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CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS, JUNE 30, 1951

Ottawa, July 13, 1951, 3 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today its report on the condition of field crops in Canada at June 30. The numerical condition is expressed as a percentage of the long-time average yield per acre for each crop respectively in each of the provinces.

The numerical condition at June 30 for all Canada for all major field crops either exceeded or equalled that of 1950 and, with the single exception of sugar beets, was also above that of 1949 for the same date. Improvement over last year's June 30 condition ratings was particularly noticeable in all major grain crops, hay and clover, alfalfa, and pasture. The condition of both wheat and rye, at 109 per cent and 93 per cent, respectively, was up sharply from last year's levels of 83 and 74 per cent. Oats (98 per cent), barley (97 per cent) and mixed grains (102 per cent) were 9, 12 and 6 points, respectively, above the comparable figures for 1950, while the flaxseed condition figure, at 95 per cent, was 10 points higher than at June 30 last year. The condition of hay and clover and alfalfa, at 106 and 104 per cent, respectively, exceeded last year's levels by more than 20 points and pasture, at 107 per cent of the long-time average, was up by 18 points over 1950.

On a provincial basis, the same favourable relation to last year's condition figures is also generally true. In the Maritimes 1/ the only crops rated below last year's level at June 30 were potatoes in both Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia and buckwheat and fodder corn in the latter province. Improvement in the condition of hay and clover and pastures over last year's figures was particularly marked. With the exception of some late-sown crops where development had been retarded somewhat by unfavourable weather, crops in Quebec and Ontario also were above the corresponding 1950 ratings.

In the Prairie Provinces there was general improvement over last year's condition ratings, the increases being particularly marked in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Below-normal spring rainfall and low temperatures in Manitoba contributed to reduced ratings of wheat, buckwheat, shelled corn, hay and clover, alfalfa and pasture as compared with last year. Ratings of all other Manitoba crops, however, exceeded 1950 levels. In Saskatchewan, all crops except fodder corn were rated higher than at June 30, 1950, while in Alberta condition figures without exception were up sharply. In the latter province all crops, apart from sugar beets, were rated above 90 this year,

1/ Data for Newfoundland not available.

while last year all crops, with the exception of fodder corn and sugar beets, were rated below 80. Relatively little change was indicated in the condition of crops in British Columbia from that of last year, with this year's June 30 ratings of various crops ranging from 85 to 93 per cent of the long-time average.

Condition data for all crops with the exception of spring wheat for 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-time average yield per acre. 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 estimated 1951 acreage devoted to the crop in each province. It is important also to emphasize that condition figures do not necessarily reflect ultimate yields. Any deviations from normal in respect to weather factors, plant diseases or insect infestations 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.

The spring wheat condition figure, based on weather factors, for Manitoba, at 95 per cent, was below both the 1950 level of 99 per cent and the 1949 figure of 108 per cent. In both Saskatchewan and Alberta, however, the condition of spring wheat was above normal and well above the levels of the preceding two years. The Saskatchewan wheat condition figure, at 106 per cent, exceeded those of 1950 and 1949 by 15 and 36 points, respectively, while the Alberta rating, at 123 per cent, was sharply higher than the 1950 level of 59 per cent and the 1949 level of 61 per cent.

Numerical Condition of Field Crops, June 30, 1951

For all Canada, the condition of field crops at June 30, 1951, expressed in percentage of the long-time average yield per acre, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1950 within brackets: Winter wheat 93 (90); spring wheat 109 (83); all wheat 109 (83); oats 98 (89); barley 97 (85); fall rye 91 (71); spring rye 97 (81); all rye 93 (74); peas 98 (90); beans 97 (91); buckwheat 98 (97); mixed grains 102 (96); flaxseed 95 (85); shelled corn 92 (92); potatoes 97 (93); turnips, etc. 97 (91); hay and clover 106 (81); alfalfa 104 (82); fodder corn 95 (94); sugar beets 94 (87); pasture 107 (89).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal cereal crops at June 30, 1951, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1950 within brackets: Manitoba - Wheat 95 (99); oats 94 (86); barley 96 (86); rye 92 (84); flaxseed 94 (86). Saskatchewan - Wheat 106 (91); oats 99 (93); barley 100 (94); rye 89 (72); flaxseed 97 (86). Alberta - Wheat 123 (59); oats 96 (75); barley 96 (76); rye 99 (71); flaxseed 98 (75).

