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ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR FIELD CROPS 1950

Ottawa, May 11, 1950, 3 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics today issues its report on acreage intentions for 1950 field crops.

Summary - Canadian farmers have indicated on the basis of their intentions at April 30, that the acreage seeded to spring wheat will be reduced about 2 per cent from last year's level. This is equivalent to a decline of some 400,000 acres. Land to be devoted to summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces is also down from last year, the reduction amounting to about 4 per cent or a little over 850,000 acres. The total acreage under wheat in Canada for harvest in 1950 is placed at 27.2 million acres while some 20.1 million acres may be summerfallowed. Offsetting these declines, significant increases are looked for in the major coarse grain crops and flaxseed. The intended acreage of oats at 12.0 million is up 6 per cent from last year while barley at 6.9 million has registered an indicated increase of 15 per cent. Total rye acreage is practically unchanged from 1949 but an anticipated increase of 55 per cent in flax seedings should give Canada nearly half a million acres of flax this year. The acreage intended for potatoes this year is 5 per cent below the 1949 level.

Basic data for these estimates were obtained from the Bureau's annual April 30 survey of crop correspondents conducted in cooperation with provincial departments. 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. In Manitoba, the probable effect of the current serious floods in the Red River Valley has been given some consideration in the estimates for that province. Should the floods persist too long, however, some further shift toward summerfallow and away from grains, particularly wheat, may be anticipated in the affected areas. Unseasonably low temperatures and late spring over much of Canada may also cause farmers to alter their original seeding plans should these conditions prevail too far into the season.

Wheat - The acreage in Canada intended for all wheat (spring and winter) in 1950 is placed at 27.2 million acres, about one per cent below last year's level of 27.5 million. This may be compared with the

Data not yet available for Newfoundland.

10-year average (1940-49) of 23.6 million acres. Intended wheat seedings in the Prairie Provinces are placed at 26.1 million, down some 0.4 million from 1949. Ontario's wheat acreage for harvest in 1950 is currently placed at 917,800 acres (nearly all of which is winter wheat), an increase of six per cent over the 1949 harvested area. Wheat is of much less importance in the remaining provinces and the small changes indicated have little effect on the national total. Winter wheat is seeded to some extent in Alberta and Saskatchewan but official estimates on these seedings are not currently available. It is thought, however, that the total of such wheat on the Prairies is probably less than 200,000 acres, most of which is in Alberta. For the purpose of this report, western winter wheat has been included under spring wheat, and the acreage of winter wheat shown in the totals refers to Ontario only.

The anticipated change in wheat acreage from last year in each of the Prairie Provinces is as follows: Manitoba down 317,000 acres or 10 per cent; Saskatchewan up 157,000 acres or 1 per cent, and Alberta down 228,000 acres or 3 per cent. A western wheat acreage of the magnitude indicated (26.1 million) will, if realized, considerably exceed the 1940-49 average of 22.7 million but would be some 6 per cent below the record level of 1940 when 27.8 million acres were sown to wheat in the Prairie Provinces.

Oats and Barley - For the country as a whole, farmers intend to seed 12.0 million acres to oats as compared with 11.4 million in 1949. Increases are indicated in all provinces, with Alberta and Saskatchewan accounting for the major portion. The 1940-49 average acreage of oats in Canada as a whole was 12.8 million.

The intended barley acreage for all Canada is estimated at 6.9 million acres as compared with 6.0 million last year and the 10-year average of 6.6 million. Increases are anticipated in all provinces except Nova Scotia and Ontario. Most of the increase will occur in the Prairie Provinces. The expected barley sowings of 6.9 million acres have been exceeded only in the years 1942 to 1945 and in 1947. The record acreage was that of 1943 when 8.4 million acres were sown to this crop.

Flaxseed - The intended flaxseed acreage of just under half a million acres represents an increase of 55 per cent from the 1949 level of only 321,000 acres. This may be compared with the 1940-49 average of 1.3 million acres and the record seeding in 1943 of 2.9 million.

