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no. 2

1946

C.R. No. 1
1946-47

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by Authority of the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and CommerceDOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCHDOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

22.000 per year

Dominion Statistician:
Chief, Agricultural Branch:
Grain Statistician:Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
J. B. Rutherford.
W. D. Porter.ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR FIELD CROPS 1946

Ottawa, May 9, 1946 (3 p.m.) - Canadian farmers have indicated that at April 30 they intended to seed approximately 3,000,000 more acres to wheat in 1946 than they did in 1945. This increase will be obtained largely at the expense of oats, barley and summerfallow. Basic data for this report were obtained from the Bureau of Statistics annual April-end survey of crop correspondents. The intended acreage figures obtained from farmers are merely indicative of their plans at the end of April and acreages actually seeded may therefore vary considerably from the intentions figures depending upon conditions affecting seeding subsequent to April 30.

In interpreting the results of this year's April 30 'intentions' survey, an effort has been made to eliminate the habitual bias which exists in data of this nature as obtained from crop correspondents. Revisions have also been made in one or two cases where weather conditions since the end of April appear to have altered seeding intentions.

Wheat.- The acreage in Canada intended for wheat in 1946 is estimated at 26,451,000 acres as compared with 23,414,100 acres in 1945, an over-all increase of 13 per cent or 3,036,900 acres. The increase in the Prairie Provinces which amounts to 3,265,000 acres is greater than the net increase for all Canada, this somewhat unusual situation being accounted for by a concurrent decrease of 230,000 acres in Ontario's fall wheat seeding from that of the previous year. Saskatchewan's share of the increased wheat acreage over last year is estimated at 1,905,000 acres; Alberta shows an increase of 955,000 acres and Manitoba follows with an increase of 405,000 acres. Expressed as percentage increases over the 1945 seeded acreage, Manitoba's estimated increase amounts to 19 per cent, with Saskatchewan and Alberta each exhibiting an increase of 14 per cent. The intentions figures for Saskatchewan as compiled from correspondents' returns were revised somewhat downward for publication due to current reports of adverse seeding conditions in parts of southern Saskatchewan.

Should the country's intended wheat acreage as set out above be realized, Canada's wheat acreage in 1946 will almost equal that of 1939 when 26,756,500 acres were seeded to wheat. The figure would, however, still be well below the record year of 1940 when Canadian farmers seeded 28,726,200 acres to wheat.

Oats and Barley.- For the Dominion as a whole the indicated acreage to be seeded to oats is 13,691,900 acres, as compared with 14,393,200 acres in 1945, a decrease of 5 per cent. All of the decrease appears to be accounted for in the Prairie Provinces. Manitoba's acreage is expected to be down 3 per cent, while Saskatchewan and Alberta each anticipate a decreased seeding of 9 per cent as compared with last year's figures. Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario intend to increase their oat seedings over 1945 by 4 per cent, 6 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. Little, if any, change is anticipated by the remaining provinces.

The intended barley acreage for Canada is estimated at 6,737,500 as compared with 7,350,100 in 1945, a decrease of 8 per cent. Again, practically all of the decrease may be ascribed to the Prairie Provinces. Manitoba's seeding intentions indicate a reduction of 7 per cent while Alberta and Saskatchewan anticipate barley acreages will be decreased by 8 per cent and 11 per cent respectively from last year. All other provinces with the exception of Quebec (which shows a 2 per cent increase) indicate slightly lower barley acreages for this year.

Flaxseed.- The intended 1946 flax acreage figure of 1,049,000 acres for all Canada is only 1 per cent below the 1945 level of 1,059,200 acres. While the over-all picture has changed little, there appears to be a considerable shift in acreage as between provinces. Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario anticipate decreases of 13 per cent, 5 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, while Manitoba expects to seed at least 115 per cent of her last year's acreage.

Seeded Acreage and Summerfallow in Prairie Provinces, 1934-1945,
and Intended Acreage 1946

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flaxseed	Summerfallow
	(thousand acres)				
1934	23,296	9,115	2,962	218	14,901
1935	23,293	9,478	3,187	297	14,252
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
6-year average	24,464	8,765	3,455	285	15,552
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	16,091	11,790	7,896	2,918	20,637
1944	22,444	10,447	6,763	1,298	19,428
1945	22,566	10,749	6,859	1,034	19,859
6-year average	21,774	9,768	6,048	1,344	20,116
1946 <u>1/</u>	25,831	9,883	6,251	1,025	18,724

1/ Intentions indicated on April 30, 1946.

