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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH



C.R. No. 15
1936

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Chief, Agricultural Branch: T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

Ottawa, August 8, 1936, 12 noon. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day a bulletin compiled from the returns of crop correspondents giving (1) the condition of field crops on July 31, expressed numerically in percentages of the long-time average; and (2) a preliminary estimate of the yield of fall wheat, fall rye and alfalfa (first cutting). A preliminary estimate of the acreages of the five principal grain crops in the Prairie Provinces, based on samples from the quinquennial census of 1936, is included.

SUMMARY

The month of July, 1936, enters the records as one of the most disastrous experiences of farmers in the central part of the Dominion. In the principal area of field crop production, comprising most of central and western Ontario and the Prairie Provinces, unrelenting drought and extremely high temperatures doomed the good crop prospects that existed at the first of July. While condition figures were well maintained during July in the Maritimes, Quebec and British Columbia, the drought in the central areas effected sharp reductions in the Dominion figures and at the end of July all these were well below the long-time averages. During the month, the reduction in spring wheat crop prospects amounted to 45 per cent, marking the eighth successive July in which condition figures were lowered. The 1936 fall wheat crop of Ontario is estimated at 11,637,000 bushels, nearly a million bushels below the production in 1935. Oats suffered a 34 per cent reduction in prospects and barley, 36 per cent. The potato crop also declined in promise and, except in the Maritimes, the harvest will be far poorer than in 1935. Fodder supplies will be adequate in Maritime and Eastern Canada and British Columbia but serious shortages are apparent on the southern Prairies. Pastures declined 18 points in condition during July and are far below the 1935 level at this date. Sugar beets suffered with the other crops and the production will be 25 per cent below average.

In the Maritime Provinces, there were only slight changes in crop prospects during July and crop production generally will be above that of 1935. Forage is exceptionally abundant and the important potato crop will probably be slightly better than in 1935. In Quebec, a fine hay crop was harvested despite frequent showers, but most of the other crops promise below-average production as a result of late seeding and unfavourable distribution of rainfall.

In Ontario, the crop season has been possibly the worst on record, with July drought searing the western two-thirds of the province. The hay crop escaped the full brunt of the drought but spring grains, corn, potatoes, roots and pastures suffered sharp reductions in condition. About twelve eastern counties and Elgin, Kent and Essex in the south-west contain the best crops in the province. A prolonged period of excessive heat and unrelenting drought ruined the fine prospects for spring grains that existed in the Prairie Provinces at the end of June. In both Saskatchewan and Alberta the condition figures for the principal grains are the lowest in 28 years of continuous record, except for wheat in Saskatchewan where a slightly lower condition figure was recorded in 1931. In Manitoba, lower condition figures for wheat were recorded in 1910 and 1931, but the 1936 figures for oats and barley broke through all previous low marks. The other Prairie crops suffered disastrous reductions in prospects while pastures were burned brown to create a grave feed situation. The condition of crops in British Columbia declined slightly in July but most crops will yield better than in the previous year. Pasture declined 8 points during the month.

In the interpretation of condition figures in this report, it must be remembered that the correspondents' returns were filed at the end of July. Allowance must be made for subsequent change in conditions. Dry, hot weather has persisted over most of Ontario and the Prairie Provinces to the detriment of all standing or growing crops. Effective rains have been confined to parts of central and northern Alberta. The weather has been exceptionally favourable for harvesting and this operation is well advanced. In the Maritimes, Quebec and British Columbia crops have progressed normally toward harvest.

Condition of Field Crops, July 31, 1936.

For all Canada, the condition of field crops expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre is as follows, with the condition for June 30, 1936, and July 31, 1935, within brackets: Spring wheat 45 (32, 81); oats 57 (87, 90); barley 56 (87, 93); spring rye 49 (79, 89); peas 70 (95, 96); beans 84 (89, 95); buckwheat 80 (95, 96); mixed grains 77 (94, 102); flaxseed 45 (83, 88); corn for husking 82 (89, 96); potatoes 81 (95, 95); turnips, etc. 81 (94, 96); hay and clover 94 (99, 100); fodder corn 79 (93, 96); sugar beets 75 (86, 101); pasture 82 (100, 101).

