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Minister of Trade and CommerceDominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall
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Ottawa, May 12, 1949, 3 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics today issues its report on acreage intentions for 1949 field crops.

Summary - Canadian farmers have indicated on the basis of their intentions at April 30, that they will seed three million more acres to spring wheat in 1949 than they did in 1948. At the same time an increase of over half a million acres in summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces is anticipated. The total acreage seeded to wheat in Canada for harvest in 1949 is expected to be just under 27 million acres while some 20.6 million will be summerfallowed. Decreases are looked for in Canada's other major grain crops. Oats at 10.8 million acres are down 4 per cent from last year while barley at 6.0 million has dropped 7 per cent. Extremely sharp declines will occur in seedings of rye and flaxseed, the extent of the change from last year in these two crops being 43 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. The acreage to be seeded to potatoes this year is 5 per cent below the 1948 level.

Basic data for these estimates were obtained from the Bureau's annual April 30 survey of crop correspondents. These intended acreage estimates are merely indicative of farmers' 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. The next official report on acreages will be the Bureau's "Preliminary Estimate of Areas Sown to Field Crops" which is scheduled for release on July 21.

Wheat - The acreage in Canada intended for wheat in 1949 is placed at 27.0 million acres, an increase of 12 per cent over the 1948 acreage of 24.1 million. Intended wheat seedings in the Prairie Provinces are estimated at 26.0 million acres, up 3 million acres from the 1948 level of 23.0 million. Ontario's wheat acreage for harvest in 1949 is currently placed at 762,800 acres, a decline of 16 per cent from the 1948 harvested area. Little change from 1948 is anticipated in the remaining provinces where wheat is a relatively minor crop. Fall wheat has been seeded to some extent in Alberta and Saskatchewan in recent years but official estimates on these seedings are not yet available. It is thought, however, that the total of such wheat on the Prairies is perhaps less than 300,000 acres, most of which is in Alberta, and this year it is reported that poor germination and winterkilling have taken a heavy toll of the winter cereals seeded in western Canada. For the purpose of this report, western winter wheat has been included under spring wheat, and the acreage of fall wheat shown in the totals refers to Ontario only. The anticipated increase in wheat acreage in each of the Prairie Provinces is as follows: Manitoba 722,000 acres or 30 per cent; Saskatchewan 1,338,000 or 9 per cent and Alberta 939,000 or 15 per cent.

A western wheat acreage of the magnitude indicated (26.0 million acres) will, if realized, substantially exceed the 1940-48 average of 22.3 million and would be only about 6 per cent below the record level of 1940 when 27.8 million acres were seeded to wheat in the Prairie Provinces.

Oats and Barley - For the Dominion as a whole, farmers intend to seed 10.8 million acres to oats as compared with 11.2 million in 1948—the decline being wholly accounted for in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta with either no change or modest increases expected in all other provinces.

The intended barley acreage for all Canada is estimated at 6.0 million acres as compared with 6.5 million last year. Declines are anticipated in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia with increases occurring quite generally from Manitoba eastward. While the anticipated barley sowings of 5.6 million acres in the Prairie Provinces are lower than in any year since 1941, they are well above the 1931-39 average of 3.3 million. The estimated oats acreage in the Prairie Provinces, however, is the lowest since 1915.

Flaxseed - The intended flaxseed sowings of less than half a million acres represent a decrease of 75 per cent from the 1948 acreage of 1.9 million. The greatest decrease is expected in Manitoba where acreage is expected to drop by 80 per cent.

Rye - The area of fall rye for harvest in 1949 is placed at 0.9 million acres, a decrease of 45 per cent from last year's harvested acreage. Spring rye seeding intentions are down 35 per cent from the 1948 acreage level. For all rye the indicated acreage is 1.2 million acres, a decrease of 43 per cent from last year.

Potatoes - A decline of 5 per cent from the 1948 acreage is expected in the all-Canada potato acreage. Decreases are indicated for all provinces with the exception of Saskatchewan (1 per cent increase); Alberta (no change); and British Columbia (2 per cent increase).

Seeded Acreage and Summerfallow in Prairie Provinces, 1931-48
and Intended Acreage 1949

	Wheat <u>1/</u>	Oats	Barley	Rye <u>2/</u>	Flaxseed	Summerfallow
	(thousand acres)					
1931	25,586	8,279	3,214	733	641	12,398
1932	26,395	8,533	3,154	706	454	12,993
1933	25,177	8,945	3,032	520	236	14,389
1934	23,296	9,115	2,962	619	218	14,901
1935	23,293	9,478	3,187	649	297	14,252
1936	24,838	8,674	3,724	562	469	16,854
1937	24,599	8,579	3,562	808	233	15,150
1938	24,946	8,518	3,687	655	202	16,206
1939	25,813	8,227	3,607	1,014	289	15,950
9-year average	24,883	8,705	3,348	696	338	14,788
1940	27,750	7,818	3,622	943	364	17,326
1941	21,140	8,137	4,735	861	982	23,112
1942	20,653	9,666	6,414	1,246	1,466	19,979
1943	16,091	11,790	7,896	498	2,918	20,637
1944	22,444	10,447	6,763	573	1,298	19,783
1945	22,566	10,749	6,859	410	1,034	19,859
1946	23,731	8,522	5,797	641	821	20,422
1947	23,357	7,898	7,035	1,072	1,513	19,440
1948	23,045	7,535	6,082	1,965	1,868	19,991
9-year average	22,309	9,174	6,134	912	1,363	20,061
1949 <u>3/</u>	26,044	7,017	5,587	1,090	447	20,566

1/ Includes relatively small acreages of fall wheat sown the previous autumn for harvest during the current year.

