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Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

APRIL 15, 1905

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Issued by Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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MADISON

FARM CROP REPORT.

APRIL 15, 1905.

For the purpose of giving more definite, and consequently more interesting reports of crop conditions, we have divided the State into three sections, to be known in future reports as the Northern, Central and Southern Crop Divisions, and have located the several counties of the State as follows:

NORTHERN DIVISION.

Ashland	Forest	Oneida
Barron	Gates	Polk
Bayfield	Iron	Price
Burnett	Langlade	Sawyer
Chippewa	Lincoln	Shawano
Door	Marathon	Taylor
Douglas	Marinette	Vilas
Florence	Oconto	Washburn

CENTRAL DIVISION.

Adams	Jackson	Pierce
Brown	Juneau	Portage
Buffalo	Kewaunee	St. Croix
Calumet	La Crosse	Sheboygan
Clark	Manitowoc	Trempealeau
Dunn	Marquette	Waupaca
Eau Claire	Monroe	Waushara
Fond du Lac	Outagamie	Winnebago
Green Lake	Pepin	Wood

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Columbia	Iowa	Rock
Crawford	Jefferson	Sauk
Dane	Lafayette	Vernon
Dodge	Milwaukee	Walworth
Kenosha	Ozaukee	Washington
Grant	Racine	Waukesha
Green	Richland	

Inquiries were made April 15th upon the following points:

Condition of crops living during winter; the percentage of small grain crop already sown, and the general condition of farm animals.

Upon the basis of 100 representing highly favorable conditions, we have the following reports:

NORTHERN SECTION.

Winter wheat, 96; rye, 96; clover, 98; small fruit, 93. Percentage of seeding done, .08.

CENTRAL SECTION.

Winter wheat, 97; rye, 98; clover, 99; small fruit, 94. Percentage of seeding done, 28.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Winter wheat, 97; rye, 99; clover, 101; small fruit, 82. Percentage of seeding done, 45.

The unusual snow fall, which came before the cold weather of the early winter and remained until danger from freezing was past, produced almost ideal conditions for preservation of crops in the soil, and gives the unusual percentages given above. Clover is, by far, the most important of these crops. The acreage seeded to clover last season was unusually large, and its present condition indicates a large crop.

Winter wheat is an unimportant crop, the acreage being too small to entitle it to more than a passing notice. Rye is also losing in popularity as a standard crop, though Wisconsin still ranks first in the production of this grain.

The lighter soils of the State, formerly devoted largely to raising rye, under better methods, are now showing a larger acreage of oats, corn and potatoes.

The protection afforded by snow has brought small fruit plants through the winter in better than usual condition.

The percentage of seeding to small grains is unusually large for the middle of April, and in itself may be regarded as a favorable indication of good crop results.

Too much of the live stock of the State is reported in unsatisfactory condition, arising from insufficient grain feed and lack of proper shelter.

Farm wages are high, and in some parts of the State help is scarce. Prices range from \$20 to \$30 per month.

Our next report will be issued May 15th.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

MAY 15, 1905

Issued by the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture.

WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

MAY 15, 1905.

The letter of inquiry addressed to our crop correspondents May 15th, sought information as to the condition of growing crops, and the comparative acreage of the principal farm crops of the present season, with that of last year.

The weather of the past month has been favorable for the growth of winter grains, clover and the grasses, also for the germination of spring grains sowed. Soils have been in excellent condition, friable and easily put in fine form for seed.

The stands of oats, barley and spring wheat are satisfactory in most localities, though some complaint is made of the inferior quality of seed oats, resulting in a thin stand.

Notwithstanding the high price of seed, we are pleased to note that the usual amount of land has been seeded to clover, and the present sufficiency of soil moisture insures a good "catch" and vigorous early growth.

During the past few days the rainfall throughout the state has been excessive, and much of the land is now too wet to be worked, preparatory to planting of corn and late potatoes.

In the Southern division of the State more or less corn planting had been done previous to the rainy period, and had favorable weather continued the crop would have been generally planted before the 20th. The Central division will be from three to five days later, while the Northern division can hardly hope to do much planting before June 1st.

Should the weather soon become favorable, and good seed be planted, the outlook for corn crop is not necessarily discouraging. Farmers who have not yet planted, should not fail to test their seed before planting.

In the estimates of comparative acreage of crops with past season, we note a continued falling off in winter wheat, rye and spring wheat, and a reduction of acreage of potatoes and tobacco, with a marked increase in acreage of barley, oats, meadow, pasture and sugar beets.

Fruit is generally reported in promising condition. No severe frosts have occurred since blossoms were developed.

Under the head of "Condition of Crops," we report the following percentages, 100 representing a high average condition.

