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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF CROP AND SUMMERFALLOW ACREAGES, CANADA, 1956

Preliminary estimates of 1956 field crop acreages indicate that Canadian farmers seeded 21.3 million acres to wheat, a decrease of 1 per cent from last year, 12.0 million acres to oats, an increase of 7 per cent, and 8.7 million acres to barley, a decrease of 12 per cent from last year. Flaxseed acreage at 3.1 million acres registered the sharpest increase of any crop, 71 per cent, while the acreage seeded to rye at 0.6 million acres declined 29 per cent from last year. The acreage in summer-fallow, at 23.3 million acres, is 3 per cent below that of 1955. Other crops showing increases in area over 1955 are tame hay, fodder corn, soybeans and dry peas. Slightly smaller acreages are seeded to potatoes, mixed grains, corn for grain, buckwheat, dry beans, field roots, and sugar beets.

The direction of the shifts in acreage among major grains was indicated by the Bureau's March 1 survey of farmers' acreage intentions although the extent of the shifts is not as great as expected for wheat and flaxseed and is larger for oats, barley and rye. Acreage in summerfallow is also less than originally planned. For Canada as a whole, the area seeded to the 15 spring-planted crops included in this report is estimated at 48.1 million acres compared with 47.6 million in 1955 and the ten-year (1945-54) average of 47.3 million. Total acreage in the 15 spring-planted crops, together with winter wheat, fall rye, tame hay and summerfallow amounts to 83.6 million acres, practically unchanged from last year's 83.7 million.

Acreage estimates for 1956 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.

Wheat Total wheat acreage in Canada, estimated at 21.3 million acres is down 1 per cent from last year and 15 per cent below the ten-year (1945-54) average. In the Prairie Provinces where most of the crop is located, acreage declined from 20.8 million acres in 1955 to 20.6 million acres in 1956, about 1 per cent.

Preliminary estimates of Durum wheat acreage in the Prairie Provinces indicate a sharp increase in acreage over the previous year. Acreage seeded to this crop in each of the three provinces and the total with last year's acreage in brackets is as follows: Manitoba, 15,000 (13,000); Saskatchewan, 1,100,000 (475,000); Alberta, 535,000 (206,000); Prairie Provinces, 1,650,000 (694,000).

Note: Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1956.

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Although the acreage seeded to all wheat in the Prairie Provinces declined by 1 per cent, if Durum wheat is excluded the decline in ordinary spring wheat acreage is considerably greater. In 1956, 19.0 million acres were seeded to ordinary spring wheat compared with 20.1 million acres in 1955, a decline of about 6 per cent.

In Manitoba, total wheat acreage, including Durum wheat, increased an estimated 6 per cent from 2.0 million acres in 1955 to 2.1 million acres in 1956. In Saskatchewan, the increase was 2 per cent from 13.1 million acres in 1955 to 13.4 million acres in 1956 while in Alberta the acreage declined 10 per cent, from 5.7 million acres in 1955 to 5.1 million acres in 1956. Ontario's winter wheat area, at 620,000 acres, increased 7 per cent over the 1955 area. However, this acreage is still 7 per cent below the ten-year average.

Oats The area seeded to oats in Canada in 1956 is estimated at 12.0 million acres, an increase of 7 per cent over 1955 and 7 per cent above the ten-year average. In the Prairie Provinces, acreage seeded to oats increased by more than 10 per cent to 8.6 million from the 1955 acreage of 7.8 million. In Manitoba the acreage increased to 2.0 million in 1956 from 1.5 million in 1955, an increase of 32 per cent. Acreage in Saskatchewan remained almost unchanged at 3.7 million. In Alberta the acreage increased 12 per cent to 3.0 million in 1956 from 2.6 million in 1955. The area seeded to oats in Ontario decreased in 1956 to 1.6 million acres from the 1.7 million in 1955, a drop of 5 per cent, while in Quebec acreage increased to 1.4 million from 1.3 million acres in 1955. In the Maritimes acreage in oats increased to 290 thousand acres from 283 thousand acres in 1955.