2/ Includes fall rye sown the previous autumn for harvest during the current year.

3/ Intentions indicated on April 30, 1949.

Acreage Changes Indicated in Western Canada, 1949

	Prairie Provinces	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
	- acres -			
<u>Increases</u>				
Wheat	2,999,000	722,000	1,338,000	939,000
Summerfallow	575,000	41,000	348,000	186,000
<u>Decreases</u>				
Oats	518,000	45,000 <u>1/</u>	204,000	359,000
Barley	495,000	77,000 <u>1/</u>	349,000	223,000
Rye	874,700	35,700	602,000	237,000
Flaxseed	1,421,000	848,000	412,000	161,000

1/ Increase.

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops and Summerfallow

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1949 as reported at April 30, are as follows, with the 1948 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 26,254,200 (23,247,400); oats 10,772,600 (11,200,500); barley 6,016,000 (6,495,300); spring rye 322,200 (497,200); flaxseed 484,300 (1,934,500); potatoes 481,600 (508,200); summerfallow 20,566,000 (19,991,000).

Corresponding figures for the Prairie Provinces are as follows: Three Provinces - Spring wheat 26,044,000 (23,045,000); oats 7,017,000 (7,535,000); barley 5,587,000 (6,082,000); spring rye 308,000 (483,000); flaxseed 447,000 (1,868,000); summerfallow 20,566,000 (19,991,000). Manitoba - Spring wheat 3,119,000 (2,397,000); oats 1,536,000 (1,491,000); barley 1,617,000 (1,540,000); spring rye 11,000 (21,000); flaxseed 214,000 (1,062,000); summerfallow 2,097,000 (2,056,000). Saskatchewan - Spring wheat 15,727,000 (14,389,000); oats 3,448,000 (3,652,000); barley 1,967,000 (2,316,000); spring rye 170,000 (250,000); flaxseed 176,000 (588,000); summerfallow 12,084,000 (11,736,000). Alberta - Spring wheat 7,198,000 (6,259,000); oats 2,033,000 (2,392,000); barley 2,003,000 (2,226,000); spring rye 127,000 (212,000); flaxseed 57,000 (218,000); summerfallow 6,385,000 (6,199,000).

General Crop Conditions

A telegraphic report covering crop conditions throughout Canada was released by the Bureau of Statistics on May 10. In view of this a detailed account of current crop conditions is not included in this report. In general, however, the situation across Canada is this:

In Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia the growing season is eight to ten days earlier than usual, with the temperature and rainfall well above average. Seeding is expected to become general over most of this area this week. In New Brunswick, work on the land is general in the southern districts and in the area adjacent to the St. John River.

In Quebec and Ontario, the weather has been generally favourable for field work. Seeding operations have been progressing favourably in Quebec for the past two weeks while in south-western and central Ontario seeding is practically completed. Clover and grasses have wintered exceptionally well and pastures are making luxuriant growth in eastern Canada.

The Prairie Provinces are suffering considerably from lack of moisture and dry winds. Precipitation since April 1 is far below normal, the deficiencies being particularly extreme in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Wheat seeding is about completed in Manitoba and a good start has been made on other farm crops. Seeding operations are about three weeks earlier in Saskatchewan than a year ago. In Alberta wheat seeding is well advanced in many districts and is becoming general throughout this province. Rain is needed badly in Saskatchewan and Alberta to promote germination and also to stop soil drifting in some southern areas. In Manitoba, apart from an occasional field, soil drifting is not serious.

Seeding conditions, after a slow start, are considerably ahead of those of last year in British Columbia. Moisture conditions are generally satisfactory except in the Okanagan on lighter soil where the moisture supply

is becoming deficient and irrigation has been started. Favourable weather has permitted timely spraying of tree fruits and a fairly heavy set is expected throughout the province.

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 37,000 acres or 5 per cent of the area sown in the autumn of 1948 was winter-killed, leaving 711,000 acres for harvest in 1949 as compared with 858,500 acres in 1948.

In all Canada, where the area seeded to fall rye as estimated in the autumn of 1948 amounted to 1,161,000 acres, 284,700 acres or 25 per cent were winter-killed, leaving for harvest 876,300 acres as compared with 1,605,900 acres harvested in 1948. By provinces the acreages winter-killed and left for harvest are estimated as follows: Ontario 3,000 and 94,000; Manitoba 700 and 68,300; Saskatchewan 219,000 and 466,000; Alberta 62,000 and 248,000.

