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## Wisconsin state crop report. 1903

Wisconsin. State Board of Agriculture

Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture, 1903

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**WISCONSIN**

**STATE CROP REPORT.**

**APRIL 15, 1903.**

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**ISSUED BY**

**STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.**

# Wisconsin State Crop Report.

April 15, 1903.

The crop prospects for the season of 1903, as indicated by soil conditions, state of farm work, and condition of those crops liable to be affected by winter killing, are excellent. The abundance of rain that has fallen during the spring is none too much to meet soil requirements, and, while the ground is just now too wet for handling, a few warm dry days will put it in the best condition for seeding. Considerable plowing has been done in the southern half of the state, and upon light soils, seeding is well advanced; while in the northern half of the state and upon heavy soils elsewhere, spring work is not far advanced. As a whole, farm work is not as forward as it was at this date last season, less plowing having been done last fall than in the fall of 1901. Farm labor is scarce and high. The acreage of clover sown last season was exceptionally large, and the condition at date is usually reported as excellent, the greatest loss occurring from being smothered by lodged grain with which it was sown. The importance of a full crop of clover, to the Wisconsin farmer, can hardly be overestimated, and will be highly appreciated in southern Wisconsin, where there has been a failure to secure a stand for several seasons last past. Winter grains are also little injured by freezing, though the acreage of both wheat and rye has fallen off quite decidedly from last season.

Very few localities in the state any longer sow a large acreage of winter wheat, and the raising of rye, except in localities especially adapted to its growth, seems to be losing ground.

Reports received show a loss in acreage from 1902 of 20

per cent. in rye and 40 per cent. in winter wheat. The general condition of farm animals is reported as good, with no more than the usual amount of disease peculiar to the various classes.

Prices of farm products are in no cases as high as a year ago, though now selling at fairly remunerative figures. In the reports of prices given below we have omitted returns from those counties of the state that raise little more than is required for home consumption. Average prices, in farmers' hands, are as follows:

Wheat	.....	.65 cents per bushel
Rye	.....	.45 cents per bushel
Oats	.....	.30 cents per bushel
Barley	.....	.46 cents per bushel
Corn	.....	.46 cents per bushel
Potatoes	.....	.31 cents per bushel
Tame hay	.....	\$.75 per ton
Dairy butter	.....	.22 cents per pound
Eggs	.....	.12 cents per dozen

The report to be issued May 15 will give the crop acreage for the coming season.

JOHN M. TRUE,  
*Secretary.*

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**WISCONSIN**

# **FARM CROP REPORT**

**MAY 15, 1903.**

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**Issued by**  
**STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.**

## Wisconsin Farm Crop Report.

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May 15th, 1903.

While the month of April was exceptionally cold and wet, and farm work was seriously retarded by such weather, the prospects, at date, for all farm enterprises, are excellent.

Grass is our most important and valuable crop; and its present condition is such as to practically give assurance of an unusually large hay crop.

There is an increase in the acreage of tame meadows, from last year, of 8%; this coming largely from the southern part of the state, where for the first time in years a good stand of clover was secured last year.

In most parts of the state, last year's seeding of clover is reported to be in good condition,—some winter killing occurring in exposed locations, and on older fields.

Upland pastures are good, while the excessive rainfall has kept marshy lands almost inaccessible.

Farm stock is already largely turned upon pasture, for its main food supply.

Winter wheat and rye are found to be in good condition as the season advances, their respective standings at date being 95% and 97%.

While fields for small grain were not generally as well prepared for the seed as usual, on account of excess of moisture, still the stand of oats, barley and spring wheat is good, and plants are growing rapidly.

There is a continued tendency to drop wheat growing in Wis-

consin, as is shown by a fall in acreage of spring wheat, from last year, of 10%, while our previous reports show an even greater falling off in winter wheat.

The acreage of barley and oats remains about the same as last year, with a slight increase in oats in the northern half of the state.

While farmers have been busy the past week in the preparation of ground for corn planting, and upon dry soils, considerable planting has been done, a large part of the acreage is yet to be planted, and the work will not be generally completed before the last of the month.

The larger part of the ground for potatoes has not yet been plowed, and the planting of late potatoes will be left until after corn planting.