Barley After last year's record barley acreage, farmers reduced the area seeded to this crop in 1956. The current acreage of 8.7 million is down 12 per cent from 1955, but is still the third largest on record. All provinces shared in the decrease. The decline ranged from 1 per cent in Alberta to 52 per cent in Prince Edward Island. Since 97 per cent of the barley acreage lies in the Prairie Provinces, the decrease in total barley acreage is mainly accounted for by the decreases of 20 per cent in Manitoba and 18 per cent in Saskatchewan.

In Manitoba, seeded area dropped from 2.1 million acres in 1955 to 1.7 million in 1956, the smallest acreage since 1948. In Saskatchewan, area seeded to barley was 3.1 million acres compared with 3.8 million in 1955. The 1956 barley acreage in Saskatchewan is, nevertheless, the third largest recorded in the province. Alberta showed only a small decline from 3.7 million to 3.6 million acres thus regaining its position as Canada's leading barley province, a position it has held since 1949, except for one year (1955) when Saskatchewan led.

Flaxseed For the second year in succession, the largest proportional increase in acreage seeded to an individual crop has occurred in flaxseed. It is currently estimated at 3.1 million acres, the largest acreage ever recorded in Canada, surpassing the previous peak year, 1943, by 5 per cent. The 1956 estimate is an increase of 71 per cent over the 1955 acreage and 289 per cent above the ten-year (1945-54) average. However, while the acreage seeded to flaxseed in 1956 is a record for Canada, only British Columbia reports a provincial record for flaxseed acreage. On a provincial basis the acreage was larger in Manitoba in 1948 and in Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1943.



Rye After decreases in three successive years, the acreage seeded to rye in 1956 is the smallest recorded since 1945. Fall rye declined by 31 per cent to 395,000 acres from 599,000 the preceding year. Reductions occurred in the Prairie Provinces and in Quebec, while acreages in Ontario and British Columbia show slight increases. Estimates of spring rye in all three Prairie Provinces are lower than in 1955. Aggregate acreage in the three provinces is down 23 per cent to 162,000 acres from 211,000 in 1955.

Potatoes The area seeded to potatoes is estimated at 303,000 acres, 2 per cent lower than in 1955 and 17 per cent below the ten-year average. A slight reduction in acreage occurred in each of the five eastern provinces and in British Columbia, while minor increases are registered in each of the Prairie Provinces. Acreages in the important potato exporting provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick are down from 1955 by 1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. In Quebec acreage declined 2 per cent while in Ontario the decline was 3 per cent.

Tame Hay The area of tame hay, at 11.2 million acres in 1956, is the highest on record since 1930. All provinces but Quebec share in the increase, although in no province was the increase very great. In Quebec, acreage of tame hay is 1 per cent lower than last year.

Other Crops After last year's sharp decline, soybean acreage in Ontario increased to 225,000 from 214,000. In Manitoba, for the first year, seedings of soybeans, estimated at 3,000 acres are commercially significant. Other spring-planted crops showing an increase in area over last year are dry peas and fodder corn. Other spring-seeded crops showing decreases in area, with 1955 acreage in brackets, are as follows: Mixed grains, 1,634,700 (1,705,200); corn for grain, 438,200 (507,000); buckwheat, 121,900 (126,900); sugar beets, 77,720 (81,908); dry beans, 72,800 (80,900); and field roots, 33,900 (42,400).

Acreages of those crops for which 1956 estimates are currently available are shown in Table 1 for Canada as a whole and by provinces, together with annual estimates for 1954 and 1955, and ten-year averages for the 1945-54 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 1945-51 and currently published data for 1952-54 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 1956 area seeded to wheat, oats and barley and the area in summerfallow, together with estimates for 1955. 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, 1956  
with Comparisons