Weather Summary for the Prairie Provinces

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

Preseasonal rainfall was above average in Manitoba, slightly below average in Saskatchewan and normal in Alberta. In Manitoba, preseasonal precipitation amounted to 12.6 inches, almost 2 inches above normal. All crop districts except 6 either equalled or exceeded normal preseasonal precipitation, with the excess ranging as high as 3.9 inches in crop district 11. Preseasonal rainfall in Saskatchewan, on the other hand, was below normal in all but four crop districts where excesses were only fractionally above the long-time average. Rainfall for the province as a whole during the August-October period of 1950 was 3.5 inches, compared with the normal of 3.8 inches. Average preseasonal rainfall in Alberta equalled the normal amount of 5.1 inches, with a regional range from 2.7 inches below normal in crop district 9 to 2.6 inches above normal in crop district 5.

In contrast to the preseasonal rainfall pattern, current seasonal rainfall has been below normal in Manitoba, above normal in Alberta and about normal in Saskatchewan. Without exception, all crop districts in Manitoba received below-normal rainfall during May and June. In only two districts, 11 and 13, were the deficiencies less than one inch, with the greatest deficiency, 3.5 inches below normal, occurring in crop district 8. Average precipitation for the province as a whole during the two months was 2.8 inches, 50 per cent below normal. In Saskatchewan, rainfall during April and May averaged 2.3 inches, only slightly below normal while the June rainfall of 3.2 inches was 0.3 inches above normal. Only two districts, 1A and 4A, received below-normal rainfall during both the April-May and June periods. Excesses for the three-month period ranged as high as 2.6 inches in crop district 6A while the greatest deficiency, 1.4 inches, occurred in 1A. April rainfall in Alberta was slightly below normal in all crop districts except in the north but rainfall in May and June equalled or exceeded normal in all crop districts except 14 where there was a deficiency of 0.7 inches. The greatest excesses during May and June occurred in the southern districts, ranging as high as 7.7 inches above normal in crop district 2.

Spring temperatures in all three provinces were below normal this year. In Manitoba, only crop district 13 registered above-normal temperatures in April and June. The mean temperature for Manitoba in April was 1.9 degrees below normal while for June it was 3.2 degrees below normal. With a few exceptions, the same temperature conditions prevailed in Saskatchewan. During April and May only crop districts 1A, 1B, 5A, 8B, 9A and 9B registered slightly above-normal temperatures. June temperatures in all crop districts in the province were well below normal, the provincial average being 4.6 degrees below the normal of 60 degrees for the month. In Alberta, April-May temperatures, averaging 44.8 degrees, were only fractionally below the normal of 45 but in June the provincial average was 4.2 degrees below the normal of 57.7 degrees. Low temperatures were experienced by all crop districts in June with the greatest variations, 6.7 degrees below normal, occurring in crop districts 1 and 5.

CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1951 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1950 AND 1949

Note: 100 = Long-time Average Yield Per Acre

Province and Crop	June 30 1951	June 30 1950	June 30 1949
CANADA	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Winter wheat	93	90	83
Spring wheat 1/	109	83	72
All wheat 1/	109	83	72
Oats	98	89	81
Barley	97	85	76
Fall Rye	91	71	51
Spring Rye	97	81	64
All Rye	93	74	54
Peas	98	90	81
Beans	97	91	89
Buckwheat	98	97	86
Mixed Grains	102	96	76
Flaxseed	95	85	80
Corn, Shelled	92	92	90
Potatoes	97	93	89
Turnips, etc.	97	91	83
Hay and Clover	106	81	76
Alfalfa	104	82	68
Fodder Corn	95	94	88
Sugar Beets	94	87	98
Pasture	107	89	80
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND			
Spring Wheat	91	88	95
Oats	96	87	96
Barley	95	84	94
Buckwheat	87	87	102
Mixed Grains	96	84	97
Potatoes	89	91	98
Turnips, etc.	97	74	92
Hay and Clover	98	61	97
Fodder Corn	92	89	99
Pasture	107	69	107
NOVA SCOTIA			
Spring Wheat	94	81	95
Oats	96	92	94
Barley	94	87	94
Buckwheat	91	92	100
Mixed Grains	99	90	96
Potatoes	93	98	95
Turnips, etc.	96	90	96
Hay and Clover	111	78	90
Fodder Corn	93	94	100
Pasture	107	92	96
NEW BRUNSWICK			
Spring wheat	96	92	98
Oats	100	94	96
Barley	98	92	98
Beans	96	87	95
Buckwheat	98	90	96
Mixed Grains	98	91	97
Potatoes	94	93	95
Turnips, etc.	97	91	96
Hay and Clover	102	71	88
Fodder Corn	96	87	100
Pasture	103	82	99
QUEBEC			
Spring Wheat	97	95	92
Oats	100	97	94
Barley	98	96	93
Spring Rye	96	95	90
Peas	97	94	91
Beans	95	95	93
Buckwheat	97	99	92
Mixed Grains	101	99	93
Potatoes	100	97	93
Turnips, etc.	96	98	93
Hay and Clover	106	85	87
Alfalfa	106	84	85
Fodder Corn	97	104	95
Sugar Beets	99	102	95
Pasture	107	87	91
ONTARIO			
Winter Wheat	93	90	83
Spring Wheat	99	91	75
All Wheat	93	90	82
Oats	102	96	74
Barley	102	95	73
Fall Rye	101	94	86
Peas	101	90	76
Beans	97	91	88
Buckwheat	99	96	79
Mixed Grains	103	97	70
Flaxseed	97	93	85
Corn, Shelled	93	93	90
Potatoes	99	94	83
Turnips, etc.	99	92	71
Hay and Clover	111	82	60
Alfalfa	109	82	65
Fodder Corn	95	92	86
Sugar Beets	102	88	95
Pasture	111	93	64

