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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1970 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. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport.

SUMMARY

Prairie Provinces. — Backward spring weather has delayed work on the land in most of Saskatchewan and Manitoba with only 5 per cent of the seeding now completed in Manitoba and about 8 per cent of the grains in Saskatchewan. Moisture supplies are adequate and indeed flooding is reported in some areas. Nevertheless it is expected, that, given favourable weather, activity on the land and seeding will be general in most districts by the end of the week. In Alberta conditions are quite different and excess moisture is not a problem. At least 50 per cent of the wheat has been sown in most districts. Moisture supplies are good in the central part of the province but dry in the south and the Peace River area.

Manitoba. — Less than five per cent of the crops have been seeded. However, the outlook now appears to be much brighter after the recent four days of good weather. In the eastern half of the province some field work is expected this week, while in the western districts seeding will be general later this week given favourable weather conditions. Harvesting of last year's crop is still under way. Fall rye overwintered well and pasture and weed growth are improving after a slow start.

Saskatchewan. — Seeding will become general across Saskatchewan by the weekend, if showers hold off. About eight per cent of the wheat and coarse grains have been sown to date but practically no oil seeds or special crops are in the ground. Seeding is about sixteen per cent completed in the southwest and has started in the northwest part of the province. Practically no seeding has taken place in the southeast, due to flooding and heavy clay. Moisture is plentiful and the sloughs are full except in the southwest where it is somewhat dry. Harvesting is going forward in the north. Over 80 per cent of the calves have been dropped and losses from scours are above normal.

Agriculture Division, Crops Section

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Alberta. -- Moisture conditions in Alberta range from low in the southern part of the province and parts of the Peace River area to generally good in the central region. Spring seeding is now general and most areas in the province report that seeding of wheat has been at least 50 per cent completed. Pasture and hay conditions are generally good but more moisture will be required in the south to promote good growth.

GRASSHOPPER OUTBREAK FORECAST FOR THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES - 1970

According to reports from the Canada Department of Agriculture an egg survey indicated that weather conditions in the three prairie provinces last year again delayed hatch which extended into the first part of July. This minimized the threat of damage and very little control measures were necessary.

Outbreaks in Manitoba are expected to be "light" to "moderate"; the largest area infested lies between Carberry and McGregor. In Saskatchewan the anticipated outbreaks will be scattered and in the "light" to "moderate" category, with the exception of a small area north of Carleton in the Wingard-Garthland area where some ratings were in the "severe" category. In Alberta the only area for concern extends from Fort Macleod and Lethbridge northwards to Claresholm, Carmangay, Lomond and Enchant.

MANITOBA

At Vita in southeastern Manitoba some field work will probably be carried out this week. However, no field activity is expected for another week or ten days at Arnaud, Dominion City or Ridgeville. Very little field work has been completed at Morden due to the extremely heavy rains. Warm temperatures and strong winds received during the past weekend have hastened drying and field work should become general by this weekend. Fall rye overwintered in good condition and pastures are beginning to show some growth.

In the area east of Winnipeg at Beausejour no seeding has been reported to date due to excessive moisture conditions. It is expected that field work will commence by the weekend if the drying weather prevails. Feed supplies are adequate. However, forage growth has been very slow due to the late season. Our correspondent reports that farmers in the area are reducing wheat acreage and an increase is expected in coarse grains and flax. At Stonewall no work on the land has been carried out to date but if favourable weather conditions are received this will enable farmers to commence seeding by next week. Feed supplies are becoming scarce in the area and cool weather is retarding pasture growth.

No seeding has been carried out in the Brandon district and field work has just started. Pasture growth has been slow and warm weather is badly needed. However, animals are grazing. At Virden the very cool and wet weather conditions have prevented spring activity in this area. On May 11 a heavy snow storm added to the already extremely wet conditions. There has been a very small amount of seeding in the Sandhills, Harding and Oakland areas. Grass growth just commenced during the past week.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa the cool, wet weather throughout the area continues to delay weed and pasture growth. Virtually no field work has begun due to excessive moisture in most districts.

Flooding is still evident in the Gladstone vicinity. In many districts farmers are short of hay supplies due to the abnormally long feeding season. In the Shoal Lake district snow and rain at the beginning of the week hampered spring work. However, high winds during the latter part of the week helped dry the soil and some field work was carried out. Approximately 75 per cent of the spring combining has been completed and it is estimated about 10 per cent of the seeding has been carried out. Soil moisture conditions are good in the Russell area and there has been a good growth of French weed. Some wild oats have emerged. Over the weekend there was some harvesting of last year's crop and some wheat seeding was undertaken. The fall rye crop is up two to three inches. It is reported that very little fertilizer is being used this season. Pasture growth is progressing favourably.

