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CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1952

Results of a survey of the condition of principal field crops at June 30 indicate that the numerical condition for all Canada of spring wheat, barley, fall rye and spring rye was above that at the same date last year while the remaining seven crops covered in the survey were rated below the June 30, 1951 levels. However, all but two of the crops, mixed grains and potatoes, had higher condition ratings this year than at the same time in 1950.

Condition figures for all crops with the exception of spring wheat for the Prairie Provinces are based on reports sent to the Bureau by hundreds of informed persons who are asked to express their opinion of crop conditions at June 30 as a percentage of the average condition for that time of year. 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 acreage of each crop in each province in 1952. It is important also to emphasize that condition figures do not necessarily reflect ultimate yields. Any deviations from normal in respect of weather factors, plant diseases or insect infestations between June 30 and harvest time may lead to outturns which may vary considerably from those apparently indicated by the June 30 condition figures.

On a regional basis, condition of crops varied widely at June 30 this year. In the Maritimes the condition at June 30 of most crops, with the notable exception of tame hay and pasture, was below that of a year ago. The same was true for Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba where, with the exception of fall rye in Quebec and spring wheat in Manitoba, all of the 1952 ratings were below those of 1951. In Saskatchewan and British Columbia, however, significant improvement over last year was registered, with only one crop, tame hay in Saskatchewan, being rated lower than a year ago. The situation in Alberta was mixed, with wheat, oats, barley, mixed grains and potatoes rated above, and the remaining crops below, last year's condition at June 30.

Differences between ratings for various crops in the two years and deviations of condition of individual crops from average this year are almost entirely attributable to the effects of weather, first on seeding and, subsequently, on germination and plant growth. An early spring this year enabled farmers to get seeding completed under near-ideal conditions over much of Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. In the Maritimes, Quebec, and Eastern Ontario, however, frequent rains seriously interfered with seeding operations, caused some rotting of seed, and drowned out low-lying areas. As a result, condition of all cereals and potatoes in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec was below average at

Note: Data for Newfoundland not available.

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June 30, 1952. On the other hand, abundant rainfall contributed to the above-average condition of tame hay and pasture in these provinces. In contrast to Eastern Ontario, the southwestern part of the province received very little rainfall during June, resulting in serious deterioration of crop conditions. Lack of rainfall was also largely responsible for all of Manitoba's crops, like those of Ontario, being rated below average. In Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, on the other hand, condition of practically all major crops was above average.

Spring wheat condition figures, based on weather factors and expressed in terms of the long-time provincial wheat yields, were well above average in both Saskatchewan and Alberta, but slightly below average in Manitoba. The condition figure for spring wheat in Saskatchewan, at 130, exceeded those of 1951 and 1950 by 24 and 39 points, respectively. Alberta's rating of 125 was 2 points higher than in 1951 and more than double the 1950 level of 59. In Manitoba, the wheat condition figure for this year was placed at 95, the same as a year ago but 4 points lower than in 1950.

Numerical Condition of Field Crops at June 30, 1952 For all Canada, the condition of field crops at June 30, 1952, expressed in percentage of average, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1951 within brackets: Winter wheat 91 (93); spring wheat 125 (109); all wheat 124 (109); oats for grain 95 (98); barley 98 (97); fall rye 94 (91); spring rye 101 (97); all rye 97 (93); mixed grains 87 (102); flaxseed 90 (95); potatoes 92 (97); tame hay and clover 96 (106); and pasture 97 (107).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal cereal crops at June 30, 1952, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1951 within brackets: Manitoba - Wheat 95 (95); oats for grain 87 (94); barley 87 (96); rye 81 (92); and flaxseed 84 (94). Saskatchewan - Wheat 130 (106); oats for grain 105 (99); barley 104 (100); rye 101 (89); and flaxseed 99 (97). Alberta - Wheat 125 (123); oats for grain 101 (96); barley 101 (96); rye 91 (99); and flaxseed 94 (98).

Weather Summary for the Prairie Provinces Preseasonal precipitation was slightly below average in Manitoba and well above average in Saskatchewan and Alberta. (For the purposes of this report the preseasonal precipitation periods are June 1 - October 31 in Manitoba and August 1 - October 31 in Saskatchewan, while in Alberta the period is August 1 - October 31 of the preceding year plus April precipitation of the current year). In Manitoba precipitation was above normal in crop districts 2, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 13. The range of precipitation was from 3.8 inches below normal in district 6, to 2.8 inches above normal in districts 10 and 11. In Saskatchewan preseasonal rainfall was well above normal in all but the two northwestern crop districts, 9A and 9B, where precipitation was 1.2 and 0.3 inches below normal, respectively. In the remaining crop districts precipitation ranged from 0.5 inches above normal in 8A to 5.8 inches above normal in 6A. In Alberta, the southern crop districts as well as those in the Peace River area had above normal precipitation, but elsewhere precipitation was below normal. The range for the province was from 1.1 inches below normal in crop districts 10, 12 and 14 to 6.4 inches above normal in crop district 4.

