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The Guide Crop Report

Reports from 440 Grain Growers' Association and U.F.A. Secretaries and Expert Seed Growers, showing the Condition of Western Crops up to September 5

The Guide crop report for 1917 has been compiled mainly from the reports of 440 farmers and covers the period up to and including September 5. These farmers were asked to report on the district within a radius of ten miles of their homes. The apparent thoroughness with which they went into the situation merits a large measure of confidence in the results of these reports and appreciation of them. Supplementing these was a great deal of travelling by members of The Guide staff and careful observations by many farmers closely in touch with conditions all over the West.

The results indicate a more satisfactory crop than anticipated. The figures need no elaboration. In a general way the whole of the country south of the main line of the C.P.R. suffered severely from drought. In western Saskatchewan and in Alberta these semi-arid conditions extended north of that line considerably and generally prevailed south of the C.N.R. through part of Kindersley and Medicine Hat and Bow River constituencies. The reports received for the various constituencies have been averaged in practically every case so a good indication is given of all parts. This will show Medicine Hat, Maple Creek, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Assiniboia, Souris and Lisgar to be the worst hit.

In the five southern constituencies of Manitoba wheat will average 12 1/2, oats 23 and barley 18 bushels, while in the six northern constituencies reports average 21, 38 and 28 respectively. In the eight southern constituencies of Saskatchewan, which includes Kindersley, averages will be wheat, 14 1/2, oats 24, barley 18; while in the eight northern constituencies averages indicated are wheat 18, oats 34, barley 25. In Macleod, Bow River, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge of Alberta reports put averages at, wheat 15, oats 26, barley 21 bushels. The average for all the territory north of these is wheat 22 1/2, oats 41, and barley 28. Oats and barley of course are worst hit. There was a severe frost on June 21 that did great damage and there has been some frost recently which has done some harm to oats, for oats have been late and in many places were still quite green on September 1. Where damaged severely, however, feed will be made of them. Hail damage is very light. In a few districts in Saskatchewan and Alberta slight insect damage to wheat is reported. Rust cuts little or no figure. Though everyone is working unusual hours and wages are very high in most parts the help now on hand will suffice pretty well. Weed damage seems to be on the increase this year. In few places is there any appreciable increase of summerfallow area though generally there is as much prepared as in 1916. Indications point to a good percentage being fall plowed or otherwise cultivated before going into winter.

The grade of wheat will be high. Out of 2,260 cars reaching Winnipeg up to and including September

11, all but three went No. 1, 2 or 3 Northern and these three went No. 4. Most of it went No. 1 and No. 2. It is a good indication of the grade of this year's wheat. In some southern districts it will be necessary to buy oats, especially for seed, but generally this will be no such problem as last year. The unusual prices are forcing an economy of all crops, whether good or poor, never before practised. Hay seems a better crop than anticipated, which goes far to help out the feed situation which is doubly important with a low oat and barley yield. Much high land was very poor but the average is fair. Potato reports are disappointing. Generally the crop is not as good as a year ago, though in a few places, notably northern Alberta it is better. The crop is late. The acreage seems larger, the quality appears to be good, but the yield indicated will be low. Recent rains have helped much.

An estimate of the total yield based on the official acreage under crops as compiled by the Departments of Agriculture in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and careful estimates for Alberta appear on this page. A detailed report by constituencies follows.

The average yields mentioned in these constituencies refer only to the particular constituency dealt with.

Manitoba

Dauphin.—Fifteen farmers place wheat from 20 to 30 bushels per acre, average 24; oats 35 to 60, average 47 1/2; barley 21 to 45, average 34 1/2. Practically no damage of any kind, an excellent crop. There seems generally enough help here. Area in summerfallow has decreased in many places 20 to 50 per cent., others are normal, none report an increase. New breaking shows a slight increase in a few places. Hay crop runs from 60 per cent. to normal, with generally a very fair crop. All but one report the potato crop much better than a year ago.

Marquette.—Eighteen farmers say wheat will average 18 1/2 bushels, varying from 12 to 28; oats will average 32 bushels and barley 19 bushels. Every one reports drought damage and many set-backs from early spring frosts. Farmers are getting off the harvest with practically their own help. Six say there is a slight increase in the area summerfallow, but 11 say practically the same as 1916. Less new breaking has been done. A few report an abundance of hay but most say from 50 to 80 per cent. of normal. Seven say potatoes are about normal while nine say the crop is much poorer than in 1916, running from 50 to 80 per cent. of that crop. Some seed oats may be needed.

Nepawa.—Five reports say wheat will average 16, oats 33, and barley 24 bushels. The chief enemy was (Continued on page 16)

ESTIMATE OF CROP YIELD

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flax
Manitoba—				
Acres	2,853,362	2,230,000	1,270,720	63,605
Average Yield	17 bus.	31 bus.	23 bus.	9 bus.
Total	48,507,200	69,130,000	29,226,560	572,445
Saskatchewan—				
Acres	7,862,500	3,808,120	368,330	596,110
Average Yield	16 bus.	29 bus.	22 bus.	9 bus.
Total	125,800,000	110,435,480	8,103,260	5,364,990
Alberta—				
Acres	2,500,000	1,750,000	305,000	90,000
Average Yield	20 bus.	34 bus.	26 bus.	10 bus.
Total	50,000,000	59,500,000	7,930,000	900,000
Total Acres	13,215,862	7,788,120	1,944,050	749,715
Total Average	17 bus.	30.7 bus.	22.7 bus.	9.10 bus.
Total Yield	224,307,200	239,065,480	45,259,820	6,837,435



Federal Electoral Constituencies, used as Guide Crop Report Districts. Map also shows principal rivers and railroad lines.