

1923 CROP PROSPECTS

BY F. L. KENT,

Statistician, U. S. Department
of Agriculture

June rainfall was out of the ordinary in that the precipitation was below normal in the western part of the state and above normal in much of the eastern part of the state. There were no very hard rains, but with more than the usual number of days on which rain fell, there was considerable damage to clover hay in the western part of the state, while in the eastern portion alfalfa hay was materially damaged. The continued wet weather interfered materially with cultivation of potatoes, corn and other tilled crops with the result that these crops are more weedy than usual, and will require a lot of hand labor if the weeds are to be properly cleaned out.

June weather generally was very favorable for all grain crops. Fall wheat, on the lighter soils, is practically ready for harvest, with no damage from hot winds, and promises almost a record crop. On some of the heavier soils of Umatilla and Union counties rain has caused the rather rank growth to lodge quite badly in places. Spring sown grains have made excellent progress, and the production will doubtless be much in excess of that of the past two years. The spring wheat acreage appears to be less than last year, due mainly to a disposition on the part of the growers to raise more barley and oats, particularly barley.

The potato acreage of the state shows a material reduction from last year, being reported at 60 to 75 per cent on last year in some important districts, while other sections report about the usual acreage. A reduction of 10 to 15 per cent for the state as a whole seems probable. There has been considerable late planting (June) this year, probably more than usual. Favorable growing conditions for the earlier crop would seem to warrant the forecast of a larger than usual yield per acre.

The fruit outlook as a whole is not very pleasing. Peaches, cherries and plums are far short of an average crop, except in the eastern Oregon fruit sections, where the crop is probably fully up to the average. Apples and pears, while below normal, will apparently produce close to the usual crop, or about the same amount of pears as last year. But the commercial apple crop of the United States appears to be somewhat larger than last year, hence a satisfactory market can hardly be hoped for. Prune prices are not very attractive to the seller at the present time.

Small fruits promise nearly a full crop. Strawberries were "heavy" and moved very well, at fairly good prices throughout the season. Raspberries are in good demand at fair prices, but there is very little sale for loganberries, and it is probable that hundreds of tons will not be picked, there being a very limited cannery demand.

Early lambs have started to move eastward. 50,000 to 60,000 head will probably be sent to eastern markets before the end of July or mid August. The sale of one lot of 1700 head is reported, weighing an average of 84 pounds each, at a price of 10 1/2 cents per pound at shipping station.

The splendid condition of ranges has enabled cattle to gain very rapidly and "grass fat" cattle have been shipped out of the cattle country during most of the month of June. It is expected that the marketing of grass fat cattle will be heavier than usual this season, partly on account of the excellent condition of the range, and partly from the fact that cattle holdings are being liquidated to a considerable extent. Numerous cattle men are figuring on closing out their cattle holdings this fall. Some are planning on stocking up with sheep, while others are already working for wages.

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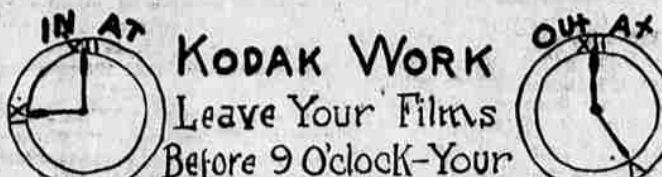
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