During the winter of 1948-49, 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 6 (4); Prince Edward Island 5 (9); Nova Scotia 5 (5); New Brunswick 8 (7); Quebec 5 (4); Ontario 10 (4); Manitoba 2 (2); Saskatchewan 6 (1); Alberta 4 (2); British Columbia 4 (4).

The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April 1949, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre is as follows, with the condition at April 30, 1948, within brackets: Fall wheat - Ontario 100 (102). Fall rye - Canada 67 (100); Ontario 100 (102); Manitoba 99 (93); Saskatchewan 56 (100); Alberta 73 (100); Hay and clover - Canada 95 (97); Prince Edward Island 100 (90); Nova Scotia 98 (92); New Brunswick 96 (95); Quebec 98 (98); Ontario 94 (97); Manitoba 97 (93); Saskatchewan 76 (101); Alberta 79 (97); British Columbia 98 (96).

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 39 (2); Saskatchewan 39 (-); Alberta 44 (-); Prairie Provinces 40 (-); Ontario 48 (33); British Columbia 40 (25). Oats - Manitoba 9 (-); Saskatchewan 16 (-); Alberta 21 (-); Prairie Provinces 16 (-); Ontario 48 (55); British Columbia 27 (21); Barley - Manitoba 7 (-); Saskatchewan 21 (-); Alberta 17 (-); Prairie Provinces 16 (-); Ontario 48 (48); British Columbia 18 (10).

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops and Summerfallow at April 30, 1949
as compared with Acreages in 1948

Crop and Province	Area 1948	Intentions		Crop and Province	Area 1948	Intentions	
		p.c. of 1948	Area 1949			p.c. of 1948	Area 1949
	acres		acres		acres		acres
<u>CANADA -</u>				<u>MANITOBA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	858,500	83	711,000	Spring wheat	2,397,000	130	3,119,000
Spring wheat	23,247,400	113	26,254,200	Oats	1,491,000	103	1,536,000
All wheat	24,105,900	112	26,965,200	Barley	1,540,000	105	1,617,000
Oats	11,200,500	96	10,772,600	Fall rye 1/	94,000	73	68,300
Barley	6,495,300	93	6,016,000	Spring rye	21,000	52	11,000
Fall rye 1/	1,605,900	55	876,300	All rye	115,000	69	79,300
Spring rye	497,200	65	322,200	Flaxseed	1,062,000	20	214,000
All rye	2,103,100	57	1,198,500	Potatoes	26,300	99	26,000
Flaxseed	1,934,500	25	484,300	Summerfallow	2,056,000	102	2,097,000
Potatoes	508,200	95	481,600				
Summerfallow	19,991,000	103	20,566,000				
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND -</u>				<u>SASKATCHEWAN -</u>			
Spring wheat	5,600	100	5,600	Spring wheat	14,389,000	109	15,727,000
Oats	118,000	100	118,000	Oats	3,652,000	94	3,448,000
Barley	9,100	103	9,400	Barley	2,316,000	85	1,967,000
Potatoes	48,200	92	44,300	Fall rye 1/	988,000	47	466,000
<u>NOVA SCOTIA -</u>				Spring rye	250,000	68	170,000
Spring wheat	1,600	100	1,600	All rye	1,238,000	51	636,000
Oats	68,100	103	70,100	Flaxseed	588,000	30	176,000
Barley	7,200	100	7,200	Potatoes	34,300	101	34,600
Potatoes	21,000	95	20,000	Summerfallow	11,738,000	103	12,084,000
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK -</u>				<u>ALBERTA -</u>			
Spring wheat	2,900	94	2,700	Spring wheat	6,239,000	115	7,198,000
Oats	187,000	101	189,000	Oats	2,392,000	85	2,033,000
Barley	11,000	101	11,100	Barley	2,226,000	90	2,003,000
Potatoes	67,900	89	60,400	Fall rye 1/	400,000	62	248,000
<u>QUEBEC -</u>				Spring rye	212,000	60	127,000
Spring wheat	24,000	98	23,500	All rye	612,000	61	375,000
Oats	1,381,000	102	1,409,000	Flaxseed	218,000	26	57,000
Barley	144,300	103	148,600	Potatoes	22,800	100	22,800
Spring rye	13,200	100	13,200	Summerfallow	6,199,000	103	6,385,000
Potatoes	155,000	93	144,000				
<u>ONTARIO -</u>				<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	858,500	83	711,000	Spring wheat	116,000	108	125,000
Spring wheat	52,300	99	51,800	Oats	75,800	104	78,800
All wheat	910,800	84	762,800	Barley	15,600	98	15,300
Oats	1,835,600	103	1,890,700	Spring rye	1,000	100	1,000
Barley	226,100	105	237,400	Flaxseed	2,200	29	600
Fall rye 1/	123,900	76	94,000	Potatoes	17,400	102	17,700
Flaxseed	64,300	57	36,700				
Potatoes	115,300	97	111,800				

1/ Harvested area 1948 and area for harvest 1949.