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CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS, JUNE 30, 1947

Ottawa, July 10, 1947 (3 p.m.) - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today its report on the condition of field crops at June 30. The numerical condition of field crops in Canada at the end of June, expressed as a percentage of the long-time average yield per acre was higher than the condition at June 30, 1946 for spring wheat, barley, spring rye, flaxseed, hay and clover, alfalfa and pasture. For all other crops reported upon, the condition was somewhat lower this year. The moderate increase in spring wheat condition over last year is attributed to a very marked increase in Manitoba and a moderate increase in Saskatchewan. In all other provinces the condition figure for spring wheat is lower than it was last year with the least difference being observed in Alberta where a decline of four points is noted. Significant advances are indicated for most coarse grains in Manitoba and Saskatchewan but elsewhere the situation is reversed, with a very poor outlook prevailing throughout the eastern provinces, particularly in Ontario. In general, crop conditions are quite favourable in the four western provinces but the exceedingly late, wet spring has materially reduced prospects in eastern Canada.

It is emphasized that numerical condition figures do not necessarily reflect ultimate yields. The condition data for all crops with the exception of spring wheat in the Prairie Provinces, are obtained through the medium of reports from hundreds of informed persons who are asked to express their opinion of crop conditions at June 30 as a percentage of the long-term provincial average yield per acre. The condition figures for the western wheat crop are derived from an analysis of weather factors, but the same caution applies. Any deviations from normal in respect to weather factors, plant diseases, or insect infestations occurring between June 30 and harvest time may lead to outturns which will vary considerably from those apparently indicated by the June 30 numerical condition figures. It should be pointed out that the all-Canada condition figure for each crop is an average of the provincial condition figures weighted by the 1946 acreage devoted to that crop in each province.

The spring wheat condition figures for the Prairie Provinces as based on an analysis of weather factors indicate good crop prospects as at June 30. Saskatchewan leads the three provinces with a condition figure of 127, while Alberta is lowest with a figure of 123. Manitoba's condition figure at 126 is up 23 points from last year's level. Above-average preseasonal precipitation and generally satisfactory spring rainfall have been largely responsible for maintaining the above-average condition indicated for each of the Prairie Provinces. It should be emphasized, however, that there are considerable areas in all three provinces, and particularly in Saskatchewan, where precipitation has been deficient and where rains are urgently required to bring the crops to maturity.

The over-all prospects for feed grain crops are not too encouraging. While the outlook for coarse grains in the Prairie Provinces is quite good, the prospects in eastern Canada are poor, and timely transportation of large quantities of feed grains from west to east will be necessary this year if live-stock population in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes are to be maintained at or near present levels. Unseasonable weather at the normal seeding time has resulted in many crops over the greater part of the country being in a retarded stage of development for this time of year. In addition, unfavourable weather forced curtailment of the acreage normally seeded to spring grains in the eastern provinces. The deficiency may have been at least partially made up through the subsequent seeding of later crops such as buckwheat--although the substitution of such crops would be limited by the amount of seed available. The condition of fodder corn for the country as a whole stood at 80, as compared with a figure of 92 last year. The forage crop outlook is brighter, with hay, clover and alfalfa prospects improved over last year in most provinces. The over-all pasture condition is also better than last year, although the condition figure is down somewhat in Prince Edward Island, Alberta and British Columbia.

The condition of fall wheat in Ontario, at 91, is ten points below that of last year, while the condition of flaxseed for all Canada at 93 reflects an increase of ten points over the condition at June 30, 1946. Since there has been a very marked increase in the acreage devoted to flaxseed this year, prospects are excellent for a substantial increase in flaxseed production over the 1946 outturn. The outlook for sugar beets is less satisfactory than last year, with the all-Canada figure down six points. Of the four sugar beet producing provinces, Manitoba alone anticipates a better yield than last year. The all-Canada figures show decreases from last year of nine, sixteen and twelve points respectively for peas, beans and potatoes.

Exceedingly wet weather seriously delayed spring work in eastern Canada and floods were experienced in many areas. Reports indicate that the acreage seeded to coarse grains, particularly in Ontario, is well below intentions. In addition, the early heavy rains have left the soil very hard and the land in many districts is now difficult to work. Seeding was also delayed in the west this year but it is not anticipated that acreages have been greatly curtailed, although some shifts from early to late crops may have occurred. Although conditions in the west at June 30 were generally such as to promote good growth, the lateness of the crop increases the chance of damage from early frosts.

