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AUGUST FORECAST OF PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS, CANADA*, 1954

On the basis of yields indicated at August 1, production of many of Canada's principal field crops will be well below the relatively high levels of 1953. Indicated average yields per acre in 1954 for the ten crops included in this report, the first official forecast of production, are above the long-time (1908-1950) averages but, with the exception of minor increases in yields of spring rye and tame hay, are below those of 1953. The effect of lower indicated yields combined with reduced seeded acreages is particularly noticeable in the lower production forecasts for spring wheat, barley and fall rye. Production of only three of the ten crops—flaxseed, mixed grains and tame hay—is expected to be higher than in 1953, with increased acreages entirely responsible except in the case of hay.

Realization of the 1954 yield and production forecasts included in this report is dependent to a considerably greater extent than usual on favourable weather conditions being maintained throughout the remainder of the growing and harvesting season. For the second successive year, seeding was unduly prolonged over extensive areas of the Prairie Provinces and was continued until late in June and even into July in the most seriously affected districts. Despite the generally favourable growing conditions which accelerated plant development during July, much of the crop must be considered highly vulnerable to frost damage.

In addition to the potential frost hazard resulting from a late-seeded crop, this year's crop in the Prairie Provinces has already suffered fairly extensive losses from flooding, hail and rust. Although losses from flooding and hail have been serious, they have been confined for the most part to relatively small and scattered areas. Damage from rust, however, is unusually widespread this year, with crops throughout much of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and, to some extent, Alberta being affected in varying degree. Durum wheat appears to have suffered the greatest loss from rust but other varieties of spring wheat, oats and barley have also been affected by both leaf and stem rust. Allowance has been made for losses in yield from these causes up to August 1 but no attempt has been made to assess the effects of further possible damage from these or other sources subsequent to that date.

In view of the widespread incidence of rust infection and the abnormally high frost hazard to late-seeded crops in the Prairie Provinces, current forecasts must be interpreted in the light of conditions affecting crop development and harvesting subsequent to August 1. With the exception of fall-

*Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

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sown crops, very little grain harvesting had been started by August 1 and current production forecasts may, therefore, be subject to significant revisions in the light of actual harvesting results. The Bureau's second forecast of production of Canada's principal field crops, based on conditions at September 1, is scheduled for release on September 15.

Forecasts of average yields in this release are based on returns from the Bureau's crop correspondents, reporting on conditions on or about August 1, and on information supplied by the officials responsible for agricultural statistics in the provinces. The acreages seeded to the various crops for harvest in 1954 are those published in the Bureau's July 28 crop report and are subject to revision, initially on further analysis of acreage surveys and eventually on the basis of disposition data. The latest estimates of acreage, yield and production for 1953 are included in the tables for comparison.

Wheat — Canada's 1954 wheat crop, currently forecast at 513.0 million bushels, will, if realized, be the fourth consecutive wheat crop exceeding 500 million bushels. Although a crop of the size indicated would be 101 million less than last year's next-to-record outturn of 614.0 million bushels, it would still be 12 per cent above the ten-year (1944-1953) average of 456.5 million bushels. As already emphasized, however, much of this year's crop is abnormally late and particularly susceptible to frost and rust damage, and will require optimum growing and harvesting conditions to fulfil current prospects.

The indicated decline in production of the 1954 wheat crop from last year's level results from decreases in both seeded acreage and average yields per acre. This year's crop of spring wheat, forecast at 490.1 million bushels, is being harvested from a seeded area estimated at 23.6 million acres yielding an indicated 20.8 bushels per acre. In 1953 the spring wheat crop was estimated at 587.8 million bushels, the second largest on record, yielding an average of 23.7 bushels per acre on a seeded area of 24.8 million acres. Ontario's winter wheat crop is forecast at 22.9 million bushels, a decrease of 3.3 million from the 1953 outturn as the result of declines in average yield from 35.8 to 32.3 bushels per acre and in the seeded area from 732,000 to 710,000 acres.

In the Prairie Provinces the 1954 wheat crop is forecast at 487 million bushels, 97 million less than last year's crop of 584 million. The indicated average yield per seeded acre in the Prairie Provinces at August 1 was 20.8 bushels, with Manitoba averaging 19.7; Saskatchewan, 20.9; and Alberta, 20.8 bushels. Production in Saskatchewan, which grows the major part of the country's wheat crop, is placed at 325 million bushels as against last year's 375 million. This year's wheat crop is also below that of 1953 in Alberta and Manitoba where production is forecast at 122 million and 40 million bushels, respectively, compared with 163 million and 46 million last year. Relatively small quantities of winter wheat are included in the spring wheat estimates for the Prairie Provinces.

