheat cut. Some threshing done but not enough to determine yield. Oats and barley still green. Frost in some places. Pastures good.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary.

Harvesting progressing satisfactorily with perhaps seventy-five per cent wheat now cut. Oats somewhat later. Some light frosts reported but damage mostly to garden plants.

ALBERTA (Cont'd)

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Rain and cool cloudy weather during past week. Slow ripening weather. Very close to frost some nights. Odd field early cut wheat has been threshed. A week or ten days before wheat threshing general. Coarse grains still green.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion

Harvesting is nearly finished and threshing well started. Yields of wheat running from seven bushels to twenty, mostly seven. No report on oats yet.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Weather for past week dull, cool and showery. Progress slow in harvesting. About fifty per cent wheat cut. Good weather necessary.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010525044