

22-002

no. 11

1969

May 21

c. 3

No.

2

base

1969

3 p.m.

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Minister of Trade and Commerce

Price: \$4.00 for series of 20 Crop Reports

Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 5

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1969 series of eleven telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men supply the information on which these reports are based. Weather data which normally appear in this report and furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport, were not available for this issue.

SUMMARY

Prairie Provinces. — Recent rainfall has delayed seeding throughout most areas of the Prairie Provinces. However, considerable progress had been made and it is expected that activity will soon be general again. The amount of the intended acreage seeded is very variable ranging from only a small proportion in some districts to up to almost 100 per cent in some southern places. Except for a few scattered areas, moisture supplies are very good. Early-sown crops are emerging with some frost damage reported in some northern districts. Hay and pasture lands are developing well. Weather conditions have generally favoured weed growth providing farmers with the opportunity to effect cultural control.

Manitoba. — Cool, showery weather in many areas of Manitoba this past week has delayed field operations. Abundant to excessive moisture in some areas has slowed activity on all but lighter soils and on high lands. Seeding will become increasingly general this week, although slow growth in wild oats has delayed spraying and field operations. Seeding of wheat is varied, ranging from 10 to 50 per cent in some districts. Some minor frost damage occurred in northern districts and may affect some early-emerged wheat. Good drying weather is required to improve fields and hasten seeding. Pastures and hay lands are progressing favourably.

Saskatchewan. — In Saskatchewan scattered rains, snow and lower temperatures have curtailed seeding operations. For the province as a whole, 40 per cent of the intended wheat acreage has been sown and 25 per cent of the acreage of the other principal grains. Work is most advanced in the southwestern part of the province with about 80 per cent of the wheat sown. In the south-central districts, 40 to 50 per cent of the seeding has been done while in the west-central part of the province about 20 to 30 per cent of the crop is in. Moisture conditions are good and satisfactory cultural control of weeds is generally being achieved.

Agriculture Division, Crops Section

5502-508

Alberta. — Weather conditions at mid-May were very favourable in Alberta. Showers on May 12 and 14 provided needed moisture in local areas but interrupted seeding progress. Wild oats have made a good showing this week and most farmers have delayed seeding operations hoping for a good weed kill. Pasture conditions and hay prospects are generally reported as good to excellent. There have been some scattered reports of hail damage on sugar beets.

MANITOBA

At Vita in southeastern Manitoba one-half to more than two inches of precipitation last week interrupted seeding and field work. Some field work is being carried on in the Ridgeville and Emerson areas. About 10 per cent of the seeding has been completed on lighter soils in the district. Seeding is expected to become general within a week, weather permitting. Pastures are in need of warm weather to encourage growth. In the Altona district about 90 per cent of the land has been worked, with about 40 per cent of the total crop acreage seeded. Scattered showers the middle of last week, accompanied by hail, delayed work until the week end. Heavy weed growth has been reported; however, good kills are being obtained, with the possibility of the odd early-sown field being worked down. Very little work has been done on heavy soils. Pastures and hay fields are in good condition. In the vicinity of Morden seeding is about 12 per cent completed and early growth has been very slow due to the continued cold weather. Wild oat growth in the two to three leaf stage has been retarded, due to the unfavourable weather. Planting of potatoes is 60 per cent completed. Sugar beet and sunflower planting commenced last week. Precipitation over the whole area last week was very light.

At Melita, in the southwest, seeding operations are general, although light precipitation in the form of scattered showers has delayed progress. Seeding is some 20 per cent completed in the area. Due to the early germination of wild oats, a good spring kill is expected. The rye crop is in fair to good condition but pastures only fair. Moisture conditions are rated good to excessive with the water in flooded areas receding very slowly.

In the area east of Winnipeg at Beausejour seeding operations are progressing favourably. However, clay stubble fields remain too wet for tillage operations. Some farmers have completed 50 per cent of their seeding while others are just starting. Cool weather conditions prevail, resulting in slow growth. The area to be summerfallowed in the district is expected to increase due to poor field conditions and surplus grain on the farms. In contrast, flax acreage is expected to increase. In the vicinity of Selkirk soil moisture is over-abundant. Due to the unseasonably cold weather, heavy clay soils are still very wet. Seeding is 5 to 10 per cent completed, with the potato crop yet to be planted. The acreage seeded to wheat is expected to be smaller and the specialty crops of rapeseed and flaxseed will take up some of this acreage. Pasture growth is fair and feed supplies in general appear adequate. Some frost has been experienced in the area this past week.

