

**SERIES OF 1895:
MASSACHUSETTS CROP
REPORT, BULLETIN NO. 1-6**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649361441

Series of 1895: Massachusetts crop report, bulletin No. 1-6 by Wm. R. Sessions

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WM. R. SESSIONS

**SERIES OF 1895:
MASSACHUSETTS CROP
REPORT, BULLETIN NO. 1-6**

SERIES OF 1895.

BULLETIN No. 1.

MASSACHUSETTS
CROP REPORT

FOR THE

MONTH OF MAY, 1895.

ISSUED BY

WM. R. SESSIONS

SECRETARY STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1895.

C
P. 1
A. 7 8

CROP REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1895.

OFFICE OF STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE,
BOSTON, MASS., JUNE 1, 1895.

Bulletin No. 1, Crop Report for the month of May, is herewith presented as the opening bulletin of the season. These crop bulletins will be issued monthly, on or about the seventh day, during the growing and harvesting seasons. Arrangements have been made with the New England Weather Service whereby weekly weather-crop bulletins will be sent Tuesdays to each person on our mailing list, and also by special arrangement to the postmasters of the Commonwealth, for posting in their respective offices. The first number issued was for date of May 6. Also, as last year, a short article by a specialist of the Board of Agriculture will be included in each issue. The article in this bulletin is furnished by the veterinarian, and treats of Tuberculin.

REPORT ON FARM ANIMALS.

[Report No. 123, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Statistics.]

Horses.

The number of horses has fallen off 187,821, or 1.17 per cent, during the past year. The heaviest losses generally occurred in the central and western States, and the greatest increases in numbers in the Southern States and in the Territories. Prices have declined in all the States and Territories except Massachusetts and Nevada, the increase in the former being \$1.10. The causes generally assigned by correspondents for the falling away in the number of horses are the substitution of other motors in the street-car service of towns and cities, and the failure of food crops and consequent inability to sustain them. The decline in value is usually attributed to the widespread depression.

Mules.

There has been a slight general decrease in the number of mules, and the average price of this animal has fallen from \$62.17 in January, 1894, to \$47.55, same date, 1895.

Milch Cows.

The tendency to an increase of milch cows noted in last year's report still continues. The estimated number in January, 1895, was 16,504,629, or an increase of 0.4 per cent. The average farm value per head for the present year (1895) is \$21.97, against \$21.77 last year.

Oxen and Other Cattle.

The decrease in number of oxen and other cattle since the estimate in January, 1894, has been very marked, and amounts to 6.13 per cent. Accompanying this considerable decline in numbers there has been a falling off in the value per head of 60 cents.

Sheep.

The decline in the number of sheep was 2,753,953, and is attributed to the ravages of farm dogs and wild animals, the low price of wool, the hard times, and scarcity of feed. The price per head has also declined from \$1.98 to \$1.58.

Hogs.

There has been a decrease of 2.3 per cent in estimated number of swine, and the average price is \$4.97 for the year 1895, against \$5.98, Jan. 1, 1894. To scarcity of feed and cholera may be attributed principally the diminution in number of this animal. The decline in value is ascribed mainly to hard times.

Summary.

Horses in the United States, Jan. 1, 1895, 15,893,318, valued at \$576,730,580; mules, 2,333,198, valued at \$110,927,834; milch cows, 16,504,629, valued at \$362,601,729; oxen and other cattle, 34,364,216, valued at \$482,999,129; sheep, 12,294,064, valued at \$66,685,767; swine, 44,165,716, valued at \$219,501,267; total value of farm animals, \$1,819,446,306.

Statistics for Massachusetts.

Horses on farms, 65,760; average price, \$74.13; value, \$4,871,627. Milk cows on farms, 178,135; average price, \$32.50; value, \$5,789,388. Oxen and other cattle on farms, 82,965; average price, \$24.46; value, \$2,029,361. Sheep on farms, 49,383; average price, \$3.43; value, \$169,137. Swine on farms, 63,256; average price, \$8.58; value, \$542,734.

CONDITION OF FARM ANIMALS.

By Report No. 125 of the Statistician of the United States Department of Agriculture (April, 1895) it appears from the notes of correspondents that diseases of a fatal and unusually severe nature have not prevailed generally during the year. Only from New York has mention been made of the existence of tuberculosis. Most losses have been the result of exposure, and want of the usual nourishment, owing to the scarcity of feed. Hog cholera prevails to a considerable extent in many of the States, and especially in Iowa, where one county reports a loss of 1,100 hogs in one month from this cause alone. Taking the country as a whole, the stock has come out of winter quarters in fair condition. For Massachusetts the condition of horses is given as 99; cattle, 95; sheep, 100; and swine, 97.