At Dauphin in the northwest part of the province work on the land has started and will be general by the weekend. However, there has been no growth to date and cattle are still on feed. Our correspondent reports that farmers in the area intend to reduce wheat acreage by 35 per cent but they intend a 100 per cent increase in rapeseed and a 20 per cent increase in flax. An increase in summerfallow acreage and coarse grains is also expected. In the Swan River area seeding will become general this week. Fall rye appears to have wintered well and to date pasture growth has been slow.

The Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station in Winnipeg reports that the Aster Leaf Hopper Vector of the Aster Yellows Pathogen and Oat Blue Dwarf Virus migrated into Manitoba the first week of May which was three weeks earlier than in the previous year.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 is 113 per cent above normal compared with 129 per cent above normal a week ago, 132 per cent above normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 12 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 18, 1970 was 4.4 degrees below normal as compared to 2.1 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.0 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 2.6 degrees below normal for the week ending May 19, 1969.

SASKATCHEWAN

In the southeast part of the province at Moosomin sunny and breezy weather in the past few days has promoted rapid drying and good growth. Some seeding of high land will be done in the next day or two, although seeding will only become general by the weekend if warm, dry weather continues. There has been excellent growth of grass and wild oats and other weeds are beginning to show. In the vicinity of Fillmore, all fields are extremely wet and no seeding activity has been done and it is doubtful if any field work will be done this week. The late seeding will undoubtedly decrease the acreage going to wheat. Tame hay, pastures and fall rye appear to be very good at this time of year. At Indian Head light precipitation occurred daily from May 9 to 14 totalling .62 inch which prevented fields from drying. Strong winds and warmer weather over the past three days, however, are drying the fields and many farmers will be commencing field operations this week. Surface moisture conditions are excellent. Weeds are starting to emerge but growth has been slow because of cold weather. Grass and alfalfa are making good growth. Livestock are in good condition.

In south-central Saskatchewan around Gravelbourg farmers are just starting to seed as a result of the wet spring. Our correspondent reports that wheat acreage will be reduced with an increase of 100 per cent for durum and barley and 250 per cent increase in flax. There is an abundance of wild buckwheat appearing in many

fields. Pasture conditions are excellent. At least ten days of warm weather is required to complete the seeding of crops.

In the southwest part of the province at Val Marie seeding is well under way with 8 per cent of the seeding completed. Moisture conditions are very good with only two inches of rain falling since April 1. The seeded area this year will be 10 per cent less than last year and the crop will be delayed by about ten days. Weather is much cooler than in previous years. Hayland and pastures are in good shape for this time of year. In the vicinity of Eastend seeding is progressing rapidly but in the Climax and Bracken areas delays have occurred owing to excessive moisture. Warm weather is now required. Cattle and pastures are in good condition. Farther north at Leader seeding of cereal crops has been completed with only flax acreage remaining. Light rains have provided good conditions for seeding this year's crop. The early-sown crop is beginning to emerge and pastures are beginning to show green.

In the east-central part of the province at Melville seeding has just started and indications are that farmers in the area are switching to more barley instead of the intended wheat, partly due to the late spring. Moisture at present is plentiful, with rainfall to date at just under two inches, compared to just over one inch for the same date last year and the longtime average of one and one-half inches. Growth in forage crops and pastures is progressing favourably. To the north at Togo only a small acreage of wheat has been sown to date owing to excessive moisture. Combining of last year's remaining crop is continuing. Growth of wild oats is beginning and pastures are starting to green. Seeding should be general by the weekend. In the vicinity of Endeavour seeding has just started and is expected to be general by the end of the week. Land in the district is still quite wet, although combining has started on crops that were left over winter. Pasture growth is slow, although the moisture situation is good.

All field work was delayed by snow and cold, rainy weather until May 15 at Drake in the central part of the province. It is expected that the wheat acreage will be reduced and oilseed crops increased. Although the weather has greatly improved, many low areas are still under water. Seeding should be general this week. Weeds are now beginning to germinate. Pasture growth has been slow and cattle are just now going out to pasture. Seeding and tillage are general in the Saskatoon area and hard spring and durum wheat, as well as some coarse grains, rape and flax have been planted. Soil moisture conditions are excellent but warm weather is required for good germination and growth. Seeded pastures and hay are growing well but pastures are very short.