For the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal crops on the same dates is as follows: Three Provinces - Wheat 45 (32, 81); oats 43 (84, 85); barley 50 (86, 91); spring rye 45 (77, 90); flaxseed 44 (83, 88). Manitoba - Wheat 61 (89, 62); oats 52 (91, 75); barley 55 (90, 94); spring rye 61 (88, 96); flaxseed 60 (88, 97). Saskatchewan - Wheat 45 (80, 85); oats 41 (81, 91); barley 49 (83, 91); spring rye 45 (75, 94); flaxseed 43 (83, 88). Alberta - Wheat 40 (83, 81); oats 41 (84, 81); barley 45 (85, 86); spring rye 40 (79, 80); flaxseed 34 (73, 76).

Yield of Fall Wheat, Fall Rye and Alfalfa

The total yield of fall wheat in Canada is now estimated at 11,637,000 bushels from 491,000 acres, a yield per acre of 23.7 bushels, as compared with 12,601,000 bushels from 555,100 acres, a yield per acre of 22.7 bushels, in 1935.

Fall rye in Canada is estimated to have yielded 4,046,000 bushels from 490,000 acres, as compared with 7,795,000 bushels from 573,700 acres in 1935, the yields per acre being 8.3 bushels and 13.6 bushels respectively.

The first cutting of alfalfa yielded 1,316,000 tons from 779,100 acres, a yield per acre of 1.69 tons, as compared with 1,510,000 tons from 762,300 acres, a yield per acre of 1.98 tons in 1935.

CHARTS SHOWING THE CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES AT JUNE 30 AND JULY 31, 1936, AND JULY 31, 1935.

On the last three pages of this report, charts are reproduced to picture the condition of spring wheat in the Prairie Provinces at the above-mentioned dates. The patterns for the same ranges of yields are identical so direct comparisons may be made.

For the eighth year in succession, wheat prospects declined during the month of July. The crop encountered a series of depreciating conditions, but the main factors were heat and drought. Hail caused scattered local damage as usual, but there were some unusually extensive hail-storms in Manitoba and Alberta. Grasshoppers and sawflies were responsible for serious losses in many southern areas. At the month-end, rust was threatening the late crops in the best crop areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Manitoba -

The average condition figure for the province fell 28 points or 31 per cent during July and at the end of the month prospects were lower than at the same date in either 1935 or 1934. Drought took its most severe toll in the southwestern corner (Crop Districts 1, 2, 7 and 8), but the effects were plainly evident throughout the province. Prospects were lowered in each of the 14 Crop Districts although the declines were least in the north and in the Red River Valley. The southern districts escaped serious rust damage this year but late-ripening crops in the north and west-centre (particularly Crop Districts 10 to 14 inclusive) were in danger at the date of reporting.

Saskatchewan -

The provincial condition figure fell from 80 to 45 during the month - a decline of nearly 44 per cent. At July 31, 1935, the condition figure was 85 but rust was to reduce the prospects much further before harvest. As in Manitoba, crops in the southwestern corner were most severely injured but the drought area extended along the southern and western boundaries. The east-central section of the province (comprising parts of Crop Districts 2, 5, 6 and 8) had the best prospects at the end of July but drought was preventing proper filling, while rust was endangering the late crops. On the western side of the province, in Crop Districts 7 and 9, the drought was the most severe on record. As in the south, large areas of crop land were a practical failure.

Alberta -

The decline in Alberta wheat prospects during July amounted to 52 per cent. The month was, perhaps, the most disastrous for crop growth in the history of the province. The whole southern and eastern part has a variation in conditions from complete failure to about half a crop. South and east of Calgary (Crop Districts 1 to 6 inclusive) and covering 4,344,000 acres, less than one-third of an average crop is indicated and little improvement is shown along the eastern side of the province (Crop Districts 7, 8, 10 and 13). The only Crop Districts in the three provinces with above-average prospects are Crop Districts 15, 16 and 17 of Alberta. Only Crop District 16 has a wheat acreage of commercial importance.

ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL GRAIN CROPS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The estimates of the areas sown to grain in the Prairie Provinces in 1936 were made from a large sample of the returns of the quinquennial census. The area sown to wheat shows an increase of 867,000 or 3.7 per cent over the 1935 figures, but corresponds closely with the 'Intentions to Plant' figure published on May 8, 1936. The 1936 acreage of oats is 148,000 acres below the 1935 figure, the reduction in Alberta being slightly greater than expected. Barley shows an increase in all three provinces, the total gain being 337,000 acres or over 10 per cent, which is more than the 'Intentions' indicated. The 1936 rye acreage is estimated as 609,000 compared with 649,300 in 1935. The more complete enumeration of the census gives a flax area of 357,000 acres for 1936.

Estimate of the Areas of the Principal Grain Crops in the Prairie Provinces in 1936, based on samples from the Quinquennial Census of 1936.

	Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Manitoba	- 1935	2,587,000	1,434,000	1,121,000	107,000	17,300
	1936	2,610,000	1,430,000	1,300,000	101,000	75,000
Saskatchewan	- 1935	13,206,000	4,942,000	1,146,000	374,200	167,500
	1936	13,980,000	5,050,000	1,194,000	335,000	265,000
Alberta	- 1935	7,500,000	3,102,000	920,000	168,100	19,400
	1936	7,570,000	2,850,000	1,030,000	173,000	17,000
Total Prairie Provinces	- 1935	23,293,000	9,478,000	3,187,000	649,300	204,200
	1936	24,160,000	9,330,000	3,524,000	609,000	357,000

The first of the three main sections of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country. It is followed by a detailed account of the work done during the year, and concludes with a summary of the results and a few suggestions for the future.

STATEMENT OF THE WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR

The work done during the year has been divided into three main sections: the first is devoted to the study of the general situation in the country, the second to the study of the work done during the year, and the third to the study of the results and suggestions for the future.

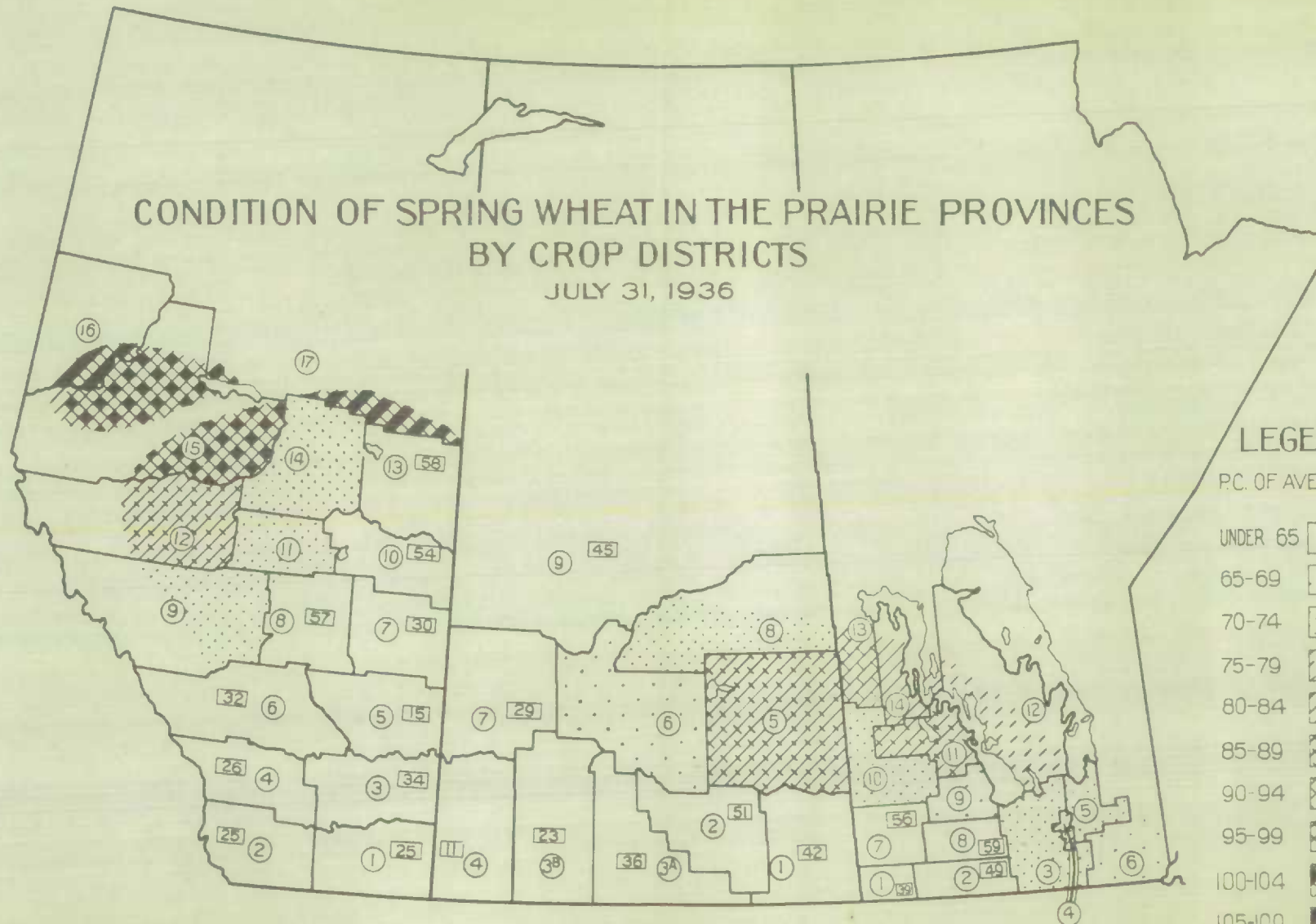
TABLE I. SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR

Year	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Total	100,000	120,000	150,000	180,000	200,000
1911	100,000	120,000	150,000	180,000	200,000
1912	100,000	120,000	150,000	180,000	200,000
1913	100,000	120,000	150,000	180,000	200,000
1914	100,000	120,000	150,000	180,000	200,000
1915	100,000	120,000	150,000	180,000	200,000

1. - Condition of Field Crops at July 31, 1936, as compared with May 31, and June 30, 1936, and with July 31, 1935. (100=Long-time average Yield per acre).

Field Crops	July 31 1935	May 31 1936	June 30 1936	July 31 1936	Field Crops	July 31 1935	May 31 1936	June 30 1936	July 31 1936
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.		p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
<u>Canada -</u>					<u>Ontario -</u>				
Spring wheat	81	95	82	45	Spring wheat	98	92	93	80
Oats	90	93	87	57	Oats	101	92	93	76
Barley	93	93	87	56	Barley	100	89	92	76
Spring rye	89	93	79	49	Peas	95	91	94	61
Peas	96	91	95	70	Beans	95	-	90	83
Beans	95	-	89	84	Buckwheat	95	-	94	63
Buckwheat	96	-	95	80	Mixed grains	103	92	94	75
Mixed grains	102	92	94	77	Flaxseed	99	-	90	73
Flaxseed	88	-	83	45	Corn for husking	96	-	89	82
Corn for husking	96	-	89	82	Potatoes	92	-	94	70
Potatoes	95	-	95	81	Turnips, etc.	98	-	92	68
Turnips, etc.	96	-	94	81	Hay and clover	104	92	92	86
Hay and clover	100	98	99	94	Fodder corn	97	-	94	81
Fodder corn	96	-	93	79	Sugar beets	103	-	87	84
Sugar beets	101	-	86	75	Pasture	105	95	94	61
Pasture	101	101	100	82	<u>Manitoba -</u>				
<u>P. E. Island -</u>					Spring wheat	62	96	89	61
Spring wheat	98	96	101	73	Oats	75	95	91	52
Oats	98	96	103	101	Barley	94	95	90	55
Barley	99	96	101	98	Spring rye	96	93	88	61
Buckwheat	95	-	101	95	Peas	97	98	96	68
Mixed grains	100	96	103	104	Buckwheat	98	-	95	70
Potatoes	94	-	98	96	Mixed grains	97	96	91	65
Turnips, etc.	93	-	99	100	Flaxseed	97	-	88	60
Hay and clover	89	103	109	113	Potatoes	96	-	96	55
Fodder corn	90	-	96	89	Turnips, etc.	100	-	93	59
Pasture	95	101	110	109	Hay and clover	106	99	93	83
