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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF CROP AND SUMMERFALLOW ACREAGES, CANADA, 1955 1/

Preliminary estimates of 1955 field crop acreages indicate that Canadian farmers seeded the smallest wheat acreage since 1943 and the smallest rye acreage since 1947. Reductions in these two crops and summerfallow are offset by a record barley acreage and sharply increased acreages of oats and flaxseed. Other crops registering increases in area over 1954 are mixed grains, corn for grain, dry beans, potatoes, tame hay and fodder corn. In addition to winter wheat, spring wheat and fall rye, smaller acreages have been seeded to buckwheat, dry peas, soybeans, field roots and sugar beets.

The direction of the shifts in acreages among major grains was indicated by the Bureau's March 1 survey of farmers' acreage intentions but an unusually late seeding season throughout most of the Prairie Provinces increased the extent of the shift from wheat to coarse grains and flaxseed and resulted in a smaller decrease in summerfallow acreage than originally planned. For Canada as a whole, the area seeded to the 15 spring-planted crops included in this report is estimated at 47.7 million acres compared with 46.3 million in 1954 and the ten-year (1944-53) average of 47.4 million. An additional 24.0 million acres is in summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces, a decrease of 1.3 million acres or 5 per cent from last year's record area. Total acreage in the 15 spring-planted crops, together with winter wheat, fall rye, tame hay and summerfallow amounts to 83.8 million acres, practically unchanged from last year's 83.7 million.

Acreage estimates for 1955 are, with some exceptions, based on returns from the Bureau's annual June acreage survey and have been made in consultation with the officials responsible for agricultural statistics in each of the provinces. Data on sugar beets have been supplied by the processing companies and, in most cases, allowance has been made for acreage abandoned to date. Estimates for some crops grown in relatively small areas have been obtained from provincial officials. As in former years, current estimates are subject to revision in the light of further information obtained during the season and when marketing and other check data become available after the end of the crop year.

1/ Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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One of the largest shifts in crop acreage in recent years has taken place in the Prairie Provinces where estimated reductions of 2.6 million acres in wheat and 1.3 million in summerfallow from 1954 have been accompanied by increases of 2.1 million acres in barley, 1.1 million in oats and 0.8 million in flaxseed. The sharp reduction in wheat area in the Prairies has resulted in lowering the all-Canada acreage for this crop to 21.5 million acres, the smallest since 1943 when only 16.7 million acres were seeded. The 1955 total acreage of spring and winter wheat is 11 per cent below last year's 24.3 million and 14 per cent below the ten-year average of 25.0 million acres.

In the Prairie Provinces the wheat area is placed at 20.8 million acres, 11 per cent down from last year's 23.4 million. Most of the decrease from last year took place in Saskatchewan where the area is estimated at 13.1 million acres, compared with 15.5 million last year and the ten-year average of 15.0 million. Saskatchewan also had the largest proportional decrease, 15 per cent, while Alberta's acreage, estimated at 5.7 million acres, and Manitoba's, at 1.9 million, showed decreases of 3 and 4 per cent, respectively. The area of winter wheat in Ontario, the principal producing area for that crop, is estimated at 582,000 acres, 18 per cent below the 1954 level and 11 per cent below the ten-year average of 656,000 acres.

The area seeded to oats is placed at 11.2 million acres, 10 per cent above last year's 10.2 million but 3 per cent below the ten-year average of 11.5 million acres. Practically all of the increase took place in the Prairie Provinces where this year's total oats acreage is estimated at 7.8 million acres, 16 per cent above the 1954 area but 3 per cent below the ten-year average of 8.1 million. Acreages seeded to this crop in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba are estimated at 3.7 million, 2.6 million and 1.5 million acres, respectively. A slight increase also occurred in Ontario where this year's acreage is placed at 1.7 million acres but other provinces showed decreases ranging from 2 per cent in British Columbia to 10 per cent in New Brunswick.

After last year's reduction in barley acreage, the first since 1949, Canadian farmers seeded a record area to this crop in 1955. This year's area, estimated at 9.9 million acres, exceeds the previous record of 8.9 million in 1953 by 1.0 million acres and is 26 per cent above last year's area of 7.9 million acres and 38 per cent above the ten-year average of 7.2 million. As with oats, the greatest increase occurred in the Prairie Provinces where barley acreage is estimated at 9.6 million acres, representing increases of 27 per cent over last year and 42 per cent over the ten-year average of 6.8 million. The largest increases occurred in Saskatchewan where the 1955 area is estimated at 3.8 million acres, 66 per cent above last year's total, and in Alberta, where the area is placed at 3.7 million acres, 21 per cent above that of 1954. In contrast to Saskatchewan and Alberta, a decrease of 5 per cent occurred in Manitoba where the 1955 acreage is estimated at 2.1 million acres. Decreases were also registered in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec but Ontario's acreage remained unchanged at 144,000 and British Columbia's increased slightly to 77,000 acres.

