

CROPS IMPROVE IN CALIFORNIA

Department of Agriculture Shows Better Condition In Nearly All Lines

SACRAMENTO, Calif., July 23.—Grain, fruit, vegetable and nut crops show a general improvement, according to the July report of the California department of agriculture issued here. A summary of the report shows:

Preliminary estimates of the acreage of Indian corn reveal an increase of ten per cent above last year, which indicates a total planting of 128,000 acres.

Wheat condition is very good, with a total state production of 14,589,000 bushels.

The state condition of oats is ninety-two per cent of a normal, compared with eighty-five per cent last year, and eighty-three per cent as a ten-year average. This condition indicates a crop of 5,669,000 bushels, compared with 5,250,000 bushels in 1922.

Forecast shows a production of 84,724,000 bushels of barley. The estimated barley production of the United States is 198,105,000 bushels.

The preliminary acreage of rice planted in California in 1923 is 105,500 acres, compared with 140,000 acres harvested in 1922. An average condition of only eighty per cent of a normal is recorded as compared with eighty-eight per cent last year.

Total acreage of potatoes shows a decrease of thirty per cent from the 1922 plantings. This is attributed to low prices received by growers for last season's crop. The area for 1923 is estimated at 53,000 acres. The condition reported is ninety-four per cent of a normal. Should favorable conditions maintain to maturity, the total harvest should be 7,772,000 bushels, compared with 10,260,000 in 1922.

The area planted to sweet potatoes has likewise decreased. Only seventy-six per cent of last year's acreage has been planted, giving 6,100 acres for 1923, compared with 8,000 for 1922.

Lima beans planted showed a decrease of about twenty per cent, compared with 1923, giving a total of 299,000 acres, with an estimated crop of 4,470,000 bushels.

Apples are placed at eighty-two per cent of normal, compared with a ten year average of seventy-seven. The production is placed at 6,977,000 bushels (boxes) compared with 7,656,000 for 1922.

Peach crops are figured at 393,000 tons, compared with 420,000 tons in 1922, giving 1923 a crop of about ninety-two per cent of normal.

A total of 210,000 tons of apricots are predicted, compared with 120,000 for 1922.

Prospects for lemons continue favorable, with a crop estimated at eighty-eight per cent normal, compared with fifty-six per cent last year and a ten-year average of eighty.

Oranges continue to hold the high estimate of ninety-two per cent of normal. In Tulare county both the valencia and navel crop promises to be good, while the valencia crop in Los Angeles and Orange counties is not so good as originally estimated.

Sugar beets, walnuts, almonds, grapes, figs, olives, plums, prunes and cherries continue to hold their own, while pears show a slight slump compared with 1922.

PORTLAND, Ore., July 23.—The past month has been favorable to

pastures and ranges throughout most sections of the west and the condition is considerably above normal in some states, according to the monthly western livestock report of the U. S. division of crop and livestock estimates. The average condition for all pastures is 93%, or five points above June 1, with an average of 94% for ranges as distinct from farm pastures, or two points above June 1. The condition of range is above 100 in six states, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, while Colorado, Montana, and South Dakota average 95% or over.

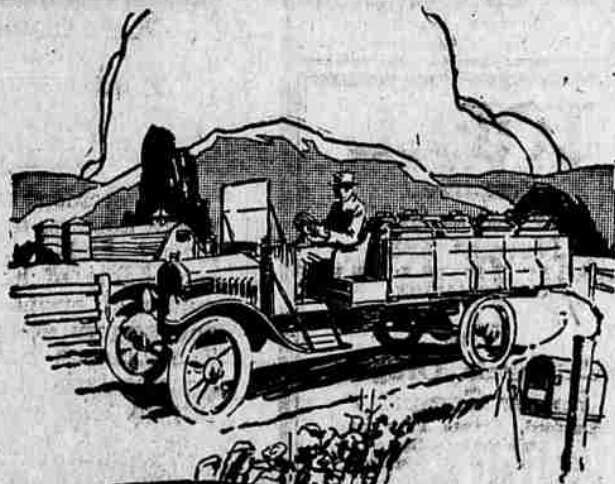
Cattle and sheep reflect the general high condition of ranges, averaging 94 and 97% respectively, compared with 91 to 96% on June 1.

Cattle for Fall Marketing, 1923

The number of fat cattle to be marketed this fall will depend in some measure upon the feed supply and financial conditions existing at that time. If range conditions continue favorable some cattle that would ordinarily go as stockers and feeders will be sold as fat stuff. Estimates of the maximum number expected to be marketed this fall, providing conditions are favorable, have been made for some states and are quoted below. In Arizona probably about 110,000 head will be available compared with 112,000 sold in 1922, 101,000 in 1921, and 112,000 in 1920. About 90,000 fat cattle will be on hand for fall delivery in California. The percentage of grass fed cattle for market in the Flint hills, Kansas, is about 98% of normal, in the rest of east Kansas 94%, and 91 per cent west of 98 degree. About 140,000 can be marketed from Montana this fall, of which possibly 77,000 will be fat, and 63,000 stockers. In western Nebraska a decline is noted and possibly about 88% of the cattle marketed last fall will be available this fall, or 350,000, of which about 130,000 will be grass fat, and 220,000 stockers or feeders. The number avail-

able for market this fall in Nevada is estimated at 96,000 and classified as follows: Fat stuff, 47,000 (calves, 8,000; fat yearlings, 4,000; fat two year olds, 13,000; fat cows 22,000); feeder stuff, 49,000 (calves, 11,000; yearlings, 12,000; 2 year olds, 11,000; cows 15,000). In New Mexico about 115,000 will be ready to sell from Aug. 1 to the end of the year. About 94% of the number sold last year may be sold in North Dakota, of which about 29% may be fat cattle and 71% for stockers and feeders. It is expected that about 463,000 cattle will be sold as fat for fall delivery in Oklahoma, and about 444,000 as stockers and feeders. In Oregon about 269,000 will be ready for sale, with approximately 150,000 fat, and 119,000 stockers and feeders. The number of fat cattle available for fall marketing in Texas is estimated as 347,000 fat, and about 499,000 stockers and feeders. The number available for market this fall in Utah is 138,000 and classified as follows: Fat stuff, 105,000 (calves, 11,000; yearlings, 6,000; 2 year olds, 44,000; cows 44,000); feeder stuff, 33,000 (calves 2,000; yearlings, 4,000; 2 year olds, 16,000; cows, 11,000). An increase of 20% is indicated as available in Wyoming, compared with last year, and probably 45% of the shipments will go as grass fat, and 55% as stockers and feeders. Aged steers seem relatively scarce.

According to the district forest service, at Portland, a large part of the danger to the national forests from man-caused fires is due to the seasonal influx of tourists, campers, hunters, and fishermen, and other visitors from the cities and from distant parts of the country. A national campaign of public education on the subject of forest fires is demanded if the task of protection of the vast area of the national forests from Maine and Florida to California and Washington is to be successfully performed.



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