At Stonewall cool weather and showers are holding up seeding progress. Some fields have been worked. Growth of wild oats is reported to be heavy, while pastures and hay have shown little progress. Livestock are being bothered by mosquitoes. Farther west at Portage la Prairie seeding is progressing favourably but is now about one week behind normal. Approximately 20 per cent of the acreage has been seeded. Moisture conditions are excessive, although pasture growth is excellent.

In the area around Brandon seeding has become general over the past few days after a prolonged delay due to cold showery weather. Wild oats are being controlled by cultivation and herbicide applications. Wheat acreage will be reduced with moderate increases in acreage sown to flax, spring rye, peas, rapeseed and mustard, and some increase in summerfallow acreage. Growth on pastures and hay lands has been slow and gardens generally are backward. At Virden cool, wet weather in the area over the past two weeks resulted in only 5 to 10 per cent of the cereals having been sown. Weed growth has been active this week and hay and pastures have shown normal growth for this time of year.

At Teulon in the Interlake district the weather has been cold, although no rain had been received over the last ten days. Farmers are presently seeding wheat in some fields, while others are not working fields as yet. Wild oats and grass are showing fair growth. To the north at Arborg most of the work on the land last week was confined to seedbed preparation. Although some seeding was done, seeding will not be general until this week. Weed growth, particularly wild oats, has been rapid. Weather has been unseasonably cold and temperatures fell to 20 degrees over the week end. Soil-moisture conditions are good, and pastures are improving as the season advances.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa spring seeding operations are under way despite subnormal temperatures. Twenty per cent of the seeding has been completed on lighter soils, with some 30 per cent of the cultivation done. Growth of wild oats is heavy with farmers delaying field operations to maximize weed control. Fall rye is growing well with very little evidence of winterkill. Pastures are doing well but supplemental feeding is still required for most herds.

Reports from Shoal Lake in the west-central part of the province indicate that 30 per cent of the wheat, 10 per cent of the barley and a few fields of flax and oats have been seeded under good conditions. Early-seeded wheat is up but is being hard hit with killing frosts. Seeding has been slow because of wild oat growth. Warmer weather is needed for good germination. At Russell soil moisture conditions are good. About 10 per cent of the total crop and 50 per cent of the wheat has been seeded to date. Fall rye is doing well. It is expected that flax, rapeseed and mustard acreages will increase by about 50 per cent this year, with some increase in summerfallow land. Use of fertilizers will be curtailed. Wild oats are in the one to four leaf stage. Pastures and forage crops are turning green but more warm weather is needed to stimulate growth.

In the northwest part of the province at Swan River wild oat growth and recent showers have slowed seeding operations. Wheat is approximately 25 per cent seeded. However, this crop will be reduced with some increase in acreage going to rapeseed, flaxseed and barley crops. Recently, night temperatures have consistently been below freezing. Pasture growth has been slow.

SASKATCHEWAN

In the Willmar district of southeastern Saskatchewan two and one-half inches of rain have fallen since April 1. However, seeding is now general with about 30 per cent of the crop in the ground. Except for low spots, seeding conditions are good. The rye crop survived with very little winterkill and pasture and forage crops look promising. Wild oats are developing rapidly. At Moosomin there was nearly one-third of an inch of rain on May 15 and a heavy growth of wild oats is delaying seeding of many fields. It is estimated that about 28 per cent of the wheat crop in the district has been sown, 38 per cent of the oats and 25 per cent of the barley. Some increase in the coarse grain and forage crop acreages is apparent. Most livestock producers have seeded some oats for green feed.