The area seeded to fall rye in 1954, estimated at 567,000 acres, showed a decrease of 16 per cent from the previous year, but this was partially offset by an increase of 19 per cent in the area seeded to spring rye. The combined area seeded to fall and spring rye is placed at 778,000 acres, 9 per cent below the 1954 area of 850,000 acres and 33 per cent below the ten-year average of 1.2 million. In the Prairie Provinces, the largest producing area, total rye acreage is estimated at 707,000 acres, 6 per cent below that of 1954.

The largest proportional increase in acreage seeded to an individual crop in 1955 has taken place in flaxseed, currently estimated at almost 2.0 million acres, 65 per cent above the 1954 level of 1.2 million and the largest since 1943 when almost 3.0 million acres were seeded. All four Western Provinces shared in the increase, with the largest change taking place in Saskatchewan where the acreage is estimated at 1.2 million acres, more than double last year's 518,000. The next largest area is in Manitoba, estimated at 531,000 acres, 20 per cent above that of 1954, while Alberta has an estimated 248,000 acres, an increase of 15 per cent over last year.

The acreage seeded to mixed grains, accounting this year for the fifth largest cereal crop area, is estimated at 1.7 million acres, up 4 per cent over last year. While most of this crop is grown in Eastern Canada, practically all of the increase over 1954 is attributable to sharply increased acreages in the Prairie Provinces.

Other spring-planted crops showing increases over last year were corn for grain, dry beans, potatoes and fodder corn. The area planted to corn for grain has continued the upward trend of recent years, with this year's acreage estimated at 514,000 acres, 23 per cent above the 1954 total of 418,000 and 82 per cent over the ten-year average of 282,000 acres. With the exception of 14,000 acres in Manitoba, all of this year's grain corn acreage is in Ontario. The area planted to dry beans, commercial production of which is confined to Quebec and Ontario, is estimated at 81,000 acres, an increase of 12 per cent over 1954 and 8 per cent above the ten-year average.

Potato acreage, estimated at 306,300 acres, is up by 3 per cent over 1954, but is 20 per cent below the ten-year average of 382,700 acres. All provinces except British Columbia shared in the increase over last year, with the highest proportional increases of 11 per cent each occurring in Prince Edward Island and Manitoba. The fodder corn area is placed at 366,400 acres, 3 per cent above 1954 but 8 per cent below the ten-year average of 400,200.

The remaining spring-seeded crops showed declines from last year, with buckwheat dropping from 130,500 acres in 1954 to 107,400 acres in 1955; dry peas from 50,000 to 44,500; soybeans from 254,000 to 214,000; field roots from 42,800 to 42,400; and sugar beets from 90,500 to 84,200 acres.

The acreage in tame hay, estimated at 11.1 million acres, is 2 per cent above 1954 and 5 per cent above the ten-year average. With the exception of Ontario which showed a decrease of 1 per cent, all provinces shared in this year's increase.

Acreages of those crops for which 1955 estimates are currently available are shown in Table 1 for Canada as a whole and by provinces, together with annual estimates for 1953 and 1954, and ten-year averages for the 1944-1953 period. Estimates used throughout the report include all revisions made to date. In calculating the ten-year averages shown in Table 1, revised annual estimates for the period 1944-1950 and currently published data for 1951-1953 have been used. It should be noted that, as a result of rounding, the sum of the provincial ten-year averages do not exactly equal the ten-year Canada average for some crops.

Tables 2, 3 and 4 set out by crop districts for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively, estimates of the 1955 area seeded to wheat, oats and barley and the area in summerfallow, together with estimates for 1954. Table 5 summarizes acreages in the major field crops and summerfallow for the Prairie Provinces as a whole.