In the northeast part of the province at Melfort unseasonably cool weather has delayed field work and seeding is just getting under way and should be general this week. Farmers in the district are likely to reduce their wheat acreage in favour of rapeseed and flax. Combining of last year's remaining crop is just about completed, with samples generally grading well with little loss of weight. Fall rye and forage crops have survived the winter in good condition.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 36 per cent above normal, compared with 46 per cent above normal a week ago, 71 per cent above normal two weeks ago, and 9 per cent above normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 18 was 3.6 degrees below normal, compared with 0.1 degree below normal a week ago, 4.9 degrees below normal two weeks ago, and 2.0 degrees below normal for the week ending May 19, 1969.

In southeastern Alberta at Medicine Hat seeding of the wheat, oats and barley crops is approximately 75 per cent complete. Early-seeded crops are now up and fall rye is in the shot blade. There is a need for more moisture in the area. Cattle and grass are in good condition.

In the southwestern area around Lethbridge soil moisture conditions remain low. Winter wheat and rye show good growth. Seeding of wheat is 35 per cent complete with oats at 15 per cent, barley 65, flax 20, potatoes 60 and sugar beet seeding complete. Pastures in the area are dry. At Claresholm work on the land is proceeding well. The weather has been very cold. Wild oats are sprouting and considerable spraying is being done to control them. Fifty per cent of the flax crop is now sown with oats and barley at 25 per cent. Some wheat is now being sown. Moisture conditions are only fair and pastures are dry. Growth in winter wheat and rye crops is slow. The area requires rain for improved growth conditions.

In south-central Alberta, Brooks reports seeding about 70 per cent complete and a few farmers are finished spring sowing operations. Farmers are preparing to irrigate as the 0.35 inch of precipitation last week evaporated rapidly. Dry land farmers have reduced their wheat acreages and increased acreages of coarse grains, flax, rapeseed and safflower. There is a general increased interest in swine production in the area. At Vulcan one-half inch of rain has been reported in the last two weeks. Seeding is general in the area and a substantial decrease in wheat acreage has been combined with a large increase in flaxseed and rapeseed acreage. Avadex is being used to control wild oats in spring-sown crops. There is adequate moisture for good germination and there is also good growth on haylands.

In east-central Alberta around Hanna spring threshing was completed by May 12. One-half inch of rain and snow fell on May 13 and 14. Grasslands are doing well and seeding started in general on May 15. Seeding of wheat is now 50 per cent complete with oats and barley at 25 per cent and rye at 50 per cent. It is estimated that seeding operations will be complete in ten days. Moisture conditions are adequate to start the crop. The calf crop was good and cattle wintered well.

In the northeast-central region at Sedgewick seeding has just begun with about 20 per cent of the wheat acreage seeded. Area farmers plan to sow a large amount of rapeseed, thus most of the seeding will come later. The area has had sufficient moisture to get the grass crops off to a good start.

Stony Plain, in the northwest-central area, reports that cold, windy weather has contributed to slow weed and pasture growth. Seeding is only now becoming general and subsoil moisture conditions are adequate but warmer weather and more surface moisture will be required for germination. In west-central Alberta around Red Deer combining of last year's crop is nearly all completed. Farmers are burning large amounts of stubble acreages this year. Spring field work is in full swing with seeding getting started on a general basis. Indications are that rapeseed acreage will show a large increase. Around Eckville seeding started on May 11 and was general by May 18. It is estimated that use of fertilizer will be approximately the same as last year. The spring wheat crop has now been sown with about 80 per cent of the oat crop sown and barley and rapeseed just started. Acreages of wheat are down while rapeseed has increased. Moisture conditions are reported as ideal.

In the Peace River region Beaverlodge reports that seeding of spring cereals and oilseeds is nearly complete except in areas which have received showers. Areas which have not received rain are becoming short of surface moisture. Overwintered perennial forage crops are in excellent condition although cool weather has limited growth.