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

CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1951 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1950 AND 1949
(concluded)

Province and Crop	June 30			Province and Crop	June 30		
	1951	1950	1949		1951	1950	1949
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.		p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
MANITOBA				ALBERTA			
Spring Wheat 2/	95	99	108	Spring Wheat 2/	123	59	61
Oats	94	86	95	Oats	96	75	62
Barley	96	86	94	Barley	96	76	61
Fall Rye	92	82	90	Fall Rye	100	68	53
Spring Rye	93	91	90	Spring Rye	98	74	54
All Rye	92	84	90	All Rye	99	71	53
Peas	93	92	89	Peas	98	74	71
Buckwheat	89	91	87	Mixed Grains	97	74	61
Mixed Grains	95	88	91	Flaxseed	98	75	65
Corn, Shelled	87	88	90	Potatoes	95	76	68
Flaxseed	94	86	91	Hay and Clover	105	64	46
Potatoes	96	88	93	Alfalfa	103	65	51
Hay and Clover	92	97	86	Fodder Corn	95	90	59
Alfalfa	92	94	88	Sugar Beets	85	82	100
Fodder Corn	90	83	90	Pasture	112	63	46
Sugar Beets	94	88	100				
Pasture	90	105	89				
SASKATCHEWAN				BRITISH COLUMBIA			
Spring Wheat 2/	106	91	70	Spring Wheat	87	83	85
Oats	99	93	82	Oats	91	85	83
Barley	100	94	74	Barley	88	85	80
Fall Rye	87	67	37	Spring Rye	90	90	91
Spring Rye	97	87	68	Peas	91	88	90
All Rye	89	72	45	Beans	92	90	92
Peas	97	87	74	Mixed Grains	90	87	87
Mixed Grains	97	88	78	Flaxseed	85	84	85
Flaxseed	97	86	71	Potatoes	92	90	87
Potatoes	96	89	82	Turnips, etc.	91	88	86
Hay and Clover	103	91	67	Hay and Clover	87	88	85
Alfalfa	100	94	75	Alfalfa	93	92	87
Fodder Corn	87	90	82	Fodder Corn	93	90	91
Pasture	106	94	66	Pasture	88	85	87

2/ Condition figures based on weather factors.

Condition of Wheat by Crop Districts in the Prairie Provinces

The two charts on the opposite page of this report show the condition of the spring wheat crop within crop districts of the Prairie Provinces as it existed at June 30, for 1951 and 1950. 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. For all three provinces the charts are directly comparable as between the two years.

The sharp difference 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, and therefore the condition of wheat as shown in the charts is not directly comparable as between provinces. It should also be noted that while condition in any crop district may be low or high relative to the long-time provincial average, this does not necessarily represent an abnormal situation. A low (or high) condition in any crop district relative to the long-time provincial average may represent a high (or low) condition relative to the long-time crop district average.

The condition of wheat in Manitoba at June 30, 1951, was estimated at 95 as against 99 and 108 on the same date in 1950 and 1949, respectively. This year's crop district condition figures were above the provincial normal in all areas except crop districts 3 and 12 which were only slightly below normal and crop districts 1, 2, 6 and 8 which were significantly lower. Below-normal seasonal precipitation throughout the province and below-normal temperatures in all crop districts except 13 are largely responsible for this year's provincial condition figure falling below the long-time average. Compared with last year at this time condition figures were at approximately the same levels except crop districts 11 and 13 where the 1951 figures were higher and in 2, 6 and 12 where this year's figures were lower than at June 30, 1950.

