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INTENDED ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS IN CANADA, 1956

On the basis of their intentions at March 1, Canadian farmers plan to seed an unprecedented acreage to flaxseed in 1956. Moderate increases in oats and mixed grains are also indicated, while the acreage of winter wheat seeded last fall for harvest in 1956 is also greater than in the previous season. These indicated increases are largely offset by prospective decreases in summerfallow acreage in the Prairie Provinces and by reduced seedings of spring wheat, barley, spring rye, soybeans and potatoes. In addition, the acreage of rye seeded last fall for harvest this year was also well below the acreage harvested in 1955. Data on intended acreages of a number of other field crops are not available. These include corn, buckwheat, dry peas and beans, rapeseed, mustard seed, sunflower seed, tame hay, field roots and sugar beets.

Basic data for the estimates of intended acreages in this report were obtained from the annual acreage intentions survey of the Bureau's crop correspondents conducted in co-operation with provincial departments. It is emphasized that the intended acreages in this report are merely indicative of farmers' plans at March 1, and the acreages actually seeded, therefore, may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending upon conditions before and during seeding. Additional factors, such as the availability of good quality seed and the possible effect of this report itself on farmers' plans may contribute to changes in acreages currently indicated. An estimate of the area actually sown to field crops in 1956, based on the Bureau's annual June Survey, is scheduled for release on August 10.

The largest individual shift indicated in use of Canadian crop land is the increase of 1.8 million acres in flaxseed in the four western provinces from the already high level of nearly 2.0 million acres in 1955. The prospective seedings of flaxseed in 1956 at 3.8 million are well in excess of the previous record of 3.0 million seeded in 1943.

The next largest shift in cropping intentions is in summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces where a decline of just over a million acres is indicated. The intended area for spring wheat in all Canada is 20.2 million acres, representing a decrease of 0.7 million acres or 3.4 per cent from the 1955 acreage. When combined with the area seeded to winter wheat last fall, the indicated total for all wheat is 20.8 million acres, a decrease of 3.1 per cent from last year's 21.5 million acres.

Note: Data for Newfoundland not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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Barley acreage is expected to decline in 1956 to 9.5 million acres, down 4.5 per cent from the 1955 record level of 9.9 million. Intended seedings of all rye for 1956, at 589,000 acres, are at the lowest level for this crop since 1945.

The 1956 acreage of mixed grains is expected to reach an all-time record of 1.8 million acres, up 8.3 per cent from the 1955 level. Soybeans and potatoes are expected to show declines of 4.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively from the acreage seeded to these crops in 1955.

Wheat If farmers' current plans are realized, wheat acreage in Canada in 1956 will register the fourth consecutive annual decrease. On the basis of farmers' intentions at March 1, the acreage seeded to spring wheat will be 20.2 million acres, a decrease of over 700,000 acres from 1955 seedings and 4.8 million acres or 19.1 per cent below the 1950-54 average. The major part of the 1956 anticipated decline in spring wheat acreage is in the Province of Alberta where a reduction of 10 per cent from 1955 seedings is indicated.

The combined acreage of spring and winter wheat at 20.8 million acres will, if realized, be the smallest since 1943 and will be about 19 per cent below the five-year (1950-54) average of 25.7 million. Ontario's winter wheat acreage, based on the preliminary estimate issued last November, is placed at 640,000 acres, up 10 per cent from the acreage seeded in the fall of 1954. The relatively small amount of winter wheat grown in other provinces is included with spring wheat for the purposes of these estimates. Durum wheat is also included with spring wheat.

Oats for Grain, Barley and Mixed Grains

Intended acreages of oats and mixed grains at 11.9 and 1.8 million acres respectively are in excess of the acreage seeded to these crops in 1955 and are also well above their five-year averages. Practically all of the increase in acreage in these crops is expected to take place in the Prairie Provinces. Indicated seedings of barley in 1956 at 9.5 million acres are 4.5 per cent below the 1955 acreage but still exceed the five-year average by about 20 per cent. Declines in Manitoba and Saskatchewan account for most of the expected reduction in the 1956 barley acreage from the 1955 level.

Rye

The area intended for spring rye in 1956 is placed at 165,000 acres, nearly 22 per cent below last year's level. With a more than 25 per cent decrease in the area seeded to fall rye last autumn the combined acreage of fall and spring rye is placed at 589,000 acres, down 24.5 per cent from last season and only half the five-year (1950-54) average.

Flaxseed

With the exception of Ontario, where a slight decrease is indicated, substantial increases in flaxseed acreage are in prospect in each of the flax growing provinces. The indicated record total of 3.8 million acres is nearly double last year's area and is almost four times the 1950-54 average. The previous highest flaxseed acreage, at just under 3 million acres, was seeded in 1943.

