



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

State of Wisconsin crop report. 1902

Wisconsin. State Board of Agriculture

Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture, 1902

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/7BHLTOTGFHMMWV8V>

Based on date of publication, this material is presumed to be in the public domain.

For information on re-use, see

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

LIBRARY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

STEENBOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CROP REPORT,

APRIL 1, 1902.

ISSUED BY

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

STATE CROP REPORT.

APRIL 1, 1902.

CROP PROSPECTS.

The season, just opening, is slightly earlier than an average of the past ten years, in Wisconsin, and in many parts of the state seeding has been actively commenced.

The soil is in good condition for handling, and the conditions are favorable for the germination of grain seeds, but in the southern part of the state, the fall of snow and rain, during the winter and early spring has been insufficient to thoroughly moisten more than the surface soil, and as below two feet of the surface the earth has not been saturated since the drouth of 1901, copious and frequent showers are needed to prevent like disastrous results in 1902.

Scarcely any snow fell during the winter, in the southern central, and southern portions of the state, and the spring rains have been light and infrequent.

An unusual amount of plowing was done last fall, which will enable farmers to sow their grain fields early, and if these are properly fitted they have the advantage over spring plowed fields, in retaining moisture already in the soil.

Winter grains are almost universally reported as being in good condition, and are now well past any danger from frost.

Meadow and pasture prospects are very generally poor, or at best only fair. This is especially the case with clover meadows.

The catches of new seeding of meadows in southern Wisconsin last season were lost in the sharp August drouth, while the fields of clover from the seeding of 1900 were either mowed a second time or closely pastured in the fall, and though the winter was not a severe one, these are very generally killed.

Stock was allowed to run upon pastures late in the fall, and little grass was left upon them either for protection or helping out the early feed, and without the very best conditions of weather, they will be late in furnishing any valuable feed for stock.

The gloomy outlook for pastures and meadows should lead farmers to give special thought to providing extra forage crops, both for supplementing pastures, and providing dry fodder, in case of shortage of ordinary fodder crops.

Those parts of the state that did not suffer from the drouth of last season have had heavier falls of snow and rain during the past winter and early spring, and start out with an advantage in crop prospects for the season of 1902.

LAST YEARS' PRODUCTS IN FARMERS' HANDS.

Reports from correspondents indicate that quite a percentage of the wheat crop of last season remains in farmers' hands.

There is also in many of the central and northern central counties a surplus of oats and hay.

Rye and barley have been used for stock feed to a greater extent than usual, and the amount in farmers' hands, for sale, is inconsiderable.

There is little corn to spare.

In the potato counties of the state we find as large a percentage as usual in spring of crop still held for sale, while in the southern part of the state, there is a shortage, and prices are very high.

Our reports of local prices, received from correspondents, range from 50 cents to \$1.00 per bushel,—with 80 cents the average price in potato districts.

The prices of the principal farm products for the whole state are found to average as follows:

Wheat,	70	cents	per	bushel.
Rye,	51	"	"	"
Barley,	57	"	"	"
Oats,	41	"	"	"
Corn,	60	"	"	"
Potatoes,	80	"	"	"
Tame hay,	\$11.00	per	ton.	
Wild hay,	7.00	"	"	

In our report, to be issued May 1st, we hope to be able to indicate the crop acreage of state for the coming season.

JOHN M. TRUE, *Secretary.*

STEENBOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CROP REPORT,

MAY 1, 1902.

ISSUED BY
STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

STATE CROP REPORT,

MAY 1, 1902.

The weather during the month of April, while not at any time severely cold, was uniformly cool and backward, and notable for unusually high, dry winds, the rainfall being extremely light.

As a result of these unfavorable conditions, the apparent earliness of the season at the commencement of the month was soon lost.

Vegetation was slow in coming forward, grain lying a long time in the ground before germinating; and in some sections seeding was much impaired by rotting and freezing.

Winter grain lost a few points during the month, and meadows made little gain. Pastures were uniformly short and bare, and in many parts of the state shortage of hay caused farmers to turn out sheep and cattle to still further retard the growth of grass.

Farmers were, with good reason, becoming apprehensive of another season of drouth; but during the last part of the month light showers were quite general over the state, and at the time of writing this report, indications of heavier rains are hopeful.