CONDITION OF WINTER GRAIN.

Report No. 125, above referred to, states that the past winter has been hard on wheat. The fall of 1894 was a dry one, and in many States not favorable either to germination or to the maintenance of the vitality of the plant. The spring has also been droughty over extensive areas. Very little damage from the Hessian fly is reported.

MAY CROP REPORT.

The May returns of the United States Department of Agriculture (Report No. 126) show an increase in condition of wheat of 1.5 points from the April average, being 82.9, against 81.4 last month and 81.4 in May, 1894. In Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska the prospects are

poor. Iowa and Missouri report favorable prospects. Winter rye, like wheat, has advanced nearly 2 points since last month, its average for May being 88.7. The prospects for rye throughout the rye belt are fair, except in the State of New York, where it is too dry, while in the States of Minnesota and Kansas the crop was considerably damaged by the severe winter, and has not recovered. The average condition of winter barley is 94, against 62.3 in the month of May, 1894. The lowest conditions are in Texas, Indiana and Iowa, and the highest in New York, California and Oregon.

The condition of spring pasture is 89.7; of mowing lands, 89.4. The proportion of spring ploughing done May 1 is reported as 82.8 per cent, against 83.5 last year and 73.4 in 1893. For Massachusetts the average condition of meadows and mowing lands May 1 is given as 96; of spring pasture, 93; proportion of ploughing work already done, 33 per cent; proportion usually done by May 1 (in an average year), 44 per cent.

WEATHER SUMMARY, JANUARY — APRIL, 1895.

FURNISHED BY THE NEW ENGLAND WEATHER SERVICE.

January gave slightly warmer weather than normal in the eastern part of the State, and slightly colder in central and western counties. There was no general thaw and no extremely cold weather. The precipitation was above the normal in the southern part, but less than the usual amount came in the centre and north. About the normal amount of snow fell during the month, and with the steady temperature most of it remained on the ground, giving a good protection to all roots and shrubs. The only storm of marked severity was that of the 26th-27th, when some damage was done along the coast by the wind, and travel was hindered in the interior by drifting snow.

February was cold and dry. The temperature averaged from 2 to 7 degrees a day below the normal throughout the greater part of the State. The temperature rose several degrees above freezing in south-eastern Massachusetts on the early morning of the 8th, then fell rapidly and to a low point under the influence of north-west winds which prevailed. At Provincetown the daily range on the 8th was

the greatest ever recorded there in fourteen years of observation, while the minimum on the 6th was the lowest ever registered there in that time. The precipitation was generally in the form of snow, except in the extreme south-east, and most of it came in the storm of the 7th-8th. This storm was extremely severe, and great damage was done along the coast by the high tide and terrific winds. The tide and winds probably did more damage to wharves, shipping, etc., along our coast than in any one storm for years. Several buildings were blown down or badly damaged in the vicinity of Amesbury, Mass. The ground was mostly well covered with snow throughout the month. There was some injury to peaches by the cold spell, and the very high wind drove the cold into many cellars that were considered frost-proof.

The weather for March did not depart far from the normal in any respect, though it was slightly cooler and drier than March generally gives in some places. The storms were not so severe as are many times experienced, and the snow gave a good covering on the fields and pastures, except along the immediate coast, until near the end of the month. The season opened slowly, and was later than usual at the end of the month.

April departed very little from the normal in temperature, although it was slightly warmer in central counties; but an excess of rain came, except in the extreme south-east. The storms of the 8th-9th and 13th-15th filled the ground and reservoirs; and the intervalles on rivers rising in the north were badly washed by the floods that came from the melting snow and extremely heavy rainfalls which fell there. In the Berkshire hills the highways were badly blocked by snow-drifts till after the 15th of the month. The ground was cold and the season backward, and no great amount of seed had been put into the ground in any section at the end of the month.

NEW ENGLAND WEATHER AND CROPS.

FROM UNITED STATES WEATHER-CROP BULLETINS.

Week ending May 6. — Warmer than usual over greater portion of country. On north Pacific coast, in central California, over Utah, Arizona and New Mexico and over limited