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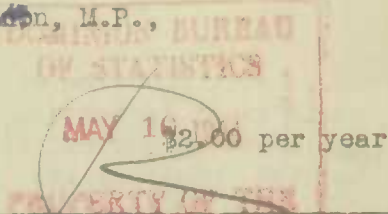
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C.R. No. 1

1944-45

by Authority of the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH



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ACREAGE INTENTIONS IN FIELD CROPS 1944

Ottawa, May 9, 1944 (3 p.m.) - An increase of close to 4,000,000 acres in the area to be seeded to wheat this year compared with 1943, was indicated by crop correspondents on April 30 when reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the 1944 acreage intentions of Canadian farmers. This increase will occur largely at the expense of oats, barley, flaxseed and summerfallow, and will take place mainly in the three Prairie Provinces. Subsequent developments affecting seeding operations may alter farmers' plans as they stood at the end of April and the figures in this report carry that reservation.

Wheat

The acreage intended for wheat in 1944 is 21,325,800 acres compared with 17,487,700 acres planted in 1943. This increase of 3,838,100 acres corresponds closely to the decrease which took place in 1943 compared with 1942, so that if this year's intentions are carried out, the wheat acreage in Canada will be back to approximately the 1942 level.

Practically all of the change is indicated in western Canada where the 1944 wheat acreage planned is 20,483,000 acres compared with 16,729,000 acres seeded in 1943, an increase of 3,754,000 acres. Saskatchewan indicates an increase of 2,460,000 acres, Alberta 966,000 acres, and Manitoba 328,000 acres.

Oats and Barley

Oats acreage intended in Manitoba shows very little change from a year ago, but both Saskatchewan and Alberta report a probable decrease of 7 per cent. The other six provinces are holding at the 1943 level or proposing an increase, so that the acreage indicated for all Canada is only 3 per cent down from last year. Total acreage for the Dominion is placed at 14,950,200 acres compared with 15,406,900 acres in 1943.

Barley acreage for all Canada is placed at 94 per cent of the 1943 figure and again the Prairie Provinces indicate most of the reduction, Saskatchewan proposing a 10 per cent decrease, Alberta 5 per cent and Manitoba 4 per cent. The eastern provinces, with the exception of Nova Scotia, report moderate increases in barley acreage in prospect, while British Columbia indicates no change from a year ago. The total for Canada is placed at 7,872,800 acres compared with 8,396,800 acres last year.

Flaxseed

The acreage intended for flaxseed in 1944 is reported to be 30 per cent less than the area planted in 1943, or just over 2,000,000 acres compared with nearly 3,000,000 acres a year ago. Most of this crop is produced in western Canada and Saskatchewan leads the way with a proposed reduction of 729,000 acres. Alberta is next with a cut of 104,000 acres and in Manitoba a reduction of 43,000 acres is contemplated.

Fall Wheat and Fall Rye

It was estimated at the end of April that 7 per cent of the 735,000 acres seeded to fall wheat in Ontario in 1943 for this year's harvest was winter-killed, leaving 684,000 acres producing at that time. The condition of the crop on April 30 was 91 per cent compared with 83 per cent a year earlier and 102 per cent at the end of April 1942. Approximately 16,000 acres of fall rye in Ontario and the three Prairie Provinces were lost through winter-killing or 6 per cent of the total area seeded last fall. The condition figure at the end of April was 91 per cent of normal, or the same as it was a year earlier.

Hay and Clover

Winter-killing of hay and clover meadows in Canada during the winter of 1943-44 amounted to about 5 per cent compared with 7 per cent the previous year. The average condition of these crops at the end of April this year was 95 per cent of normal or slightly better than a year earlier.