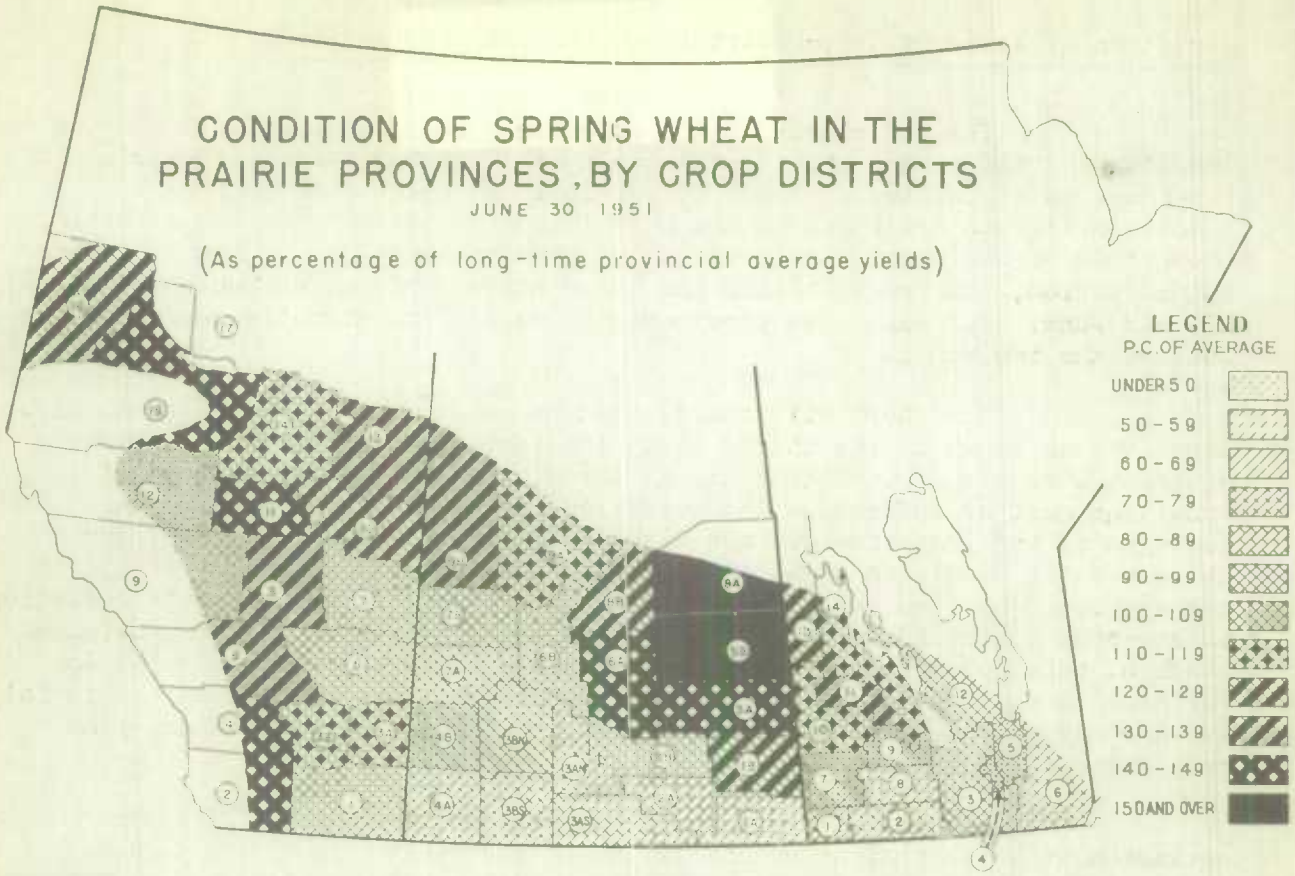
The Saskatchewan wheat condition at June 30 was 106 per cent of the long-time provincial average compared with 91 and 70 per cent, respectively, on the same date in the two preceding years. Except for the extreme southeastern, south-central, southwestern and west-central areas, crop district condition figures were above the provincial normal. Districts with below-normal condition ratings generally suffered from deficiencies in both preseasonal and seasonal rainfall and exceptionally low June temperatures. Compared with last year, condition figures equalled or exceeded those of all crop districts except 1A in the southeast and 9A in the north.

