

22-002
no. 11
1950
June 20
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Historical File Copy

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Agriculture Division
OTTAWA

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

C. R. No. 10

Price: \$2.00 for Series of 25 Crop Reports.

1950.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Ottawa, June 20, 1950, 3 p.m. - The sixth of a series of thirteen telegraphic reports covering conditions in the Prairie Provinces is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men, supply the information on which these reports are based. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport, Toronto.

SUMMARY

Conditions in Alberta remain very dry with rainfall received since April 1 now only one-half of normal. Crops are holding in fair condition as yet in most areas but deterioration has started in central and southcentral sections. Crop growth has been generally satisfactory in Saskatchewan as a result of warmer weather and some rain during the past week. Moisture conditions are favourable in the southeastern and southcentral districts but elsewhere rainfall has been light and is needed in parts of southwestern, central, westcentral and northern regions. In Manitoba moisture is ample to excessive and all seeded crops, hay and pastures are growing rapidly. Some seeding is still being done in areas where heavy rains and flooding delayed operations.

The crop outlook in Manitoba is promising. Moisture is in ample supply and at some points excessive. Growth of grain crops and hay and pastures has been rapid during the past week. Some seeding remains to be done in areas where heavy rains and flooding delayed operations. Grasshoppers are hatching freely on lighter soils on both sides of the Red River but control operations are under way.

Crop growth has been generally favourable in Saskatchewan as a result of warmer weather and recent rains. Generous rains occurred in the southeastern and southcentral districts during the past week and moisture conditions are satisfactory in these areas. Elsewhere in the province rainfall was light and in parts of the southwestern, central, westcentral and northern districts rains are needed for proper plant development. Wheat stands average five inches in height while coarse grains are about four inches above ground. Wireworm damage to crops is reported to be severe in the open prairie areas of the province. Grasshoppers are continuing to hatch in all forecast areas and while damage from this source has been negligible so far it is expected to increase.

Little or no relief from the drought occurred in Alberta this past week. Moisture conditions are still good in the extreme southwest and some rain fell in the southeast corner but the province as a whole is very dry. Crops are holding in fair condition in most areas except in central and southcentral sections. Fall rye is beginning to head in the south and some early fields of wheat are in the shot blade. Hay crops and pastures are poor in central Alberta but fair to good in other areas.

Data not yet available for Newfoundland.

Manitoba - Farmers are still seeding grains in Manitoba in the Red River Valley and areas where rains have delayed operations. The crop outlook is promising with nearly all seeded fields showing green. Pastures and hay crops are good. Growth of wild oats has been heavy but many fields were cultivated before seeding to obtain a kill. Hoppers are hatching freely now on lighter soils on both sides of the Red River. Control operations are under way. Moisture is ample throughout the province and prospects, even for late crops, are promising.

In the southwest part of the province at Melita one inch of rainfall was received on the 15th and the land is very wet. Early wheat is four inches high. Pastures are good but gardens are backward. Warm weather is needed to bring crops along. Few grasshoppers have hatched owing to cool weather. Some flax and millet remain to be seeded. In the East Selkirk district seeding is being brought to an abrupt end because of the lateness of the season. Some of the earlier crops are showing from four to six inches of growth. Forage crops show great promise. Conditions have improved considerably during the past week. Around Winnipeg seeding of coarse grains is continuing but will likely end this week. Early sown grain is from three to five inches high. Rye is heading out but is patchy from drowning. Hay crops are promising on higher land but where the water stayed any length of time the grass growth is poor.

At Portage la Prairie farmers will continue to seed some barley and flax until the end of this week. Crops are making satisfactory growth with wheat four to five inches in height. Grasshoppers are hatching but are confined to grass lands. Hay and pastures are excellent and sugar beets are above ground. Our correspondent from Brandon states that some late barley and flax remains to be sown. Growth of grain and hay crops has been excellent. Moisture conditions are good. Farther west at Woodnorth seeding is practically completed with probably five per cent reduction in acreage due to high water making seeding impossible. Conditions are favourable in this district. At Virden some land prepared is not yet seeded due to frequent heavy rains. Low areas are in danger of being drowned out. Crops are developing rapidly but are quite weedy in many instances. Fall rye shows improvement and is rated at fair to good. Grasshoppers are emerging slowly with no damage reported to date.

