



Minnesota Agriculture
Department: State-Federal Crop
and Livestock Reporting Service

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MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
531 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY - December, 1945

After-harvest surveys conducted by the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service, whose final report for the 1945 season was released today, confirmed earlier expectations of record or near record per acre yields of small grains, potatoes, and tame hay. Corn yield was adversely affected by poor stands, cool summer weather, excessive moisture and killing frosts before maturity. Total production of all important crops is about 5 percent larger in 1945 than in 1944.

Minnesota farmers devoted over 19 million acres in 1945 to the production of major agricultural crops including commercial canning crops but excluding hay seed acreages. Abandonment of acreage because of weather or insect damage was less than in recent years and below average, so the number of acres harvested is one of the highest on record.

The 1945 production of the major feed and small grain crops - all wheat, oats, barley and rye - is about 40 percent larger than in 1944. Wheat production is 4 percent larger than in 1944, but 9 percent smaller than the average for the ten years, 1934-43. Oats production is a record at nearly 243 million bushels - 56 percent more than in 1944 and 73 percent over average. The 1945 production of both barley and rye is only a third of average production, although barley production was only 5 percent below 1944 while rye production exceeded the very low 1944 production by nearly 50 percent.

Corn production at 217 million bushels for all purposes is 14 percent smaller than the record 1944 production even though the largest acreage on record was devoted to the crop in 1945. Corn for grain is estimated at 177 million bushels, the balance of production being used for silage, forage and pasture. The average storage and feeding quality of the 1945 crop is much below average as only a small proportion of the crop - mostly in west central counties - is of fair to good quality.

A large volume of the important oil-producing crops - flax and soybeans - was grown in 1945. The 12 million bushel 1945 crop of flax is 83 percent larger than the small 1944 crop and one-fifth larger than average. The 1945 production of soybeans for grain - a relatively new crop to Minnesota agriculture - is nearly seven times larger than average and establishes a new record production.

In spite of the lowest potato acreage since 1902, near record yields produced a crop 26 percent above last year and only 5 percent below the ten-year average.

The 1945 tame hay crop is 3 percent larger than that produced in 1944 and about 9 percent above average size. Wild hay production nearly equalled last year's production and is slightly above average. Aggregate hay seed production was large in 1945, although the alfalfa and sweet clover seed crops were less than half of average production. Unusually large crops of red and alsike clover seed were harvested.

Preliminary estimates place the value of the 1945 crop production at more than \$550,000,000 which is ten percent above last year and almost double the ten-year average.

The following table compares the 1945 production of principal crops in Minnesota with the 1944 and the ten-year (1934-43) average production:

	<u>PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN MINNESOTA</u>		
	1934-43 Average	1944	1945
		(000) Bushels	
Corn, All	163,330	253,399	217,248
All Wheat	23,596	20,689	21,508
Oats	140,307	155,960	242,640
Barley	44,401	13,884	13,224
Rye	5,197	1,221	1,815
Buckwheat	237	945	630
Flax	9,751	6,514	11,913
Soybeans for beans	993	4,340	6,825
Potatoes	20,360	15,334	19,360
Hay, Tame (Tons)	4,432	4,679	4,812

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Division of Agricultural Statistics

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
531 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

June 24, 1946

MINNESOTA PIG CROP REPORT - June 1, 1946

Hog production in Minnesota is being reduced sharply in 1946 in comparison with production in 1945 and other recent years, according to the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service. This report is based upon returns from farmers obtained in cooperation with the Post Office Department through its rural mail carriers. The spring crop, which has already been produced, is 5 percent smaller than the 1945 spring crop, while it is expected that the fall crop (June 1 to Dec. 1) will be about 29 percent smaller. The total 1946 crop (spring and fall) is expected to be 12 percent smaller than the 1945 crop - about 6 percent smaller than the 1944 crop, but nearly 40 percent smaller than the record crop produced in 1943. Short feed supplies, rising feed costs and uncertainties in regard to future price relationship are factors which prompted farmers to reduce production. Reports reveal that the change in the production level between areas of the State is very closely related to the size and quality of the 1945 corn crop. The sharpest reduction is noted for the southeast and south central counties where the 1945 corn crop was small and of very poor quality.