The June 30 condition of wheat in Alberta was 123 per cent of the provincial normal, sharply above last year's figure of 59 and the 1949 figure of 61. Condition figures in all districts except 1, 5 and 7 were above normal and were significantly higher than a year ago for all areas of the province. While preseasonal rainfall for the province as a whole was about normal, precipitation during May and June was more than 40 per cent above normal, with only one crop district, 14, receiving less than normal rainfall during those months. The full effect of the above-average rainfall was offset to some extent, however, by unseasonably low temperatures, especially during June.

CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, BY CROP DISTRICTS

JUNE 30 1951

(As percentage of long-time provincial average yields)

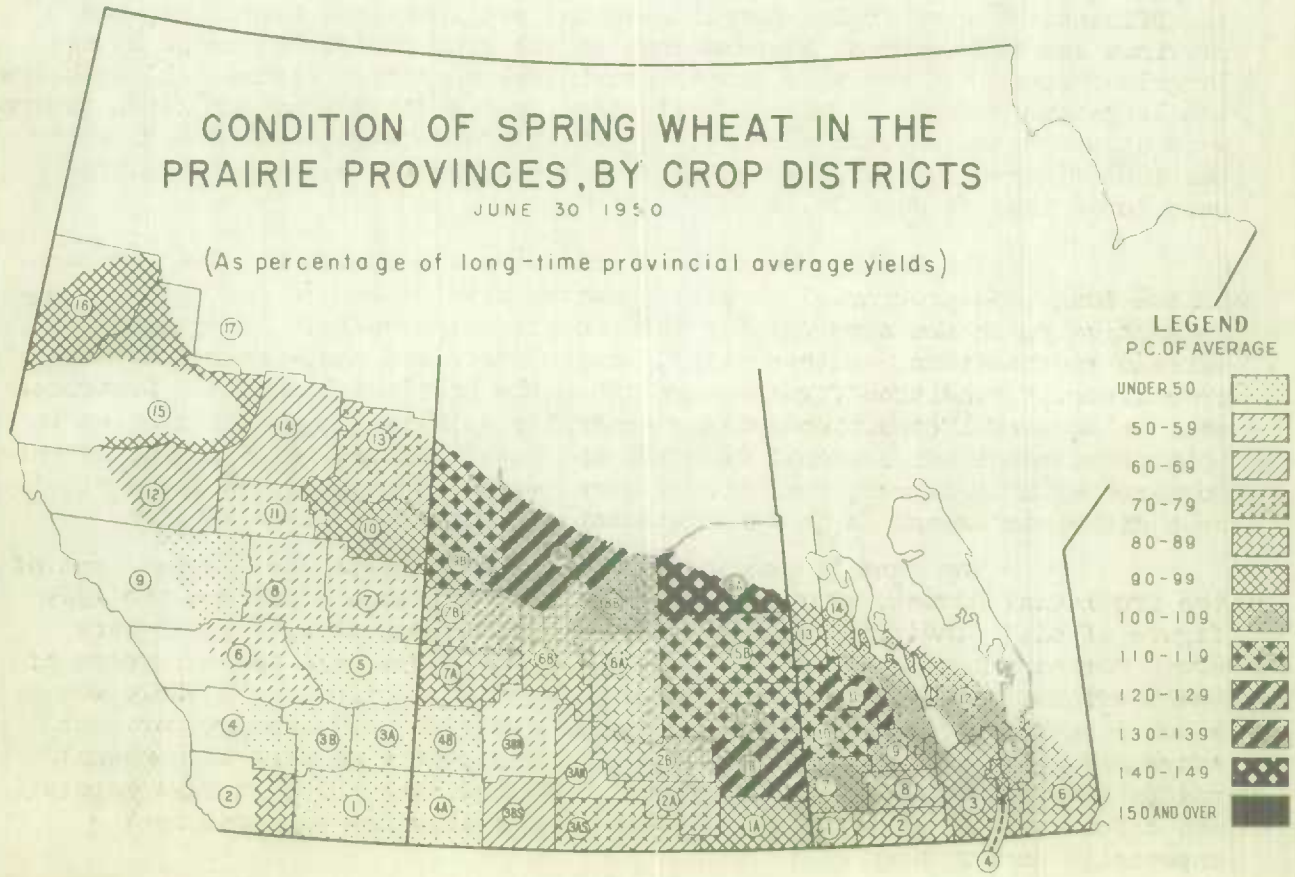


Dominion Bureau of Statistics

CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, BY CROP DISTRICTS

JUNE 30 1950

(As percentage of long-time provincial average yields)



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