Oats for Grain — Production of oats for grain in 1954 is forecast at 380.7 million bushels, the smallest crop since 1949 and a decrease of 6 per cent from last year's 407.0 million. Although the seeded area increased from 9.8 million in 1953 to 10.2 million in 1954, lower indicated average yields in all provinces more than offset the effect of increased acreage. Production in the Prairie Provinces is currently forecast at 257 million bushels as against 276 million in 1953. Indicated average yields in the Prairie Provinces and for Canada as a whole are 38.3 and 37.5 bushels per acre, respectively, as against 42.5 and 41.4 in 1953.

Barley The 1954 barley crop, seeded on an area estimated at 7.9 million acres, is forecast at 222.4 million bushels, some 15 per cent below last year's crop of 262.1 million. The 12 per cent decline in acreage from last year's level of 8.9 million acres was primarily responsible for the decrease in indicated production but anticipated average yields are also below those of 1953 in all provinces except Manitoba. Production in the Prairie Provinces is placed at 213 million bushels, 38 million less than in 1953, with Alberta accounting for 88 million bushels; Saskatchewan, 68 million; and Manitoba, 57 million of the 1954 total.

Rye Sharp decreases in the area seeded to both fall and spring rye have been almost entirely responsible for the considerably smaller rye crop in prospect for 1954. Canada's 1954 crop of fall and spring rye combined is forecast at 16.2 million bushels as against 28.8 million in 1953. Some 13.2 million of this year's crop is fall rye, averaging an indicated 19.7 bushels per acre while the spring rye crop is forecast at 3.0 million bushels, averaging 16.6 bushels per acre. Production of all rye in the Prairie Provinces is placed at 14.1 million bushels, with 8.3 million of this total in Saskatchewan.

Flaxseed This year's flaxseed crop, currently forecast at 12.1 million bushels, is about 23 per cent higher than last year's 9.9 million, with the increase almost entirely attributable to a larger seeded acreage. The indicated average yield of 10.1 bushels per acre is practically unchanged from that of 1953. This year's production in the Prairie Provinces is placed at 11.8 million bushels of which 5.5 million is in Saskatchewan, 4.0 million in Manitoba and 2.3 million in Alberta.

Mixed Grains Canada's 1954 crop of mixed grains, grown chiefly in Eastern Canada, is forecast at 65.1 million bushels, compared with 62.2 million in 1953. Increased acreage is largely responsible for the greater production this year since indicated average yields are lower than 1953 in all provinces except Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. This year's crop is being harvested from a seeded area of 1.6 million acres averaging an indicated 39.9 bushels per acre.

Tame Hay Production of tame hay (including the first cutting of clover and alfalfa) is currently placed at 20.0 million tons, slightly higher than last year's 19.6 million. With the major exception of southwestern Ontario where abnormally dry weather prevailed during the growing season, weather conditions favoured growth of a heavy hay crop. However, wet weather, particularly in large areas of the Maritimes, Quebec and Eastern Ontario, unduly prolonged haying operations and caused some deterioration in quality.

Potatoes On the basis of conditions at August 1, the Canadian potato crop is forecast at 55.0 million bushels as against 67.0 million in 1953. Decreases in planted acreage in all provinces except Alberta and indicated declines in average yields in all provinces except Nova Scotia and British Columbia have contributed to the anticipated drop of 18 per cent from last year's potato crop.

Summary of August Forecast of the Production of Grain Crops

Based on conditions on or about August 1, the production of the principal grain crops in Canada in 1954 is forecast, in bushels, as follows, with the 1953 figures within brackets: Winter wheat, 22,933,000 (26,206,000); spring wheat, 490,051,000 (587,756,000); all wheat, 512,984,000 (613,962,000); oats for grain, 380,683,000 (406,960,000); barley, 222,416,000 (262,065,000); fall rye, 13,233,000 (21,225,000); spring rye, 2,955,000 (7,550,000); all rye, 16,188,000 (28,775,000); flaxseed, 12,149,000 (9,912,000). The average yields per acre, in bushels, are forecast as follows, with the 1953 averages within brackets: Winter wheat, 32.3 (35.8); spring wheat, 20.8 (23.7); all wheat, 21.1 (24.1); oats for grain, 37.5 (41.4); barley, 28.3 (29.4); fall rye, 19.7 (20.6); spring rye, 16.6 (16.3); all rye, 19.0 (19.3); flaxseed, 10.1 (10.2).