Of fruits, cherries, currants, gooseberries and plums are considerably injured by frost; strawberries are slightly damaged, but will probably be a full crop.

Apples are not blooming as heavily as last year, but trees are in excellent condition, and the prospects are fair.

Our next report will give estimates of the acreage of corn, potatoes, and tobacco, as well as a statement of the condition of our various crops.

JOHN M. TRUE,

*Secretary.*

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**WISCONSIN  
FARM CROP REPORT**

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**June 15, 1903**

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**Issued by State Board of Agriculture**

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# Wisconsin Farm Crop Report.

June 15, 1903.

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The crop prospects of the state are by no means discouraging. The recent heavy frost has seriously injured early planted fields of corn and potatoes, and these crops now have a very unpromising appearance; but scarcely any of fields affected have been destroyed, and ninety-five per cent of the crop, with warm, favorable weather, may yet recover completely from the effects of the freeze.

In many sections of the state large areas of high lands have completely escaped, and upon almost every farm, parts of fields have practically been uninjured.

Fear has been expressed that winter wheat and winter rye, in blossom, have been damaged, and this can only be determined by time.

Aside from the effects of frost, our crops remain in excellent condition, and no apparent reason for anxiety exists.

The ground is usually well supplied with moisture, heat and sunshine being only wanting.

From the reports of our correspondents we find that the acreage of corn has fallen off fully five per cent from last year, while the acreage of potatoes has increased two per cent.

The acreage of tobacco is also considerably increased; all tobacco growing counties, except Rock, reporting a gain, and this county no loss. Only about one-half of the tobacco was set at the time of frost and the loss from this source was much diminished by this, as beds of plants were usually protected.

A considerable increase of acreage of peas is reported, especially in districts where canning is a leading industry.

Sugar beets are receiving more attention in parts of the state within convenient reach of the sugar factory at Menomonee Falls.

All small grains are doing well, the weather being well adapted to a strong, healthy growth.

Compared with a good average condition, these crops are reported in the following percentages:

Winter wheat, —92; spring wheat, —98; rye, —102; barley, —100; oats, —102; corn, —80.

The hay crop is to be an exceptional one, the condition of meadows being reported at 112, while pastures reach the high percentage of 115. Live stock is thriving finely upon the excellent pasturage, and creameries and cheese factories are busy and prosperous.

Fruit prospects have rather improved, and the outlook for later small fruits and apples is fair.

JOHN M. TRUE,  
*Secretary.*

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WISCONSIN  
FARM CROP REPORT

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**JULY 15, 1903.**

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Issued by State Board of Agriculture.

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## WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

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July 15th, 1903.

The general crop indications of the State must be considered as very satisfactory. While ideal conditions of weather have not been universal, we have escaped disastrous storms and floods, that have visited other Western States, as well as the parching drouth that has been almost universal in the East.

During the past month the growth of crops has been seriously hindered in some parts of Northern Wisconsin, by an excessive rainfall, though the hot weather of the past two weeks has forced all crops forward with exceptional rapidity, and at date the condition of soil moistures are almost universally reported as favorable.

Pastures continue to be excellent and are proving a source of income to the dairyman and stock grower, not easily estimated, nor generally appreciated.

The tame hay crop of the State is immense, but has been quite generally badly damaged in curing, by repeated showers.

That part of the crop that remains uncut, is becoming over ripe, and falling off in feeding value.

The winter wheat crop of the State is no longer important, on account of diminished acreage, while the yield per acre will be considerably less than last year.

Spring wheat is not very generally raised, and has been somewhat injured by rust, induced by the wet, hot weather, of the past week or two. It will not make a full crop.

Rye was exceedingly promising up to the time of the June frost, when in some localities it was considerably damaged.

While the general appearance of the crop continues to be good, some correspondents report that heads are not well filled, and while the crop will doubtless be very nearly an average one, it will probably hardly reach the yield of last year, twenty-one bushels per acre.

Barley is a good crop, its only apparent drawback being that it is considerably lodged. The berry is good and the yield will be large.