One object of the inquiries of correspondents upon which this report is based, was to ascertain the evident increase or decrease of acreage of the crops already sowed, as well as that of tame meadows and pastures.

Our reports show that the acreage of spring wheat has been slightly increased, being $101\frac{1}{4}\%$ of last year's area.

They also show that the acreage of spring rye in the state is inconsiderable, and that the crop has little importance.

The barley acreage is shown to be 98% , while oats advance to $105\frac{1}{4}\%$. Many acres of tame meadow, especially those of clover, have been rendered unprofitable by winter-killing, and will be plowed up—the remaining acreage being estimated at

92%; while for the same reason, the percentage of tame pastures falls to 97.

The spring-sowed grain crops, May 1st, are almost without exception reported by correspondents as being in good condition, and growing rapidly; winter grain as fair, and clover meadows as poor.

We find that 70% of the growing wheat in the state is spring sowed.

Alfalfa has been tried in but few counties, but the reports of trials made are generally favorable, and further and more extensive trials will be made. Oats are being quite extensively treated for the prevention of smut, in accordance with the formula sent out from our Agricultural Experiment Station.

Soil conditions are favorable for the present requirements of crops, but to sustain these conditions, frequent rains will be required during the coming month.

Fruit trees of all kinds are in excellent condition, and will blossom heavily.

Farm stock goes upon grass in unusually thin flesh, and butcher's stock must remain scarce and high priced for some time, while dairy cows are not in form to produce the best results.

Our report, issued June 1st, will show the percentage of acreage of crops planted in May, and the general condition of all crops June 1st.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary State Board of Agriculture.

STEENBOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

WISCONSIN
STATE CROP REPORT.

JUNE 1, 1902.

ISSUED BY

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

STATE CROP REPORT,

JUNE 1, 1902.

The leading inquiries of correspondents for the report of June 1st were of the comparative acreage of principal crops, not already reported, with that of last year and the condition of growing crops.

Reports have been received from fifty-six of the leading agricultural counties of the state, and indicate exceedingly hopeful conditions for all crops. As was anticipated, the increase of acreage of corn, potatoes, and tobacco is marked, over that of last year: the corn acreage being increased $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., that of potatoes 5 per cent., and of tobacco 10 per cent.

The disposition to plant more corn is almost universal throughout the state. The high price paid for potatoes the past season has stimulated farmers to add to their acreage in all parts of the state adapted to the crop.

The increase of acreage of tobacco comes mainly from Vernon, Crawford, Monroe, Jackson, and Trempealeau counties, with a slight advance in Dane and Columbia.

With full estimates of acreage of crops for the season we note a decided tendency to lessen the production of wheat, with a like disposition toward rye and barley,—while the acreage of corn and oats, the best stock feeds, is decidedly increased.

The reports of condition of crops, 100 representing an average, show winter wheat and rye 100, spring wheat 105, barley $102\frac{1}{4}$, oats 105, tame meadow $105\frac{1}{4}$, pasture $106\frac{3}{4}$, apples 102, small fruits 87.

The abundance of rain during the past month has caused a very strong growth of grass and grains, and present prospects could not well be brighter for yields of these crops.

The weather was not favorable for preparation of soil for planting of corn and potatoes, and as a result quite a percentage of these crops in Central and Northern Wisconsin had not been planted June 1st.

Early planted fields on hill sides have been badly washed. The ground being too wet for cultivation has also become packed and weedy.

But little complaint is made of failure of seed corn in germination and fair stands are noted.

In parts of the State in vicinity of Beet Sugar Factory at Menomonee Falls, extending even as far as Brown County, an increased acreage of beets is reported, the same to be worked up at the factory.

Apples have set nicely and there are now indications of a good crop. The same conditions apply generally to small fruits with the exception of raspberries, which are badly winter killed.

Very little damage to vegetation is reported from the snow storm early in the month or frosts that occurred later, the same not being far enough advanced to receive injury in those parts where frosts were severe. Crops have been injured by hail storms in a few instances, notably in parts of Winnebago County.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

LIBRARY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

STEEBOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

WISCONSIN
STATE CROP REPORT.