The shifts that have taken place in acreage seeded to the principal grain crops in western Canada during the war years will be seen in the following table which sets out the seeded acreage and summerfallow during the eight years 1936 to 1943, together with the intentions figure for 1944:

Seeded Acreage and Summerfallow in Prairie Provinces, 1936-1943

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flaxseed	Summerfallow
	(thousand acres)				
1936	24,838	8,674	3,724	469	16,855
1937	24,599	8,579	3,562	233	15,150
1938	24,946	8,518	3,687	202	16,206
1939	25,813	8,227	3,607	289	15,950
4-year average	25,049	8,500	3,645	298	16,040
1940	27,750	7,818	3,622	364	17,326
1941	21,140	8,137	4,735	982	23,111
1942	20,653	9,666	6,414	1,466	19,979
1943	16,729	11,790	7,896	2,918	20,637
4-year average	21,568	9,353	5,667	1,433	20,263
1944 <u>1/</u>	20,483	11,062	7,358	2,042	19,518

1/ Intentions indicated on April 30, 1944.

Acreage Changes Indicated in Western Canada, 1944

	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Prairie Provinces
	ac.	ac.	ac.	ac.
<u>Decreases</u>				
Oats	16,500	454,000	257,000	727,500
Barley	94,000	332,000	112,000	538,000
Flax	43,000	729,000	104,000	876,000
All rye	8,500	81,900	11,900	102,300
Summerfallow	139,000	599,000	381,000	1,119,000
<u>Increases</u>				
Wheat	328,000	2,460,000	966,000	3,754,000

INTENDED ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS AND SUMMERFALLOW

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1944 as reported at April 30, are as follows, with the 1943 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 20,641,800 (16,886,700); oats 14,950,200 (15,406,900); barley 7,872,800 (8,396,800); spring rye 215,000 (224,800); flaxseed 2,069,600 (2,947,800); mixed grains 1,574,200 (1,463,200); potatoes 537,700 (532,700); summerfallow 19,518,000 (20,637,000).

Corresponding figures for the Prairie Provinces are as follows: Three Provinces - Spring wheat 20,483,000 (16,729,000); oats 11,062,000 (11,789,500); barley 7,358,000 (7,896,000); spring rye 201,000 (210,800); flaxseed 2,042,000 (2,918,400); summerfallow 19,518,000 (20,637,000). Manitoba - Spring wheat 1,968,000 (1,640,000); oats 1,615,000 (1,631,500); barley 2,247,000 (2,341,000); spring rye 11,000 (11,000); flaxseed 241,000 (284,000); summerfallow 2,174,000 (2,313,000). Saskatchewan - Spring wheat 12,720,000 (10,260,000); oats 6,028,000 (6,482,000); barley 2,984,000 (3,316,000); spring rye 145,000 (152,400); flaxseed 1,355,000 (2,084,400); summerfallow 11,380,000 (11,979,000). Alberta - Spring wheat 5,795,000 (4,829,000); oats 3,419,000 (3,676,000); barley 2,127,000 (2,239,000); spring rye 45,000 (47,400); flaxseed 446,000 (550,000); summerfallow 5,964,000 (6,345,000).

GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

The progress of spring seeding in Canada at the end of April this year was well in advance of the position at the same date in 1943, particularly in the three Prairie Provinces. Light snowfall in the west during the past winter, together with an unusually dry April, enabled farmers to get on the land early and to proceed rapidly with the planting of new crops. Seeding is less advanced in British Columbia where wet weather in April delayed operations, while in Ontario the cool April weather retarded work on the land. Warmer weather has since been experienced and seeding operations in Ontario are now proceeding rapidly. Work on the land in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces is backward in some areas and this section of the country, generally speaking, is in need of a good rain.

The percentages of seeding done in Ontario and western Canada by April 30 were as follows, with comparative figures for the same date last year within brackets: Spring wheat - Manitoba 81 (43); Saskatchewan 34 (16); Alberta 46 (13); Prairie Provinces 42 (18); Ontario 2 (4); British Columbia 45 (34). Oats - Manitoba 28 (8); Saskatchewan 13 (3); Alberta 25 (7); Prairie Provinces 19 (5); Ontario 12 (6); British Columbia 31 (23). Barley - Manitoba 27 (11); Saskatchewan 12 (3); Alberta 19 (6); Prairie Provinces 18 (6); Ontario 9 (5); British Columbia 21 (14).

