

# Special News Bulletin!

## COMMERCIAL WEST

REPRESENTING  
WESTERN INVESTMENTS, MANUFACTURING AND DEVELOPMENT

APRIL 15, 1902.

### THE KANSAS WHEAT CROP.

Good Rains are Necessary to Insure a Yield Considerably Under Last Year---The State is Dry, no Adequate Moisture Having Fallen for One Year.

(Editorial Correspondence of the Commercial West.)

Ellsworth, Kan., April 14.—Kansas must have good rains by May 1 to mature an average yield of wheat. The situation at the moment is not serious; neither is it flattering. When possibilities are considered, it is plain that the crop is in a dangerous position.

There has not been a soaking rain in Kansas for one year. The date of the last downpour was April 12, 1901. As a result the ground was dry last fall and wheat did not get the start that will carry it far toward maturity. The fields are green, but this is the natural life of the plant. Without moisture a decline in color will soon be noticed.

The state bureau finds that 1,000,000 acres has been plowed up. This is conservative. Thousands of acres are now being used for pasture in all parts of the state, and the plowing up of wheat fields will continue up to May 1, when the acreage will be seeded to corn.

The drouth is being felt the most where the wheat acreage is the largest. Sumner county, on the southern boundry, has the largest wheat acreage of any county in the United States. The state bureau says one-third of its wheat acreage has been plowed up and the condition of the remainder is given at 60. Sedgwick county, adjoining, has plowed up 40 per cent of 170,000 acres seeded, and the state bureau says "the outlook is by no means encouraging." Russell county, on the west, has plowed up 25 per cent, and the condition is 60 or lower on the balance. Some of the other county estimates are as follows:

	Acres Seeded	Per Cent Plowed up	Condition Remainder
Barton	269,000	25	71
Brown	43,100	20	80
Cowley	100,000	33	60
Dickinson	117,000	15	85
Ellsworth	132,000	25	60
Harper	150,000	20	75
Harvey	100,000	25	80
McPherson	200,000	20	70
Ottawa	115,000	10	65
Rice	175,000	25	60

This is not a condition to boast of taken at the best. The acreage that will come under harvest will not exceed 5,000,000. The possibilities of the crop seem to run toward 35,000,000 without ample moisture and 65,000,000 as a maximum with good rains.

The general shortage of feed, growing out of last year's corn failure, has forced farmers who desired to keep their herds of cattle intact to pasture wheat closely. A large percentage of the acreage is eaten closeto the ground as a result, and the ground is packed firmly about the wheat roots by the tramp of the cattle. It is plain that this acreage, where it is not finally plowed up, must be soaked to give the plant the necessary strength to mature a good yield.

To sum up then, the outcome of the Kansas wheat crop in 1902 must depend on the amount and timeliness of the rainfall. It is purely a weather crop from now on.

—H. V. Jones.



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**THESE REPORTS** will be made by Mr. H. V. Jones, from personal inspection in the fields.

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