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Wisconsin. State Board of Agriculture

[Madison, Wisconsin]: Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture, 1904

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MADISON

Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

APRIL 1, 1904

Issued by Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

APRIL 1st, 1904.

In making our first monthly crop report of the season, we have aimed to ascertain the comparative acreage of those farm crops that now occupy the ground; estimated upon the basis of last year's area; and to find their apparent condition, at date, relative to winter killing and other unfavorable influences of the late fall or winter; the prices of leading farm products; and the average prices of farm animals now being put upon the market.

Our reports show that the acreage of winter wheat, which was much diminished last year, from previous areas reported, is now reduced 14 per cent. from last year, and winter rye falls off 9 per cent.

Tame meadows and tame grass pastures will each be increased by 10 per cent., excellent results having been gained from seeding of lands, last season.

The winter while severely cold has not been hard upon grains and grasses, as the State has generally been fairly protected by snows, and steady cold, freezing weather, is preferable to alternate freezing and thawing, and as a result winter grains and grass are now in very satisfactory form.

The reported prices of farm products are generally above the average, or past seasons grains and potatoes especially bringing a good price. We quote as follows:

Corn	50c per bu.
Wheat .....	.85c per bu.
Rye .....	.60c per bu.
Oats .....	.37c per bu.
Barley .....	.50c per bu.
Beans	\$2.00 per bu.
Potatoes .....	.85c per bu.
Tobacco .....	.6½c per lb.
Tame Hay	\$8.50 per ton
Butter .....	.22c per lb.
Eggs .....	.14c per doz.

With the exception of horses, the prices of farm animals are not high, being hardly up to the average of the past five years. The prices given below are for animals of average breeding and condition, and of the quality usually offered for sale.

Horses	\$125.00
Milch Cows	\$33.00
Sheep	\$3.50
Fat Hogs	\$4.75 per 100 lb.
Fat Cattle	\$3.75 per 100 lb.

There is general freedom from contagious or epidemic diseases among farm animals, and the abundance of fodder of the past season has enabled farmers to generally bring stock through the winter in good condition. The season must necessarily be late in allowing a commencement of active farm work, and hardly the usual amount of plowing was done last fall, which will cause the spring to be a busy one.

Reports are common, however, that farm help is more plentiful than last season, at slightly lower prices than were then offered.

Our May report will deal with the acreage of spring planted crops, and general conditions existing at that time.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

MAY 15, 1904

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Issued by Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

MAY 15, 1904.

The present spring will rank among the latest in a period of the last twenty years. The rain fall has not been excessively heavy during the past month, but storms have been so frequent as to keep the ground much of the time in too wet condition to be well handled.

The temperature continues low, and frosts have been prevalent up to date.

The sowing of small grains is hardly completed in some parts of the state, while but very little corn has been planted. Grain, that is up, is a good stand of fine color, and growing nicely. The season has also been favorable for seeding to clover and grasses with grain. Grass has made a very strong growth, and the condition of meadows and pastures is generally reported as excellent. Last year's seeding of clover made an excellent stand, and came through the winter without special loss from freezing, and is started for an abundant crop; older clover fields have suffered quite severely from late spring freezes, and plants are killed or in weak condition.

It can be said that the present indications of an abundant hay crop are excellent as the present amount of soil moisture will go far toward bringing the crop to harvest.

Winter grains have suffered somewhat from cold,—and reporters estimate the prospects of winter wheat at 85 per cent., and those of winter rye at 96 per cent.

Winter wheat is no longer an important crop in Wisconsin, and where sown at all, is in inconsiderable quantities.

Spring wheat also is constantly falling off in acreage,—a loss of 13 per cent. from last year being now reported,—while both barley and oats show an increase of acreage from last season: barley 2 per cent., and oats 1½ per cent.

If weather be favorable much corn will be planted within the next ten days. Considerable complaint comes to us of seed corn's failing to germinate, and farmers would do well to thoroughly test seed before planting.

Of small fruits, strawberries wintered well, and promise a full crop, while raspberries and blackberries that were not protected are badly killed. In some localities, currants and gooseberries, now in blossom, have been injured by recent frosts.

Apple, cherry and plum trees will blossom heavily, indicating a favorable start for a good fruit season.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

JUNE 15, 1904

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

JUNE 15, 1904.

Most Wisconsin farm crops are now planted, or the work so nearly completed as to enable us to complete our estimate of acreage of the principal crops for the season.

The acreage of corn in the State is considerably increased, —some 4 per cent.—over that of last year.

This is less than was the wish of farmers; but on account of the wet season and the bad condition of seed, many fields designed for corn have been planted to later crops, or sown to millet or other forage crops.

