Volunteer wheat acreage in the western two-thirds of Kansas that had made sufficient growth by mid-September for grazing was near the average for recent years, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The proportion of wheat actually being grazed was also about average. Both the harvested wheat acreage with sufficient growth for grazing and the percent of acreage now being pastured were above a year earlier but well below 2 years earlier. The September 15 wheat pasture survey indicated that 7.4 percent of the 1971 harvested wheat acreage in the western two-thirds of Kansas showed sufficient growth for pasturing. Of this acreage, only 1.5 percent was actually being grazed by livestock. The growth of volunteer wheat in central and western Kansas was hampered by a lack of rainfall during August. In addition, much of the volunteer wheat was destroyed to control mosaic and Hessian flies. Farmers indicated that prospects for wheat grazing were very limited and would show no improvement in the near future without a general rain. Moderate precipitation was received on September 17 and 18 and should promote some growth.

INCREASED VOLUNTEER WHEAT ACREAGE: The 1971 harvested wheat acreage with sufficient growth of volunteer wheat for grazing by September 15 was 7.4 percent compared with 3.2 percent last year and 32.4 percent 2 years earlier. Forage now available from volunteer wheat pasture was rated mostly poor. The 1.5 percent of volunteer wheat acreage being pastured as of September 15 compares with .9 percent a year earlier and a range since 1965 of .8 percent to 3.5 percent.

SEEDED ACREAGE PROSPECTS: Seeding of the 1972 winter wheat crop is somewhat behind a year earlier and the 10-year average. Planting and germination were delayed by a lack of moisture, especially in the southwest and central areas. The outlook was improved by recent rains but more moisture will be needed because both surface and subsoil moisture have been short in most areas.