Southern Division.

Winter Wheat—100; Rye—100½; Clover—103½; Timothy Meadows—100; Pastures—99½; Fruit—96.

Central Division.

Winter Wheat—98; Rye—99; Clover—101; Timothy Meadows—90; Pastures—97½; Fruit—93.

Northern Division.

Winter Wheat—97; Rye—100; Clover—103; Timothy Meadows—100; Pastures—98; Fruit—97½.

COMPARATIVE ACREAGE.

Southern Division.

Winter Wheat—90; Rye—95; Spring Wheat—98; Barley—105; Oats—100; Corn—99; Potatoes—90; Meadow—102; Pasture—100; Sugar Beets—124; Tobacco—92.

Central Division.

Winter Wheat—88½; Rye—97; Spring Wheat—95; Barley—102; Oats—103; Corn—100; Potatoes—95; Pasture—101; Meadow—101; Sugar Beets—105; Tobacco—90.

Northern Division.

Winter Wheat—100; Rye—102; Spring Wheat—100; Barley—109; Oats—115; Corn—94½; Potatoes—85; Meadow—105; Sugar Beets—100; Tobacco—100.

From these statements we make the following general estimate of total acreage of crops in State, compared with last year:

Winter Wheat—92; Rye—97; Spring Wheat—97; Barley—105; Oats—102; Corn—79; Potatoes—93; Meadow—103; Pasture—102; Sugar Beets—115; Tobacco—92.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

JUNE 15, 1905

Issued by the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

Wisconsin Farm Crop Report.

The month ending June 15th, is notable for its excessive rainfall throughout the state. Many localities have suffered severely from the flooding of low lands and the washing of rolling cultivated fields. In the first instance, planted crops have been drowned out, and grains and grasses lodged and covered with dirt; and in the second, cultivated crops have been washed out and fields have been badly injured by the removal of alluvial soils.

A few instances of damage by hail are reported, but the loss resulting from storms seems to be largely from the immense amount of falling water.

The Central Division of the state has more generally suffered than the South or Southwestern portions, and evidently more than the Northern part of the state.

Besides the direct destruction of crops, the extreme moisture of the soil together with the general low temperature, caused much seed corn to fail to germinate, and seed potatoes have rotted badly after planting. Quite an acreage designed for corn in Central and Northern Divisions had not been planted at date of this issue.

The general condition of meadows, pastures and small grain throughout the state is excellent. The hay crop is to be one of the heaviest ever harvested; pastures are luxuriant, and winter grains have headed in excellent form and promise satisfactory results.

Oats and barley are in danger of producing too much straw, and lodging, all other conditions being favorable.

The stand of corn in the Southern Division is usually reported as satisfactory, while in the Central and Northern Divisions, there is much complaint of rotting seed and damage from cut worms. The continuous wet weather has interfered with the cultivation of the crop and fields were generally weedy, but during the past week the warm days have been industriously used by farmers to good advantage.

Not half of the tobacco crop has, at date, been planted. The plants are small but vigorous, and will be transplanted during the coming week. Sugar beets, in common with other field crops, have suffered from rains; fields are weedy and much hard work will be required to put the crop in good shape.

The great need of all crops now is warm dry weather. Dry weather would check the too rapid growth of grain, hasten the development of the corn plant, and enable the farmer to secure the marvelous crop of hay now ready to harvest.

The present is the "off year" for an apple crop—still reports indicate that for the non-bearing season the prospect is favorable for an average crop.

Small fruit promises well. The strawberry crop is large, and the markets are overcrowded; while cherries, raspberries, currants and gooseberries are doing nicely.

I submit the tables showing the condition of the principal farm crops, based upon reports received from correspondents in the Central and Southern Divisions of the state; crops in the Northern Division, aside from grass and grain, not being sufficiently advanced upon which to base an intelligent estimate.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

Wheat—96; Rye—98; Oats—95; Barley—97; Meadows—105; Pastures—105; Corn—76; Potatoes—92.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Wheat—100; Rye—103; Oats—100; Barley—102; Meadows—106; Pastures—107; Corn—88; Potatoes—94.

THE WHOLE STATE.

Wheat—98; Rye—102; Oats—97; Barley—100; Meadows—106; Pastures—107; Corn—84; Potatoes—93.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

JULY 15, 1905

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Issued by the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

Wisconsin Farm Crop Report.

July 15, 1905.

The month ending July 15 was especially notable for its number of rainy days, as much as for the excessive amount of rain that fell. The weather also was almost universally cold.

Nevertheless crops, as a whole, have made excellent growth since our last report, and are generally in a healthful, thriving condition.

