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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH.

Union Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S.(Hon.), F.R.S.C.
Chief, Agricultural Branch: F. J. Horning, B.A., F.S.S.

Ottawa, May 11, 1929, 12 noon. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day the first crop report of the present season, indicating the proportions winter-killed of fall wheat and rye and of hay and clover meadows and the progress of spring seeding. The report is compiled from the returns of crop correspondents at the end of April.

WINTER KILLING OF FALL WHEAT, FALL RYE AND HAY AND CLOVER MEADOWS

The area estimated last November as having been sown to fall wheat was 951,000 acres, of which 820,000 acres were in Ontario, 117,000 acres in Alberta and 14,000 acres in British Columbia. The proportion reported as winter-killed is 6 p.c., or 53,300 acres, leaving the area to be harvested for all Canada at 897,700 acres. The percentage of 6 in 1929 compares with 21 p.c. in 1928, 13 p.c. in 1927 and 9 p.c., the average of the ten years 1919-28. In Ontario the percentage winter-killed is 5, as compared with 23 p.c. last year and 9 p.c., the average for the ten years 1919-28. It represents 41,000 acres, leaving the area to be harvested in Ontario at 779,000 acres. In Alberta the proportion reported as winter-killed is 10 p.c., as compared with 6 p.c. last year and 8 p.c., the ten-year average, and represents 11,700 acres, leaving 105,300 acres to be harvested. In British Columbia 4 p.c. is reported winter-killed, as against 3 p.c. last year and 5 p.c., the ten-year average. The proportion this year represents 600 acres and leaves the area to be harvested at 13,400 acres.

The area estimated as having been sown to fall rye was 557,000 acres, of which 3 p.c. is now reported as winter-killed. This proportion represents 19,300 acres, leaving the area to be harvested at 537,700 acres. By provinces areas sown, winter-killed and to be harvested are as follows: Ontario: sown 57,000 acres, winter-killed 3 p.c. or 2,000 acres, to be harvested 65,000 acres; Manitoba: sown 97,000 acres, winter-killed 5 p.c., or 4,900 acres, to be harvested 92,100 acres; Saskatchewan: sown 308,000 acres, winter-killed 3 p.c. or 9,000 acres, to be harvested 299,000 acres; Alberta: sown 85,000 acres, winter-killed 4 p.c. or 3,400 acres, to be harvested 81,600 acres.

The proportion of hay and clover winter-killed is reported as 5 p.c. By provinces, the percentages reported winter-killed are as follows, last year's figures being given within brackets: Prince Edward Island 11 (14); Nova Scotia 3 (3); New Brunswick 4 (12); Quebec 6 (6); Ontario 4 (16); Manitoba 3 (3); Saskatchewan 3 (2); Alberta 1 (1); British Columbia 2 (2).

CONDITION OF FALL WHEAT, FALL RYE AND HAY AND CLOVER MEADOWS

The condition of fall wheat at the end of April, 1929, expressed as a percentage of the average yield per acre for the ten years 1919-28, is reported for all Canada as 103, compared with 88 last year and 94 in 1927. For Ontario, the condition is 103, as compared with 87 last year and 93 in 1927. For Alberta, the condition is reported as 100 which compares with 101 last year and 99 in 1927. In British Columbia, the condition is 97, as compared with 99 last year and 96 in 1927.

For fall rye, the condition is reported as 97 p.c. for all Canada, as compared with 96 p.c. in 1928 and 97 p.c. in 1927; 103 p.c. for Ontario, as against 92 p.c. and 97 p.c.; 97 p.c. for Manitoba, as against 96 p.c. and 93 p.c.; 95 p.c. for Saskatchewan as against 96 p.c. and 99 p.c.; and 97 p.c. for Alberta as against 101 p.c. and 101 p.c.

The condition of hay and clover meadows on April 30, 1929, is, in percentage of the ten-year average, 99 for all Canada, as compared with 95 last year. By provinces the condition with the corresponding figure for April 30, 1928 given in brackets, is as follows: Prince Edward Island 94 (94); Nova Scotia 94 (100); New Brunswick 100 (96); Quebec 98 (98); Ontario 103 (90); Manitoba 99 (97); Saskatchewan 96 (98); Alberta 100 (101); British Columbia 98 (99).

PROGRESS OF SPRING SEEDING

In the three Atlantic Provinces and Quebec, practically no seeding had been done by the end of April. In Ontario 28 p.c. of the spring wheat seeding was done this year as compared with 8 p.c. last year and 74 p.c. in 1927. For oats, 13 p.c. was completed as against 7 p.c. last year and 65 p.c. in 1927. For barley, the proportion is 9 p.c., as compared with 6 p.c. and 71 p.c. respectively. In the Prairie Provinces this year, 53 p.c. of the wheat seeding is reported as done in Manitoba, 39 p.c. in Saskatchewan, and 36 p.c. in Alberta. In 1928 and 1927, by the same date, the respective proportions were 31 p.c. and 4 p.c. in Manitoba, 8 p.c. and 2 p.c. in Saskatchewan and 8 p.c. and 10 p.c. in Alberta. In Manitoba 6 p.c. of the oats and 5 p.c. of the barley are reported as sown; in Saskatchewan 2 p.c. and 1 p.c.; and in Alberta 4 p.c. and 2 p.c. Of the total seeding, the percentages completed by the end of April, with last year's proportions in brackets, are as follows: Quebec 1 (-); Ontario 14 (6); Manitoba 31 (18); Saskatchewan 27 (5); Alberta 31 (5); British Columbia 51 (42).

GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE END OF APRIL

Atlantic Provinces.-- The season appears to be about average. There is still a considerable amount of frost in the ground and it is a little too early to estimate the condition of hay and clover meadows, although damage was done owing to the scant amount of snow covering during the winter. No seeding has yet been attempted.

Quebec.-- There is still snow and ice on the fields in some parts of the province so that little work of any kind has been started. Where free of ice, however, the hay and clover meadows have a good appearance. It is not expected that seeding will be general before the middle of May.

Ontario.-- The season is backward owing to the prevalence of cold winds and rain throughout the month of April. Operations are especially behind in northern Ontario as little ploughing could be done last fall. Some seeding has been started but held up on account of weather. Clover and alfalfa meadows have a satisfactory appearance.

Manitoba.-- The land is reported to be in fine condition for seeding owing largely to the amount of ploughing done last fall. The cold weather with snow and rain has been responsible for delay in seeding in some places. With more favourable conditions however, seeding should be well advanced early in May. There is plentiful supply of moisture.

Saskatchewan.-- The starting of seeding operations was prevented in the first part of the month by snow and rain, but seeding became general about April 23, which is somewhat earlier than last year. Since seeding commenced, conditions have been favourable in most places for the steady progress of spring work. The weather, however, is generally reported too cool for good growth. The snow and rain improved moisture conditions, but there are some districts where more would have been welcome.

Alberta.-- The weather has been somewhat backward, but good progress has been made with seeding in some places. Recent rains have improved the situation as the land was very dry. There appears to be a good supply of moisture. The outlook is promising.

British Columbia.-- Spring is backward, but generally very dry, and rains are needed. Fall sown grain crops have wintered well. Alfalfa stands are slow in growth. The pastures are improving.

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