Rye - The area of fall rye for harvest in 1949 is placed at 832,300 acres, a decrease of 5 per cent from last year's harvested acreage. Spring rye seeding intentions are up 12 per cent from the 1949 acreage level. For all rye the indicated acreage is 1.2 million acres, practically unchanged from 1949.

Potatoes - A decline of 5 per cent from the 1949 acreage is expected in the all-Canada potato acreage. Declines are anticipated in all provinces except Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with the sharpest decreases occurring in the Maritime Provinces.

Seeded Acreage and Summerfallow in Prairie Provinces, 1930-49
and Intended Acreage 1950

	Wheat ^{1/}	Oats	Barley	Rye ^{2/}	Flaxseed	Summerfallow
- thousand acres -						
1930	23,960	8,286	4,755	1,370	571	11,744
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
10-year average	24,790	8,663	3,488	764	361	14,484
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	22,820	7,535	6,082	1,965	1,810	19,991
1949	26,490	7,339	5,617	1,061	304	20,958
10-year average	22,704	8,990	6,082	927	1,251	20,151
1950 ^{3/}	26,102	7,875	6,511	1,060	482	20,105

^{1/} Includes relatively small acreages of winter 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, 1950.

Acreage Changes Indicated in Western Canada, 1950

	Prairie Provinces	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
- acres -				
Wheat	-388,000	-317,000	+157,000	-228,000
Oats	+536,000	+ 51,000	+169,000	+316,000
Barley	+894,000	+153,000	+360,000	+381,000
Rye	- 1,300	- 2,300	+ 31,000	- 30,000
Flaxseed	+178,500	+104,000	+ 54,000	+ 20,500
Summerfallow ...	-853,000	+ 22,000	-508,000	-367,000

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops and Summerfallow

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1950 as reported at April 30, are as follows, with the 1949 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 26,342,400 (26,735,700); oats 12,041,800 (11,388,900); barley 6,918,100 (6,016,700); spring rye 345,600 (308,600); flaxseed 497,000 (321,100); potatoes 486,700 (510,300); summerfallow 20,105,000 (20,958,000).

Corresponding figures for the Prairie Provinces are as follows:

Three Provinces - Spring wheat 26,102,000 (26,490,000); oats 7,875,000 (7,339,000); barley 6,511,000 (5,617,000); spring rye 331,500 (294,100); flaxseed 482,000 (303,500); summerfallow 20,105,000 (20,958,000). Manitoba - Spring wheat 2,850,000 (3,167,000); oats 1,754,000 (1,703,000); barley 1,852,000 (1,699,000); spring rye 8,500 (6,100); flaxseed 238,000 (134,000); summerfallow 2,178,000 (2,156,000). Saskatchewan - Spring wheat 15,894,000 (15,737,000); oats 3,550,000 (3,381,000); barley 2,160,000 (1,800,000); spring rye 165,000 (133,000); flaxseed 186,000 (132,000); summerfallow 12,178,000 (12,686,000). Alberta - Spring wheat 7,358,000 (7,586,000); oats 2,571,000 (2,255,000); barley 2,499,000 (2,118,000); spring rye 158,000 (138,000); flaxseed 58,000 (37,500); summerfallow 5,749,000 (6,116,000).

General Crop Conditions

A telegraphic report covering crop conditions throughout Canada was released by the Bureau of Statistics on May 9. In view of this a detailed account of crop conditions is not included in this report. In general, however, the situation across Canada is this:

The season in the Maritimes is considerably delayed by cold weather. Seeding is under way in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia and some ploughing has been done in Cumberland County. Elsewhere in the province work on the land has not started. Pastures have wintered well but some winterkilling of clovers is reported in the Amherst area. In New Brunswick only a few very early fields have been seeded with most of the land being too wet to handle. Clovers and alfalfa suffered severe winter injury and warm weather is needed for the growth of meadows and pastures.