Province and Crop	Average 1945—1954	1954	1955	1956	1956 as Per Cent of 1955
- acres -					%
<u>CANADA 1/</u>					
Winter wheat	665,000	710,000	582,000	620,000	107
Spring wheat 2/	24,465,000	23,556,800	20,923,800	20,720,400	99
All wheat	25,130,000	24,266,800	21,505,800	21,340,400	99
Oats for grain	11,170,000	10,160,600	11,178,000	11,972,500	107
Barley	7,244,000	7,855,900	9,932,500	8,722,300	88
Fall rye 3/	829,800	672,500	568,900	395,100	69
Spring rye	354,600	178,000	211,300	161,900	77
All rye	1,184,400	850,500	780,200	557,000	71
Mixed grains	1,372,300	1,632,600	1,705,200	1,634,700	96
Corn for grain	296,500	418,000	507,000	438,200	86
Buckwheat	153,800	130,500	126,900	121,900	96
Peas, dry	64,400	50,000	44,600	47,900	107
Beans, dry	73,600	72,500	80,900	72,800	90
Potatoes	365,700	299,700	308,300	303,100	98
Flaxseed	1,087,000	1,206,000	1,838,400	3,141,000	171
Soybeans	130,300	254,000	214,000	228,000	107
Field roots 4/	59,400	42,800	42,400	38,900	92
Tame hay	10,562,200	10,802,000	11,055,000	11,206,000	101
Fodder corn	395,900	355,500	366,400	400,300	109
Sugar beets 5/	78,800	90,453	81,908	77,720	95
Summerfallow 6/	21,569,000	25,253,000	23,965,000	23,280,000	97
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>					
Spring wheat	3,100	3,300	3,400	2,800	82
Oats for grain	105,000	97,600	95,000	103,000	108
Barley	5,000	3,800	2,900	1,400	48
Mixed grains	59,300	78,700	79,000	69,000	87
Potatoes	41,700	40,500	43,000	42,500	99
Field roots	7,700	6,500	6,400	6,200	97
Tame hay	212,000	204,000	205,000	211,000	103
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>					
Spring wheat	1,100	1,000	1,000	800	79
Oats for grain	60,800	54,600	51,000	48,500	95
Barley	4,700	2,500	2,300	1,700	73
Mixed grains	6,600	10,100	9,800	7,400	76
Potatoes	14,100	11,300	12,300	10,900	89
Field roots	5,200	4,300	4,200	3,600	86
Tame hay	377,000	353,000	357,000	365,000	102

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 1956.

6/ Prairie Provinces only.

7/ Less than 500 acres.

Table 1: Preliminary Estimates of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, Canada, 1956  
with Comparisons (continued)

Province and Crop	Average 1945-1954	1954	1955	1956	1956 as Per Cent of 1955
		- acres -			%
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>					
Spring wheat	2,600	3,200	2,200	1,800	82
Oats for grain	169,000	153,000	137,000	139,000	101
Barley	10,800	9,100	6,700	3,800	56
Mixed grains	4,800	8,000	7,400	6,200	84
Buckwheat	9,400	6,800	7,200	6,700	93
Potatoes	53,300	45,600	47,000	45,500	97
Field roots	5,400	3,400	3,000	2,600	88
Tame hay	488,000	428,000	458,000	460,000	100
<u>QUEBEC</u>					
Spring wheat	11,800	11,300	12,200	12,300	101
Oats for grain	1,382,000	1,371,000	1,316,000	1,356,000	103
Barley	72,000	53,100	61,600	52,400	85
Fall rye	3,700	2,800	5,000	4,400	88
Mixed grains	200,000	209,000	199,000	173,000	87
Buckwheat	49,800	45,100	43,700	40,200	92
Peas, dry	5,100	3,700	3,300	2,500	76
Beans, dry	1,400	1,000	900	800	92
Potatoes	108,000	92,000	92,100	90,300	98
Field roots	12,800	10,600	10,800	10,500	97
Tame hay	3,801,000	3,644,000	3,725,000	3,688,000	99
Fodder corn	74,700	76,500	69,200	73,400	106
Sugar beets	5,700	6,473	6,035	5,000	83
<u>ONTARIO</u>					
Winter wheat	665,000	710,000	582,000	620,000	107
Spring wheat	40,000	31,000	27,000	17,700	66
All wheat	705,000	741,000	609,000	637,700	105
Oats for grain	1,603,000	1,685,000	1,708,000	1,630,000	95
Barley	207,000	144,000	144,000	132,000	92
Fall rye	83,000	90,000	65,000	72,000	111
Mixed grains	995,000	1,130,000	1,120,000	950,000	85
Corn for grain	279,000	400,000	500,000	430,000	86
Buckwheat	85,600	54,600	41,000	50,000	122
Peas, dry	18,300	9,600	7,000	5,500	79
Beans, dry	72,200	71,500	80,000	72,000	90
Potatoes	76,900	56,500	58,000	56,000	97
Flaxseed	43,600	19,000	16,400	17,000	104
Soybeans	130,000	254,000	214,000	225,000	105
Field roots	27,600	18,000	18,000	16,000	89
Tame hay	3,380,000	3,440,000	3,407,000	3,500,000	103
Fodder corn	295,000	255,000	274,000	295,000	108
Sugar beets	25,100	23,504	18,725	14,220	76