Upon fields remaining the stand of corn is not even, and up to date the young plants have made slow growth. There is also much complaint of the ravages of grubs and cut worms.

The decrease in the acreage of tobacco is marked; the falling off in tobacco-growing counties ranging from 10 per cent. to 35 per cent., with a general decrease throughout the State of not less than 20 per cent. Plants are in good condition, and farmers are now busy in their setting.

The acreage of potatoes will be somewhat increased in the State, though not particularly so in the leading potato growing counties. In some localities, farmers have been restricted, in their planted acreage, by the scarcity and high price of seed. There has been a tendency toward earlier planting, than in the past, late potatoes rotting worse last year, than those planted earlier. Early planted potatoes have made a good stand and are looking well.

The raising of sugar beets is becoming a leading industry in some sections of the State, and the general acreage very much increased.

The cultivation is not confined to localities near present or prospective sugar factories, but arrangements are being made for long distance shipments to the Menomonie Falls factory, and the industry is "booming" in the vicinity of Janesville and Chippewa Falls.

The cultivation of flax has been confined to a few counties for the past few years, and in these, even, the acreage is decidedly decreased this season.

The acreage of peas and beans, never large, remains about the same as last year, while buckwheat will be considerably sown upon low lands, designed for corn, but not fit for that crop.

CONDITION OF CROPS.

Winter grain—wheat and rye—have maintained their standing during the past month, and are reported respectively at 85 per cent. and 95 per cent. of a normal crop.

Spring wheat, barley and oats have usually made a vigorous, healthy growth, and are promising.

They are reported:

Spring wheat	94 per cent.
Barley	97 per cent.
Oats	98 per cent.

There has been sufficient rain for a continual growth of grass in meadows and pastures in most parts of the state, and the grass crop was never in more vigorous condition. Old meadows may be somewhat thin, but old tame meadows are seldom profitable and not an indication of the best farm management. An abundant hay crop is already assured, while the surplus feed in pastures is an excellent provision against possible drouth later.

The strawberry crop, just coming upon the market, is an abundant one. Apples are falling quite heavily, but the amount of young fruit on trees was in excess of requirements for a full crop, and the prospects remain good. As a whole the reports received indicate very encouraging crop conditions throughout the state.

It should be borne in mind that dairying is easily the leading farm industry of the state, and that the grass crop is the most important and valuable one raised by the farmer. But little grain is now raised in Wisconsin for shipment outside of the state, and as a result the success of our farmers is not dependent upon the raising of any single crop.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

JULY 15, 1904

Issued by Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

JULY 15, 1904.

A full report from all parts of the State shows the condition of farm crops to be very satisfactory.

It is doubtful whether the prospects for a uniformly good yield of the various important crops of the State has been better for a long term of years.

Localities affected by drouth at time of last report have been visited by timely rains, which have relieved the condition of crops that were beginning to suffer, and the reports of soil moisture are now generally favorable.

Some 40% of the hay crop has been cut, and this has been considerably injured in curing by frequent showers. Later weather has been more favorable, and the remainder of crop is being rapidly secured. The yield is very heavy, and the tonnage will be even greater than that of last year.

Pastures continue in excellent condition except in a few locations in the Southern and Eastern parts of the State where the drouth of last month was especially severe. Winter grains are ripening well, and will give a high average yield.

All spring sowed grains are in satisfactory form. The growth of straw is not as great as last year, saving lodging, and materially increasing the prospect of grain yield.

These crops are reported upon a conservative estimate as follows:

Oats .....	.98 %.
Spring wheat .....	.95 %.
Barley .....	.98½%.

Corn has made very rapid growth within the past few days, and with the warm weather it is reasonable to expect will yet make a fair showing for a crop.

The plants are of excellent color, and some fields are already commencing to tassel. The percentage of condition reported is 85%.

Potatoes are doing nicely, making a rapid growth, and have not been specially troubled by bugs.

Their condition is reported at 97%.

Tobacco is small but doing well. Average condition 90%.

From inquiries sent out, as to acreage of growing sugar beets in State, we estimate the entire crop at 15,000 acres.

Of this amount the largest acreage comes from Rock, Chippewa, Brown and Waukesha counties.

Apples continue to fall badly, reducing former estimates of crop prospects.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

August 15, 1904

Issued by Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

AUGUST 15, 1904.

Weather conditions for the past month have been generally favorable to harvesting and securing the small grain crop of the season. Winter grain and barley were unusually free from any damaging influences, and made a good yield of grain of high quality. Spring wheat and oats, that at the time of our last report were very promising, were later more or less affected by rust,—the loss being mainly confined to late fields. As a result, both of these crops have fallen off in estimated yield. Oats, last month estimated at 98%, having now fallen to 88%.

So little wheat is now raised in the State, that the crop cuts but a small figure.