Acreage Changes Indicated in Western Canada, 1946

	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Prairie Provinces
	ac.	ac.	ac.	ac.
<u>Increases</u>				
Wheat	405,000	1,905,000	955,000	3,265,000
Rye	1,700 <u>1/</u>	51,000	8,000	57,300
<u>Decreases</u>				
Oats	51,000	515,000	300,000	866,000
Barley	150,000	294,000	164,000	608,000
Flaxseed	39,000 <u>2/</u>	33,000	15,000	9,000

1/ Decrease.

2/ Increase.

INTENDED ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS AND SUMMERFALLOW

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1946 as reported at April 30, are as follows, with the 1945 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 26,006,000 (22,739,100); oats 13,691,900 (14,393,200); barley 6,737,500 (7,350,100); spring rye 190,300 (169,600); flaxseed 1,049,000 (1,059,200); potatoes 533,400 (507,700); summerfallow 18,724,000 (19,859,000).

Corresponding figures for the Prairie Provinces are as follows:
Three Provinces - Spring wheat 25,831,000 (22,566,000); oats 9,883,000 (10,749,000); barley 6,251,000 (6,859,000); spring rye 181,500 (160,000); flaxseed 1,025,000 (1,034,000); summerfallow 18,724,000 (19,859,000). Manitoba - Spring wheat 2,537,000 (2,132,000); oats 1,646,000 (1,697,000); barley 1,989,000 (2,139,000); spring rye 7,500 (7,000); flaxseed 299,000 (260,000); summerfallow 2,305,000 (2,452,000). Saskatchewan - Spring wheat 15,515,000 (13,610,000); oats 5,202,000 (5,717,000); barley 2,378,000 (2,672,000); spring rye 131,000 (111,000); flaxseed 622,000 (655,000); summerfallow 10,990,000 (11,692,000). Alberta - Spring wheat 7,779,000 (6,824,000); oats 3,035,000 (3,335,000); barley 1,884,000 (2,048,000); spring rye 43,000 (42,000); flaxseed 104,000 (119,000); summerfallow 5,429,000 (5,715,000).

GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

In consequence of the late spring in the Maritimes and Quebec, work on the land has been considerably retarded. In many areas pasture growth has been extremely slow. Ontario reports seeding well advanced but growth generally delayed by low temperatures and dry weather. In contrast to last year the Prairie Provinces have enjoyed an early spring and seeding is well advanced throughout, particularly in Manitoba. Precipitation during April, however, was below normal over the greater part of the western grain area, small areas only of above-normal precipitation being reported in scattered sections of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. April mean temperatures were generally from 5 to 10 degrees above normal over the greater part of the grain producing area of the Prairie Provinces. The season in British Columbia is rather backward but moisture conditions are reported as very satisfactory, with prospects excellent for tree fruits. Small fruit plants wintered well and present prospects indicate a larger crop than last year.

Maritime Provinces - Crop prospects so far have been somewhat obscured by the exceptionally late spring. Relatively warm weather was experienced in March, but April has been cold with heavy falls of snow. Pastures only turned green at the end of April and correspondents so far have differed considerably in their estimates of the extent of winter-killing of clovers and grasses. In many sections of the Maritimes the dry weather last season, the light covering of snow during the winter and late spring frosts, have combined to provide a rather pessimistic outlook for grasses and clovers in these areas. The late snowfalls may have helped the situation by preventing damage from late frosts. Reports from the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia indicate that the cool spring weather has held back the fruit buds, thereby increasing their chances of escaping frost damage this year.

Quebec - In a general way the weather has been cold and wet since the beginning of spring and vegetation in meadows and pastures seems to be later than in normal years. Fields along the Lower St. Lawrence and Northern part of the province are still covered with snow, but seeding is reported to have started in the district of Montreal. According to reports received from crop correspondents, the percentage of the acreage under hay and clover damaged by winter is 5.3 per cent, but it is too soon to know exactly the extent of the damage. The grass in pasture land is too scanty to permit milk cows to leave their winter quarters.