In the northcentral part of the province at Teulon seeding is close to completion except in localized areas where fields are still too wet to work. This acreage will amount to about 10 per cent of the district total and the land will likely raise only some feed this year. Seeded crops and all pastures and hay lands are growing satisfactorily. At Minnedosa seeding is nearing completion with an increase in flax acreage. All crops are making rapid progress with adequate moisture. At Shoal Lake conditions remain excellent. Early crops are reaching the stage where they can be sprayed for weeds. Summerfallow land this year is remarkably free of weed growth. The rye crop is heading. At Dauphin recent rains have delayed completion of seeding in parts of the district and some farmers are still sowing coarse grains. Surface and subsoil moisture conditions are excellent. Legume hay and pastures are advancing rapidly and rye is heading out but the stand is not heavy. Crops have not advanced sufficiently for spraying. In the north at Swan River seeding is completed and all growth has been rapid. Chemical weed control is under way. No grasshoppers are in evidence. Summerfallow work is started on the land. Pastures are good except where overgrazing has taken place. The rye crop is heading out and wheat is stooling well.

The Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports that grasshoppers are hatching in considerable numbers and spraying operations have commenced in

western and southern Red River Valley areas.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 39 per cent above normal as compared with 9 per cent below normal at the same time last year and 43 per cent above normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 19 was 0.2 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - Good rains were received during the past week over southeastern and southcentral Saskatchewan but elsewhere rainfall was light. With warmer weather crop growth has been favourable except in parts of the southwestern, central, westcentral and northern districts where rain is required for satisfactory plant development. Wheat averages five inches in height and coarse grains are about four inches above ground. Grasshoppers are continuing to hatch in all forecast areas, their development being furthest advanced in central Saskatchewan. Damage from this source has been negligible to date. Wireworm damage, however, is reported to be severe throughout open prairie areas of the province and considerable reseeding has been necessary.

In southeastern and southcentral Saskatchewan moisture conditions are generally satisfactory and the crop outlook is good. All crops are reported making rapid progress in the Fillmore area as a result of abundant rainfall and higher temperatures during the week. Farther west at Swift Current crops are reported greatly improved by generous rains and warm weather. Wireworm damage in this area is more severe than usual. Prospects at Val Marie are fair to good, with all grains showing good germination. Pastures are good and cattle are doing well in this area.

Ideal growing weather is reported from Willowbrook in the eastcentral district. Seeding is completed and grains are well above ground. No crop damage is indicated. In central districts of the province growth is fair but rains are needed. At Drake, wireworm damage is noticeable and grasshoppers are active. Some fields have been reseeded in this area because of wind damage.

Some deterioration in crop prospects is reported in the Scott area of the westcentral district. Crops on the heavy clay soils, however, are satisfactory. While grasshoppers west and south of Scott are more numerous this year, the control campaign has been generally effective. Grains are late and pastures poor.

In northwestern Saskatchewan crop development has been rapid. Early seeded crops are reported six to eight inches in height in the Melfort area and rain is needed to support continued favourable growth. South of Star City germination has been good with good stands resulting. Farther west at Prince in the northwest some grain is reported coming into the shot blade.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 16 per cent below normal as compared with 12 per cent below normal a week ago and 24 per cent below normal at this time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending June 19 was 2.1 degrees above normal.

Alberta - The dry weather continues in Alberta. Moisture conditions are still good in the extreme southwest and the Peace River districts and a little rain fell in the southeast corner of the province, but the remainder is very dry. Crops are holding in fair condition as yet in most areas but deteriorating in parts of the central and southcentral sections. Fall rye is beginning to head in southern sections. Some very early fields report spring grains in the shot blade. The redback cutworm is damaging some crops in west-

central sections around Red Deer. Scattered reports of grasshoppers have been received. Wheat is from three to eight inches high and coarse grains two to six. Hay crops and pastures are poor in central and southcentral sections but fair to good in other areas.