In our next report we hope to give a close estimate of the yield per acre of all crops of small grain.

The tame hay crop of the State is considerably above an average; very decidedly so, except in Southern and South Eastern counties, where continued drouth has interfered with all farm crops. Except in these localities, pastures are still reported in good condition, and the rank growth of second growth upon meadows, assures an abundance of fall pasturage. The crops of Wisconsin, as a dairy State, would be incomplete without the two important items of pasturage and hay, which are this year most abundant.

The corn crop has not made the expected advance during the past month. The weather has been too cool, and in most parts of the State there has been an excess of rain, and a corresponding lack of sunshine.

Our present report of prospective crop is 75% against 85% last month; and if the present figures are realized, the coming month must be more favorable than the past.

Potatoes are almost universally reported as being very promising. We have no complaint of rot, and very little of blight. With an increased acreage, the crop promises to be large.

Tobacco, like corn, has not made satisfactory advancement. Most fields are uneven, and many are very late. The estimated standing of the crop is 80%.

Sugar beets are usually reported as in excellent condition, and indications are, that this crop that has this year become quite prominent in our State, will be satisfactory.

Apples are to be an average crop.

There was a slight frost in certain localities, in most parts of the State, on the morning of August 8th, doing slight damage to corn and tobacco. The damage seems greatest to the cranberry crop, where the loss is estimated at 50%.

No crop report will be issued September 15th, on account of interference of State Fair work.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

November 1, 1904

Issued by Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture.

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

NOVEMBER 1, 1904.

In this final report of Wisconsin crops for 1904, we have sought to ascertain yield per acre, quality of product, and price of various crops in local markets; and from these have arranged an average statement covering the State.

As will be noted a good average is maintained in yield per acre by all crops except corn; while in quality with the same exception, the showing is very satisfactory. The season has been favorable for ripening and curing of corn fields that were not killed by early frosts, and I think the crop is in better condition and of higher feeding value, than that of 1903.

Oats constitute our leading grain crop, and both in yield per acre and in quality, the standing is higher than was predicted at time of harvest, and as a whole, results are gratifying.

Barley is an excellent crop in all particulars.

Rye maintains a high average, while wheat as a crop is unimportant, and also unsatisfactory.

The potato crop of the State is large,—the season having been well calculated to induce a large yield—and while in a few sections and upon certain soils, rot has done considerable damage, the general quality is excellent.

Quite a diversity in price is noticed from different sections of the State; 20 cents being the ruling price in principal potato growing centers, while from 30 to 40 cents is reported from southern counties, suggesting a possible market for surplus product for other districts of easy access.

The acreage of tobacco was about 20% less than that of 1903, but a satisfactory yield is reported with higher quality than last year.

The new and growing industry of sugar beet raising, has proved very satisfactory.

It is estimated that upwards of 12,000 acres of beets have been raised in the State for sugar production the present season; and the encouraging yield and quality will undoubtedly cause an increased acreage next year.

Pasturage has continued abundant up to present time, and

live stock is in good condition.

There is an abundance of hay and other fodder for winter use.

The apple crop of the State was better than anticipated, and fall varieties have not found a ready sale. Late keeping apples are selling in local markets for \$2.00 per barrel.

Following is an estimate of yield per acre, quality, and prices of the principal farm crops of the current year,—as arranged from reports of correspondents throughout the State.

YIELD PER ACRE.

Wheat	15 bushels.
Rye	18 bushels.
Barley	35 bushels.
Oats	38 bushels.
Buckwheat	16 bushels.
Clover Seed	2½ bushels.
Corn	33 bushels.
Beans	14 bushels.
Potatoes	145 bushels.
Sugar Beets	13 tons.
Tobacco	1350 pounds.
Tame Hay	1¾ tons.

QUALITY OF PRODUCT.

100 representing a high market value.

Wheat	75
Rye	92
Barley	95
Oats	89
Buckwheat	90
Clover Seed	95
Corn	72
Beans	90
Potatoes	97
Sugar Beets	98
Tobacco	93
Tame Hay	95

A separate estimate, based upon special inquiry, places the percentage of corn crop that is merchantable, at 65.

PRICES IN LOCAL MARKETS.

Wheat	\$1.02 per bu.
Rye .....	.70 per bu.
Barley .....	.45 per bu.
Oats .....	.27 per bu.
Buckwheat .....	.63 per bu.
Clover Seed	6.50 per bu.
Corn .....	.50 per bu.
Beans	1.60 per bu.
Potatoes .....	.23 per bu.
Sugar Beets	4.75 per ton.
Tobacco .....	.08 per lb.
Tame Hay	8.00 per ton.

No further crop reports will be issued from this office until next spring.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.