JULY 1, 1902.

ISSUED BY

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

STATE CROP REPORT,

JULY 1, 1902.

The cool, wet weather, during the month of June, was specially adapted to the strong and healthful growth of small grains and grasses.

Little rust or smut is reported, and no mention made of ravages of chinch bugs, in winter grains.

The only probability of danger to grain crops, especially that of oats, is that upon rich soils, so large a growth of straw may be gained as to result in early lodging. Indeed many fields of oats are already badly lodged before heading, and cannot be counted upon for a full yield of grain. Barley, while also lodged, is further advanced, and promises a crop equal to the percentage reported below, while I fear that the report for Aug. 1st, upon oats, may fall below present indications.

A heavy crop of winter grains is now practically assured; and spring wheat is also very promising.

Central and northern Wisconsin have an exceptionally heavy tame hay crop, that is now ready for the mower.

Most clover fields should have been cut before this time, and undoubtedly would have been, had the weather been favorable for curing the crop.

Most hay that has been cut has been more or less injured by rain, and loss is also now occurring, to standing grass, from over-ripening, and rotting at the bottom.

In southern Wisconsin there is little clover,—June grass and timothy being the prevailing grasses.

These have made a luxuriant growth, but in many localities are thin upon the ground, so that no more than an average crop of tame hay will be secured. Pastures are universally reported in excellent condition, and live stock is thriving finely.

The weather during the month has been unfavorable for the growth of corn; and while good stands were usually secured, the plants have not grown while lack of vigor has made them more susceptible to the ravages of cut worms and grubs, of which we have much complaint.

"July and August make the corn crop," but these months must be hotter and drier than June has been, if we are to have an average corn crop.

Potatoes are generally reported in average condition, though some complaint of poor stand, caused by too much wet and rotting seed, comes from the northern part of the state.

Tobacco plants have been set under the best conditions, but are not growing rapidly, and cut worms have somewhat interfered with the stand.

The crop needs warm weather. Condition is reported more favorably from Rock, Dane and Columbia counties than from Vernon, Crawford and Monroe.

In the section of the state where the crops are specialized, beans, flax, sugar beets, and buckwheat are reported in average condition; while sorghum, like corn, is small and backward.

The cool, wet spring and early summer has already blasted the hopes of a heavy apple crop in Wisconsin.

Much of the young fruit has fallen, while blight is unusually prevalent, injuring both fruit and trees.

The estimated percentage of apples, given below, is surprisingly low.

Plums, cherries and grapes, like apples, will be less than an average crop.

While the temperature was dangerously near the freezing point, several times in June, no very serious damage to crops, from frost, is reported, even from the northern counties.

Southwestern Wisconsin reports hail and wind storms, seriously damaging crops and even buildings.

Our farmers are now as anxious for sunshine and hot weather, as a year ago, they were for rain and refreshing breezes.

Below we give the consensus of reports received from correspondents throughout the state, of the condition of the various crops July 1st—100 standing for an average Wisconsin crop.

Winter wheat	102
Rye.	103
Spring wheat	102
Barley.	102
Oats.	103 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tame hay	101 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pastures.	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.	80
Potatoes.	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beans.	96
Sorghum.	82
Tobacco.	100
Flax	100
Sugar beets	100
Buckwheat.	101
Apples.	70

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secy. State Board of Agriculture.

LIBRARY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

STEENBOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

WISCONSIN
STATE CROP REPORT.

AUGUST 1, 1902.

ISSUED BY

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

STATE CROP REPORT,

AUGUST 1, 1902.

Harvesting of all crops, up to date, has been performed under most discouraging circumstances.

All of the tame hay crop should have been secured before August 1st, but in some parts of the state quite a percentage of the grass is still standing, though over-ripe, and consequently much diminished in value.

Of the tame hay already harvested, it is estimated that only about 70 per cent. was secured without serious damage from rain.

The hay crop of southern Wisconsin is not to be unusually heavy or excellent one, the growth being too coarse and heavy, and the quality seriously injured by rain at time of curing. Many marshes at this time are too wet to admit of cutting with mowers, and the prospects are that not one-third as much wild hay will be cut this season as was secured last.