There has been a little rain, 0.13 inches at Manyberries, in the extreme southeastern section but this corner of the province remains generally dry. Crops are good around Manyberries and only just beginning to show signs of deterioration around Medicine Hat. Some crops in this latter area are heading at six inches. Summerfallow work is general and about ninety per cent has received the first operation. Range land is in good condition in the southeast corner but towards the centre of the province the feed and pasture situation is becoming serious. In the southwest, Cardston reports particularly good crop prospects and excellent pastures. A shower was reported at Claresholm but in general the southcentral sections are very dry and rain is urgently needed to assure an average yield. Fall rye is heading, but the yield will be light. Growth is slow, grain being up about four inches and crops appear to be about three weeks later than usual.

Very warm and very dry weather continues in the eastcentral area around Hanna. The wheat is four to six inches high and early fields are in the shot blade. Grasshoppers have appeared in patches of the district. Pastures are dried up. Rain is urgently needed. The central sections are also hot and dry, and the pasture and grain fields are beginning to show effects of heat and need of moisture. A good rain appears to be necessary within a week or all crops will be greatly affected. Gardens are rather poor. Some light wireworm damage is reported around Stettler. Light scattered showers during the past week have been reported in the westcentral section but a good soaking rain is necessary or crops will begin to deteriorate rapidly. Some of the late seeding has not germinated and those fields which have come up are poor. Stooling is reported in some fields around Donalda. The redback cutworm is active in the Red Deer, Lacombe and Eckville areas and is destroying considerable barley, especially in fields where hail last year destroyed the crops. The hay crops and pastures are light and beginning to dry up and the prospects are by no means good. Gardens are coming along slowly. The crops in the whole central area are suffering from the dry, hot weather but fair recovery should still be possible with good soaking rains immediately.

The continuing hot and dry weather in the northeast section is holding back all crops. Wheat is four to eight inches high and beginning to enter the shot blade stage, coarse grains are about four inches high and are at a standstill in some areas especially around Bonnyville. Pastures are quite short and hay crops probably will not yield more than about one-quarter ton per acre. Some scattered cutworm and wireworm damage has been reported. The northcentral section has had no rain for the past ten days but crop conditions are still fairly good. All grain crops are three to seven inches high. Pastures and forage crops are improving which is reflected in the good condition of live stock and increasing milk production. Beaverlodge in the Peace River district reports that crops are growing rapidly and some wilting is noted in many fields as a result of the hot weather which followed the rains. Wheat is up about six inches and coarse grains about four inches.

The Entomological report from Lethbridge states that the sweet clover weevil is causing damage in the Picture Butte and Lethbridge areas. They also report a large flight of sugar beet web worm on June 17. The grasshopper campaign is under way. Average precipitation for the province since April 1, has been 50 per cent below normal as compared with 41 per cent below normal a year ago and 45 per cent below normal a week ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 19 was 3.3 degrees above normal as compared with 5.9 degrees below normal for the same week last year.