Maritime Provinces

The weather during April was generally cold in the Maritime Provinces with severe frost at night, a fall of snow being reported in Prince Edward Island on April 25. The weather turned warmer in the first few days of May and fair progress has been made in the planting of this year's crops. It is feared that the ice which covered many fields may have caused considerable winter-killing of grass and clover crops, but correspondents feel that it is too early to make any estimate of the permanent damage. Rain is needed in most areas and reports from New Brunswick say that the rivers and streams were almost at summer level in the first week of May.

Quebec

The season is two to three weeks earlier in the Montreal and St. Hyacinthe areas of the province of Quebec and crops in the ground are already showing green. Good rains are needed in all districts of the province. It would appear that the clover and alfalfa crops have come through the winter in excellent condition with a minimum of winter-killing.

Ontario

Only a small area had been seeded to spring grains in Ontario by the first of May, due to very cool weather during April. Temperatures have since risen sharply and field work is now in full swing. Indications point to a heavier than normal winter-killing of fall wheat, hay and clover, and the condition of these crops was below average at the end of April.

Manitoba

Four-fifths of the wheat crop and better-than one-quarter of the oats and barley crops had been planted in Manitoba by the end of April. Winter snowfall was very light, and the dry weather experienced in April enabled farmers to make rapid progress with their seeding. Rain is needed to ensure proper germination and some relief to the very dry conditions came with good rains and some snow in the first week of May.

Saskatchewan

Fairly good progress was reported in spring seeding at the end of April in most areas of Saskatchewan and, with the exception of south-west and west-central sections of the province, there was sufficient moisture for germination following good rains which fell on the last two days of April. Cultivation of the land is generally good and except for the dry areas mentioned the condition of pastures is satisfactory. Live stock have wintered well.

Alberta

Almost half the wheat crop in Alberta had been seeded at the end of April in addition to 25 per cent of the oats crop and about 20 per cent of the barley crop. In some of the very dry areas farmers were waiting for a good spring rain before planting, but in common with the other two Prairie Provinces, Alberta got some moisture in the closing days of April, although rainfall was much lighter at most points than in either Saskatchewan or Manitoba. Except for the Peace River district, where surface moisture is sufficient to start crops, there is general need of good rains in the province with the need immediate in the southern and east-central districts.

British Columbia

The spring has been cool and backward and seeding operations were delayed by wet weather during April. Fall wheat and hay and clover appear to have wintered well, only about 3 per cent of winter-killing being reported. Fairly good progress has been made, nevertheless, in the seeding of wheat, oats and barley, 45 per cent of the wheat crop having been planted by April 30.

WINTER-KILLING AND CONDITION OF FALL WHEAT, FALL RYE AND

HAY AND CLOVER MEADOWS

In Ontario, where practically all the fall wheat is grown, it is estimated that 51,000 acres or 7 per cent of the area sown in the autumn of 1943 were winter-killed, leaving 684,000 acres for harvest in 1944 as compared with 601,000 acres in 1943.

In all Canada, where the area seeded to fall rye in the autumn of 1943 amounted to 273,200 acres, 16,000 acres or 6 per cent were winter-killed, leaving for harvest 257,200 acres as compared with 351,300 acres harvested in 1943. By provinces the acreages winter-killed and left for harvest are estimated as follows: Ontario 2,600, 62,400; Manitoba 1,500, 36,500; Saskatchewan 9,000, 113,000; Alberta 2,900, 45,300.

During the winter of 1943-44, the following percentages of hay and clover meadows are estimated to have been winter-killed, with the corresponding figures for the previous winter within brackets: Canada 5 (7); Prince Edward Island 17 (25); Nova Scotia 6 (4); New Brunswick 8 (9); Quebec 3 (2); Ontario 7 (12); Manitoba 3 (3); Saskatchewan 4 (2); Alberta 5 (4); British Columbia 3 (5).

The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April, 1944, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre is as follows, with the condition at April 30, 1943, within brackets: Fall wheat - Ontario 91 (83). Fall rye - Canada 91 (91); Ontario 94 (91); Manitoba 86 (94); Saskatchewan 92 (90); Alberta 89 (89). Hay and clover - Canada 95 (94); Prince Edward Island 94 (80); Nova Scotia 98 (92); New Brunswick 96 (89); Quebec 100 (100); Ontario 92 (88); Manitoba 86 (96); Saskatchewan 89 (98); Alberta 86 (95); British Columbia 95 (95).

