

WHEAT IS INJURED BY EXCESSIVE RAIN

First Reports of Damage Declared Exaggerated, but Effect Is General.

UMATILLA FARES WORST

Shrinkage Now Put at About 15 Per Cent and Expected Deal of 70,000,000 Bushels Is Scaled to 60,000,000.

The hot wave of last week caused considerable damage to the wheat crop of the Northwest, but detailed reports that have since been received by local grain dealers indicate that the loss will not be as severe as was feared at first.

Up to a week or two ago it was believed the three states would produce a wheat crop of fully 70,000,000 bushels and in some quarters it was thought this amount would be exceeded. The general opinion is that the crop will be about 60,000,000 bushels, or practically the same as last year's yield.

Injury was done in almost all parts of the territory east of the Cascades, but the most severe loss appears to have been in Umatilla. Estimates of the damage done in that county range up to 25 to 30 per cent. For the Northwest as a whole, the shrinkage is placed at about 15 per cent.

ATHENA LOSS IS SEVERE

Wheat Yield Is Reduced About 20 Per Cent.

ATHENA, Or., July 9.—(Special.)—According to a statement made today by M. L. Watts, manager of the Preston-Schaffer Milling Company, the combination of hot winds and excessive hot weather has injured wheat in the country tributary to Athens to the extent of lessening the yield 20 per cent. The hot winds about 10 days ago seemed to do no material damage, but the shrinkage is placed at about 15 per cent.

Before the hot weather of last week, the wheat was very green. In three days' time many fields appeared almost ripe. Especially is this true of the district around Adams and between Adams and Pendleton. There are to be found some fields consisting of from 300 to 700 acres that will not whopper to the owners, be harvested at all—but burned. Around Athens no extreme cases of burning are to be found, but there is considerable damage to the amount of 20 per cent.

HOT WINDS BENEFIT TO GRAIN

Fall-Sown Wheat in Lewiston Section Is Ripened.

LEWISTON, Idaho, July 9.—(Special.)—The wheat and barley crops are certainly going to be whoppers this year. One of the largest ranchers of this district when asked if the hot winds of the past several days had done any harm to the crops, replied that the idea is held by every grain dealer in this city.

The hot winds slightly damaged a small portion of the spring-sown grain in some localities, while it benefited it in others by ripening it to perfection. Nothing was done in different localities to the fall-sown wheat than the hot winds, and harvesting is beginning in earnest in the lower sections in this territory. The wheat is expected to be cut by the end of the week.

With the mid winter, the abundance of moisture during the spring and the warm, balmy days of this summer, the combination has been ideal to produce the greatest wheat and barley crop this district has ever known. Not only is this true of the small grains, but the fruit and vegetable crops of this region never looked better.

WASCO COUNTY WHEAT HURT

With Increased Acreage Yield May Equal Last Year's.

THE DALLIES, Or., July 9.—(Special.)—The wheat in Wasco County this year has been reduced recently as the result of hot weather, which has shriveled some of the grain in different localities. Spring wheat has been slightly damaged generally, and a little fall grain. The wheat in the section of the county which is the most fertile has been hurt so that the output of the ranches of this county will be considerably less than had been expected. Because the acreage has been increased, however, the total yield will, it is predicted, be about the same as in 1914. It is estimated that the yield in Wasco County this year will total between 750,000 and 800,000 bushels of wheat.

So-called grain experts from abroad have estimated the yield at between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 bushels, but local ranchers ridicule these estimates.

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WHEAT IS LITTLE DAMAGED

Most of Crops Near Pullman Withstand Hot Weather.

PULLMAN, Wash., July 9.—(Special.)—The recent wave of hot weather and driving wind have caused rather widespread apprehensions throughout Eastern Washington as to the effect on the wheat harvest, though, at present, it seems that the damage is not great in the immediate vicinity of Pullman, typical of the Palouse country. Winter wheat has been only slightly damaged. Spring grain undoubtedly has been cut quite badly. The present

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Fall grain throughout this section of the state is ripening rapidly. It appears to be in excellent condition and grain country will have one of its largest yields of wheat in many years.

Umatilla County Grain Hard Hit.

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