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WEEKLY STATION REPORTS

OF THE OFFICE OF

DRY LAND AGRICULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

NOVEMBER 9

REPORT FOR THE WEEKS ENDING NOV. 2 AND 9.
(EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE INDICATED)

Amarillo - for the month of October:

The fore part of October continued dry, which caused all row crops to ripen prematurely. The milo, sorghum and kafir plats in the C.C. series were harvested from the 8th and 12th of the month. Beginning on Saturday the 19th we had five days of showery weather, which was followed by rain of .22 inch. on the 26th, and a snow amounting to 4.2 inches on the 27th. The total precipitation for the above period was 2.10 inches, which was accompanied by considerable cloudy weather. An examination of the soil following the above showed that the moisture had penetrated to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, which is the best wetting this section has had for sometime. Other sections nearby had some very hard rains and from reports received a large territory was covered by the above wet spell.

Where the soil had been prepared before the rains it is in fine condition for planting and a large acreage of wheat will be planted by the farmers in this section of the State this fall. The sowing of winter wheat will start on the Station on November 1, and will be continued as rapidly as possible until completed. The thrashing of the row crops will be delayed until the above work is out of the way.

Maximum temperature, Oct., 96 degrees; minimum temperature Oct., 23 degrees; wind velocity, 7.4 miles; total precipitation for Oct., 2.14 inches.

Ardmore, Nov. 2:

Maximum temperature for the week, 59 degrees; minimum, 19 degrees; precipitation, none. Total precipitation for the month of October, .45 inch. Precipitation for the same month last year, .67 inch.; five year normal for Oct., 1.09 inches.

The month of October has been favorable for fall plowing, haying, and hauling in crops. Winter wheat is in excellent condition. The same statement applies to winter rye.

On the Station we still are hauling in crops, husking corn, and doing fall plowing.

Big Springs: - Nov. 2:

The week has been clear with good fall weather mainly prevailing. Maximum temperature was 77 degrees on the 28th., and minimum 32 degrees on the morning of the 27th. White frost and thin coatings of ice were noticed at this time but vegetation does not appear to have been hurt. Hourly wind average was 8.1 miles; no precipitation; evaporation, 1.318 inches.

The weather for October was dry except for the wet spell between the 18th and 25th, when the rainfall was 1.97 inches. The total precipitation for the month was 1.99 inches, which with 8.32 inches makes 10.31 inches of precipitation from January 1 to November 1. Maximum temperature was 95 degrees and minimum 32 degrees for the month. Winds were moderate to low, the highest daily average being 13.3 miles on the 26th, and the lowest 1.8 miles on the 15th.

Big Springs, continued:

Temperatures ran rather too low for maturing sorghums. The 2 inches of rain put a fair amount of moisture into the ground and makes fall seeding of crops and other field work possible to better advantage than otherwise would have been the case.

The third round of cotton picking was done early in the week, and the harvest by means of mower and rake of milo and feterita in fields Nos. 2 and 3 was completed. The soil of the winter wheat CC plats was found too wet, especially Plat E, for seeding the wheat this week. These plats lie in position here to collect run-off water.

Big Springs, November 9.

Clear weather has prevailed this week. Maximum temperature was 81 degrees on the 7th, and minimum 40 degrees Nov. 9. No killing frost has yet occurred here. Average hourly wind was 8.6 miles. High winds prevailed the first half of the week, averaging for Tuesday, 14 miles per hour. No precipitation is recorded for November so far. Kafir in the varieties and general field is left to ripen grain as much as possible. Winter wheat was drilled into the CC and Rotation Plants early in the week. The seeding of rye and wheat done on October 25 is up with fine stands. Fall plowing on plats of the rotation field was commenced during the week and fodder from various plats and fields has been hauled in and weights recorded. With fair weather continuing this work will be pretty well completed this coming week.