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1950 1

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 19/50	since April 1	since April 1	June 19, 1950 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	1.12	7.14	4.83	59	61
	Melita	.24	6.98	5.86	61	62
	Waskada	N.R.	5.31 <u>2/</u>	4.80	N.R.	61
2	Boissevain	.40	7.74	4.88	60	61
	Ninette	2.30	8.89	5.34	60	61
3	Portage la Prairie	.78	8.22	4.76	65	63
	Graysville	.88	6.94 <u>2/</u>	5.23	62	62
	Morden	.91	8.51	5.09	62	62
	Altona	.48	5.28 <u>2/</u>	5.06	63	62
	Morris	N.R.	Nil <u>2/</u>	4.78	N.R.	63
	Emerson	1.14	5.80	4.38	61	63
4	Winnipeg	.54	7.62	5.39	63	63
6	Sprague	.74	5.63	5.32	60	60
	Pinawa	.40	3.70	3.72	61	61
7	Virden	.68	8.84	4.16	61	61
	Rivers	.52	6.45	4.70	61	61
8	Brandon	.67	7.30	4.75	60	61
	Cypress River	1.37	5.65	4.76	62	62
9	Neepawa	.94	7.13	4.73	62	61
10	Russell	.16	3.12 <u>2/</u>	4.46	62	59
	Birtle	N.R.	4.75 <u>2/</u>	4.47	N.R.	60
11	Dauphin	1.06	6.28	3.86	59	60
12	Gimli	.67	6.95	5.50	60	61
13	Swan River	.56	2.86	4.37	61	59
	The Pas	.29	3.61	3.34	57	60
<u>MANITOBA AVERAGE</u>		.77	6.59	4.74	61.0	61.2
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	2.45	7.03	4.77	62	61
	Carlyle	.48	4.74	4.97	60	59
	Oxbow	.70	4.56 <u>2/</u>	4.85	61	60
1B	Broadview	.78	4.87	4.18	60	59
	Kipling	1.26	6.06	4.25	60	60
	Moosomin	.88	6.68	4.23	62	60
2A	Yellow Grass	.98	3.94	4.58	62	60
	Midale	1.38	5.74	5.04	60	60
2B	Moose Jaw	.60	4.60	4.56	64	61
	Regina	2.18	6.25	4.39	62	60
	Qu'Appelle	.58	5.08	5.34	60	61
	Indian Head	.50	4.20	5.09	60	59
3AS	Assiniboia	1.18	5.94	3.86	60	62
	Ceylon	1.56	5.07	5.81	57	60
3AN	Chaplin	.34	3.18	4.96	64	61
	Gravelbourg	1.84	5.74	4.05	59	60
	Coderre	1.06	4.60	4.20	60	60
	Bishopric	1.14	4.48 <u>2/</u>	4.02	62	60
3BS	Shaunavon	.07	2.57	3.81	60	60
	Cadillac	.78	3.10	6.01	62	59
	Val Marie	.36	2.78	4.30	61	61
	Aneroid	.66	1.78 <u>2/</u>	4.69	60	59

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1950 1/ (cont'd)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 19/50	since April 1	since April 1	June 19, 1950 Mean	Normal
SASKATCHEWAN						
3BN	Pennant	.32	2.58	5.01	62	59
	Swift Current	1.32	3.79	4.52	61	60
	Hughton	.44	2.31	4.47	62	59
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	.80 2/	4.41	N.R.	60
	Consul	.08	1.30	4.01	58	58
	Roadene	.16	1.74	4.48	61	59
5A	Leross	.10	3.66	4.53	58	57
	Lipton	.12	3.76	3.91	60	57
	Yorkton	.11	2.49	4.29	61	59
5B	Dafoe	.09	2.73	3.96	61	57
	Foam Lake	.06	2.59	4.26	62	57
	Lintlaw	.06	3.46	4.34	60	57
	Kamsack	.06	2.10	3.47	63	58
6A	Davidson	.06	2.96	3.82	62	60
	Dilke	.08	3.22	4.21	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	Nil	2.10	2.94	65	57
	Strasbourg	.02	3.98	4.34	60	59
6B	Harris	N.R.	1.82 2/	3.57	N.R.	59
	Outlook	.06	2.75	2.97	65	60
	Saskatoon	.10	2.41	3.62	63	59
	Elbow	.74	3.84	3.81	63	60
	Dundurn	.08	1.88	4.41	64	58
7A	Kindersley	.10	2.73	3.39	62	56
	Rosetown	.02	2.87	4.23	61	57
7B	Macklin	Nil	1.60	4.47	63	57
	Scott	Trace	2.29	3.66	62	59
	Ruthilda	.12	1.64 2/	4.14	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	.04	2.21	4.01	65	59
8A	Mistatim	.58	4.86	4.05	58	59
	Hudson Bay	.18	3.77	4.05	59	59
8B	Humboldt	.28	2.23	3.55	61	59
	Melfort	.30	3.21	3.82	61	59
9A	North Battleford	Nil	2.36	3.95	64	61
	Rabbit Lake	.10	2.84	3.81	63	59
	Prince Albert	Trace	4.25	4.02	62	60
9B	Island Falls	.45	2.60	3.85	55	58
	Waseca	.02	2.55 2/	4.01	62	58
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.49	3.57	4.24	61.2	59.1
ALBERTA						
1	Taber	.02	.66 2/	4.07	62	60
	Foremost	Nil	1.47	5.77	62	64
	Winnifred	Nil	1.00	4.03	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	Trace	1.16	3.86	65	61
	Manyberries	.12	1.47 2/	4.19	60	62
2	Cowley	.76	4.28	5.42	52	56
	Macleod	.38	3.14	4.33	62	62
	Cardston	.42	4.62	7.21	56	60
	Lethbridge	.15	2.29	4.64	60	60
	Magrath	.12	1.26 2/	5.93	59	60