The 1946 crop of pigs (spring and fall crops) is expected to total 5,245,000 head if farmers carry out their declared June 1 intentions for fall farrow and if fall litters are up to average size. A crop of this size can be compared with 5,960,000 in 1945, the record production of 8,653,000 head in 1943, the low production of 3,393,000 in 1935 following the crop failure in 1934, and the 10-year (1936-45) average production of 5,920,000 head. Indications are that this year's pig crop will be the eighth smallest within the period for which estimates have been prepared or since 1924.

The spring pig crop of 1946 (Dec. 1, 1945 to June 1, 1946) is the sixth smallest in the 23 years for which records are available or since 1924. Compared with 1945 the number of sows farrowed was reduced 9 percent or to 609,000 sows, compared with 669,000 in 1945. Weather was especially favorable during the months of heavy spring farrow - April and May - with the result that litters were larger than average and at 6.50 pigs per litter were equal in size to the previous record set in 1938. The average spring litters for the 10-year (1936-45) period was 6.26 pigs. It is estimated that 3,958,000 spring pigs were saved in 1946, compared with 4,154,000 in 1945 and the record number of 6,348,000 in 1943.

Producers indicated on June 1 that they plan to reduce the number of sows for 1946 fall farrow to 205,000 head - a reduction of 29 percent from the number farrowed in the fall of 1945. A 1946 fall crop of 1,287,000 pigs can be anticipated if farmers save an average number of pigs per litter equal to the long-time average of 6.26. This number compares with the large crop of 1,806,000 produced in 1945 and the record number of 2,305,000 in 1943.

Reports indicated that producers had about 15 percent fewer hogs 6 months old and over on their farms on June 1, 1946 than a year earlier. The southeast section of the State reported the largest decrease in marketable hogs.

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18 Oct. 46, Minn. Dept. of Ag.

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MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
531 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

For Immediate Release

July 24, 1946

SPECIAL MID-JULY CROP REPORT FOR MINNESOTA

Very favorable weather in Minnesota during the first two weeks of July increased total crop prospects materially over those indicated on July 1, according to the State Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Corn made especially rapid growth and yield prospects improved 3 bushels to an all-time high of 51 bushels per acre. If these present excellent prospects are maintained, a record crop of 283,815,000 bushels for all purposes will result - about 15 million bushels more than indicated on July 1 and nearly 30 million bushels more than the previous record crop produced in 1944. Corn is ahead of normal development for this date with advanced fields silking in southern counties. Hybrid seed producers are now carrying on de-tasselling operations. Many factors have contributed to this year's record yield outlook. Favorable weather is, of course, the primary factor but well prepared seed beds, increased use of commercial fertilizer and a record proportion of the acreage planted to hybrids are other important factors. It is estimated that 94 percent of the corn acreage growing in Minnesota this season was planted with hybrid seed. This is an important factor as it is generally conceded that the use of hybrid seed increases the yield prospects from 20 to 25 percent compared with that of open-pollinated varieties.

Weather has also been very favorable for the grain crops which have either reached or are nearing maturity. Spring wheat prospects are now above those indicated on July 1, while oat prospects are about the same. Cutting of grain started generally about the 10th and is now general. A limited amount of threshing and combining of grain has been accomplished. Production of spring wheat, including durum, is now expected to total 22,842,000 bushels - about $1\frac{1}{4}$ million bushels more than on July 1 as a result of the unusually good filling weather. Test weight and quality is expected to be good.

Potatoes are nearing maturity at an early date in many sections and prospects continue good for high yields. Home grown potatoes are reaching local markets in increasing volume. Soybeans are making unusually good progress and are expected to yield heavily.

Ample moisture and moderate temperatures have favored pasture growth and pastures are yielding unusual quantities of feed for this time of year. Annual hays and second crops of alfalfa and clover are making good growth.

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MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
531 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

August 13, 1946

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA CROP REPORT - AUGUST 1, 1946

It was apparent on August 1 that the favorable weather during July had resulted in better-than-average per acre yields for all important spring sown small grain crops in Minnesota, according to the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. By August 1, grain harvest operations were well advanced except in some northern areas, so yield prospects were generally known. Prospects for corn, soybeans, potatoes and other late maturing crops were still uncertain as of August 1, but on that date conditions indicated a record yield of corn and soybeans and above-average yields of flax and buckwheat. Weather has, in general, been very favorable for threshing and combining operations. The dry weather which developed during the last half of July and has continued to this date has, however, caused considerable damage to late crops in some areas. The moisture situation is most critical in the southeast quarter of the State where corn and soybeans on light soil show definite damage and where these crops, even on heavy soils, stand to deteriorate if general rains do not occur soon. Since August 1, western areas of the State have had light rains and scattered showers which have maintained the good crop prospects. The condition of pastures in the dry areas has declined rapidly.