Table 1 - Preliminary Estimates of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, Canada, 1955
with Comparisons

Province and Crop	Average 1944 - 1953	1953	1954	1955	1955 as Per Cent of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>CANADA 1/</u>					
Winter wheat	656,000	732,000	710,000	582,000	82
Spring wheat 2/	24,297,900	24,780,600	23,556,800	20,922,400	89
All wheat	24,953,900	25,512,600	24,266,800	21,504,400	89
Oats for grain	11,495,200	9,830,000	10,160,600	11,178,000	110
Barley	7,159,200	8,911,100	7,855,900	9,912,300	126
Fall rye 3/	804,600	1,031,200	672,500	566,700	84
Spring rye	359,700	463,000	178,000	211,300	119
All rye	1,164,300	1,494,200	850,500	778,000	91
Mixed grains	1,336,500	1,445,400	1,632,600	1,705,200	104
Corn for grain	282,300	362,000	418,000	514,000	123
Buckwheat	162,300	147,900	130,500	107,400	82
Peas, dry	65,900	60,400	50,000	44,500	89
Beans, dry	74,900	68,500	72,500	81,000	112
Potatoes	382,700	321,100	296,200	306,300	103
Flaxseed	1,088,100	972,000	1,206,000	1,988,400	165
Soybeans	108,000	216,000	254,000	214,000	84
Field roots 4/	65,300	43,200	42,800	42,400	99
Tame hay	10,561,000	10,702,000	10,802,000	11,055,000	102
Fodder corn	400,200	364,700	355,500	366,400	103
Sugar beets 5/	75,300	81,952	90,453	84,200	93
Summerfallow 6/	21,088,000	22,764,000	25,253,000	23,965,000	95
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>					
Spring wheat	3,000	2,900	3,300	3,400	103
Oats for grain	107,000	106,200	97,600	95,000	97
Barley	5,500	4,800	3,800	2,900	76
Mixed grains	55,700	70,200	78,700	79,000	100
Potatoes	41,600	39,000	37,000	41,000	111
Field roots	8,100	6,600	6,500	6,400	98
Tame hay	215,000	191,000	204,000	205,000	100
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>					
Spring wheat	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Oats for grain	62,000	55,800	54,600	51,000	93
Barley	5,200	3,000	2,500	2,300	92
Mixed grains	6,100	9,400	10,100	9,800	97
Potatoes	15,100	12,400	11,300	12,300	109
Field roots	5,600	4,600	4,300	4,200	98
Tame hay	385,000	345,000	353,000	357,000	101

1/ In some provinces the area seeded to certain crops is too small to permit reliable annual estimates. Acreages in such crops have not been included in the totals for Canada.

2/ Includes relatively small acreages of winter wheat in all provinces other than Ontario.

3/ Includes small acreages of spring rye in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

4/ Excludes Prairie Provinces and British Columbia for which current estimates are not available.

5/ Harvested area except for 1955.

6/ Prairie Provinces only.

Table 1 - Preliminary Estimates of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, Canada, 1955
with Comparisons (continued)

Province and Crop	Average 1944 - 1953	1953	1954	1955	1955 as Per Cent of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>					
Spring wheat	2,600	2,700	3,200	2,200	69
Oats for grain	173,000	152,000	153,000	137,000	90
Barley	11,300	8,900	9,100	6,700	74
Mixed grains	4,300	7,200	8,000	7,400	92
Buckwheat	10,200	6,700	6,800	7,200	106
Potatoes	55,000	48,400	45,600	47,000	103
Field roots	6,000	3,600	3,400	3,000	88
Tame hay	505,000	430,000	428,000	458,000	107
<u>QUEBEC</u>					
Spring wheat	12,400	11,100	11,300	10,800	96
Oats for grain	1,402,000	1,380,000	1,371,000	1,316,000	96
Barley	77,300	56,500	53,100	41,400	78
Fall rye	3,800	2,700	2,800	2,800	100
Mixed grains	200,000	202,000	209,000	199,000	95
Buckwheat	51,700	41,200	45,100	44,200	98
Peas, dry	5,800	3,300	3,700	4,000	108
Beans, dry	1,700	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Potatoes	113,000	100,000	92,000	92,100	100
Field roots	14,100	11,100	10,600	10,800	102
Tame hay	3,842,000	3,637,000	3,644,000	3,725,000	102
Fodder corn	73,900	72,600	76,500	69,200	90
Sugar beets	5,400	7,025	6,473	6,600	102
<u>ONTARIO</u>					
Winter wheat	656,000	732,000	710,000	582,000	82
Spring wheat	40,300	33,500	31,000	27,000	87
All wheat	696,300	765,500	741,000	609,000	82
Oats for grain	1,599,000	1,548,000	1,685,000	1,708,000	101
Barley	224,000	171,000	144,000	144,000	100
Fall rye	80,400	75,000	90,000	65,000	72
Mixed grains	977,000	1,017,000	1,130,000	1,120,000	99
Corn for grain	264,000	347,000	400,000	500,000	125
Buckwheat	93,300	77,000	54,600	41,000	75
Peas, dry	18,600	10,000	9,600	7,000	73
Beans, dry	73,200	67,500	71,500	80,000	112
Potatoes	82,000	63,000	56,500	58,000	103
Flaxseed	44,000	41,000	19,000	16,400	86
Soybeans	108,000	216,000	254,000	214,000	84
Field roots	30,700	17,300	18,000	18,000	100
Tame hay	3,382,000	3,500,000	3,440,000	3,407,000	99
Fodder Corn	300,000	264,000	255,000	274,000	107
Sugar beets	24,200	22,771	23,504	18,900	80