Current precipitation was normal in Manitoba in the May - June period and only slightly below normal in Saskatchewan in both the April - May period and June period. In Alberta, however, current April precipitation was practically negligible. April - May precipitation in Saskatchewan was slightly above normal in crop districts 7A, 8A and 9A, normal in crop district 3BN and below normal in all remaining crop districts. The below-normal range was from

0.2 inches in 6B to 2.0 inches in 1A. Generally speaking, precipitation was furthest below normal in the southeastern crop districts. In June, precipitation was above normal in twelve districts and below normal in eight. Deviations from normal were less than half an inch in ten of the twenty crop districts. The extremes were 0.9 inches above normal in district 2A and 1.6 inches below normal in district 4A. In general, the above-normal crop districts were in the northern and southeastern areas, plus districts 3BN, 4B and 7A. Despite variations in distribution, May - June precipitation in both Manitoba and Alberta was slightly above normal. In Manitoba it was above normal in seven crop districts and below in six. Precipitation ranged from 0.4 inches below normal in districts 2 and 8 to 3.1 inches above normal in district 9. In Alberta precipitation was above normal in ten crop districts and below normal in six. The heaviest rains fell in districts 9 and 8 where precipitation was 3.1 inches and 3.0 inches above normal, respectively.

Current April and April - May temperatures were above normal without exception in every crop district in each of the three Prairie Provinces. In Manitoba, April temperatures ranged from 7.5 degrees above normal in crop district 2 to 12.0 degrees above normal in crop district 6. In Saskatchewan April - May temperatures ranged from 2.9 degrees above normal in crop district 4B to 7.0 degrees above normal in crop district 8B. In Alberta the April - May temperature range was from 1.0 degrees above normal in crop district 16 to 7.1 degrees above normal in crop district 5.

In contrast, current June temperatures were below normal in all three provinces. In Manitoba, June temperatures were below normal in five districts and above normal in eight. Temperatures ranged from 1.2 degrees below normal in district 11 to 1.8 degrees above normal in district 5. Distribution of above and below-normal temperatures seemed to follow no definite pattern relative to location of crop districts. June temperatures in Saskatchewan were below normal in every crop district. Crop district 8B was the closest to normal with a negative deviation of 0.5 degrees. The greatest deviation occurred in district 4B where June temperature was 3.2 degrees below normal. In general, the largest negative deviations occurred in the central crop districts. In Alberta, June temperatures were normal in crop district 5, and 0.8 and 2.0 degrees above normal in districts 11 and 13, respectively. In all remaining crop districts June temperatures were below normal, the deviation being from 0.4 degrees in district 14 to 3.0 degrees in crop district 4.

CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1952 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1951 AND 1950.

Province and Crop	June 30			Province and Crop	June 30		
	1952	1951	1950		1952	1951	1950
- per cent of average -				- per cent of average -			
<u>CANADA</u>				<u>ONTARIO</u>			
Winter wheat	91	93	90	Winter wheat	91	93	90
Spring wheat 1/	125	109	83	Spring wheat	81	99	91
All wheat 1/	124	109	83	All wheat	90	93	90
Oats for grain	95	98	89	Oats for grain	81	102	96
Barley	98	97	85	Barley	81	102	95
Fall rye	94	91	71	Fall rye	95	101	94
Spring rye	101	97	81	Mixed grains	84	103	97
All rye	97	93	74	Flaxseed	87	97	93
Mixed grains	87	102	96	Potatoes	88	99	94
Flaxseed	90	95	85	Tame hay 2/	85	111	82
Potatoes	92	97	93	Pasture	86	111	93
Tame hay 2/	96	106	81				
Pasture	97	107	89	<u>MANITOBA</u>			
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>				Spring wheat 3/	95	95	99
Spring wheat	96	91	88	Oats for grain	87	94	86
Oats for grain	94	96	87	Barley	87	96	86
Barley	94	95	84	Fall rye	80	92	82
Mixed grains	95	96	84	Spring rye	83	93	91
Potatoes	93	89	91	All rye	81	92	84
Tame hay 2/	106	98	61	Mixed grains	87	95	88
Pasture	108	107	69	Flaxseed	84	94	86
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>				Potatoes	92	96	88
Spring wheat	78	94	81	Tame hay 2/	66	92	97
Oats for grain	87	96	92	Pasture	71	90	105
Barley	85	94	87	<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>			
Mixed grains	83	99	90	Spring wheat 3/	130	106	91
Potatoes	91	93	98	Oats for grain	105	99	93
Tame hay 2/	110	111	78	Barley	104	100	94
Pasture	107	107	92	Fall rye	98	87	67
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>				Spring rye	104	97	87
Spring wheat	87	96	92	All rye	101	89	72
Oats for grain	85	100	94	Mixed grains	102	97	88
Barley	86	98	92	Flaxseed	99	97	86
Mixed grains	85	98	91	Potatoes	101	96	89
Potatoes	86	94	93	Tame hay 2/	100	103	91
Tame hay 2/	111	102	71	Pasture	107	106	94
Pasture	109	103	82				
<u>QUEBEC</u>							
Spring wheat	91	97	95				
Oats for grain	88	100	97				
Barley	88	98	96				
Fall rye	96	96	95				
Mixed grains	90	101	99				
Potatoes	92	100	97				
Tame hay 2/	105	106	85				
Pasture	105	107	87				

CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1952 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1951 AND 1950
(concluded)

Province and Crop	June 30			Province and Crop	June 30		
	1952	1951	1950		1952	1951	1950
- per cent of average -				- per cent of average -			
<u>ALBERTA</u>				<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>			
Spring wheat 3/	125	123	59	Spring wheat	99	87	83
Oats for grain	101	96	75	Oats for grain	102	91	85
Barley	101	96	76	Barley	101	88	85
Fall rye	89	100	68	Fall rye	104	90	90
Spring rye	94	98	74	Mixed grains	101	90	87
All rye	91	99	71	Flaxseed	100	85	84
Mixed grains	99	97	74	Potatoes	101	92	90
Flaxseed	94	98	75	Tame hay 2/	104	87	88
Potatoes	98	95	76	Pasture	105	88	85
Tame hay 2/	96	105	64				
Pasture	102	112	63				

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

2/ Including clover and alfalfa.

3/ 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 1952 and 1951. 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, 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, 1952, was estimated at 95 per cent of the long-time provincial average, the same as last year and 4 points lower than in 1950. This year's crop district condition figures equalled or exceeded the provincial long-time average in crop districts 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 14 and were below the average in the seven remaining districts. Only two districts, 13 and 14, exceeded the provincial average by 20 per cent or more while only one district, No. 1, was more than 20 per cent below the long-time average. Compared with last year at this time, condition figures were at approximately the same levels in crop districts 1, 4, 5, 12 and 13; lower in districts 7, 9, 10 and 11; and higher in districts 2, 3, 6, 8 and 14.

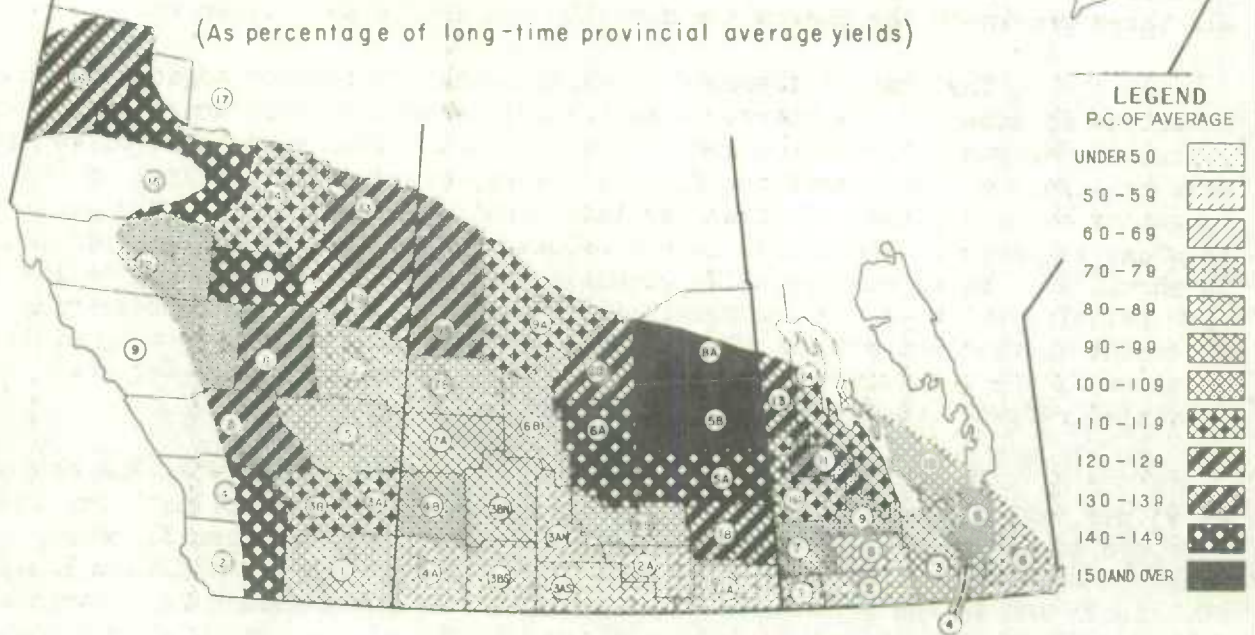
The Saskatchewan wheat condition at June 30 this year was 130 per cent of the long-time provincial average compared with 106 and 91 per cent, respectively, on the same date in the two preceding years. In only three crop districts, 1A, 3AN and 3BS were condition figures below the provincial long-time average. All of the remaining districts were at least 10 per cent above the provincial long-time average, with three districts, 1B, 5B and 8A, exceeding it by at least 50 per cent. Compared with last year, condition figures equalled or exceeded those of all crop districts except 5A, 8B and 9B.