The corn crop made better-than-average progress during July but by August 1, dry soil conditions were developing in a large number of eastern counties. Prospects were relatively not as good on August 1 as they were on July 15. The crop is estimated at 278,250,000 bushels based on August 1 conditions, which is an all time record. The average yield is expected to be 50 bushels per acre - also a record. The crop is well advanced and has an excellent chance of reaching maturity before the average date for first killing frosts - about September 25 in most areas.

Wheat production - based on August 1 condition and yield reports - is estimated at 24,762,000 bushels, compared with 21,508,000 bushels produced in 1945. The 1946 crop is the largest since the large 1940 crop of 31,406,000 bushels. This year's production consists of 1,920,000 bushels of winter wheat, 720,000 bushels of durum and 22,122,000 bushels of other spring wheat.

Oats - Minnesota's second leading crop - is expected to produce 197,506,000, about 45 million bushels less than last year's record crop. Unfavorable early season weather caused stands to be very thin and straw development short in many sections of the State. The average yield per acre of 37 bushels compares with 45 bushels obtained last year.

The barley crop is much larger than last year's crop as production is estimated at 20,880,000 bushels, compared with the very small crop in 1945 of only 13,224,000 bushels. The increase is due to the larger acreage grown as yield per acre - 29 bushels - is the same for both years.

Another good crop of flax is being harvested this year, although below average size due to a decrease in acreage planted. Production of 8,660,000 bushels is smaller than in 1945 when 11,913,000 bushels were produced. Yield is estimated at 10.0 bushels, compared with the near-record yield of 11.0 bushels in 1945.

The rye crop of 1,764,000 bushels is slightly smaller than in 1945. This is also the case with the buckwheat crop which is estimated at 600,000 bushels. Tobacco production will total 1,040 thousand pounds compared with 910 thousand last year. Dry bean production is expected to total 18,000 bags of 100 pounds uncleaned seed, compared with 25,000 bags last year. Apple production will be the lowest in years due to frost damage. Apple production is estimated at 32,000 bushels, compared with last year's small crop of 127,000 bushels for commercial counties in the State.

Potato prospects remain unchanged from July 1. The crop is estimated at 15,800,000 bushels in comparison with the 1945 crop of 19,360,000 bushels. Yields are expected to be well above average.

Soybean prospects continue to be very good, although present dry weather is detrimental in some areas. The crop will be the largest produced in this State - about $9\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels, compared with the previous record of less than 7 million bushels produced last year.

Hay crops are yielding above expectations except in the dry area. Some acreage, especially clover, is not being cut for hay but may be cut for seed as weather is favorable for setting seed. Pastures reported at 84 percent of normal on August 1 compared with 91 percent a year ago.

Milk production remains at last year's level despite a 4 percent decrease in milk cow numbers. Egg production during July was nearly 5 percent lower than in July 1945.

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MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
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SPECIAL MID-AUGUST CROP REPORT FOR MINNESOTA

Corn prospects in Minnesota have been reduced by dry weather conditions 11 million bushels since August 1 and nearly 17 millions from the very excellent prospects existing on July 15 but despite this reduction a record crop of 267 million bushels were still in prospect as of August 15 according to the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. By August 15th many areas of the State, especially east central and south eastern counties were in serious need of rain. Corn, soybeans and other late crops in the dry areas showed definite drought damage, especially those crops growing on light soils. Even corn on the heavier soils in the drought area was showing evidence of firing. The main corn producing areas, however, had not suffered severely up to mid-August although general rain would be beneficial to most areas. Since August 15th many sections of the State have received rather generous rainfall but some areas are still very dry. In general, the ear set is heavy and ears are well pollinated with a considerable number of fields advanced to the dough stage. The crop is considered to have an excellent chance of reaching maturity before killing frosts unless frosts occur unseasonably early. Weather has been generally favorable for small grain harvest operations and the work is nearing completion.

The record corn prospects of 267 million bushels may be compared with 217 million bushels of poor quality corn produced in 1945 and the previous record crop of 253 million bushels produced for all purposes in 1944. Some of the important factors contributing to this year's large production are prospects for a record yield per acre, above average number of acres sown, record proportion of hybrid seed used, increased use of commercial fertilizers and favorable early season weather. Yield per acre prospects are a record 48 bushels compared with 36.5 in 1945 and the previous record of 45 bushels in 1939.