<u>Nova Scotia -</u>					Fodder corn	95	-	90	71
Spring wheat	99	99	99	96	Pasture	108	98	93	62
Oats	99	100	101	102	<u>Saskatchewan -</u>				
Barley	99	98	99	100	Spring wheat	85	95	80	45
Buckwheat	99	-	98	96	Oats	91	93	81	41
Mixed grains	99	99	99	103	Barley	91	93	83	49
Potatoes	99	-	98	99	Spring rye	94	92	75	45
Turnips, etc.	94	-	98	98	Peas	100	92	79	31
Hay and clover	89	104	109	110	Beans	101	-	81	32
Fodder corn	99	-	99	96	Mixed grains	101	92	77	36
Pasture	94	102	108	106	Flaxseed	88	-	83	43
<u>New Brunswick -</u>					Potatoes	98	-	93	59
Spring wheat	98	93	100	98	Turnips, etc.	99	-	88	58
Oats	99	95	99	101	Hay and clover	95	94	85	65
Barley	99	96	96	97	Fodder corn	96	-	85	43
Beans	93	-	97	99	Pasture	98	93	85	52
Buckwheat	97	-	97	96	<u>Alberta -</u>				
Mixed grains	99	96	100	98	Spring wheat	81	96	83	40
Potatoes	92	-	97	99	Oats	81	95	84	41
Turnips, etc.	90	-	98	99	Barley	86	94	85	45
Hay and clover	93	104	109	108	Spring rye	80	94	79	40
Fodder corn	96	-	99	96	Peas	91	100	89	45
Pasture	96	103	108	106	Beans	91	-	83	32
<u>Quebec -</u>					Mixed grains	87	92	84	43
Spring wheat	98	85	94	93	Flaxseed	76	-	73	34
Oats	98	85	94	94	Potatoes	91	-	92	59
Barley	98	87	96	98	Turnips, etc.	94	-	91	59
Spring rye	98	94	91	99	Hay and clover	96	97	88	64
Peas	98	90	97	94	Fodder corn	84	-	86	38
Beans	95	-	96	97	Sugar beets	95	-	85	58
Buckwheat	97	-	96	95	Pasture	92	97	86	52
Mixed grains	100	91	97	96	<u>British Columbia -</u>				
Flaxseed	102	-	97	94	Spring wheat	97	96	97	95
Potatoes	98	-	96	99	Oats	98	98	99	98
Turnips, etc.	96	-	97	100	Barley	97	96	96	96
Hay and clover	99	100	103	101	Spring rye	97	98	102	97
Fodder corn	93	-	95	91	Peas	96	100	99	103
Pasture	102	109	105	99	Beans	100	-	100	102
					Mixed grains	98	99	99	99
					Flaxseed	96	-	100	99
					Potatoes	94	-	98	97
					Turnips, etc.	94	-	97	96
					Hay and clover	96	98	102	99
					Fodder corn	94	-	96	97
					Pasture	97	98	102	94

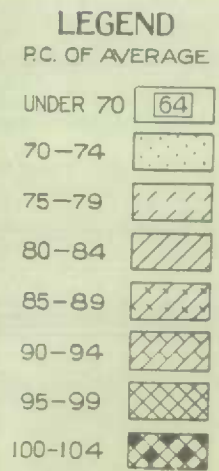
CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS JULY 31, 1936