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops and Summerfallow
at April 30, 1944 as compared with Acreages in 1943

Crop and Province	Area 1943	Intentions		Crop and Province	Area 1943	Intentions	
		p.c. of 1943	Area 1944			p.c. of 1943	Area 1944
	acres		acres		acres		acres
<u>CANADA -</u>				<u>MANITOBA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	601,000	114	684,000	Spring wheat	1,640,000	120	1,968,000
Spring wheat	16,886,700	122	20,641,800	Oats	1,631,500	99	1,615,000
All wheat	17,487,700	122	21,325,800	Barley	2,341,000	96	2,247,000
Oats	15,406,900	97	14,950,200	Fall rye 1/	45,000	81	36,500
Barley	8,396,800	94	7,872,800	Spring rye	11,000	100	11,000
Fall rye 1/	351,300	73	257,200	All rye	56,000	85	47,500
Spring rye	224,800	96	215,000	Flaxseed	284,000	85	241,000
All rye	576,100	82	472,200	Mixed grains	40,900	100	41,000
Flaxseed	2,947,800	70	2,069,600	Potatoes	28,400	101	29,000
Mixed grains	1,463,200	108	1,574,200	Summerfallow	2,313,000	94	2,174,000
Potatoes	532,700	101	537,700				
Summerfallow	20,637,000	95	19,518,000				
<u>P.E. ISLAND -</u>				<u>SASKATCHEWAN -</u>			
Spring wheat	18,000	95	7,600	Spring wheat	10,260,000	124	12,720,000
Oats	122,700	103	126,400	Oats	6,482,000	93	6,028,000
Barley	14,200	105	14,900	Barley	3,316,000	90	2,984,000
Mixed grains	53,000	99	52,500	Fall rye 1/	187,500	60	113,000
Potatoes	40,500	100	40,500	Spring rye	152,400	95	145,000
<u>NOVA SCOTIA -</u>				All rye	339,900	76	258,000
Spring wheat	2,000	100	2,000	Flaxseed	2,084,400	65	1,355,000
Oats	69,000	100	69,000	Mixed grains	75,500	100	76,000
Barley	12,600	99	12,500	Potatoes	46,500	100	47,000
Mixed grains	7,000	86	6,000	Summerfallow	11,979,000	95	11,380,000
Potatoes	23,000	98	22,500				
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK -</u>				<u>ALBERTA -</u>			
Spring wheat	3,200	98	3,100	Spring wheat	4,829,000	120	5,795,000
Oats	206,300	100	206,300	Oats	3,676,000	93	3,419,000
Barley	18,900	103	19,500	Barley	2,239,000	95	2,127,000
Mixed grains	12,700	102	13,000	Fall rye 1/	54,800	83	45,300
Potatoes	60,300	100	60,300	Spring rye	47,400	95	45,000
<u>QUEBEC -</u>				All rye	102,200	88	90,300
Spring wheat	27,500	98	27,000	Flaxseed	550,000	81	446,000
Oats	1,690,000	101	1,706,900	Mixed grains	80,600	90	73,000
Barley	156,000	101	157,600	Potatoes	31,200	100	31,000
Spring rye	12,600	101	12,700	Summerfallow	6,345,000	94	5,964,000
Mixed grains	291,800	104	303,500				
Potatoes	168,000	103	173,000				
<u>ONTARIO -</u>				<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	601,000	114	684,000	Spring wheat	79,200	104	82,400
Spring wheat	37,800	97	36,700	Oats	72,400	103	74,600
All wheat	638,800	113	720,700	Barley	20,100	100	20,100
Oats	1,457,000	117	1,705,000	Spring rye	1,400	90	1,300
Barley	279,000	104	290,200	Flaxseed	5,400	70	3,800
Fall rye 1/	64,000	98	62,400	Mixed grains	6,700	101	6,800
Flaxseed	24,000	99	23,800	Potatoes	18,800	98	18,400
Mixed grains	895,000	112	1,002,400				
Potatoes	116,000	100	116,000				

1/ Harvested area 1943 and area for harvest 1944.

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