Soybeans in general were in excellent condition on August 15 and it is expected production will exceed the record production of last year. This crop has not been as seriously affected as corn by the dry weather because a relatively smaller proportion of the acreage is grown in the areas where drought conditions have been most severe. Prospects for other late crops have been well maintained even though there has been a sharp decline in local areas. During the past month rainfall has been largely in the form of local showers so prospects for all late crops vary widely between communities.

The condition of pastures has declined very sharply during the past two weeks because of dry weather. The August 15th condition of only 67 percent of normal may be compared with 84 percent on August 1 this year and the excellent conditions of 91 percent on August 1, 1945 and 88 percent on September 1, 1945.

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MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
531 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

For Immediate Release

MINNESOTA CROP REPORT - SEPTEMBER 1, 1946

The extreme droughty conditions which developed over much of the corn area of Minnesota during August took a severe toll of corn prospects, according to the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service. Prospects have declined nearly 39 million bushels from the excellent prospects on July 15 with over half of the decline becoming evident between August 15 and September 1. The light rains which were received near the end of August in many areas and the general rains between September 5 and 9 may prove helpful to some late planted fields, although there is danger that the advantage to yield may be offset by damage to quality should frosts occur before maturity. Some frosts did occur on September 2 and 3, ranging from light to killing frosts in various localities in the upper two-thirds of the State. Corn, potatoes, soybeans, buckwheat, gardens and other late maturing crops suffered some damage in that area. Damage to corn was slight except for fodder and silage corn in northern counties. Most grain corn is in the hard dough and early dent stage and will escape serious damage to quality should frosts occur now. Pastures suffered severely from lack of top soil moisture and were in very poor condition on September 1 in a large part of the State. Recent rains are, however, causing rapid improvement in pastures. Seasonally, farm work is well advanced even though plowing has been difficult in the dry areas.

Corn prospects on September 1, despite the serious droughty conditions in August, were that the State will still harvest the second largest crop on record. The crop is expected to yield 244,860,000 bushels for all purposes in 1946 compared with 217,248,000 in 1945 and the record crop of 253,399,000 bushels in 1944. The expected yield per acre of 44 bushels compares with 36.5 bushels of poor quality corn in 1945 and the record yield of 45 bushels in the excellent corn year of 1939. The acreage for harvest of 5,565,000 acres this year is the third highest on record. Silo filling was general about September 1.

Small grain yield expectations of a month ago are now confirmed by threshing returns from all parts of the State. Only minor changes are noted, although it is apparent that the yield of most grains has been somewhat above expectation in northern counties. Barley yields per acre are averaging 1 bushel more than expected a month ago, so the crop is now estimated at 21,600,000 bushels--nearly 8½ million bushels larger than last years short crop. Flax yields are also above pre-harvest expectations. The crop is expected to total 9,093,000 bushels based on an average yield of 10.5 bushels. The 1945 flax crop was equal to 11,913,000 bushels and the crop averaged 10,018,000 bushels between 1935 and 1944.

Potato digging was well started in many areas of the State by September 1. Diggings were, however, confined largely to early varieties and potatoes grown on light soils where drought hurried maturity. Prospects, in general, were not as good on September 1 as a month earlier, although prospects are that the yield will be above average at 95 bushels per acre. Set is rather light in some northern areas, but quality of the crop is reported to be good. The crop is now estimated at 15,010,000 bushels--about 3/4 of a million bushels less than estimated on August 1. In 1945 a crop of 19,360,000 bushels was produced which amount was about equal to the average production for the 10-year, 1935-44, percent.

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Soybeans survived the extremely dry weather of August reasonably well, except on the light soils in east central counties. Some soybeans intended for grain, which were growing on light sandy soils, have been plowed down because of poor bean set and development. Heavy soils, will for the most part, produce a good crop. Production is expected to total 9,052,000 bushels--about $\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels less than expected August 1. Even so, the crop will still be the largest ever produced in the State and will exceed the previous record set last year by about 2 million bushels.