Table 1: Preliminary Estimates of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, Canada, 1956  
With Comparisons (continued)

Province and Crop	Average 1945-1954	1954	1955	1956	1956 as Per Cent of 1955
- acres -					%
MANITOBA					
Spring wheat	2,342,000	2,035,000	1,950,000	2,073,000	106
Oats for grain	1,500,000	1,510,000	1,485,000	1,954,000	132
Barley	1,932,000	2,202,000	2,090,000	1,675,000	80
Fall rye	57,000	78,700	78,700	59,400	75
Spring rye	10,600	5,700	4,300	2,900	68
All rye	67,600	84,400	83,000	62,300	75
Mixed grains	26,500	38,300	51,000	79,600	156
Corn for grain	17,200	18,000	7,000	8,200	117
Buckwheat	9,000	24,000	35,000	25,000	71
Peas, dry	20,900	25,000	20,000	25,000	125
Potatoes	19,400	17,100	19,000	20,700	109
Flaxseed	459,000	444,000	531,000	808,000	152
Soybeans	-	-	7/	3,000	-
Tame hay	376,000	486,000	524,000	573,000	109
Fodder corn	17,900	20,600	20,200	27,100	134
Sugar beets	15,200	23,510	20,755	22,500	108
Summerfallow	2,683,000	3,100,000	3,140,000	2,648,000	84
SASKATCHEWAN					
Spring wheat	15,256,000	15,540,000	13,148,000	13,423,000	102
Oats for grain	3,655,000	2,851,000	3,654,000	3,690,000	101
Barley	2,387,000	2,313,000	3,846,000	3,138,000	82
Fall rye	474,000	315,000	284,000	170,000	60
Spring rye	228,000	138,000	166,000	125,000	75
All rye	702,000	453,000	450,000	295,000	66
Mixed grains	20,100	35,600	59,800	100,000	167
Peas, dry	4,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Potatoes	19,100	11,100	11,600	11,900	103
Flaxseed	434,000	518,000	1,030,000	1,750,000	170
Tame hay	526,000	600,000	632,000	667,000	106
Fodder corn	3,600	1,000	1,000	1,900	191
Summerfallow	12,646,000	14,679,000	14,284,000	13,950,000	98
ALBERTA					
Spring wheat	6,711,000	5,862,000	5,714,000	5,134,000	90
Oats for grain	2,599,000	2,354,000	2,649,000	2,961,000	112
Barley	2,589,000	3,053,000	3,702,000	3,649,000	99
Fall rye	209,000	181,000	133,000	86,000	65
Spring rye	116,000	34,300	41,000	34,000	83
All rye	325,000	215,300	174,000	120,000	69
Mixed grains	57,700	120,000	176,000	245,000	139
Peas, dry	12,100	8,300	10,400	10,500	101
Potatoes	20,100	15,400	15,900	16,400	103
Flaxseed	146,000	215,000	248,000	539,000	217
Tame hay	1,097,000	1,343,000	1,422,000	1,415,000	100
Sugar beets	32,800	36,966	36,393	36,000	99
Summerfallow	6,239,000	7,474,000	6,541,000	6,682,000	102

Table 1: Preliminary Estimates of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, Canada, 1956  
with Comparisons (concluded)

Province and Crop	Average 1945-1954	1954	1955	1956	1956 as Per Cent of 1955
- acres -					%
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>					
Spring wheat	91,500	70,000	66,000	55,000	83
Oats for grain	95,600	84,400	83,000	91,000	110
Barley	35,800	75,400	77,000	69,000	90
Fall rye	2,500	5,000	3,200	3,300	104
Mixed grains	2,300	2,900	3,200	4,500	142
Peas, dry	4,100	2,400	2,900	3,400	117
Potatoes	13,300	10,200	9,400	8,900	95
Flaxseed	5,000	10,000	13,000	27,000	206
Tame hay	306,000	304,000	325,000	327,000	101
Fodder corn	3,600	2,400	2,000	2,900	147