Table 1 - Preliminary Estimates of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, Canada, 1955
with Comparisons (continued)

Province and Crop	Average 1944 - 1953	1953	1954	1955	1955 as Per Cent of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>MANITOBA</u>					
Spring wheat	2,368,000	2,208,000	2,035,000	1,950,000	96
Oats for grain	1,497,000	1,412,000	1,510,000	1,485,000	98
Barley	1,906,000	2,365,000	2,202,000	2,090,000	95
Fall rye	52,500	120,000	78,700	78,700	100
Spring rye	11,100	15,000	5,700	4,300	75
All rye	63,600	135,000	84,400	83,000	98
Mixed grains	24,200	33,300	38,300	51,000	133
Corn for grain	18,400	15,000	18,000	14,000	78
Buckwheat	7,000	23,000	24,000	15,000	62
Peas, dry	19,100	37,000	25,000	20,000	80
Potatoes	20,100	18,800	17,100	19,000	111
Flaxseed	429,000	420,000	444,000	531,000	120
Tame hay	363,000	450,000	486,000	524,000	108
Fodder corn	17,600	24,000	20,600	20,200	98
Sugar beets	13,800	17,455	23,510	21,500	91
Summerfallow	2,614,000	2,845,000	3,100,000	3,140,000	101
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>					
Spring wheat	15,006,000	16,100,000	15,540,000	13,148,000	85
Oats for grain	3,889,000	2,721,000	2,851,000	3,654,000	128
Barley	2,426,000	2,745,000	2,313,000	3,846,000	166
Fall rye	467,000	500,000	315,000	284,000	90
Spring rye	230,000	316,000	138,000	166,000	120
All rye	697,000	816,000	453,000	450,000	99
Mixed grains	17,700	22,800	35,600	59,800	168
Peas, dry	4,300	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Potatoes	21,100	12,800	11,100	11,600	104
Flaxseed	471,000	342,000	518,000	1,180,000	228
Tame hay	514,000	540,000	600,000	632,000	105
Fodder corn	4,100	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Summerfallow	12,348,000	13,544,000	14,679,000	14,284,000	97
<u>ALBERTA</u>					
Spring wheat	6,764,000	6,340,000	5,862,000	5,714,000	97
Oats for grain	2,670,000	2,357,000	2,354,000	2,649,000	113
Barley	2,473,000	3,489,000	3,053,000	3,702,000	121
Fall rye	200,000	328,000	181,000	133,000	73
Spring rye	118,000	132,000	34,300	41,000	120
All rye	318,000	460,000	215,300	174,000	81
Mixed grains	49,600	80,600	120,000	176,000	147
Peas, dry	13,400	7,000	8,300	9,700	117
Potatoes	21,000	15,400	15,400	15,900	103
Flaxseed	140,000	164,000	215,000	248,000	115
Tame hay	1,049,000	1,300,000	1,343,000	1,422,000	106
Sugar beets	32,000	34,701	36,966	37,200	101
Summerfallow	6,127,000	6,375,000	7,474,000	6,541,000	88

Table 1 - Preliminary Estimates of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, Canada, 1955
with Comparisons (concluded)

Province and Crop	Average 1944 - 1953	1953	1954	1955	1955 as Per Cent of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>					
Spring wheat	100,000	81,400	70,000	66,000	94
Oats for grain	95,800	98,000	84,400	83,000	98
Barley	30,600	67,900	75,400	77,000	102
Fall rye	2,000	5,500	5,000	3,200	64
Mixed grains	2,300	2,900	2,900	3,200	110
Peas, dry	4,700	2,100	2,400	2,800	117
Potatoes	13,800	11,300	10,200	9,400	92
Flaxseed	4,200	5,000	10,000	13,000	130
Tame hay	306,000	309,000	304,000	325,000	107
Fodder corn	3,800	3,100	2,400	2,000	83