Milk production declined sharply during August because of the poor condition of pasture. On September 1, production in herds kept by Crop Correspondents averaged 14.1 pounds per milk cow. This compares with 18.1 on August 1 this year and 15.2 on September 1, 1945. Milk cow numbers are also lower than a year ago, so it appears that the level of milk production on September 1 this year was about 10 percent lower than on the same date last year. On September 1 pastures had a condition of only 63 percent of normal compared with 84 percent on August 1 and the above average condition of 88 percent on September 1, 1945, which was well above average for that time of year. Recent rains are resulting in a rapid improvement in pasture condition over a large area of the State which no doubt will tend to stimulate milk production.

Egg production during August was equal to 259 million eggs--about 3 percent less than produced in the same month in 1945. Both the number of layers and the rate of lay are lower, although the rate of lay on September 1 was still the second highest on record for that date.

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MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
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MINNESOTA CROP REPORT - OCTOBER 1, 1946

The important feature in regard to the current agricultural situation in Minnesota is that the corn crop reached maturity with less-than-usual frost damage according to the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The corn crop, which is the most important agricultural crop grown in the State, is expected to be the second largest ever produced and its quality is unquestionably the best in recent years. The feed supply outlook, as a result, is very much improved over prospects of a year ago even though the carry-over of old corn on October 1, 1946 was the lowest for October 1 since 1937 following the serious drought of 1936. The 1946 crop of corn for all purposes is now estimated at 250,425,000 bushels of good quality corn, compared with 217,248,000 bushels of very poor quality production in 1945. This year's crop is almost equal in size to the record crop of 253,399,000 bushels produced in 1944. There is still a possibility that yields may be above present expectations as very little corn has been picked at this date.

Weather during September was generally favorable for completing grain harvest although some late harvest operations were delayed by wet weather conditions in mid-September. Loss of grain due to weather conditions has, however, been below average and the total of unharvested acreage will be small. In general, the yield of grain crops has been about as expected, although wheat and flax yields in northern counties were better than anticipated. On October 1 the yield of other spring wheat was estimated at 19.0 bushels - one bushel higher than on September 1, while the flax yield was up one-half bushel compared with the outlook a month ago.

Late maturing crops such as soybeans, buckwheat, and potatoes are also yielding at the expected level. The potato yield, however, is now indicated at 100 bushels per acre - an improvement of 5 bushels compared with a month ago - as digging operations reveal less drought damage than expected. The heavy rains which fell in northern areas in the third week of September caused a considerable delay in digging operations and there is some concern about the danger of not being able to get all of the crop under cover before frost damage.

Grain supplies on farms October 1, 1946 show considerable change compared with a year ago and other recent years. The supply of old corn, excluding the 1946 crop, was estimated at 7,086,000 bushels on October 1 compared with 23,198,000 bushels on October 1, 1945 and the record amount of 67,503,000 bushels on October 1, 1940. Total wheat stocks on farms on October 1 were 17,715,000 bushels compared with 14,195,000 bushels on October 1, 1945. Oat stocks, used largely for animal feed, were the second largest on record and were 162,142,000 bushels on October 1, 1946 compared with the record amount of 208,670,000 bushels on October 1, 1945. Farm stocks of barley are also larger at 14,688,000 bushels on October 1, 1946, compared with 8,728,000 bushels on October 1, 1945. Rye stocks on farms at 617,000 bushels are relatively small as only 35 percent of this year's crop was estimated to be on farms on October 1. Soybean stocks, excluding the 1946 crop, were very small but slightly larger than on October 1, 1945.

The rains which fell in early September were very beneficial to pastures which had suffered seriously from drought during August. Pastures on October 1 were reported at 76 percent of normal compared with only 63 percent on September 1, 1946 and 83 percent on October 1, 1945. The September rains were also especially beneficial in conditioning the soil for plowing and winter grain seeding operations. Preliminary information indicates that the acreage devoted to winter rye has been materially increased this fall.

The rate of milk per cow continued to decline during September but at a seasonal rate. On October 1, this year, the rate of production per all milk cow kept in herds of crop correspondents was 12.5 pounds, compared with 14.1 on September 1, 1946 and 12.5 pounds on October 1, 1945.

Egg production for September is estimated at 220 million - the largest number produced for any September within the period of record or since 1925. Production in September 1945 was 215 million eggs.

MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
531 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

Nov. 14, 1946

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA CROP REPORT - NOVEMBER 1, 1946

Weather during October was not favorable in all areas for the harvesting of late maturing crops such as corn, potatoes, soybeans, and buckwheat, according to the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service. Soil has been especially wet in the southwestern quarter of the State where corn picking operations are slow. There are areas where corn picking operations are well advanced - mostly in the southeastern and west north central counties. About 25 percent of the crop had been picked by November 1, with a range of 5 to 10 percent in some areas to 75 percent in others. There are reports that some of the corn has a high moisture content due to damp weather and the absence of hard, killing frosts late in the season. The corn crop forecast is unchanged from a month ago at 45 bushels per acre and total production at 250,425,000 bushels. This is the second largest crop on record with quality the best in recent years. This year's production can be compared with 217,248,000 bushels produced in 1945 and the record production of 253,399,000 bushels in 1944. The storage problem is not expected to be serious this year except in local areas where production is high in comparison with previous years.

Late maturing crops are yielding equal to or above the expected level. Potato digging, which was delayed due to wet weather late in September, is now completed. In the Valley area, yields are better than expected with the State average now estimated at 100 bushels per acre. Harvesting of soybeans was well advanced on November 1 with yields better than average. The yield is now indicated at 18.0 bushels per acre with total production at 10,512,000 bushels - the highest on record. Buckwheat suffered some damage in northern counties due to early frost, but yields are still relatively high. At 14.0 bushels per acre, production is indicated at 560,000 bushels.

Feed supplies have improved considerably the past month. On October 1, farm stocks of corn were very low, but as picking operations began late in the month the general feed situation showed marked improvement. Oats and barley stocks used mainly for animal feed are relatively large with the general feed situation satisfactory for late fall and winter feeding. Weather conditions have been excellent for growth of late fall pastures and are supplying considerable feed. On November 1, pasture conditions were reported at 77 percent of normal compared with 76 percent a month earlier and 74 percent on November 1, 1945. Winter grains have also benefited from the excellent moisture situation and are showing good development.

The rate of milk production per cow at 12.8 pounds on November 1 was up 4 percent from a year ago and 2 percent above a month ago. Increased feeding associated with large feed supplies, good pasture, and favorable weather are the principal factors for the increased rate per cow. However, total milk production is indicated to be about the same as for the corresponding month last year since a decrease of 4 percent in number of milk cows will offset an increase in average rate per cow.

Egg production for October is estimated at 208 million - the largest number produced for any October within the period of record or since 1925. Production in October a year ago was 179 million.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EGG AND MILK PRODUCTION REPORT - DECEMBER 1, 1946

EGG PRODUCTION:

Production of eggs on Minnesota farms during November was the highest for any November since records were started in 1925 and was over fourfold the November production during the ten pre-war years, 1931-40, according to the monthly report of the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Total egg production of 232 million eggs during November, 1946, compares with 193 million in November, 1945; the previous record of 195 million in November, 1944, and only 56 million, the 10-year (1931-40) pre-war average November production. More than half of this phenomenal increase in production compared with the pre-war level can be attributed to factors affecting the rate of lay, such as more careful selection and culling of birds in flock, use of improved breeding stock of proven productive ability, disease control and the use of better housing and feeding techniques. The rate of lay reached a new December 1 high of 38.8 eggs per 100 hens and pullets in flocks kept by crop reporters. This compares with 33.7 on December 1, 1945 and the 10-year pre-war December 1 average of only 13.8 eggs. The other main factor contributing to the present record level of production for November is the much above average number of hens kept in flocks. During November, 1946, the number of layers in flocks averaged 24,274,000 birds compared with the record November number of 24,586,000 in 1943 and only 13,598,000 during November in the 10-year (1931-40) pre-war period.

MILK PRODUCTION:

The rate of milk production per milk cow in herds of Minnesota crop and livestock reporters was reported on December 1 to be about average for that time of year, although the seasonal increase of 8 percent shown this year between November 1 and December 1 was less than average. Normally, the rate increases about 11 percent during this period. Production per cow averaged 13.9 pounds on December 1, 1946 which compares with 14.6 on December 1, 1945 and 13.5, the 10-year (1935-44) average December 1 rate. Producers were feeding above average quantities of grain to their milk cows on December 1 this year. Cows were receiving an average of 5.1 pounds of grain each on December 1, this year, the same as a year ago, but much more than the average December 1 rate of 4.2 pounds. Milk cow numbers have been reported consistently lower than in 1945 with mid-season indications pointing to a decrease of 4 percent. It is expected that total milk production in 1946 will approach the 1945 output despite the decrease in cow numbers as the rate of production per cow has been higher in nearly all months of 1946.