Farmers have completed about one-third of the seeding in the Yellowgrass district. Wet weather has delayed operations and wild oats and weeds have made a good start. Warm, dry weather is essential for the next ten days. It is expected that there will be an increase in the acreages of oats, barley and especially flax-seed. With rain delaying operations last week, less than 25 per cent of the seeding has been finished at Fillmore. Soil moisture conditions are excellent and a heavy growth of wild oats has appeared on summerfallow fields prior to seeding. Some low-lying areas are flooded as the result of the heavy spring run-off and if the rains continue these fields will be impossible to seed this year. Pastures are very good and tame hay is making excellent growth. At Indian Head .45 inch of rain during the past week held up seeding operations for one to two days. Activity is now in full swing again. Wild oats are germinating well with good kills being secured by tillage. Early-seeded crops are just emerging but growth is slow as a result of the cool weather. Winds have been moderate and no soil drifting has occurred. Moisture conditions are excellent on both summerfallow and stubble fields and the crop will be off to a good start. Hay and pasture fields are green and lush and making good growth. Livestock are in excellent condition.

About 80 per cent of the wheat crop has been sown in the Gravelbourg district and 60 per cent of the oats and 20 per cent of the flax are also in the ground. Moisture conditions are good but warm weather is required to advance growth. The fall rye crop is doing well. Last week .35 inch of rain fell. A heavy wild oat infestation is expected in the district and stubble fields are showing heavy weed growth.

At Val Marie there were three and one-quarter inches of rain during the past month. However, seeding is 95 per cent completed and the crops are looking very promising. Soil moisture conditions are very favourable and hay and pastures are very much improved compared with last year. Irrigation operations will be starting this week end. Reports from Swift Current indicate cold, cloudy weather with scattered showers and frosts at night. About 80 per cent of the seeding has been completed and with favourable weather, work should be finished this week. Early-sown fields are quite green with uniform germination. Fall rye is in the shot blade stage. Cattle and pastures are in good condition. In the Leader district moisture conditions are much better than average due to late fall rains last season and spring rains this year. Most of the cereals have been sown and the early crop is up three inches.

At Melville seeding is in full swing with 65 per cent of the wheat already sown and 25 per cent of the coarse grains seeded. Forage crops are in good condition and pastures are also growing well. Rainfall to date this season totals 1.22 inches compared with 1.48 inches last year and the long-term average of 1.54 inches. At Togo seeding has been delayed by wet weather and farmers are waiting for wild oats growth. Approximately one-half of the wheat acreage has been seeded. As a result of adequate moisture supplies, pastures are good, although seasonal rains are needed for optimum results. Weed growth is also good.

Farms have undertaken a considerable amount of pre-seeding cultivation in the Drake district in order to achieve weed control. Recent showers have delayed seeding operations but work should be finished this week with favourable weather. Early-sown grains are emerging. Rye wintered well. Some wind erosion is reported. Cattle in the district are out on pasture. At Craik about 55 per cent of the wheat has been sown and 30 per cent of the coarse grains is in the ground.

Weather conditions are retarding growth but moisture conditions are good and as a result pasture and hay lands are in excellent condition. In the Saskatoon district about 75 per cent of the wheat is seeded and it is expected that seeding operations will be almost completed by next week. Early-sown crops are emerging and freezing temperatures last week caused some light damage. However, most of the crop will recover. Soil moisture conditions are excellent and fall rye and native and seeded grass lands are growing well.

At Rosetown about 70 per cent of the wheat, oats and barley has been seeded and about 5 per cent of the flax. Rainfall since April 1 totalled 2 inches. Wild oats are growing and a good kill should be achieved the first time the land is worked. Very little fertilizers are being used this year. Acreages of flaxseed, durum wheat, barley and oats will be up from last year and some buckwheat is also being sown. At Scott seeding is well advanced with generally favourable conditions reported. Since the last report .9 inch of rain has fallen. Early-sown crops are starting to emerge. There was a severe frost on May 19 but the extent of damage is not known. Grasses are growing well with pastures improving steadily.

Low temperatures have been general throughout the Melfort district with heavy frost reported on two occasions. Early-seeded rapeseed was severely damaged but the effect on the total crop will be limited as very little was showing above the ground at the time. In spite of inclement weather field work is progressing favourably with an estimated 20 to 30 per cent of the seeding having been done. Hay and pastures are progressing slowly.

At Meota in the northwest part of the province some 60 per cent of the seeding has been completed and growing conditions are described as excellent. Indications are that there will be a very substantial drop in wheat acreage while the acreages sown to barley and rapeseed are up. Moisture conditions are excellent with 1.94 inches of rain having fallen since April 1. Pastures are green.