Winter grains were harvested in fair condition and are generally of excellent quality; some early threshings already reported show high yields. All spring sown grains have been more or less injured by lodging; spring wheat the least so and it will be an average crop, both in yield and quality.

Barley, while giving a larger than usual yield, is not generally of high quality, the lodging and extremely wet weather having colored the grain and in other ways affected the merchantable grade.

Oats never promised a larger yield than at the time of making our last report, but heavy rains, in many instances, accompanied by high winds, badly lodged grain, upon most promising fields, and materially injured the prospects of the crop, both by

inducing rust, preventing the complete filling, and also causing heavy waste in harvesting. Farmers are now in the midst of their oat harvest, and in spite of loss, the crop is evidently to be an average one.

We asked our correspondents to estimate the percentage of loss that will probably result from lodging in oats, and the answers give the loss at $13\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the prospective crop.

Corn, notwithstanding unfavorable weather, has made a good growth, and is generally in a thrifty condition, though backward, and the future of the crop largely depends upon the length of season and hot weather.

Potatoes are generally reported in excellent condition, though we hear some complaint of rotting among early varieties.

Beans, sorghum, flax and buckwheat are favorably reported.

Tobacco, as a whole, is reported an average crop, Rock, Dane and Columbia counties holding a higher condition than Vernon and Crawford.

Apples will not be a full crop, and many orchards will be seriously and permanently damaged by the blight so common this season.

High land pastures are exceptionally good, and stock is doing well, except where molested by mosquitoes and other insects that are especially troublesome.

Marsh pastures are practically inaccessible to stock on account of excessive rains.

Reports of correspondents give the following percentages of an average crop, as shown by present conditions:

Spring wheat	100
Barley	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pasture	116
Corn	88
Potatoes	102
Beans	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sorghum	95
Tobacco	100

Sugar beets	100
Flax	98
Buckwheat	101
Peas	95
Apples	66

No crop report will be issued from this office Sept. 1st, on account of pressure of state fair work.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.

STEENBOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

WISCONSIN

STATE CROP REPORT.

OCTOBER 1, 1902.

ISSUED BY

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

STATE CROP REPORT,

OCTOBER 1, 1902.

The crop report for October 1st deals only with those crops not harvested at date; and which may not yet be fully matured.

These crops have been slow in ripening, on account of the excessive rainfall during the season, and the corresponding absence of sunshine and hot weather.

As a result, the general frost, occurring early in September, found them in form to receive serious injury.

The growth of corn has been exceptionally heavy, and with sufficient time for maturing the crop, it would have been considerably above an average.

It is now somewhat difficult to closely estimate the extent of the damage from frost, as in the same locality some fields are completely killed, others only partially so, while still other favored locations escape without serious injury.

Rock and Walworth, two of the largest corn producing counties in the state, report the crop in the best condition,—about 90 per cent. of a full crop,—while the average percentage in other counties, usually classed in the corn district, have an average of from 70 to 75 per cent.

The reports from the whole state force us to place the general average at 70 per cent. of a full crop, and we fear that if placed upon the basis of merchantable corn, the percentage would be driven still lower.

Much of the corn, in farmers' hands, will have a high feeding value for use on the farm, but would not be recognized on the markets.

The estimated percentage of a full crop of corn, at a corresponding date in 1901, was also 70, but the general quality was then better than now.

Much of the corn, caught by the September frosts, remains standing, and the heavy rains of the past week have practically completed the ruin of the feeding value of the fodder; while much of that in shock has been damaged by rain and unfavorable weather for curing.

Potatoes, next in importance to corn, among our late maturing farm crops, are usually reported in good condition, though we have several reports of rotting in the hill.

The wet weather of the past week has added to this danger, and the character of the weather for the next two or three weeks will have much to do with the quality of the late potato crop.

Reports from the leading potato growing counties, Adams, Portage, Waushara and Waupaca are encouraging. We place present potato indications at 92 per cent. The clover seed crop is necessarily confined largely to that part of the state not visited by drouth last year, and in these sections the crop is a fair one.

The percentage for clover seed for the whole state is 75. Buckwheat is reported at 86, sorghum at 77, beans at 98, and late varieties of apples at 85.

Pastures are in excellent condition, and the weather has been favorable to the growth of fall sown grains.