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Agricultural Statistics

MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE REPORTING SERVICE
531 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

12/16/46

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CATTLE AND SHEEP FEEDING SITUATION
December 1, 1946

CATTLE: Despite a favorable feed supply situation, Minnesota feeders have apparently placed fewer cattle in feedlots than a year ago, according to the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Records of inshipment of stocker and feeder cattle show a decrease of 10 percent in the number which have moved to feed lots. Cost of feeding cattle to feeders has been substantially higher than a year ago and has been a factor in limiting the number being fed.

In the Corn Belt States, stocker and feeder cattle continued to move in record numbers during November, and the number of cattle available for feeding in these States at the end of 1946 will probably be a record. During November the prices of fat cattle continued to strengthen, prices of feeder cattle showed little change, and the price of corn made a sharp seasonal decline. With the spread between fat cattle and feeder cattle much the widest on record and with corn supplies abundant and only a little higher in price than a year ago, the indications are that a record number of cattle will be fed in the Corn Belt during the next six months. The number of cattle fed in States outside the Corn Belt is expected to total less than last year, and most of the decrease will be in feed lot cattle.

SHEEP: The number of sheep in Minnesota feed lots was well below the number on feed a year ago. This is indicated by a decrease of about 25 percent in the recorded inshipments of feeders to feed lots direct from Western Ranges and from public stockyards during September, October and November. Feed supplies are ample but feeders have been reluctant to pay above the current level of about \$18.00 per hundredweight for good to choice feeder lambs. Weather has favored feeding operations.

Developments in the United States lamb feeding situation during November indicate that the reduction in the volume of sheep and lamb feeding this season from a year ago will be larger than indicated a month ago. An appraisal of the change from last year is made more difficult because of the shifting around of several hundred thousand lambs in the Kansas-Colorado wheat pasture area, as a result of the deep snows of early November. It still seems probable that the number of lambs finished on wheat pastures will not be greatly different from last season and that all of the reduction in feeding will be in feed lot operations. Present indications point to increased lot feeding in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri, not much change in Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan, some decrease in Wisconsin and South Dakota, and sharp decreases in Minnesota and Nebraska. The decrease in Nebraska seems to be general both in the Scottsbluff area and over the rest of the State.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MINNESOTA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY - December, 1946

The 1946 crop season was so generally favorable in Minnesota that the per acre yield of each important crop was above average, according to the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The acreage of all crops harvested in 1946 was, however, nearly 2 percent lower than in 1945 as farmers made a slight retrenchment in operations from the high level attained during the war years. Acreage abandonment, due to storm losses, drought, wet weather or weedy condition of fields, while small, exceeded the unusually small acreage losses from such causes in 1945.

The importance of Minnesota's crop production is reflected by the fact that the value of all field crop production for 1946 reached an all time high of 683 million dollars based upon preliminary information relating to season average prices for the marketing season of 1946. The season average price for each commodity is substantially higher than for 1945 when the value of crop production was equal to 571 million dollars.

Minnesota, as a result of the favorable season, maintained or improved its rank among States in the production of important agricultural crops. Based upon volume of production, Minnesota ranks third in corn, which is the Number 1 crop in both the State and Nation; second in oat production; first in flaxseed, alsike and sweet clover seed; fourth in spring wheat, barley, rye, all hay, and timothy seed; sixth in soybeans; seventh in red clover seed production; eighth in alfalfa seed production and tenth in potato production. The State also ranked third in buckwheat production.

The 1946 corn crop of 240 million bushels compares with the 1945 crop of 216 million bushels and is the second largest ever produced in Minnesota, having been exceeded only by the 1944 crop. Quality of the 1946 crop is, in general, very good, especially when compared with the 1945 crop which was of very poor quality and low feeding value. Even though acreage harvested was reduced 8 percent this year from last year's record acreage, it is still the third largest ever harvested. The yield of 44.0 bushels per acre harvested, despite the drought damage which occurred in mid-season in east central counties, exceeds by 7.5 bushels the average yield of 36.5 for 1945. Nearly 197 million bushels of the 1946 crop of 240 million bushels is classed as grain corn, the balance being used in the form of silage, forage and pasture.