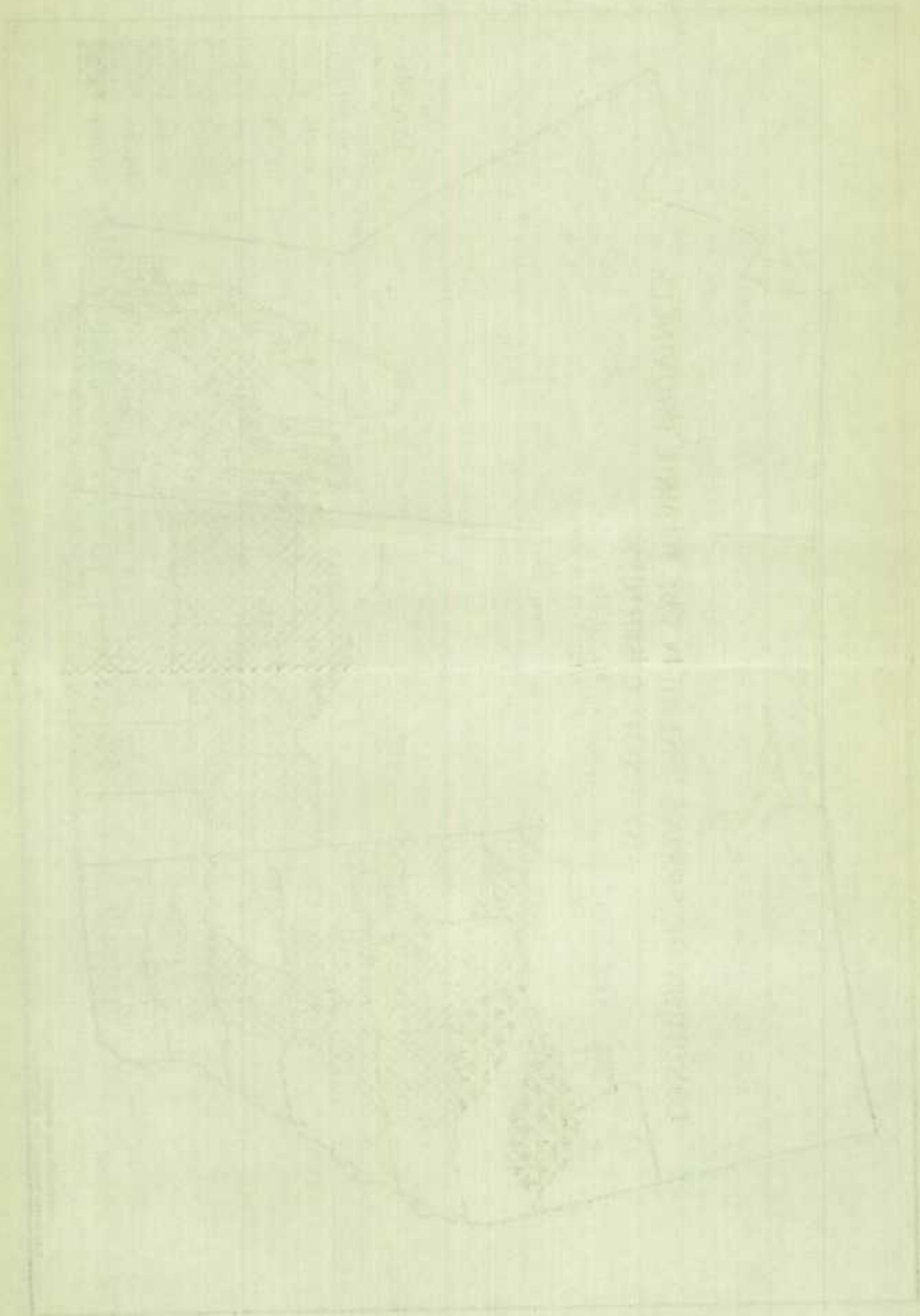
LEGEND	
P.C. OF AVERAGE	
UNDER 65	[25]
65-69	[]
70-74	[]
75-79	[]
80-84	[]
85-89	[]
90-94	[]
95-99	[]
100-104	[]
105-109	[]

CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS

JUNE 30, 1936



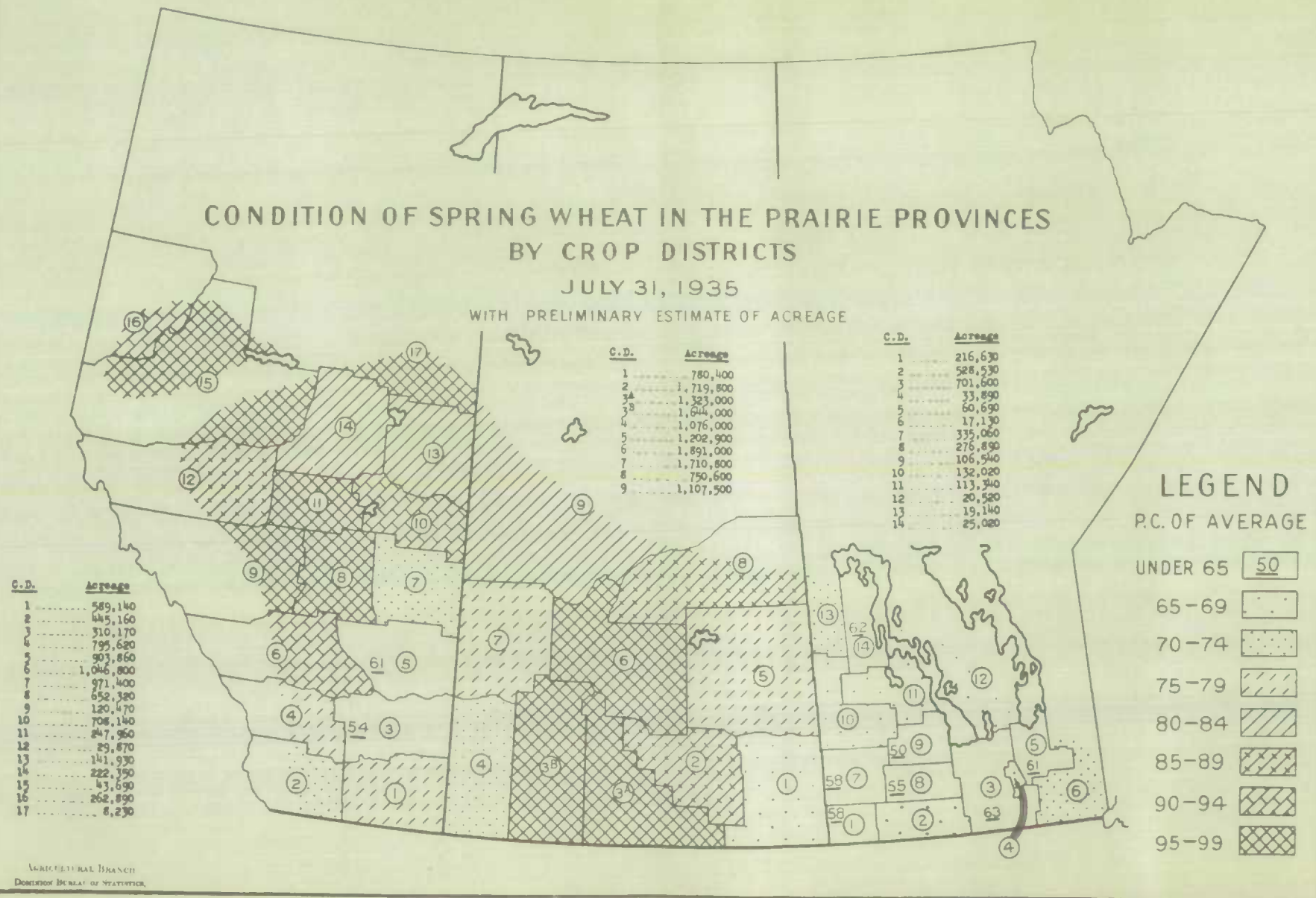
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CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS

JULY 31, 1935

WITH PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF ACREAGE



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