Production of Grain Crops in the Prairie Provinces

For the Prairie Provinces the first forecast of production of grain crops in 1954, in bushels, is as follows, with the 1953 figures within brackets: Three Provinces - Wheat, 487,000,000 (584,000,000); oats for grain, 257,000,000 (276,000,000); barley, 213,000,000 (251,000,000); rye, 14,105,000 (26,850,000); flaxseed, 11,800,000 (9,300,000). Manitoba - Wheat, 40,000,000 (46,000,000); oats for grain, 50,000,000 (53,000,000); barley, 57,000,000 (61,000,000); rye, 1,485,000 (2,750,000); flaxseed, 4,000,000 (3,800,000). Saskatchewan - Wheat, 325,000,000 (375,000,000); oats for grain, 113,000,000 (111,000,000); barley, 68,000,000 (82,000,000); rye, 8,300,000 (14,400,000); flaxseed, 5,500,000 (3,500,000). Alberta - Wheat, 122,000,000 (163,000,000); oats for grain, 94,000,000 (112,000,000); barley, 88,000,000 (108,000,000); rye, 4,320,000 (9,700,000); flaxseed, 2,300,000 (2,000,000).

August Forecast of the 1954 Production of Principal Field Crops in Canada, Compared with Latest Estimates for 1953

Province and Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1953	1954	1953	1954*	1953	1954*
CANADA	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Winter wheat	732,000	710,000	35.8	32.3	26,206,000	22,933,000
Spring wheat	24,780,600	23,556,800	23.7	20.8	587,756,000	490,051,000
All wheat	25,512,600	24,266,800	24.1	21.1	613,962,000	512,984,000
Oats for grain	9,830,000	10,160,600	41.4	37.5	406,960,000	380,683,000
Barley	8,911,100	7,855,900	29.4	28.3	262,065,000	222,416,000
Fall rye	1,031,200	672,500	20.6	19.7	21,225,000	13,233,000
Spring rye	463,000	178,000	16.3	16.6	7,550,000	2,955,000
All rye	1,494,200	850,500	19.3	19.0	28,775,000	16,188,000
Mixed grains	1,445,400	1,632,600	43.0	39.9	62,188,000	65,142,000
Flaxseed	972,000	1,206,000	10.2	10.1	9,912,000	12,149,000
Potatoes	321,100	296,200	208.7	185.6	67,002,000	54,978,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	10,702,000	10,802,000	1.84	1.85	19,650,000	20,010,000
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	2,900	3,300	26.0	24.0	75,000	79,000
Oats for grain	106,200	97,600	45.0	43.0	4,779,000	4,197,000
Barley	4,800	3,800	35.0	34.0	168,000	129,000
Mixed grains	70,200	78,700	46.0	43.0	3,229,000	3,384,000
Potatoes	39,000	37,000	273.0	264.0	10,647,000	9,768,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	191,000	204,000	1.90	1.95	363,000	398,000
NOVA SCOTIA			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	1,000	1,000	25.0	26.0	25,000	26,000
Oats for grain	55,800	54,600	43.0	42.0	2,399,000	2,293,000
Barley	3,000	2,500	35.0	33.0	105,000	82,000
Mixed grains	9,400	10,100	43.0	44.0	404,000	444,000
Potatoes	12,400	11,300	231.0	238.0	2,864,000	2,689,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	345,000	353,000	2.20	2.14	759,000	755,000
NEW BRUNSWICK			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	2,700	3,200	26.0	26.0	70,000	83,000
Oats for grain	152,000	153,000	45.0	38.0	6,840,000	5,814,000
Barley	8,900	9,100	38.0	31.0	338,000	282,000
Mixed grains	7,200	8,000	45.0	37.0	324,000	296,000
Potatoes	48,400	45,600	289.0	245.0	13,988,000	11,172,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	430,000	428,000	1.60	1.95	688,000	835,000
QUEBEC			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	11,100	11,300	21.7	21.6	241,000	244,000
Oats for grain	1,380,000	1,371,000	31.0	29.0	42,780,000	39,759,000
Barley	56,500	53,100	28.0	26.0	1,582,000	1,381,000
Fall rye	2,700	2,800	20.4	19.8	55,000	55,000

*As indicated on basis of conditions on or about August 1.

August Forecast of the 1954 Production of Principal Field Crops in Canada, Compared with Latest Estimates for 1953 (continued)