Table 2: Estimated Seeded Acreages of Principal Grain Crops and Summerfallow,  
by Crop Districts, Manitoba, 1955 and 1956

Crop District	Wheat		Oats		Barley		Summerfallow	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
- thousand acres -								
1	153	181	72	84	88	57	203	191
2	265	278	160	202	305	217	309	306
3	560	566	429	579	470	395	593	409
4	34	29	18	31	29	23	35	25
5	86	104	66	104	105	111	173	95
6	22	28	46	51	18	14	37	28
7	249	259	148	182	220	154	293	389
8	157	160	133	162	139	95	261	253
9	129	133	89	124	123	87	233	198
10	133	153	143	173	294	244	294	291
11	80	84	65	83	87	62	273	248
12	18	42	27	64	19	54	190	65
13	41	32	49	75	155	129	81	90
14	23	24	30	40	38	33	65	60
Total	1,950	2,073	1,485	1,954	2,090	1,675	3,140	2,648

Table 3: Estimated Seeded Acreages of Principal Grain Crops and Summerfallow, by Crop Districts, Saskatchewan, 1955 and 1956

Crop District	Wheat		Oats		Barley		Summerfallow	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
- thousand acres -								
1A	391	434	253	256	248	208	559	548
1B	188	278	230	246	124	82	584	508
2A	477	544	113	94	68	41	734	705
2B	790	861	146	133	169	93	983	924
3AS	952	952	132	121	183	135	780	803
3AN	479	484	78	75	139	114	520	530
3BS	756	718	41	43	103	82	660	660
3BN	1,101	1,035	68	73	150	104	784	855
4A	376	368	34	40	76	64	307	325
4B	664	578	17	18	61	37	400	448
5A	573	625	266	295	239	231	960	912
5B	465	567	398	454	579	521	988	889
6A	1,060	1,251	252	234	202	143	1,404	1,236
6B	994	1,024	265	231	236	156	813	846
7A	1,027	801	62	62	98	102	843	851
7B	730	708	350	276	90	79	607	674
8A	345	359	166	216	292	266	473	416
8B	671	705	167	165	236	215	602	578
9A	690	704	377	400	310	282	786	755
9B	419	427	239	258	203	183	497	487
Total	13,148	13,423	3,654	3,690	3,846	3,138	14,284	13,950



Table 4: Estimated Seeded Acreages of Principal Grain Crops and Summerfallow, by Crop Districts, Alberta, 1955 and 1956

Crop District	Wheat		Oats		Barley		Summerfallow	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
- thousand acres -								
1	743	661	31	38	149	153	658	665
2	414	406	86	95	110	99	472	458
3A	155	136	16	18	9	10	85	88
3B	97	89	45	50	62	50	143	150
4	657	578	81	90	139	145	695	709
5	534	497	97	109	58	53	494	514
6	760	654	259	298	421	446	905	923
7	626	582	282	321	146	137	597	609
8	400	364	346	377	482	472	555	549
9	13	13	88	106	273	270	164	154
10	488	459	410	459	479	436	556	578
11	133	104	279	307	328	335	302	305
12	36	28	34	40	43	47	53	54
13	114	119	92	107	182	175	169	166
14	177	143	199	207	410	418	310	347
15	118	88	57	64	97	86	71	82
16	220	187	242	269	305	308	277	299
17	29	26	5	6	9	9	35	32
Total	5,714	5,134	2,649	2,961	3,702	3,649	6,541	6,682

Table 5: Preliminary Estimates of Acreages in Principal Crops and Summerfallow, Prairie Provinces, 1956, with Comparisons

Crops	Average 1945-1954	1954	1955	1956	1956 as Per Cent of 1955
	- acres -				%
Wheat	24,309,000	23,437,000	20,812,000	20,630,000	99
Oats	7,754,000	6,715,000	7,788,000	8,605,000	110
Barley	6,908,000	7,568,000	9,638,000	8,462,000	88
Rye	994,000	752,700	707,000	477,300	68
Flaxseed	1,038,000	1,177,000	1,809,000	3,097,000	158
Tame hay	1,999,000	2,429,000	2,578,000	2,655,000	103
Summerfallow	21,569,000	25,253,000	23,965,000	23,280,000	97

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