The most discouraging feature of farm operations was the hindrance to securing the large hay crop, and the extensive loss of that which was cut, by continued rains, also the loss in value of the crop from the inability to secure it in its proper state of growth.

No good hay weather occurred in the Northern Division of the state before the 9th of the present month, and in the Central and Southern Divisions before the 12th. Up to this time about one-fourth of the tame hay crop of the State had been cut. Much of this was practically ruined, and very little of it was secured without decided loss. Much of the tame grass now standing, especially clover, is over ripe, and has lost a considerable percentage of its feeding value. Should the warm fair weather for the past few days continue for a week, much of the remaining crop will be secured, as its ripe condition enables it to be rapidly cured. Marshes are generally too wet for cutting, and with the loss of tame hay already met, there is no question but that good hay will bear satisfactory prices before another crop grows.

Conditions have been favorable for pastures and they are reported in excellent shape; live stock is thriving, and dairy interests continue to "boom."

Winter grains are now being cut, and the prospective yield is good.

There is little complaint of rust in spring grains,—the greatest danger being from over growth and lodging in oats.

Spring wheat is not as satisfactory a crop this season as winter wheat, which is fine.

Barley is ripening nicely, some fields having already been cut.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable outlook for corn last month, —and the absence of typical corn weather since, the crop has flourished remarkably, and is now close up to normal conditions. Early planted fields are already tasseling, and later fields growing rapidly. The outlook for this crop is now better than at same time of season in any of past three years.

The condition of the potato crop is not especially promising. Much seed has rotted, and the replanted fields are late and the stand uneven.

The reports from the "potato belt" of the State give a percentage of about 80.

Tobacco is usually small, but there is a good stand and the plants are growing rapidly.

The season has not been favorable for the cultivation of sugar beets, and much hand work has been necessary in weeding.

Peas have been injured by excessively rainy weather, and do not promise a full crop.

Small fruits now maturing are an excellent crop of good quality.

Apples are falling badly, and it is difficult to predict the extent and quality of crop at this time.

During the past month a severe hail and wind storm did extensive damage to crops, buildings, windmills etc., in portions of Crawford, Grant, Iowa and Dane Counties, but the loss was not sufficient to materially affect crop percentages from those counties.

The following tables of percentages are the results of reports received from our correspondents:—

Southern Division.

Wheat	97	Rye	102
Oats	100	Barley	97
Pastures	105	Corn	91
Potatoes	80	Tobacco	98
Sugar beets	95	Peas	97
Apples	74	Small fruits	100

Central Division.

Wheat	94	Rye	98
Oats	96	Barley	96
Pastures	105	Corn	84
Potatoes	83	Tobacco	92
Sugar beets	85	Peas	80
Apples	70	Small fruits	96

Northern Division.

Wheat	90	Rye	91
Oats	98	Barley	92
Pastures	105	Corn	75
Potatoes	89	Tobacco	100
Sugar beets	85	Peas	98
Apples	50	Small fruits	98

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

AUGUST 15, 1905

Issued by the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

August 15, 1905.

Practically all of the small grain in the southern division of the state has been harvested, and much of it is already in stack. A large part of the oats now in shock will be threshed without stacking.

In the central and northern divisions, probably twenty per cent of the oat crop is not yet harvested, on account, largely, of continuous rains.

Some threshing has already been done, and both yield per acre and quality of grain are generally satisfactory. This is especially true of the oat crop, which promises a large yield of heavy grain.

The hot weather of the past month has brought the corn crop forward remarkably, and the promise of a full crop in the southern division of the state is now excellent.

In the central and northern divisions the crop was very slow in starting, and in many localities has not yet reached the normal stage of growth for this time of the season, while western counties in these divisions report satisfactory conditions.

The matured crop as a whole, depends much upon the weather we may have in September, but August indications are better than for several years past.

Wisconsin's potato crop is not to equal that of 1904; but this in itself is not a matter of discouragement to the farmer, for last year's crop exceeded the demand, and much of it was sold at a loss.

Conditions have not been generally favorable for the potato crop this season. The stand is thin, the growth unsatisfactory, and many locations now report blight, liable to be followed by rot.

Tobacco has grown nicely during the past month, and harvesting of early fields has already begun. Much of the crop, however, is late, and will need some weeks' time for maturing.

Sugar beets are making a good growth, and promise a heavy yield.

Pastures continue to be excellent, and the second growth of grass upon meadows is unusually rank.

Apples have fallen badly, and not over one-half of a full crop will be harvested.

We estimate the present condition of growing crops in the state as a whole, as follows:

Corn	97
Potatoes.....	85
Pastures.....	101
Tobacco	93
Sugar Beets.....	95

Correspondents submit the following reports:

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Corn.....	98½
Potatoes.....	81
Pastures.....	100
Tobacco.....	95
Sugar Beets.....	96
Apples.....	50

CENTRAL DIVISION.