Ontario - Seeding of spring grain is well advanced in Ontario as a whole, being practically completed at May 1 in western Ontario; 75 per cent completed in central Ontario and from 15 to 35 per cent in eastern and northern Ontario. The soil worked easily in south-western Ontario but germination and growth has been retarded by dry, cold weather and windy and frosty nights. Winter-killing of fall wheat, hay and clover crops was moderate in south-western Ontario but was considerable in central and eastern Ontario. Growth of these crops and pastures has also been slow.

Manitoba - Reports from Manitoba indicate that spring work in the grain producing areas is unusually well advanced for this time of year. Soil and weather conditions have been generally ideal for early seeding. Wheat seeding, with the exception of northern areas, was nearing completion by the 4th of May. Last year it was estimated that only one per cent of the wheat crop had been seeded by the end of April. Precipitation during April was below normal, but moisture conditions are still deemed to be generally satisfactory with the possible exception of the south-western portion of the province, where rainfall would be beneficial.

Saskatchewan - On May 6 wheat seeding was reported to be from 60 to 85 per cent complete in south-central and west-central districts, and will likely be completed by the end of the present week except in the south-west areas, where owing to continued dry weather seeding has been withheld. Taking the province as a whole, approximately 40 per cent of the wheat acreage had been seeded by the 6th of May, with about 15 to 25 per cent of coarse grains sown at the same date.

The weather in the last few days of April was warm and dry, but since the first of May has been cloudy and cool, with scattered showers in some districts. Live stock, generally, are in fair to good condition and pastures are improving.

Alberta - Seeding of wheat in southern portions of the province was nearly complete by the end of April and some early seedings were showing above ground. Fall and winter wheat are reported to have wintered well in this area, but dry weather and high winds during April have caused some damage.

The winter snow covering in central Alberta was generally heavy and fall crops wintered well. Wheat seeding was reported to have been well under way by the 4th of May, but many farmers are delaying spring work in order to ensure a good

weed kill by slightly later cultivation. Relatively little oats and barley were seeded in central Alberta by the end of April and very little seeding of any crops had been done in northern and north-eastern areas by April 30. Reports from the Peace River area indicate that fields became bare of snow about mid-April and fall crops wintered well. Work on the land was just getting under way at the end of April. Moisture conditions throughout the province are reported as generally fair to good, but April has been unusually warm and dry and rains are needed in some areas, particularly in the south, to check soil drifting and to permit even germination.

British Columbia - The past winter has been mild in all sections of the province with heavy rainfall in the coastal areas and satisfactory precipitation and snowfall in the interior. Small fruit plants have come through the winter in satisfactory condition with present prospects indicating an increased crop over that of the previous year. Tree fruits, on the whole, have wintered well in interior sections with crop prospects excellent for 1946. The season is somewhat backward. More-than-usual rainfall and cool weather during April has retarded ploughing and seeding operations, particularly in the coastal areas. Weather since the first of May has been quite warm and growth development is rapid. Moisture conditions in all sections are very satisfactory to date.

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 34,000 acres or 7 per cent of the area sown in the autumn of 1945 were winter-killed, leaving 445,000 acres for harvest in 1946 as compared with 675,000 acres in 1945.

In all Canada, where the area seeded to fall rye in the autumn of 1945 amounted to 349,000 acres, 14,200 acres or 4 per cent were winter-killed, leaving for harvest 334,800 acres as compared with 317,500 acres harvested in 1945. By provinces the acreages winter-killed and left for harvest are estimated as follows: Ontario 5,000 and 49,000; Manitoba 200 and 16,800; Saskatchewan 6,000 and 179,000; Alberta 3,000 and 90,000.

During the winter of 1945-46, 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 7 (3); Prince Edward Island 27 (4); Nova Scotia 9 (3); New Brunswick 15 (5); Quebec 5 (3); Ontario 8 (3); Manitoba 1 (5); Saskatchewan 1 (4); Alberta 2 (3); British Columbia 2 (5).

The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April, 1946, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre is as follows, with the condition at April 30, 1945, within brackets: Fall wheat - Ontario 89 (103). Fall rye - Canada 98 (85); Ontario 93 (96); Manitoba 98 (88); Saskatchewan 101 (79); Alberta 97 (88). Hay and clover - Canada 93 (98); Prince Edward Island 79 (106); Nova Scotia 93 (100); New Brunswick 90 (98); Quebec 97 (100); Ontario 88 (101); Manitoba 99 (90); Saskatchewan 99 (90); Alberta 96 (88); British Columbia 98 (88).