Weather Since July 1

A weather summary for the Prairies provided by the Meteorological Service on July 7 stated that over most of the wheat areas the week was warm and dry, but a narrow zone south of Saskatoon and between Regina and Swift Current reported rather heavy rains. In Manitoba the warm belt stretched from Portage la Prairie northwest to The Pas. The most southern districts averaged about normal or slightly lower. There was a little rain in the most northerly districts and along the border but none in the central districts. In Saskatchewan there was an excess over normal temperature of 5 or 6 degrees throughout the central and southwestern districts. The heavy rainfall affected parts of Districts 3 and 6. In Alberta Districts 7 and 13 had temperatures 4 or 5 degrees above normal and rains were generally very light.

Weather in Ontario since the first of this month has been generally favourable for haying.

Numerical Condition of Field Crops, June 30, 1947

For all Canada, the condition of field crops at June 30, 1947, expressed in percentage of the long-time average yields per acre, was reported as follows, with figures for June 30, 1946, within brackets: Fall wheat 91 (101); spring wheat 125 (122); all wheat 125 (122); oats 88 (89); barley 91 (84); fall rye 85 (86); spring rye 89 (87); all rye 87 (86); peas 84 (93); beans 76 (92); buckwheat 87 (94); mixed grains 74 (96); flaxseed 93 (83); corn for husking 78 (88); potatoes 83 (95); turnips, etc. 82 (94); hay and clover 94 (88); alfalfa 91 (85); fodder corn 80 (92); sugar beets 89 (95); pasture 99 (93).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal cereal crops at June 30, 1947, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1946 within brackets: Manitoba - Wheat 126 (103); oats 92 (70); barley 92 (70); rye 91 (75); flaxseed 91 (75). Saskatchewan - Wheat 127 (123); oats 91 (87); barley 92 (84); rye 86 (82); flaxseed 95 (85). Alberta - Wheat 123 (127); oats 93 (98); barley 93 (96); rye 84 (92); flaxseed 93 (94).

Condition of Wheat by Crop Districts in the Prairie Provinces

The two charts on the last page of the report show the condition of the spring wheat crop within crop districts of the Prairie Provinces as it existed at June 30, for 1947 and 1946. The charts are directly comparable as between the two years. The crop district condition figures are based on the more important weather factors affecting the growth of the wheat plant, including precipitation during the preceding autumn period, and precipitation and temperatures during the months of April, May and June.

The sharp differences in wheat condition between adjacent crop districts as shown on the charts is an inherent characteristic where crop-district averages of condition are employed, and the true gradations of condition must be inferred. The condition figures are expressed as percentages of the long-time average yields of wheat for each province.

In Manitoba, the condition of the wheat crop in all crop districts was above normal at June 30 this year. Over the north-western and central districts, both preseasonal and current seasonal precipitation were well above normal and wheat conditions in these districts at June 30 are uniformally good. The relatively low condition figure for Crop District 12 is the result of low preseasonal moisture supplies. In comparison with the condition at the same date last year, the condition figures at June 30 were as high or higher in 1947 in all but one district. In Crop District 6, the condition of wheat this year is below that of a year ago. The greatest gain in condition was reported in Crop District 1 and very considerable increases occurred in all of the south-western and central districts including the inter-lake region.

The condition of wheat at June 30 in Saskatchewan was also above normal in all crop districts. The relatively low condition shown for Crop Districts 2A and 4A resulted from below normal current precipitation, while in 3BS both preseasonal and current precipitation were below average. The unusually high condition of wheat in Crop Districts 1B and 3AS corresponds to the well above average current and preseasonal precipitation which was received in these districts. Considerably above normal preseasonal precipitation accounted for the relatively favourable wheat condition in Crop Districts 4B and 7A. In comparison with June 30 of last year, the wheat condition at June 30, 1947 was as favourable or better across the southern third of the province with the exception of the extreme south-west. Marked advances in condition were recorded in the south-eastern and south-central districts. In the central and northern districts the wheat condition declined in comparison with last year and the declines were considerable in the extreme north.

In only 3 of the 17 districts in Alberta was the condition of wheat at June 30 this year, below normal. In Districts 5 and 7 below normal current precipitation more than offset the favourable preseasonal rainfall while in District 13 both preseasonal and current rainfall were well below normal. In the four southern districts, both preseasonal and current precipitation were well above normal, resulting in the usually low-yielding south-eastern districts indicating relatively favourable conditions. Preseasonal precipitation was deficient across the northern districts of the province and the wheat condition in these districts is below their normally high level. Appreciable gains in condition occurred in Districts 3 and 15 in comparison with conditions at the same date last year, while a general decline in condition occurred throughout central districts of the province. Crop District 16 showed no change.