In Alberta, the June 30 condition of wheat was estimated at 125 per cent of the provincial normal, only slightly higher than last year's level of 123 but more than double the 1950 figure of 59. Condition figures in all districts except 5 and 7, in the east-central part of the province, were above the provincial long-time average. Improvement over last year's levels was registered by crop districts in the extreme southeastern, central, west-central and north-central sections of the province.

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

JUNE 30, 1951

(As percentage of long-time provincial average yields)

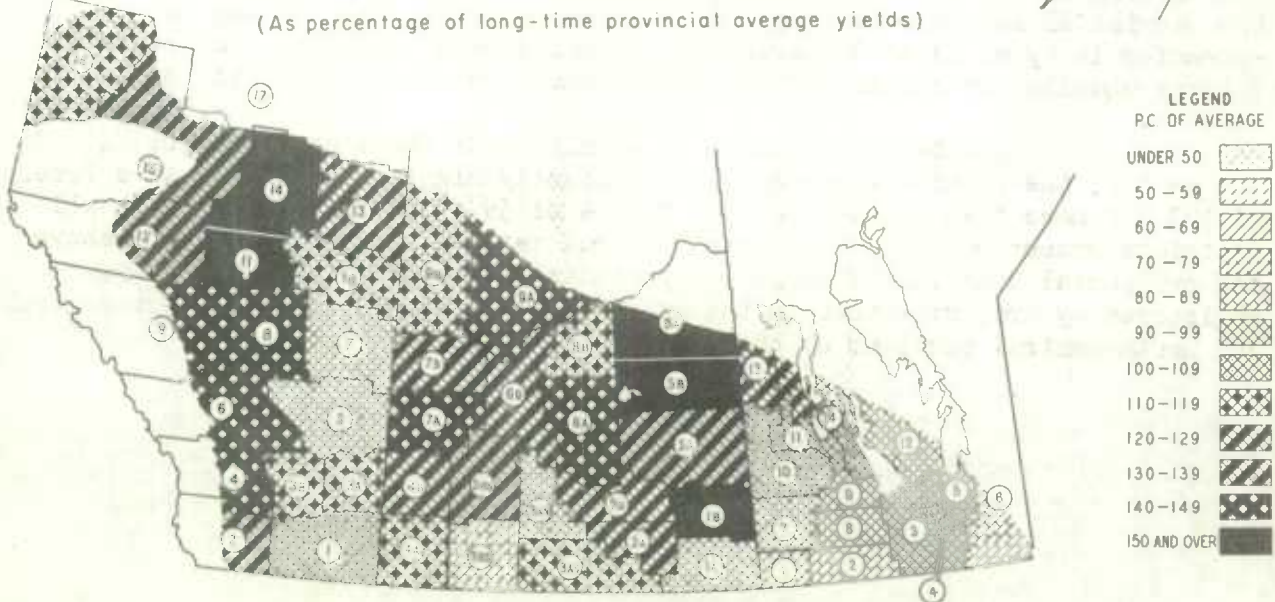


Dominion Bureau of Statistics

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

JUNE 30, 1952

(As percentage of long-time provincial average yields)



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