Province and Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1953	1954	1953	1954*	1953	1954*
	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
QUEBEC						
Mixed grains	202,000	209,000	32.5	31.0	6,565,000	6,479,000
Potatoes	100,000	92,000	166.0	146.0	16,600,000	13,432,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	3,637,000	3,644,000	1.43	1.73	5,201,000	6,304,000
ONTARIO			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Winter wheat	732,000	710,000	35.8	32.3	26,206,000	22,933,000
Spring wheat	33,500	31,000	22.1	19.0	740,000	589,000
All wheat	765,500	741,000	35.2	31.7	26,946,000	23,522,000
Oats for grain	1,548,000	1,685,000	44.3	39.7	68,576,000	66,894,000
Barley	171,000	144,000	36.0	33.0	6,156,000	4,752,000
Fall rye	75,000	90,000	22.8	20.7	1,710,000	1,863,000
Mixed grains	1,017,000	1,130,000	46.1	42.7	46,884,000	48,251,000
Flaxseed	41,000	19,000	13.1	11.0	537,000	209,000
Potatoes	63,000	56,500	188.6	160.0	11,883,000	9,040,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	3,500,000	3,440,000	2.10	1.95	7,350,000	6,708,000
MANITOBA			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	2,208,000	2,035,000	20.8	19.7	46,000,000	40,000,000
Oats for grain	1,412,000	1,510,000	37.5	33.1	53,000,000	50,000,000
Barley	2,365,000	2,202,000	25.8	25.9	61,000,000	57,000,000
Fall rye	120,000	78,700	20.8	17.8	2,500,000	1,400,000
Spring rye	15,000	5,700	16.7	14.9	250,000	85,000
All rye	135,000	84,400	20.4	17.6	2,750,000	1,485,000
Mixed grains	33,300	38,300	33.4	30.0	1,112,000	1,149,000
Flaxseed	420,000	444,000	9.0	9.0	3,800,000	4,000,000
Potatoes	18,800	17,100	170.0	135.0	3,196,000	2,308,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	450,000	486,000	2.10	2.06	945,000	1,000,000
SASKATCHEWAN			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	16,100,000	15,540,000	23.3	20.9	375,000,000	325,000,000
Oats for grain	2,721,000	2,851,000	40.8	39.6	111,000,000	113,000,000
Barley	2,745,000	2,313,000	29.9	29.4	82,000,000	68,000,000
Fall rye	500,000	315,000	18.6	19.0	9,300,000	6,000,000
Spring rye	316,000	138,000	16.1	16.7	5,100,000	2,300,000
All rye	816,000	453,000	17.6	18.3	14,400,000	8,300,000
Mixed grains	22,800	35,600	30.0	30.3	684,000	1,079,000
Flaxseed	342,000	518,000	10.2	10.6	3,500,000	5,500,000
Potatoes	12,800	11,100	131.0	108.0	1,677,000	1,199,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	540,000	600,000	1.80	1.80	972,000	1,080,000

*As indicated on basis of conditions on or about August 1.

August Forecast of the 1954 Production of Principal Field Crops in Canada, Compared with Latest Estimates for 1953 (concluded)

Province and Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1953	1954	1953	1954*	1953	1954*
	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
ALBERTA						
Spring wheat	6,340,000	5,862,000	25.7	20.8	163,000,000	122,000,000
Oats for grain	2,357,000	2,354,000	47.5	39.9	112,000,000	94,000,000
Barley	3,489,000	3,053,000	31.0	28.8	108,000,000	88,000,000
Fall rye	328,000	181,000	22.9	20.7	7,500,000	3,750,000
Spring rye	132,000	34,300	16.7	16.6	2,200,000	570,000
All rye	460,000	215,300	21.1	20.1	9,700,000	4,320,000
Mixed grains	80,600	120,000	35.0	32.5	2,821,000	3,900,000
Flaxseed	164,000	215,000	12.2	10.7	2,000,000	2,300,000
Potatoes	15,400	15,400	179.0	150.0	2,757,000	2,310,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	1,300,000	1,343,000	2.00	1.64	2,600,000	2,200,000
BRITISH COLUMBIA			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	81,400	70,000	32.0	29.0	2,605,000	2,030,000
Oats for grain	98,000	84,400	57.0	56.0	5,586,000	4,726,000
Barley	67,900	75,400	40.0	37.0	2,716,000	2,790,000
Fall rye	5,500	5,000	29.0	33.0	160,000	165,000
Mixed grains	2,900	2,900	57.0	55.0	165,000	160,000
Flaxseed	5,000	10,000	15.0	14.0	75,000	140,000
Potatoes	11,300	10,200	300.0	300.0	3,390,000	3,060,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	309,000	304,000	2.50	2.40	772,000	730,000

*As indicated on basis of conditions on or about August 1.

August Forecast of the 1954 Production of Principal Grain Crops in the Prairie Provinces, Compared with Latest Estimates for 1953

Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1953	1954	1953	1954*	1953	1954*
	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Wheat	24,648,000	23,437,000	23.7	20.8	584,000,000	487,000,000
Oats for grain	6,490,000	6,715,000	42.5	38.3	276,000,000	257,000,000
Barley	8,599,000	7,568,000	29.2	28.1	251,000,000	213,000,000
Rye	1,411,000	752,700	19.0	18.7	26,850,000	14,105,000
Flaxseed	926,000	1,177,000	10.0	10.0	9,300,000	11,800,000

*As indicated on basis of conditions on or about August 1.