ALBERTA

At Manyberries in the southeast region seeding has been completed and the early-seeded crops are two to three inches in height. Rain would be welcome in the area to ensure future growth. Winter crops are being sprayed. Livestock are reported in good condition. There has been no insect damage to date. At Medicine Hat crops are almost all seeded. Recent rain has improved the moisture situation. Grass and livestock are reported doing well. The early crops are four inches high and some rye is in the shot blade stage.

In the southwestern region at Lethbridge seeding of cereal crops is nearing completion while 100 per cent of the sugar beets has been planted. The seeding of potatoes and canning crops is being carried out on schedule and progressing well. Recent rains have favoured seed germination even though night temperatures remain cool. Some hail has been reported although damage has not been assessed as yet. Cardston reports that moisture conditions are good and seeding is about 85 per cent completed. Weed and wild oat spraying is now under way. Pasture, hay crops and fall grain are in good condition. Cattle are doing well and calving is completed with a minimum loss reported. At Claresholm seeding was held up temporarily due to rain in the entire district. Weeds are a problem and are also delaying seeding. However, about 40 per cent of the crop has been sown. Pastures and hay crops are holding up well. The weather was cold throughout the past week.

At Brooks in the south-central area about 50 to 60 per cent of the cereals have been seeded.



1010505722

- 6 -

Some early-seeded crops are up. There has been rapid growth of native and tame pastures. The alfalfa crop is also doing well following recent showers. There are some good fields of fall rye and winter wheat. Fruit trees and ornamentals are in full bloom. Seeding of carrots and turnips is progressing well. At Vulcan there was one inch of rain over the week end accompanied by cool weather. Our correspondent estimates that there will be 25 per cent less wheat planted this year and 150 per cent more rye, 200 per cent more rape, 25 per cent more flax and 20 per cent more barley. A good growth of wild oats has occurred this spring. Approximately 75 per cent of the wheat, oats and barley has been planted along with about 10 per cent of the rye, flax and rape crops. Moisture conditions are excellent and pastures are doing well.

At Calgary about 50 to 60 per cent of the seeding is now completed and the balance should be carried out in one to two weeks' time. Moisture conditions are still good. In the region around Olds seeding of wheat is completed and sowing of coarse grains is well under way. Some early grain has appeared above the ground. Warmer weather would be welcome, otherwise conditions are satisfactory.

In the northeast-central area at Vermilion snowflurries were reported early in the week. Approximately 25 per cent of the seeding has been completed. The temperature has been below normal for this time of the year and warm weather is needed to hasten weed growth.

In the Edmonton area moisture conditions are good and seeding has been general. Moisture supplies are good to excellent in the Stony Plain area. About 40 per cent of the seeding has been completed with a major proportion of the wheat in the ground. About 500 acres out of an estimated 1500 acres of potatoes have been planted. Germination has been slow due to cool nights with temperatures ranging from freezing to near freezing. Wild oats may present a problem again this year. Pastures are in good condition. Warm weather May 8 to 13 in the west-central area at Lacombe has hastened seedbed preparation and seeding. The emergence of wild oats has been widespread. The wheat has been about 80 per cent seeded, barley about 35 per cent and very little oats and rape have gone in the ground. Precipitation since April 1 has been less than one-half of normal. Hay and pastures will soon require additional moisture to maintain growth. At Eckville moisture conditions are ideal. Seeding of wheat and oats is about 75 per cent completed while that of barley is about 25 per cent. The growth of hay and pastures have been slow due to the cold weather. Our correspondent estimates that the wheat and rape acreage will be up 5 per cent as well as that of summerfallow. It is expected that fertilizer use will be down about 10 per cent from last year.

At Bonnyville in the northeast to north-central region seeding has become general. About 85 per cent of the wheat has been sown and seeding of coarse grains and rapeseed will start this week. Recent showers have maintained excellent moisture conditions. Warm weather has encouraged early germination of wild oats and good control is being maintained by cultivation.

In the Peace River Area at Beaverlodge seeding of cereals and oilseeds is about 80 per cent completed. Winterkilling of forage crops was slight while moderate damage occurred in the winter wheat crop. At Berwyn spring work is progressing without delay. Subsoil moisture conditions are fair. However, the topsoil has dried out due to high winds. Wheat seeding is completed, but only 10 to 20 per cent of the barley, oats and flax has been sown. Buckwheat is being tried by a few farmers this year. Pastures are dry and the hay is in fair condition but more moisture would be welcome.