Fall Harvest Progresses Well
With Favorable Weather Conditions

Harvest of sugar beets, dry beans, potatoes, corn and grain sorghum was very active during October, according to the Colorado Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Generally warm, open weather prevailed and promoted good crop maturing and harvest progress.

Harvest of corn for grain and sugar beets was more than a week ahead of normal. The corn grain forecast is unchanged from last month. Sugar beet production is down slightly from last month, but is forecast at 22 per cent above last year. Grain sorghum production is unchanged from last month but up 22 per cent below last year. Fall potato production is forecast below last month but 11 per cent above last year. The dry bean forecast is up from last month and 7 per cent above last year.

Planting of fall sown grains is virtually complete and replanting of scattered fields has occurred in the southeast where stands were poor due to moisture conditions and insects. Eighty-two per cent of the wheat and 89 per cent of the barley have emerged and new stands are in mostly good condition. It appears that very little fall seeded grains will be available for grazing because of limited top growth. Many fields are vulnerable to wind erosion.

The 1974 corn grain crop is estimated at 43,050,000 bushels, unchanged from last month but 4 per cent smaller than 1973. Average yield per acre is estimated at 105 bushels, compared with last year’s 102 bushels. Harvest was about 55 per cent complete on Nov. 1, compared with an average of 28 per cent.

Production of grain sorghum is forecast at 8,460,000 bushels, unchanged from last month but 22 per cent below last year. Average yield is expected to be 32 bushels per acre, compared with 38 bushels last year. Grain combining was about 30 per cent complete on Nov. 1, compared with an average of 30 per cent.

Production of sugar beets is estimated at 2,262,000 tons, down 2 per cent from last month but up 22 per cent from last year. Average yield of 19.5 tons per acre compares with 16.3 tons in 1973 and 19.4 tons in 1972. Yield prospects appear outstanding with about three-fourths of the crop harvested on Nov. 1, compared with an average of 49 per cent.

Dry bean production is forecast at 1,646,000 cwt., up 3 per cent from last month and up 7 per cent from last year. Average yield is estimated at 930 pounds per acre, compared with last year’s 820 pounds. Only about 2 per cent of the acreage remained to be threshed on Nov. 1. Reported yields on both irrigated and dryland fields increased across the state since the previous forecast.

Production of fall potatoes in the San Luis Valley is estimated at 9,180,000 cwt., down 4 per cent from last month but up 11 per cent from last year. Harvest was nearly complete by Oct. 20, and with ideal harvest weather the crop was put under cover in excellent condition.