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1950 1/ (cont'd)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 19/50	since April 1	since April 1	June 19, 1950 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
3	Vauxhall	.01	1.83 <u>2/</u>	3.67	60	61
	Brooks	.02	.83	3.78	63	62
	Bindloss	Nil	.48	3.85	60	62
	Empress	.10	.27	4.11	65	63
4	High River	.46	3.05	5.82	55	56
	Vulcan	.01	1.82 <u>2/</u>	4.56	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.05	.72	4.59	64	61
	Hanna	.02	.59 <u>2/</u>	4.97	62	61
	Naco	Nil	1.57	4.62	62	60
	Oyen	.08	.72 <u>2/</u>	3.05	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	Nil	1.34	4.97	62	55
	Calgary	.13	1.94	5.04	58	57
	Three Hills	.06	1.40	4.29	61	55
	Strathmore	.16	.70	4.67	58	56
	Gleichen	Nil	1.43	4.10	59	57
	Hussar	.18	1.00 <u>2/</u>	4.39	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	.01	1.97 <u>2/</u>	3.78	62	57
	Hardisty	.01	2.93 <u>2/</u>	3.56	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	Trace	1.27	3.85	62	58
	Hughenden	Nil	1.87	4.03	62	61
8	Red Deer	.04	1.66	5.85	58	56
	Lacombe	.04	1.84 <u>2/</u>	4.86	56	57
	Wetaskiwin	.08	2.42	4.39	64	57
	Camrose	Nil	1.76	4.43	63	56
	Stettler	Nil	1.33	5.33	66	56
9	Jasper	.82	4.44	2.47	59	54
	Rocky Mountain House	.28	1.89	5.29	61	54
	Springdale	.10	2.62	5.49	52	54
10	Vegreville	Nil	1.51	4.97	65	57
	Vermilion	Trace	2.81	4.33	61	57
	Lloydminster	Nil	2.10	3.60	65	57
11	Edmonton	Trace	2.57	4.40	64	57
12	Edson	.36	2.54 <u>2/</u>	4.08	60	56
	Whitecourt	.31	2.14	4.57	59	57
13	Elk Point	.30	1.62 <u>2/</u>	3.96	63	56
14	Campsie	.02	1.42	4.43	55	57
	Athabaska	Nil	1.92	4.09	61	57
	Lac la Biche	Trace	1.73	4.09	64	57
15	High Prairie	.02	3.30	3.85	65	56
	Wagner	.59	3.81	4.11	61	57
16	Beaverlodge	Nil	3.62	3.47	66	56
	Rycroft	Nil	3.02 <u>2/</u>	2.66	62	56
	Grand Prairie	Nil	3.60	4.05	66	57
	Fairview	.63	3.99	3.02	66	56
17	Fort St. John	1.77	4.82	3.88	67	58
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.16	2.20	4.38	61.2	57.9

N.R. - No report

1/ - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada2/ - Incomplete: not included in average

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