Oat production of 192 million in 1946 is considerably smaller than the record 243 million bushel crop of 1945 but it is the second highest in the history of the State. The late killing frost which occurred in May was especially damaging to this crop in west central counties. The average yield of 36.0 bushels for 1946 compares with the record yield of 45 bushels in 1945. Spring wheat production of over 25 million bushels in 1946 exceeds the 1945 crop by 6-1/2 million bushels and is 4-1/3 million bushels larger than average, due entirely to above-average yields. Unusually good yields of barley and a sharp increase in acreage from the low level of recent years resulted in an upturn of 64 percent in the production of this crop compared with last year.

ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY -2-

Soybean production - a relatively new feature in Minnesota agriculture - reached another new high when a crop of nearly 10.7 million bushels was produced in 1946. This compares with the previous record of 6.6 million bushels produced in 1945. Yields were exceptionally high and averaged 17.5 bushels per acre in 1946, compared with the near-average 1945 yield of 14.5 bushels. The flaxseed crop of 9.3 million bushels in 1946 was below average size due to a reduction in acreage, as yields were better than average. The 1945 crop was equal to 11.7 million bushels.

Potato production was larger than expected in 1946 with yields equal to those of 1945 and much above average. The crop is estimated at 16.6 million bushels compared with 19.1 in 1945.

Total hay production in 1946 declined about 10 percent compared with 1945 due to a 6 percent reduction in acreage harvested and a 4 percent reduction in yield per acre.

The various hay seed crops yielded higher in 1946 than in 1945 but sharp reductions of acreage in some kinds more than offset the yield increases. Total production of alfalfa and red clover seed was substantially larger than in 1945 but alsike, sweet clover and timothy seed production was much lower.

The 1946 production of other Minnesota crops compared with 1945 is as follows: rye, 10 percent smaller; buckwheat, 7 percent less; tobacco, 17 percent more; dry beans, down 38 percent; while apple production in the eight commercial apple producing counties of the State was 46 percent smaller due to late spring frost damage.

In the following table are shown comparative figures for 1945 and 1946 which relate to production and value of production for the most important Minnesota crops:

PRINCIPAL CROPS GROWN IN MINNESOTA

	PRODUCTION		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
	1945	1946	1945	1946
	(000 Bus)		(000 Dols.)	
Corn	216,299	239,888	233,603	287,866
Wheat	21,246	27,080	32,931	51,994
Oats	242,640	192,168	148,010	138,361
Barley	12,963	21,257	13,870	30,185
Flaxseed	11,737	9,303	34,155	40,003
Soybeans for Beans	6,554	10,675	13,501	27,008
Potatoes	19,140	16,610	22,394	20,762
Hay, All (Tons)	6,564	5,897	53,115	65,009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA PIG CROP REPORT
December 1, 1946

Minnesota hog producers are planning a 10 percent increase in the number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1947 compared with 1946, based on a recent survey made by the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service in cooperation with the Postoffice department. This larger number of sows will result in an increase of about 6 percent in the number of pigs produced if producers are successful in saving an average number of pigs per litter.

The survey also revealed that producers saved 26 percent fewer fall pigs in 1946 than in the same period - June 1 to December 1 - of 1945. This sharp reduction was entirely due to a 29 percent decrease in sows farrowed as the number of pigs saved per litter this fall - 6.51 - was the highest on record. The shortage of corn for summer and early fall feeding and the uncertain price outlook were common reasons for the sharp reduction in fall farrowings.

The fall pig crop of 1946 included 1,250,000 pigs compared with the 1945 fall crop of 1,694,000 pigs. These pigs were produced from 192,000 sows which farrowed in the fall of 1946 and 271,000 in the fall of 1945. Fall farrowings were somewhat earlier this fall than in 1945. The total crop of pigs in 1946 - spring and fall - was equal to 5,208,000 pigs; a decrease of 11 percent compared with the 5,848,000 produced in 1945. Both the 1946 and 1945 crops were much smaller than the record production in the early years of the recent war when about 6-1/2 million pigs were produced in 1941; 7-1/2 million in 1942, and a record 8-1/2 million in 1943. The 1946 crop of pigs is the smallest since 1938 when 4,858,000 pigs were produced.

Producers indicated that they had about 10 percent fewer hogs over six months old, including brood sows, on hand on December 1, 1946 than a year earlier. The change indicated in the number of hogs of marketable age by areas within the State is as follows: northern third, 25 percent decrease; central third, 4 percent decrease and southern third, 10 percent decrease.

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