The oat crop should be even better than last year, when the estimated yield per acre was forty bushels, as there is plenty of straw with less lodging, but many of our correspondents report rusting, which may affect yield. It is hoped, however, that this disease may not be wide spread.

Corn has made a phenomenal growth since July 1st, and has a better rating now than in our report a year ago, though the crop will need a favorable September, for full development.

The stand of tobacco is good, and the plants are growing rapidly. Farmers were hindered in setting, by unfavorable weather, and as a result the fields are rather uneven in growth.

Potatoes are doing well, especially in the potato growing districts of the State. The crop has suffered somewhat on heavy soils, from too much moisture.

Bugs are reported as numerous, and troublesome.

Apples will not be more than a half crop. They are dropping badly.

Peas and flax in their respective districts, are making an excellent crop.

The unusual amount of white clover this season, has furnished excellent pasturage for honey bees, and large quantities of excellent honey are being produced.

We find the following average percentage of the several crops as reported:

Wheat .....	961½
Rye .....	98
Barley .....	99
Oats .....	981½
Corn .....	86
Tobacco .....	99
Potatoes .....	961½
Apples .....	50

JOHN M. TRUE,  
*Secretary.*

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WISCONSIN  
FARM CROP REPORT

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**August 15, 1903.**

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Issued by State Board of Agriculture.

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# Wisconsin Farm Crop Report.

August 15, 1903.

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Since the date of our last report, July 15, weather conditions have been unfavorable for nearly all Wisconsin crops.

The rust that was then reported as injuring oats, in some localities, became quite general throughout the State, and yield per acre is seriously affected thereby, while the grain is light in weight and lacking in feeding value.

The harvest of the crop was hindered by the excessively wet weather, and much grain has gone into stack in not the best condition.

Farmers that practice threshing from the shock have not been able to get grain in proper condition for threshing and storing and quite a percentage of the grain is still in the field.

The estimated yield per acre of this crop for the State, as reported by correspondents from fifty-six counties, is placed at  $36\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, against 40 bushels per acre last year, but the difference in the value of the crop will be greater.

Wheat, rye and barley matured without serious damage from disease or insects, and the estimated yield per acre of State is: Wheat, 17 bushels; rye, 18 bushels; and barley, 32 bushels; the market value of the last named crop is somewhat lessened by color.

The hay crop of the State is universally heavy, the yield per acre being estimated at  $13\frac{1}{4}$  tons.

During the past month the corn crop has been disappointing in its growth. The cool weather has seemed to hold it nearly at a standstill; the entire crop is late, and an early frost, like that of last year, would bring practical ruin to the crop.



On the other hand, many fields are strong and vigorous, well cared, and with a few weeks hot weather, would produce a fine yield. The corn crop of 1903, is now purely a question of weather.

Correspondents seem to be hopeful and still claim 70 per cent. of a full crop in entire State.

Tobacco has suffered somewhat from the same conditions that have interfered with the corn crop, though not as severely. The crop is late, and fields are uneven in point of maturity. Harvest in some early fields has already commenced, while other fields need two or more weeks for maturing.

The estimated standing of crop at date is 92 per cent. of full crop.

Late potatoes are doing well. There is little complaint of disease or insects, and the crop promises to be fully up to an average in yield, with a slight increase in acreage. The potato growing counties,—Adams, Portage, Waushara and Waupaca, report excellent conditions.

Minor farm crops,—buckwheat, beans and roots are reported in good condition.

Apples continue to fall badly, and the crop will be light, and the quality of the fruit not first class.

The entire season has been favorable for grass crop; and pastures and second growth of meadows is furnishing an abundance of pasturage, and will continue to do so well into the fall, insuring fine condition to farm live stock.

No report will be issued from this office next month on account of the State Fair, to be held in Milwaukee, Sept. 7-11, but the October report will deal more fully with yield per acre of crops, as well as condition of those maturing later.

JOHN M. TRUE,

*Secretary.*

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**WISCONSIN  
FARM CROP REPORT**

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**October 1, 1903.**  
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**Issued by State Board of Agriculture.**

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MADISON**

# Wisconsin Farm Crop Report.

October 1st, 1903.