Corn.....	91
Potatoes.....	89
Pastures.....	101
Tobacco.....	90
Sugar Beets.....	95
Apples.....	50

NORTHERN DIVISION.

Corn.....	80
Potatoes.....	80
Pastures.....	102
Tobacco.....	100
Sugar Beets.....	100
Apples.....	50

On account of State Fair work, no report will be issued from this office for the month of September. In our October report we hope to give a close estimate of the yield per acre of the several grain crops of the state.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

OCTOBER 15, 1905

Issued by the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

October 15, 1905.

In making the report for this month, correspondents were asked to report: the estimated yield per acre of the grain, hay and tobacco crops harvested; the quality of these several grains upon a basis of 100, a high average quality being indicated by that number; their estimate of the extent and quality of the present corn crop upon the same basis; the estimated acreage of corn siloed this season; the percentage of corn crop cut and shocked; and their estimate of what percentage of last year's potato crop the present crop may be.

In answer to inquiries sent out we have received replies from nearly every county in the state, and make the following statements based upon these reports.

Yield of crops per acre.

	Wheat.	Rye.	Barley.	Oats.	Tobacco.	Tame hay.
	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	Lbs.	Tons.
Southern division.....	17	16½	35	45	1,400	1½
Central division.....	18	17½	30	40	1,200	1½
Northern division	16½	18	30	37	.....	1½
Average for state	17	17	34	42	1,400	1½

Quality of crop.

	Wheat.	Rye.	Barley.	Oats.	Tobacco.	Tame hay.
Southern division	92	98	90	100	97½	92
Central division	96	96	84	97	.....	90
Northern division	92	98	87	93	.....	98
Average for state	95	97	88	99	97½	91

ESTIMATED IMPORTANCE OF CORN CROP.

100 representing a high average condition.

Southern division—161; central division—96½; northern division—omitted; average for state—100.

It is estimated that nearly 12,000 acres of the corn crop has been siloed, and that 80% of the crop has been cut and shocked in excellent condition.

Special efforts have been made to reach a reliable estimate of the extent and quality of the potato crop, and we estimate that it will be little more than 50% of last year's yield.

The southern division of the state reports 53% of the crop of 1904; the central division 50% and the northern division 53%.

Our largest potato producing counties are located in the central division. The loss in crop is mainly attributable to blight, though several counties report more or less rot. As a general thing the quality of product is good, though the tubers are not large. The prospects are that this year's crop will be much more remunerative to the farmer than that of 1904.

Our final report for the season will be issued November 15th.

JOHN M. TRUE,

Secretary.

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Wisconsin Farm Crop Report

NOVEMBER 15, 1905

Issued by the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture

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WISCONSIN FARM CROP REPORT.

November 15, 1905.

In our report issued October 15th, we gave an estimate of the yield per acre of wheat, rye, barley, oats, tobacco and tame hay in the state for the past season.

The present report covers a like estimate of yield of corn, potatoes, sugar beets, buckwheat, beans and clover seed, and the farm prices for the several crops of the state.

We estimate the yield of corn per acre in the southern division of the state at 45 ~~cents~~ per bushel of shelled grain; in the central division at 37 bushels per acre. The quality of the crop is high, it being placed at 95,—100 representing No. 1.

The yield per acre of potatoes in the southern division is placed at 60 bushels, and in the remainder of the state at 70 bushels. The quality of the product is fair, being rated at 80 on a scale of 100.

For the whole state we estimate the yield of corn per acre at 42 bushels, and potatoes at 65 bushels.

Other yields are reported as follows: Sugar beets 12½ tons per acre; buckwheat, 17 bushels; beans, 12 bushels, and clover seed 1½ bushels.

The average farm prices of crops are estimated to be as follows:

Wheat	\$0.78 per bu.
Rye .....	.60 per bu.
Barley .....	.43 per bu.
Oats .....	.25 per bu.
Buckwheat .....	.55 per bu.
Clover seed	7.00 per bu.
Beans	1.75 per bu.
Potatoes .....	.57 per bu.
Corn .....	.42 per bu.
Tobacco .....	.10½ per lb.
Sugar beets	4.70 per ton
Tame hay	7.25 per ton

In a large portion of the state, especially in the southern division, there is no surplus potato crop, but on the other hand a deficiency for home consumption. In the potato growing districts it is estimated that not more than one-third of the crop has yet been marketed, the balance being stored for higher prices, which will doubtless be realized.

Less than the usual amount of fall plowing has been done, and a large proportion of shocked corn is not yet husked.

No further crop reports will be issued from this office this season.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.