Colby, Nov. 2:

The week has been comparatively cool and suitable for field work. The sorghums on the D.L.A. plats were cut Monday and Tuesday. The feterita had ripened fully and the milo practically so, but not over 90% of the kafir heads were mature. The yields will not be heavy owing to poor stands and to dry weather earlier in the season. Winter wheat is growing fine. The ground is wet down to a depth of two feet on cropped land.

Dean Farrell and Profs. Salmon and Crawford of the Kansas State College visited the Station on Friday.

Weather: - Maximum temperature, 57 degrees; minimum, 22 degrees; precipitation, none - precipitation for October 2.87" - avg. .94"; 1917, .28".

Colby, Nov. 9:

This has been a rather cold and wet week for the most part. About a quarter of an inch of water fell Wednesday night in the form of rain and snow. Since then it has been cold and somewhat cloudy so that things are not drying off very rapidly. Monday we expect to start hauling in the crops from the plats preparatory to threshing soon thereafter.

Weather for the week: - Maximum temperature, 76 degrees; minimum temperature, 24 degrees; precipitation, .20 inch; snow 1/4 inch.

Dalhart, Nov. 2:

We have had splendid weather the past week with very little wind. The first couple of days were a little windy, but not to any extent. We were able to get a lot of the field work done with no delays. All the milo has been hauled in from the plats on the D.L.A. Project, headed, and is ready to thresh. We will commence hauling in the milo from the Cereal plantings as soon as we get the D.L.A. Milo out of the way. All the cowpeas have been hauled in and weighed. We had expected to begin threshing this week, but could not get to it on account of some other work that was pressing.

Winter wheat and rye are looking good and making some progress during the warm days we have had lately. We have had frost three times, but it has warmed up considerably during the day. A lot of the wheat and rye is just germinating since the rains of October. This fills out the stand in places that were quite bare before the rains. These bare spots caused by the ground being sapped by the blue weed and the seed remaining ungerminated until after the rains. This weed is getting to be a pest in Rotation No. 89 on all three plats. Measures will have to be taken to eradicate this week from the plats on account of the hindrance to crop growth. Rowed crops will not compete with it at all unless intensive cultivation is given from about April until June and the crop planted from June 1 to the 15th. In this way the week can be held in check.

The carpenter has been here this week shingling the mess house. There is about one days' work yet in finishing the shingling and tightening the weatherboarding around the house. It will be in shape then for painting but no work will have to be done on them beforehand.

Maximum temperature, 68 degrees; minimum, 27 degrees; no precipitation.

Lawton, Nov. 2 and 9:

During the week ending Nov. 2 the weather cleared up sufficiently to permit harvesting of the second growth grain sorghums on Nov. 1. Although many plats made good growth they failed to mature any grain. A few of the forage sorghums were also harvested on the same date, but wet grounds prevented completion of the work until November 5. Threats of killing frost have so far resulted in only light frosts which have not been damaging. Practically all shrubs retain their leaves, the bermud grass is still green, and some of the roses continue to put out a few buds.

The M.C.E. plats in the permanent rotations were plowed and subsoiled on the 6th. The ground was very moist and turned over in excellent shape. Wet weather has delayed any further plowing so far. Two rains on the 6th and 7th resulted in 0.72" of rainfall. The rains were torrential in character and resulted in an immense amount of run-off. A few miles distant from the Station these rains were very heavy and put all of the creeks over the band. Lake Lawtonka which supplies Lawton and Fort Sill with water is now running over the dam to a depth of 20 inches. This is the first time that water has flowed over the dam since 1915.

Mandan, Nov. 2:

Horticulture

Additional trees were dug and heeled in. Some additional seed beds were put into condition for fall plowing.

Soil moisture work was continued.

Plowing of Field Da.S was begun.

Arboriculture.

Digging of boxelders and willows was completed during the week, and the boxelders have been heeled in.

Owing to the fact that there were practically no frosty nights during October, the willows still retain their leaves; these are being stripped and the trees bundled before heeling in.

Fall plowing of summer fallowed ground is being done

Mandan, Nov. 9:

Horticulture.