Table 2 - Estimated Seeded Acreages of Principal Grain Crops and Summerfallow,
by Crop Districts, Manitoba, 1954 and 1955

Crop District	Wheat		Oats		Barley		Summerfallow	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
- 000 acres -								
1	170	153	87	72	79	88	203	203
2	255	265	162	160	305	305	343	309
3	546	560	399	439	559	470	631	593
4	32	34	17	18	36	29	37	35
5	94	86	73	66	154	105	131	173
6	23	22	43	46	25	18	35	37
7	262	249	165	148	210	220	385	393
8	141	157	140	133	165	139	253	261
9	128	129	100	89	147	123	204	233
10	152	133	142	143	252	294	300	294
11	106	80	60	65	70	87	287	273
12	63	18	62	27	65	19	82	190
13	41	41	36	49	110	155	127	81
14	22	23	24	30	25	38	82	65
Total	2,035	1,950	1,510	1,485	2,202	2,090	3,100	3,140

Table 3 - Estimated Seeded Acreages of Principal Grain Crops and Summerfallow, by Crop Districts, Saskatchewan, 1954 and 1955

Crop District	Wheat		Oats		Barley		Summerfallow	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
- 000 acres -								
1A	508	391	272	253	180	248	548	559
1B	309	188	217	230	103	124	521	584
2A	663	477	77	113	32	68	673	734
2B	1,097	790	88	146	67	169	936	983
3AS	1,082	952	74	132	100	183	812	780
3AN	577	479	45	78	65	159	542	520
3BS	727	756	37	41	97	103	695	660
3BN	1,135	1,101	49	68	91	150	852	784
4A	362	376	29	34	73	76	337	307
4B	657	664	14	17	48	61	421	400
5A	735	573	231	266	148	259	1,000	960
5B	655	465	316	398	327	579	1,062	988
6A	1,493	1,060	152	252	87	202	1,288	1,404
6B	1,183	994	180	265	106	236	856	813
7A	1,037	1,027	48	62	48	98	937	843
7B	785	730	245	350	47	90	682	607
8A	379	345	132	166	200	292	557	473
8B	818	671	138	167	131	236	634	602
9A	821	690	317	377	220	310	819	786
9B	517	419	190	239	143	203	507	497
Total	15,540	13,148	2,851	3,654	2,313	3,846	14,679	14,284

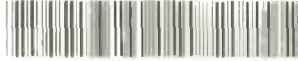
Table 4 - Estimated Seeded Acreages of Principal Grain Crops and Summerfallow,
by Crop Districts, Alberta, 1954 and 1955

Crop District	Wheat		Oats		Barley		Summerfallow	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
- 000 acres -								
1	790	743	24	31	106	149	671	658
2	476	414	72	86	69	110	467	472
3A	155	155	13	16	9	9	89	85
3B	118	97	40	45	52	62	139	143
4	714	657	59	81	108	139	716	695
5	518	534	83	97	43	58	543	494
6	817	760	233	259	351	421	923	905
7	626	626	254	282	120	146	649	597
8	381	400	298	346	455	482	685	555
9	14	13	79	88	229	273	218	164
10	530	488	373	410	366	479	670	556
11	108	133	225	279	280	328	480	302
12	14	36	25	34	32	43	85	53
13	129	114	81	92	142	182	196	169
14	139	177	169	199	323	410	500	310
15	94	118	63	57	89	97	96	71
16	208	220	257	242	270	305	315	277
17	31	29	6	5	9	9	32	35
Total	5,862	5,714	2,354	2,649	3,053	3,702	7,474	6,541

Table 5 - Preliminary Estimates of Acreages in Principal Crops and Summerfallow,
Prairie Provinces, 1955, with Comparisons

Crops	Average 1944 - 1953	1953	1954	1955	1955 as Per Cent of 1954
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
Wheat	24,138,000	24,648,000	23,437,000	20,812,000	89
Oats	8,056,000	6,490,000	6,715,000	7,788,000	116
Barley	6,805,000	8,599,000	7,568,000	9,638,000	127
Rye	1,078,000	1,411,000	752,700	707,000	94
Flaxseed	1,040,000	926,000	1,177,000	1,959,000	166
Tame hay	1,927,000	2,290,000	2,429,000	2,578,000	106
Summerfallow	21,088,000	22,764,000	25,253,000	23,965,000	95

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