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Special inquiries were sent out from this office Oct. 1st as to the respective condition of corn and potatoes. Corn having suffered severely in a large part of the state from severe frosts, while it was yet in an immature state, and potatoes being reported as rotting more or less, in all sections.

## CORN.

In making our report upon the corn crop we divide the state into two districts, the first including what may be considered the corn belt of the state, and including Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, LaFayette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties, which in 1900 had 939,781 acres of corn, and produced 35,393,760 bushels of grain, and the second district contains the remainder of the state; which in 1900 had 557,693 acres of corn, producing 17,916,100 bushels of grain. In the first mentioned district, the percentage of crop, upon basis of 100, is 87 per cent., and in the latter district 60 per cent. The difference in the quality of crop would undoubtedly be greater than figures here given.

## POTATOES.

In 1900 there were 256,931 acres of potatoes in the state producing 24,641,498 bushels.

Of this acreage Portage, Waupaca and Waushara counties had 70,282 acres and raised 5,456,635 bushels of potatoes, one-fourth the entire crop of the state.

These counties now report the prospective yield at 72 per cent. of a full crop.

The counties of Adams, Columbia, Dunn, Juneau, Marathon, Milwaukee, Sauk and Waukesha each, in 1900, had an acreage of more than 5,000 acres, with an aggregate yield of 5,672,293 bushels.

These counties now report an estimated yield of 44 per cent. of a full crop, and the remainder of the state 50 per cent.

Considerable uncertainty exists as to the extent to which rotting may continue, the present warm wet weather being unfavorable for crop.

JOHN M. TRUE, *Secretary.*

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WISCONSIN  
FARM CROP REPORT

November 1, 1903

Issued by State Board of Agriculture

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# Wisconsin Farm Crop Report.

November 1, 1903.

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The season of 1903 falls below the average, both in the yield per acre of most Wisconsin farm crops, as also in the quality of product. The cold wet weather that has prevailed, throughout the summer, caused too rank a growth of straw with the small grains, resulting in damage from lodging and rust, and rendering the harvesting and securing of the crops extremely difficult.

As a result the yield per acre is less than that of last year, and the quality is also inferior. This is especially the case with oats, which were badly shrunk by rust, and have also been seriously damaged in the stack. Most of the grain is light and inferior in feeding value.

Though in much of the southern part of the State no severe frost came until late in October, even here little corn is up to the standard, either in yield or quality; while in the central and northern parts of the State, where a killing frost came earlier, conditions are worse. At no time during the summer was the weather such as to rapidly develop the crop.

Potatoes, which up to the first of September, promised well, have since that time rotted so badly as to make the crop the lightest harvested in the State for many years. Even those being marketed have to be subjected to the closest scrutiny. The quality of those free from rot, is fair.

The only crops that have been excellent are those of grass and hay, though considerable trouble was experienced in securing the latter crop, on account of rain. A large proportion of the farmers of the State are interested in dairying, and to these the abundant pasturage has brought rich returns.

The following tables show the estimated yield per acre of the various farm crops of the State, and the quality of same, 100 representing a No. 1 product.

YIELD PER ACRE.

Wheat, bu. ....	161½
Rye, bu. ....	17
Barley, bu. ....	34
Oats, bu. ....	35
Buckwheat, bu. ....	18
Corn, bu. ....	40
Beans, bu. ....	15
Peas, bu. ....	20
Flax seed, bu. ....	14
Potatoes, bu. ....	45
Sugar beets, tons. ....	12
Tobacco, lbs. ....	1,550

There has been a very decided reduction in the acreage of wheat, even from last year. The acreage of rye is also slightly less. Barley was not materially changed, while more oats were sown, especially in northern part of the State.

The amount of land planted to corn was notably less than last year, while that of potatoes was considerably increased.

Quite an acreage of sugar beets is reported from Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Washington and Waukesha counties.

Flax seed is chiefly raised in Buffalo, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Pierce, Polk, Racine, St. Croix and Trempealeau counties.

The acreage of tobacco is slightly greater than last year.

QUALITY OF PRODUCT.

Wheat .....	87
Rye .....	95
Barley .....	90
Oats .....	80
Buckwheat .....	95
Corn .....	78

No further crop reports will be issued this season.

JOHN M. TRUE,  
*Secretary.*