Soybeans

The soybean acreage intended for 1956 in Ontario, the only province for which estimates are currently available, is placed at 205,000 acres, a decrease of 4.2 per cent from last year's 214,000 acres. Acreage of this crop reached a record high of 254,000 acres in 1954.

Potatoes

Increases in potato acreages are anticipated in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. However, these increases are more than offset by reductions in the other five provinces. The all-Canada total, currently indicated at 304,000 acres is 1.4 per cent below the 1955 level and 3.5 per cent below the five-year average.

Summary of Acreages Intended for Principal Crops and Summerfallow

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1956 as reported at March 1, with 1955 acreages in brackets, are as follows: Spring wheat, 20,208,100 (20,923,800); oats for grain, 11,851,200 (11,178,000); barley, 9,486,600 (9,932,500); spring rye, 164,800 (211,300); mixed grains, 1,847,300 (1,705,200); flaxseed, 3,811,600 (1,988,400); potatoes, 304,000 (308,300).

Corresponding figures for the Prairie Provinces are as follows: Three Provinces — Spring wheat, 20,095,000 (20,812,000); oats for grain, 8,402,000 (7,788,000); barley, 9,195,000 (9,638,000); spring rye, 164,800 (211,300); flaxseed, 3,776,000 (1,959,000); summerfallow, 22,944,000 (23,965,000). Manitoba — Spring wheat, 2,008,000 (1,950,000); oats for grain, 1,797,000 (1,485,000); barley, 1,902,000 (2,090,000); spring rye, 3,900 (4,300); flaxseed, 861,000 (531,000); summerfallow, 2,669,000 (3,140,000). Saskatchewan — Spring wheat, 12,957,000 (13,148,000); oats for grain, 3,691,000 (3,654,000); barley, 3,615,000 (3,846,000); spring rye, 135,000 (166,000); flaxseed, 2,360,000 (1,180,000); summerfallow, 13,734,000 (14,284,000). Alberta — Spring wheat, 5,130,000 (5,714,000); oats for grain, 2,914,000 (2,649,000); barley, 3,678,000 (3,702,000); spring rye, 25,900 (41,000); flaxseed, 555,000 (248,000); summerfallow, 6,541,000 (6,541,000).

Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow, Canada,
as at March 1, 1956 Compared with Estimated Acreages, 1953-55

Province and Crop	Seeded Area ^{1/}			Intended Area, 1956	
	1953	1954	1955	Area	as % of 1955
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>CANADA</u>					
Winter wheat ^{2/}	732,000	710,000	582,000	640,000	110.0
Spring wheat ^{3/}	24,780,600	23,556,800	20,923,800	20,208,100	96.6
All wheat	25,512,600	24,266,800	21,505,800	20,848,100	96.9
Oats for grain	9,829,800	10,160,600	11,178,000	11,851,200	106.0
Barley	8,911,100	7,855,900	9,932,500	9,486,600	95.5
Fall rye ^{4/}	1,031,200	672,500	568,900	424,300	74.6
Spring rye	463,000	178,000	211,300	164,800	78.0
All rye	1,494,200	850,500	780,200	589,100	75.5
Mixed grains	1,445,400	1,632,600	1,705,200	1,847,300	108.3
Flaxseed	972,000	1,206,000	1,988,400	3,811,600	191.7
Soybeans	216,000	254,000	214,000	205,000	95.8
Potatoes	323,100	299,700	308,300	304,000	98.6
Summerfallow ^{5/}	22,764,000	25,253,000	23,965,000	22,944,000	95.7
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>					
Spring wheat	2,900	3,300	3,400	3,300	98
Oats for grain	106,000	97,600	95,000	95,000	100
Barley	4,800	3,800	2,900	2,800	96
Mixed grains	70,200	78,700	79,000	78,000	99
Potatoes	41,000	40,500	43,000	40,800	95
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>					
Spring wheat	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Oats for grain	55,800	54,600	51,000	52,000	102
Barley	3,000	2,500	2,300	2,200	97
Mixed grains	9,400	10,100	9,800	9,900	101
Potatoes	12,400	11,300	12,300	12,200	99
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>					
Spring wheat	2,700	3,200	2,200	2,200	100
Oats for grain	152,000	153,000	137,000	141,000	103
Barley	8,900	9,100	6,700	6,500	97
Mixed grains	7,200	8,000	7,400	7,400	100
Potatoes	48,400	45,600	47,000	43,700	93

^{1/} Except for summerfallow.

^{2/} Seeded in the fall of the preceding year; Ontario only.

^{3/} Includes relatively small acreages of winter wheat in all provinces other than Ontario.

^{4/} Seeded in the fall of the preceding year; includes small acreages of spring rye in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

^{5/} Prairie Provinces only.

Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow, Canada,
as at March 1, 1956, compared with Estimated Acreages, 1953-1955

Province and Crop	Seeded Area ^{1/}			Intended Area, 1956	
	1953 acres	1954 acres	1955 acres	Area acres	as % of 1955 per cent
<u>QUEBEC</u>					
Spring wheat	11,100	11,300	12,200	11,700	96
Oats for grain	1,380,000	1,371,000	1,316,000	1,329,000	101
Barley	56,500	53,100	61,600	59,100	96
Fall rye	2,700	2,800	5,000	5,000	100
Mixed grains	202,000	209,000	199,000	199,000	100
Potatoes	100,000	92,000	92,100	87,500	95
<u>ONTARIO</u>					
Winter wheat	732,000	710,000	582,000	640,000	110
Spring wheat	33,500	31,000	27,000	25,900	96
All wheat	765,500	741,000	609,000	665,900	109
Oats for grain	1,548,000	1,685,000	1,708,000	1,742,000	102
Barley	171,000	144,000	144,000	145,000	101
Fall rye	75,000	90,000	65,000	75,000	115
Mixed grains	1,017,000	1,130,000	1,120,000	1,120,000	100
Flaxseed	41,000	19,000	16,400	16,100	98
Soybeans	216,000	254,000	214,000	205,000	96
Potatoes	63,000	56,500	58,000	59,200	102
<u>MANITOBA</u>					
Spring wheat	2,208,000	2,035,000	1,950,000	2,008,000	103
Oats for grain	1,412,000	1,510,000	1,485,000	1,797,000	121
Barley	2,365,000	2,202,000	2,090,000	1,902,000	91
Fall rye	120,000	78,700	78,700	63,000	80
Spring rye	15,000	5,700	4,300	3,900	90
All rye	135,000	84,400	83,000	66,900	81
Mixed grains	33,300	38,300	51,000	77,000	151
Flaxseed	420,000	444,000	531,000	861,000	162
Potatoes	18,800	17,100	19,000	22,000	116
Summerfallow	2,845,000	3,100,000	3,140,000	2,669,000	85
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>					
Spring wheat	16,100,000	15,540,000	13,148,000	12,957,000	99
Oats for grain	2,721,000	2,851,000	3,654,000	3,691,000	101
Barley	2,745,000	2,313,000	3,846,000	3,615,000	94
Fall rye	500,000	315,000	284,000	185,000	65
Spring rye	316,000	138,000	166,000	135,000	81
All rye	816,000	453,000	450,000	320,000	71
Mixed grains	22,800	35,600	59,800	65,800	110
Flaxseed	342,000	518,000	1,180,000	2,360,000	200
Potatoes	12,800	11,100	11,600	12,500	108
Summerfallow	13,544,000	14,679,000	14,284,000	13,734,000	96

^{1/} Except for summerfallow.

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Intended Acreages of Principal Field Crops and Summerfallow, Canada,
as at March 1, 1956, compared with Estimated Acreages, 1953-1955

Province and Crop	Seeded Area ^{1/}			Intended Area, 1956	
	1953	1954	1955	Area	as % of 1955
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>ALBERTA</u>					
Spring wheat	6,340,000	5,862,000	5,714,000	5,130,000	90
Oats for grain	2,357,000	2,354,000	2,649,000	2,914,000	110
Barley	3,489,000	3,053,000	3,702,000	3,678,000	99
Fall rye	328,000	181,000	133,000	93,100	70
Spring rye	132,000	34,300	41,000	25,900	63
All rye	460,000	215,300	174,000	119,000	68
Mixed grains	80,600	120,000	176,000	287,000	163
Flaxseed	164,000	215,000	248,000	555,000	224
Potatoes	15,400	15,400	15,900	15,700	99
Summerfallow	6,375,000	7,474,000	6,541,000	6,541,000	100

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Spring wheat	81,400	70,000	66,000	69,000	105
Oats for grain	98,000	84,400	83,000	90,200	109
Barley	67,900	75,400	77,000	76,000	99
Fall rye	5,500	5,000	3,200	3,200	100
Mixed grains	2,900	2,900	3,200	3,200	100
Flaxseed	5,000	10,000	13,000	19,500	150
Potatoes	11,300	10,200	9,400	10,400	111

^{1/} Except for summerfallow.

Indicated Acreage Changes from 1955 in the Prairie Provinces

Crop	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Prairie Provinces
- acres -				
Wheat	+ 58,000	- 191,000	- 584,000	- 717,000
Oats for grain	+ 312,000	+ 37,000	+ 265,000	+ 614,000
Barley	- 188,000	- 231,000	- 24,000	- 443,000
Rye	- 16,000	- 130,000	- 55,000	- 201,000
Flaxseed	+ 330,000	+ 1,180,000	+ 307,000	+ 1,817,000
Summerfallow	- 471,000	- 550,000	unchanged	- 1,021,000