In the Peace River area, spring harvesting of overwintered crops during the first week in May has produced rapeseed graded at No. 3 or Sample with wheat and barley in the Feed grades. Spring seeding is now in the second week and progressing without interruption. Wheat seeding should be complete by the end of the week. Scattered showers have occurred in the area but no significant spring rain has been reported. A general feed shortage in the area has forced early pasture use.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 28 per cent below normal as compared with 28 per cent below normal a week ago, 32 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 22 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 18, 1970 was 2.3 degrees below normal, compared with 2.7 degrees above normal a week ago, 1.8 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 1.4 degrees below normal for the week ending May 19, 1969.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature week ending	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 18, 1970	since April 1	since April 1	May 18	Normal
			inches		1970	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	.49	4.84	1.98	45	51
	Pierson	1.03	5.65	1.94	48	52
2	Baldur	.81	5.98	2.21	46	52
	Pilot Mound	1.10	4.96	2.19	46	51
3	Altona	1.08	6.39	1.95	47	54
	Deerwood	1.12	5.95	2.21	50	54
	Graysville	N.R.	4.49(2)	1.93	N.R.	52
	Morden	1.06	6.43	2.31	48	54
	Morris	N.R.	3.28(2)	1.78	N.R.	54
	Portage la Prairie	.91	4.24	2.18	47	53
	Roland	N.R.	3.91(2)	2.06	N.R.	53
4	Stonewall	.89	3.60	2.08	48	52
5	Emerson	1.25	7.53	2.15	50	53
	Steinbach	1.41	4.08	2.09	46	52
	Winnipeg	.90	3.57	2.14	49	52
	Starbuck	1.00	3.65	2.09	48	53
6	Pinawa	1.05	3.10	2.36	47	50
	Great Falls	.67	1.37	1.57	49	51
	Sprague	1.17	4.65	2.38	42	51
7	Rivers	.64	3.01	1.71	47	51
	Virden	.68	3.91	1.49	48	52
8	Brandon	.66	2.95	1.95	46	52
	Cypress River	.82	5.22	1.86	N.R.	52
9	Gladstone	.68	4.46	2.01	N.R.	51
10	Birtle	.60	4.16	1.73	46	50
	Rosburn	.51	2.82	1.62	47	51
	Russell	.41	2.28	1.30	46	50
11	Dauphin	.47	3.43	1.95	48	51
12	Arborg	.58	3.37	1.92	47	50
	Gimli	.80	2.81	1.92	48	50
13	Swan River	.06	2.80	1.63	49	51
	The Pas	.02	2.53	1.79	47	48
14	Grass River	.67	5.01	1.92	47	51
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.78	4.16	1.95	47.2	51.6

For footnotes, see page IV.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature week ending	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 18, 1970	since April 1	since April 1	May 18	
			inches		1970	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Carlyle	1.83	6.39	1.57	49	51
	Estevan	.76	5.26	1.76	48	53
	Oxbow	.65	3.43(2)	1.48	46	51
	Willmar	.72	4.85	1.44	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.54	3.89	1.43	46	50
	Moosomin	1.00	3.85	1.54	45	51
2A	Yellow Grass	1.01	5.68	1.57	47	52
	Weyburn	.68	5.03	1.60	45	52
	Midale	N.R.	5.06(2)	1.50	N.R.	53
2B	Moose Jaw	.43	3.59	1.66	49	53
	Regina	.62	2.70	1.48	47	52
	Francis	1.17	3.64	1.41	45	51
	Indian Head	.55	4.35	1.47	46	51
3AS	Ormiston	.58	1.62	1.74	46	53
	Cardross	.32	1.41(2)	1.74	44	53
	Ceylon	.45	5.29	1.72	46	51
3AN	Gravelbourg	1.28	3.74	1.40	45	53
3BS	Shaunavon	.09	1.59	1.53	48	52
	Pambrun	N.R.	1.51(2)	1.71	N.R.	51
	Aneroid	.18	2.16	1.70	48	52
	Instow	nil	.57	1.50	51	52
3BN	Swift Current	.21	2.12	1.74	47	51
	Pennant	.04	.78	1.66	46	53
	Hughton	N.R.	1.41(2)	1.43	N.R.	53
4A	Maple Creek	nil	1.06	1.64	51	54
	Consul	.03	.78	1.35	N.R.	51
4B	Abbey	N.R.	N.R.	1.54	N.R.	52
	Leader	.08	1.20	1.48	49	54
5A	Cupar	.47	2.35	1.55	47	52
	Balcarres	.50	.68	1.65	N.R.	N.R.
	Lipton	.39	2.58	N.R.	46	N.R.
	Melville	.49	2.86	N.R.	46	N.R.
	Yorkton	.34	1.45	1.58	48	51
	Bangor	.63	3.71	1.72	48	51
	Wynyard	.30	2.28	1.80	48	51
	Foam Lake	.14	1.45	1.78	48	51
5B	Kuroki	N.R.	2.38(2)	1.78	N.R.	49
	Kamsack	N.R.	nil(2)	1.43	N.R.	51
	Davidson	.18	2.40(2)	1.59	48	52
	Strasbourg	.43	1.79	1.58	48	51
	Watrous	.43	1.58	1.52	48	51
6B	Harris	N.R.	.20(2)	1.50	N.R.	52
	Outlook	.43	1.17	1.14	50	53