Temperatures during the current growing season have been below normal in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while in Alberta temperatures during the earlier part of the season were slightly above normal. The generally low temperatures have been an important factor in mitigating the effects of rainfall deficiencies in some parts of the Prairies, but at the same time this factor, coupled with the lateness of the seeding season, has delayed the normal development of the wheat crop.

Weather Summary for the Prairie Provinces

Precipitation and temperature data in the Prairie Provinces are compiled initially on a crop-district basis. The crop-district averages are then weighted by wheat acreage in the respective districts to obtain provincial acreage-weighted averages of precipitation and temperature.

Preseasonal precipitation was very favourable for the 1947 wheat crop in the Prairie Provinces, averaging well above normal in all three provinces, particularly in Alberta, where rainfall from August 1 to October 31 last year was over 50 per cent above normal. Within crop districts preseasonal rainfall was above normal in all but the northern districts in Alberta and Manitoba and the north-east portion of the crop-growing area in Saskatchewan. Crop District 6 in

Manitoba was an exception to the general pattern, having received considerably below normal preseasonal precipitation. In Manitoba, the west-central districts recorded appreciably above normal preseasonal moisture supplies, while generous autumn rains occurred over the southern half of Alberta. In Saskatchewan, the preseasonal pattern was variable, with parts of the south receiving below normal preseasonal rains and contiguous districts benefiting from exceptional autumn moisture.

Current seasonal rainfall in Manitoba during the months of May and June has been over 50 per cent above normal, while in Saskatchewan and Alberta rainfall since April 1 has averaged slightly below normal. All districts in Manitoba, with the exception of Crop District 8 where rainfall is slightly below normal, recorded above normal current rainfall with particularly heavy precipitation occurring in Crop Districts 7, 10 and 11. Rainfall in Saskatchewan during April and May was below normal in all districts but was counteracted by above normal rain during June in most of the southern and central districts.

From April 1 to the end of June, total rainfall over most of the southern and central districts has been close to normal. Particularly heavy June rains have been recorded in Crop Districts 1B and 3AS. In the southern half of the province, Crop Districts 2A and 4A show appreciably below normal rainfall. In the northern districts June rains were below normal and coupled with earlier deficiencies in rainfall, resulted in less than normal moisture supplies over the current season. In Alberta, favourable rains were received in the four southern districts during May and June and seasonal rainfall in these areas is above normal. Over the rest of the province, with the exception of the Peace River district where rainfall has been close to normal, current seasonal rainfall has been below normal and particularly so in Crop Districts 5, 7, 10 and 13.

Temperatures during the earlier part of the growing season averaged more than 2 degrees below normal in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, being less than normal in all crop districts of these two provinces. In Alberta during April and May, temperatures averaged less than one degree above normal with the districts in the southern half of the province registering above normal temperatures and the districts in the northern half of the province recording below normal temperatures. During June, temperatures in all three provinces averaged approximately 2 degrees below normal with the southern districts across the Prairies experiencing relatively lower temperatures than the northern areas. Only three crop districts over the entire Prairie Provinces recorded temperatures above normal during June.

1. CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1947, AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1946 AND 1945

Note: 100 = Long-time Average Yield Per Acre

Province and Crop	June 30 1947	1946	1945
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
CANADA			
Fall Wheat	91	101	97
Spring Wheat 1/	125	122	101
All Wheat 1/	125	122	100
Oats	88	89	82
Barley	91	84	81
Fall Rye	85	86	78
Spring Rye	89	87	78
All Rye	87	86	78
Peas	84	93	83
Beans	76	92	82
Buckwheat	87	94	89
Mixed Grains	74	96	83
Flaxseed	93	83	76
Corn, Husking	78	88	75
Potatoes	83	95	85
Turnips, etc.	82	94	86
Hay and Clover	94	88	95
Alfalfa	91	85	90
Fodder Corn	80	92	82
Sugar Beets	89	95	90
Pasture	99	93	99
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND			
Spring Wheat	90	97	92
Oats	90	98	92
Barley	88	98	89
Buckwheat	88	94	95
Mixed Grains	90	99	93
Potatoes	89	99	90
Turnips, etc.	93	96	91
Hay and Clover	76	86	97
Fodder Corn	95	93	89
Pasture	88	99	104
NOVA SCOTIA			
Spring Wheat	82	91	75
Oats	89	93	84
Barley	86	93	79
Buckwheat	83	92	87
Mixed Grains	90	92	72
Potatoes	90	97	83
Turnips, etc.	86	94	90
Hay and Clover	97	87	103
Fodder Corn	93	95	74
Pasture	102	92	107