In strong contrast to last year it has not yet been possible to start field work in Quebec. It is expected, however, that some farmers in the districts around Montreal will start seeding this week, given warmer weather. Low temperatures and night frosts have delayed growth in pastures and meadows with the result that cattle are still being stable fed. Meadows have been damaged in some areas but it is too early to estimate the general extent of winterkilling.

Persistent cold, backward weather throughout Ontario has delayed spring seeding considerably this year. Very little was completed in April, but good progress was made in the southern and central counties during the first week of May. It will be another week to ten days before work on the land is started in northern Ontario. Although pastures have made very little growth, lack of feed supplies has forced a number of farmers to turn out their young cattle and dry cows. However, most cattle are still being stable fed. Extensive winterkilling of clover and alfalfa has been reported and the prospective hay crop has been reduced considerably. From 10 to 15 per cent of the winter wheat acreage has been killed and the development of the remainder has been slowed by the cool, frosty weather. Fruit buds have been slow in developing and the general fruit crop prospect is below that of a year ago.

Appreciably below normal temperatures throughout the Prairie Provinces have delayed drying and retarded pasture development. Field work is as much as

two weeks later than usual in most areas. The situation in Manitoba is aggravated by excessive precipitation and serious flooding in the Red River Valley. For the most part, surface moisture is adequate to start germination in Alberta and Saskatchewan but sub-soil moisture reserves are generally below normal.

In British Columbia the season is fully two weeks later than last year. While seeding has commenced in the lower Fraser Valley, work on the land generally has been delayed by backward weather. The danger of floods is still serious in many areas because of the large amount of snow remaining in the mountains. Orchards throughout the province show serious damage. Provincial officials state that peach and apricot crops will be a near failure while cherries and prunes will be reduced by half. Nearly normal crops of pears are expected but apples may be reduced considerably. Strawberry and raspberry production is expected to reach the 1949 level but loganberries will be short.

Winterkilling 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 106,000 acres or 11 per cent of the area sown in the autumn of 1949 was winterkilled, leaving 860,000 acres for harvest in 1950 as compared with 805,000 acres in 1949.

In all Canada, where the area seeded to fall rye is estimated at 933,000 acres, 100,700 acres or 11 per cent were winterkilled, leaving for harvest 832,300 acres as compared with 873,000 acres harvested in 1949. By provinces the acreages winterkilled and left for harvest are estimated as follows: Ontario 8,000 and 104,000; Manitoba 700 and 35,300; Saskatchewan 83,000 and 556,000; Alberta 9,000 and 137,000.

During the winter of 1949-50, the following percentages of hay and clover meadows are estimated to have been winterkilled, with the corresponding figures for the previous winter within brackets: Canada, excluding Quebec, 17 (6); Prince Edward Island 20 (5); Nova Scotia 8 (5); New Brunswick 16 (8); Quebec not available (5); Ontario 25 (10); Manitoba 2 (2); Saskatchewan, 2 (6); Alberta 3 (4); British Columbia 8 (4).

The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April 1950, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre is as follows, with the condition at April 30, 1949, within brackets: Fall wheat - Ontario 90 (100). Fall rye - Canada 89 (67); Ontario 93 (100); Manitoba 91 (99); Saskatchewan 88 (56); Alberta 90 (73); Hay and clover - Canada 83 (95); Prince Edward Island 88 (100); Nova Scotia 91 (98); New Brunswick 86 (96); Quebec 85 (98); Ontario 74 (94); Manitoba 91 (97); Saskatchewan 93 (76); Alberta 90 (79); British Columbia 90 (98).

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 4 (39); Saskatchewan - (39); Alberta 13 (44); Prairie Provinces 4 (40); Ontario 2 (48); British Columbia 16 (40). Oats - Manitoba 1 (9); Saskatchewan - (16); Alberta 2 (21); Prairie Provinces 1 (16); Ontario 10 (48); British Columbia 10 (27). Barley - Manitoba 1 (7); Saskatchewan - (21); Alberta 2 (17); Prairie Provinces 1 (16); Ontario 4 (48); British Columbia 6 (18).