For footnotes, see page IV.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. May 18, 1970	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 18 1970	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded</u>						
6B	Rosthern	trace	.78	1.47	50	53
	Saskatoon	.13	.73	1.60	50	53
	Elbow	.11	1.54	1.45	49	52
	Tugaske	.30	1.66	1.58	49	52
	Dundurn	.10	1.29	1.39	51	53
7A	Alsask	N.R.	.27(2)	1.60	N.R.	54
	Kindersley	.03	.94	1.14	48	52
	Rosetown	.21	1.58	1.47	49	52
7B	Macklin	.10	.30	1.32	47	51
	Denzil	.07	.53	1.43	48	52
	Scott	.07	.47	1.59	48	51
	Biggar	.10	.91	1.37	49	52
	Hudson Bay	nil	2.47	1.80	48	49
8A	Prairie River	nil	1.52	2.04	45	49
	Humboldt	.12	.80	1.43	49	50
8B	Melfort	nil	1.35	1.57	49	51
	North Battleford	trace	.56	1.49	51	52
9A	Victoire	nil	.88	1.66	54	49
	Prince Albert	nil	1.27	1.91	49	50
9B	Waseca	trace	.29	1.67	50	51
	Meadow Lake	trace	.44	1.50	53	49
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.34	2.12	1.56	48.0	51.6

ALBERTA

1	Empress	trace	.72	1.39	52	53
	Foremost	.38	1.78	1.65	51	53
	Manyberries	N.R.	1.04(2)	1.66	N.R.	53
	Medicine Hat	.18	1.14	1.76	52	55
2	Brooks	.40	1.33	1.61	49	53
	Drumheller	N.R.	N.R.	1.49	N.R.	52
	Gleichen	N.R.	.75(2)	2.04	N.R.	52
	Hays	N.R.	.86(2)	1.37	N.R.	53
	Rainier	.24	1.06	1.65	49	53
	Vauxhall	.18	1.41	1.41	49	52
	Raymond	.24	1.77	2.67	49	52
	Lethbridge	.16	1.68	2.35	51	52
	Trochu	.33	1.96	2.21	N.R.	51
	Queenstown	.38	2.92	2.15	49	52
	Calgary	.31	1.78	2.41	47	49
3	Cardston	.47	3.78	2.56	48	51
	Pincher Creek	.27	3.32	3.12	48	49
	Fort MacLeod	.25	2.29	2.40	52	53

For footnotes, see page IV.



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Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature week ending	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 18, 1970	since April 1	since April 1	May 18	
			inches		1970	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>ALBERTA — Concluded</u>						
	High River	.36	3.44	2.89	44	48
	Magrath	.63	1.82	2.84	48	52
	Olds	.53	2.57	2.12	46	49
4	Alliance	.06	.79	1.48	50	51
	Coronation	.23	1.06	1.53	48	51
	Hughenden	.09	1.28	1.60	49	51
	Lloydminster	nil	.01(2)	1.43	49	51
	Stettler	.14	.86	1.54	49	51
	Vegreville	.01	.10	1.34	48	51
	Ranfurly	N.R.	.11(2)	1.72	N.R.	51
	Vermilion	nil	.05	1.43	47	51
5	Edmonton	.07	.63	1.98	49	52
	Lacombe	.14	1.01	2.36	48	50
	Red Deer	.21	1.25	2.00	47	51
	Rocky Mountain House	.08	1.95	2.54	50	49
	Wetaskiwin	.13	.86	2.26	49	51
6	Campsie	.02	.22	1.86	48	49
	Edson	.15	1.75	2.03	47	48
	Elk Point	trace	trace	1.53	49	49
	Lac la Biche	trace	trace	1.71	48	50
	Whitecourt	.14	.55	2.13	47	48
7	Beaverlodge	N.R.	.35(2)	1.60	N.R.	50
	Fairview	N.R.	.20(2)	1.61	N.R.	50
	Ft. Vermilion	N.R.	.82(2)	1.20	N.R.	49
	Grande Prairie	.19	.76	1.45	47	50
	High Prairie	.54	1.05	1.68	48	50
	Peace River	.22	.63	1.14	48	50
	Rycroft	N.R.	.19(2)	1.46	N.R.	50
	Wagner	.22	.49	1.61	48	49
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.21	1.35	1.87	48.6	50.9

(1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average.

N.R. No report.