PROGRESS OF SPRING SEEDING

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 61 (1); Saskatchewan 34 (-); Alberta 32 (8); Prairie Provinces 36 (2); Ontario 68 (69); British Columbia 28 (27). Oats - Manitoba 23 (1); Saskatchewan 18 (-); Alberta 22 (5); Prairie Provinces 20 (2); Ontario 74 (73); British Columbia 19 (27). Barley - Manitoba 21 (1); Saskatchewan 20 (-); Alberta 17 (3); Prairie Provinces 19 (1); Ontario 73 (71); British Columbia 14 (22).

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops and Summerfallow at April 30, 1946,
as compared with Acreages in 1945

Crop and Province	Area 1945	Intentions		Crop and Province	Area 1945	Intentions	
		p.c. of 1945	Area 1946			p.c. of 1945	Area 1946
	acres		acres		acres		acres
<u>CANADA -</u>				<u>MANITOBA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	675,000	66	445,000	Spring wheat	2,132,000	119	2,537,000
Spring wheat	22,739,100	114	26,006,000	Oats	1,697,000	97	1,646,000
All wheat	23,414,100	113	26,451,000	Barley	2,139,000	93	1,989,000
Oats	14,393,200	95	13,691,900	Fall rye 1/	19,000	88	16,800
Barley	7,350,100	92	6,737,500	Spring rye	7,000	107	7,500
Fall rye 1/	317,500	105	334,800	All rye	26,000	93	24,300
Spring rye	169,600	112	190,300	Flaxseed	260,000	115	299,000
All rye	487,100	108	525,100	Potatoes	25,000	104	26,000
Flaxseed	1,059,200	99	1,049,000	Summerfallow	2,452,000	94	2,305,000
Potatoes	507,700	105	533,400				
Summerfallow	19,859,000	94	18,724,000				
<u>P. E. ISLAND -</u>				<u>SASKATCHEWAN -</u>			
Spring wheat	4,000	100	4,000	Spring wheat	13,610,000	114	15,515,000
Oats	119,000	100	119,000	Oats	5,717,000	91	5,202,000
Barley	13,700	99	13,600	Barley	2,672,000	89	2,378,000
Potatoes	43,000	110	47,000	Fall rye 1/	148,000	121	179,000
<u>NOVA SCOTIA -</u>				Spring rye	111,000	118	131,000
Spring wheat	1,300	104	1,400	All rye	259,000	120	310,000
Oats	68,200	104	70,900	Flaxseed	655,000	95	622,000
Barley	10,000	96	9,600	Potatoes	36,600	103	37,700
Potatoes	22,400	110	24,600	Summerfallow	11,692,000	94	10,990,000
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK -</u>				<u>ALBERTA -</u>			
Spring wheat	2,400	103	2,500	Spring wheat	6,824,000	114	7,779,000
Oats	202,000	100	202,000	Oats	3,335,000	91	3,035,000
Barley	13,300	97	12,900	Barley	2,048,000	92	1,884,000
Potatoes	66,200	110	72,800	Fall rye 1/	83,000	108	90,000
<u>QUEBEC</u>				Spring rye	42,000	103	43,000
Spring wheat	23,400	100	23,400	All rye	125,000	106	133,000
Oats	1,654,000	106	1,753,000	Flaxseed	119,000	87	104,000
Barley	132,600	102	135,300	Potatoes	25,900	110	28,500
Spring rye	8,400	91	7,600	Summerfallow	5,715,000	95	5,429,000
Potatoes	156,100	103	160,800				
<u>ONTARIO -</u>				<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	675,000	66	445,000	Spring wheat	106,000	101	107,000
Spring wheat	36,000	102	36,700	Oats	79,000	102	81,000
All wheat	711,000	68	481,700	Barley	16,500	98	16,200
Oats	1,522,000	104	1,583,000	Spring rye	1,200	100	1,200
Barley	305,000	98	298,900	Flaxseed	2,000	100	2,000
Fall rye 1/	67,500	73	49,000	Potatoes	16,500	107	17,700
Flaxseed	23,200	95	22,000				
Potatoes	116,000	102	118,300				

1/ Harvested area 1945 and area for harvest 1946.

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