Province and Crop	June 30 1947	1946	1945
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
NEW BRUNSWICK			
Spring Wheat	78	96	87
Oats	76	93	85
Barley	78	95	86
Beans	79	92	87
Buckwheat	86	89	92
Mixed Grains	78	95	87
Potatoes	78	93	89
Turnips, etc.	80	92	92
Hay and Clover	89	83	100
Fodder Corn	84	89	94
Pasture	98	86	101
QUEBEC			
Spring Wheat	76	96	87
Oats	86	90	88
Barley	86	90	87
Spring Rye	76	92	89
Peas	71	92	76
Beans	77	89	89
Buckwheat	86	92	94
Mixed Grains	85	91	89
Potatoes	81	94	88
Turnips, etc.	81	91	93
Hay and Clover	97	90	99
Alfalfa	89	84	108
Fodder Corn	78	91	90
Sugar Beets	91	95	-
Pasture	99	93	103
ONTARIO			
Fall Wheat	91	101	97
Spring Wheat	67	97	85
All Wheat	89	101	96
Oats	65	98	75
Barley	65	98	75
Fall Rye	95	103	91
Peas	75	95	81
Beans	76	92	81
Buckwheat	87	96	86
Mixed Grains	68	99	81
Flaxseed	75	97	87
Corn, Husking	78	89	75
Potatoes	78	98	80
Turnips, etc.	79	97	80
Hay and Clover	91	85	92
Alfalfa	91	85	90
Fodder Corn	79	94	80
Sugar Beets	80	88	90
Pasture	99	94	97

1/ Includes condition figures for Prairie Provinces based on weather factors.

1. CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1947, AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1946 AND 1945

(Concluded)

Province and Crop	June 30 1947	1946	1945
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
MANITOBA			
Spring Wheat 2/	126	103	135
Oats	92	70	82
Barley	92	70	82
Fall Rye	89	77	83
Spring Rye	94	72	83
All Rye	91	75	83
Peas	94	77	86
Buckwheat	86	70	93
Mixed Grains	94	75	82
Corn, Husking	83	66	77
Flaxseed	91	75	85
Potatoes	89	80	81
Turnips, etc.	89	81	79
Hay and Clover	96	67	87
Alfalfa	96	70	87
Fodder Corn	85	71	80
Sugar Beets	83	75	84
Pasture	102	69	94
SASKATCHEWAN			
Spring Wheat 2/	127	123	109
Oats	91	87	80
Barley	92	84	80
Fall Rye	83	80	69
Spring Rye	90	85	76
All Rye	86	82	72
Mixed Grains	76	79	74
Flaxseed	95	85	72
Potatoes	90	91	78
Turnips, etc.	80	83	80
Hay and Clover	87	82	80
Alfalfa	77	82	94
Fodder Corn	88	80	70
Pasture	91	84	82

Province and Crop	June 30 1947	1946	1945
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
ALBERTA			
Spring Wheat 2/	123	127	73
Oats	93	98	84
Barley	93	96	83
Fall Rye	82	91	88
Spring Rye	89	93	82
All Rye	84	92	86
Peas	92	98	85
Beans	88	82	78
Mixed Grains	95	99	82
Flaxseed	93	94	86
Potatoes	93	99	82
Turnips, etc.	93	96	79
Hay and Clover	95	102	79
Alfalfa	91	100	83
Fodder Corn	93	97	80
Sugar Beets	98	100	93
Pasture	102	108	84
BRITISH COLUMBIA			
Spring Wheat	92	98	92
Oats	94	99	92
Barley	90	98	92
Spring Rye	91	100	100
Peas	95	100	95
Beans	96	100	98
Mixed Grains	92	100	95
Flaxseed	75	95	95
Potatoes	95	100	90
Turnips, etc.	96	96	90
Hay and Clover	97	102	97
Alfalfa	94	101	95
Fodder Corn	94	95	94
Pasture	101	106	98

2/ Condition figures based on weather factors.