In our next report, to be issued December 1st, we will endeavor to give a close estimate of yield per acre of the several important crops of the state, for the season of 1902.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary, Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture.

STEENBOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

WISCONSIN

STATE CROP REPORT.

DECEMBER 1, 1902.

ISSUED BY

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

STATE CROP REPORT,

DECEMBER 1, 1902.

The season of 1902, as a whole, has been a favorable one for the Wisconsin farmer. The yield of most crops has been above the average, while prices have been satisfactory.

The market for all kinds of farm stock has been active, and prices have been and are high, for desirable animals.

Farms are generally well stocked, and the supply of winter feed is abundant. Pasturage has been excellent, and the hay crop was above the average in yield, though considerably damaged in process of curing.

Small grains made a strong growth, and the oat crop, on rich, heavy soils, was considerably injured by lodging; but for this the yield would have been phenomenal, as shown by the high average still reported.

The yields of wheat, rye, barley, and oats, is decidedly above the average of these crops, for the past ten years.

The season has in no way been a favorable one for the corn crop. The wet, cool, early summer retarded the growth of the plant, while July and August, the corn months, were not hot enough to develop the grain; and at the time of the first heavy frost, early in September, few fields were beyond the point of damage, and except in the southern tier of counties, and in favored locations further north, the loss was great.

We find it extremely difficult to estimate the value of the present crop. More than half of the acreage was cut and shocked about the time of the September frost, but a large part of this still remains in the field, neither grain nor fodder having been in condition for storage.

Hardly 30 per cent. of the entire crop of the state would be

classed as "merchantable" in the market, though much of the remainder has a high feeding value, upon the farm.

The reports of our correspondents as given in following table, are intended to cover all that part of the crop having high feed value. Fodder has been seriously injured by exposure, and moulding in the shock.

The potato crop is better than an average, and prices have been quite favorable; still nearly one-third of the surplus crop is reported to be stored for later markets.

The acreage of tobacco was largely increased the past season, and it has been demonstrated that the crop can be successfully raised in almost any part of the state. The yield has been heavy, and prices are good.

The following estimates of yield per acre of the various farm crops of the state, are based upon the reports of conservative, reliable farmers, from nearly every county in the state that has any considerable agricultural standing, and while they seem, at first, to be high, are corroborated by local conditions, in almost any community.

	Average yield per acre.	Price, Dec. 1.
Wheat.....	20 bushels.	\$0.65
Rye	21 "	.46
Barley.....	35 "	.45
Oats.....	40 "	.28
Buckwheat	18 "	.60
Clover seed.....	2½ "	5.00
Flax seed.....	15 "	1.06
Corn	30 "	.46
Potatoes.....	100 "	.35
Beans	10 "	2.00
Peas.....	20 "	1.00
Tobacco	1,500 pounds.	.08 per lb.
Tame hay	1 7-8 tons.	8.00 per ton.

In making an estimate of the total acreage of the various crops, we have made the U. S. Census report of 1900 the basis, increasing or diminishing the figures there given, as we are advised of the increase or diminution of acreage of any given crop.

Our last year's estimate was necessarily based upon the reports of assessors, as published in the reports of the Secretary of State.

These reports are unreliable, and compared with the census reports, are found to be very much lower than a careful investigation shows the facts to be.

We have used the yields per acre, and prices given in above table, and reach the following conclusions relative to acreage, yield, and value of crops of the state for 1902:

	Acreage.	Number of bushels.	Value.
Wheat	550,000	11,000,000	\$7,150,000
Rye	360,000	7,560,000	3,477,600
Barley	550,000	19,250,000	8,662,500
Oats	2,375,000	95,000,000	26,600,000
Buckwheat	38,000	684,000	410,400
Flax seed	10,000	150,000	159,000
Corn	1,500,000	45,000,000	
Potatoes	258,000	25,800,000	9,030,000
Beans	12,000	120,000	240,000
Peas	67,000	1,340,000	1,340,000
Tobacco	40,000	60,000,000 lbs.	4,800,000
Tame hay	2,395,000	4,490,625 tons	35,925,000

No further reports will be issued from this office before April, 1903.

JOHN M. TRUE,
Secretary.