INTENDED ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS AND SUMMERFALLOW AT APRIL 30, 1950
AS COMPARED WITH ACREAGES IN 1949

Province and Crop	Area 1949	Intentions		Province and Crop	Area 1949	Intentions	
		p.c. of 1949	Area 1950			p.c. of 1949	Area 1950
	acres		acres		acres		acres
<u>CANADA -</u>				<u>MANITOBA -</u>			
Winter wheat 1/	805,000	107	860,000	Spring wheat	3,187,000	90	2,850,000
Spring wheat	26,725,700	98	26,342,400	Oats	1,703,000	103	1,754,000
All wheat	27,540,700	99	27,202,400	Barley	1,699,000	109	1,852,000
Oats	11,388,900	106	12,041,800	Fall rye 1/	40,000	88	35,300
Barley	6,016,700	115	6,918,100	Spring rye	6,100	140	8,500
Fall rye 1/	873,000	95	832,300	All rye	46,100	95	43,800
Spring rye	308,600	112	345,600	Flaxseed	134,000	178	238,000
All rye	1,181,600	100	1,177,900	Potatoes	26,000	101	26,300
Flaxseed	321,100	155	497,000	Summerfallow	2,156,000	101	2,178,000
Potatoes	510,300	95	486,700	<u>SASKATCHEWAN -</u>			
Summerfallow	20,958,000	96	20,105,000	Spring wheat	15,737,000	101	15,894,000
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND -</u>				Oats	3,381,000	105	3,550,000
Spring wheat	6,500	100	6,500	Barley	1,800,000	120	2,160,000
Oats	113,000	103	116,000	Fall rye 1/	557,000	100	556,000
Barley	10,200	105	10,700	Spring rye	133,000	124	165,000
Potatoes	49,400	88	43,500	All rye	690,000	104	721,000
<u>NOVA SCOTIA -</u>				Flaxseed	132,000	141	186,000
Spring wheat	2,000	118	2,400	Potatoes	32,900	100	32,900
Oats	69,500	103	71,600	Summerfallow	12,686,000	96	12,178,000
Barley	7,300	96	7,500	<u>ALBERTA -</u>			
Potatoes	21,200	90	19,100	Spring wheat	7,586,000	97	7,358,000
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK -</u>				Oats	2,255,000	114	2,571,000
Spring wheat	3,600	94	3,400	Barley	2,118,000	118	2,499,000
Oats	189,000	104	197,000	Fall rye 1/	170,000	81	137,000
Barley	15,000	108	16,200	Spring rye	155,000	102	158,000
Potatoes	61,400	90	55,300	All rye	325,000	91	295,000
<u>QUEBEC -</u>				Flaxseed	37,500	156	58,000
Spring wheat	25,600	95	24,300	Potatoes	25,400	99	25,100
Oats	1,509,000	101	1,524,000	Summerfallow	6,116,000	94	5,749,000
Barley	125,000	104	130,000	<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</u>			
Spring rye	13,800	97	13,400	Spring wheat	149,000	98	146,000
Potatoes	160,000	97	155,000	Oats	83,400	107	89,200
<u>ONTARIO -</u>				Barley	13,700	107	14,700
Winter wheat 1/	805,000	107	860,000	Spring rye	700	102	700
Spring wheat	59,000	98	57,800	Flaxseed	1,100	73	800
All wheat	864,000	106	917,800	Potatoes	17,000	97	16,500
Oats	2,086,000	104	2,169,000				
Barley	228,000	100	228,000				
Fall rye 1/	106,000	98	104,000				
Flaxseed	16,500	86	14,200				
Potatoes	117,000	97	113,000				

1/ Harvested area 1949 and area for harvest 1950.