Soil moisture work was continued throughout the week.

A large assortment of fruit and experimental tree seeds were planted in beds and nursery rows.

Plowing was continued on Field Da.S.

Arboriculture.

Stripping, bundling, and heeling-in of the willows was completed Friday.

Preliminary work on the planting plans was begun to ascertain the number of trees required for next spring's plantings.

Sheridan:

The principal work done on the Station for the past three weeks has been corn husking. The rotation plats are all husked and the variety field has been about one-third husked. Yields on rotations, assuming that 70 pounds of ear corn represent a bushel, have run between about 24 and 40 bushels. Yields have not been figured for the variety field, but judging by the development of the ears, Minn. 23 and 13, Rustlers White Dent, U.S. Selection 133, as well as Northwestern Dent are promising varieties for this section of dent varieties, while all flint varieties test (three in number) were well developed. About 200 bushels of corn has been husked, and the job is not yet half finished. Snow has now stopped corn husking and a concrete floor is being run in the Implement shed.

All crops are now off the field except some corn and a field of sorghum, which will be hauled in at the first opportunity.

Threshing in this section is not yet finished, and it will take two weeks of threshing weather to finish the work. Yields in general in this section have been slightly above average. There is some difficulty in threshing wheat due to an embargo on wheat which has been in effect for nearly a month, as many farmers are not equipped to store it or have more than their bins will hold and cannot market the remainder. Many, too, have bought Liberty Bonds expecting to pay for them with wheat money but the embargo is interfering.

Data on weather for the week ending Oct. 26, as follows: Max. temp., 70 degrees; min., 20; avg. wind vel., 3.5 miles; precipitation, .30 inches.

Sheridan, continued:

For the week ending Nov. 2, Max. 62; min., 22 avg. wind vel. 4.5 miles; precipitation, .29 in.

For the week ending the 9th; max. 64; min. 15; avg. wind vel. 5.8 miles; and precipitation, .47 in. in the form of snow.

Tucumcari, Nov. 2:

We had our first killing frost of the season on the morning of the 27th; the minimum temperature recorded being 31 degrees. On the 28th harvesting of the remaining sorghum plats was begun and this work is now nearly completed. There were only a few of the sorghums which attained a height sufficient for the use of the row binder, and harvesting was done by hand. The amount of feed put into the pit silo was 16180 lbs., which filled the silo to within three and one-half feet of the top. A great deal of the stuff put in the silo was very immature and it is hard to tell what the quality of the silage will be.

The remainder of the fall seeding of small grains will be done now as soon as we can get other necessary work out of the way. Moisture conditions are now excellent, and there will be a considerable acreage of winter wheat sown on the plains section of the county.

Maximum temperature, 80; min., 31; avg. wind, 6.0 miles; precipitation, none.

Tucumcari, Nov. 9:

The remainder of the winter small grain plats were seeded during the week, as was also the north and south roadways on the main plat field. The seed used for the latter purpose was rye and Kanred wheat. It was thought that because of the moist condition of the soil this seed might make sufficient growth during the winter to aid in controlling soil blowing next spring. We had considerable soil blowing one day during the week, and when the surface soil gets dried out conditions will probably be as bad as ever. Judging from my observation last spring, our trouble will probably start on the cowpeas plats, the soil now being very loose. For this reason winter wheat which is supposed to be put on disked cowpea and plowed bean ground, was seeded without the cultivation called for as the soil was already so loose that disking or plowing was unnecessary and would have only made the soil more susceptible to soil blowing. With the exception of plowing and subsoiling, plats E of the CC sorghums, all fall plowing on the plat field has been completed. Winter wheat which was seeded on Sept. 14 is doing nicely. The final round of soil samples on CC corn and winter rye was taken during the week. The ground used for feed crops is now being plowed.

Max. temp., for the week, 80; min., 30; wind vel., 7.2 miles; precipitation, none.

NOTE: - Reports for the week ending November 23 will be the last one required for this season.





