

**Research Article****Grain production in the Kurgan region in the post-war years****Vladimir Pavlovich Motrevich,**

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**ABSTRACT**

The state of grain production in the Kurgan region has been studied, the role of the Southern Trans-Ural region in the grain economy of the USSR in the post-war years has been shown. Data on the size of sown areas and yields of grain crops are given, the composition of agricultural producers is characterized, the dynamics of gross collections during the period under study is shown. In the study of gross fees, various methods of processing the series of dynamics used in agricultural statistics were used.

**Keywords:** Kurgan region, postwar years, grain crops, wheat, sown areas, yield, gross yield, production dynamics, collective farms, state farms, individual farms.

**INTRODUCTION:**

The development of agriculture in the postwar years was reflected in the national historiography. The works of M.L. Bogdenko, I.M. Volkova, I. E. Zelenin and other authors provide numerous data on the state of agriculture, including grain, both in the whole country and in its individual regions [1, 4, 7, 8]. Agriculture is an important sector of the economy of the Kurgan region, which has traditionally specialized in agricultural products. The main crops in crop production were and still are cereals. The main grain crop in the region is spring wheat. Except it in area grow rye, triticale, barley, oats, buckwheat and peas [52]. In 2017, according to preliminary data of the Ministry of agriculture of the Russian Federation, the grain harvest in the Kurgan region amounted to 2062.9 thousand tons and in this indicator the region took the twenty-first place among the regions of Russia [2]. Greatest success was achieved by farmers of Mishkinsky, Shuchansky, Shadrinsky districts that have

received the harvest of 25 quintals per hectare [25]. The dominant role of grain farming in the agro-industrial complex of the Kurgan region has led to increased attention to the study of representatives of various sciences [6, 12, 23]. The role of grain farming in the Southern Trans-Urals was quite noticeable in the middle of XX century. In 1940 the share of grain crops in the structure of the sown area was 89.5%, in 1950 – 86.3%, and in 1960 – 69.1% (Table 1). Therefore, the works of historians devoted to the agriculture of the Southern Trans-Urals in certain historical periods, including the post-war years, are of considerable interest. The state of agriculture in the Kurgan region in those years was highlighted in the works of M.N. Denisevich, V.N. Mamyachenkov, V.P. Motrevich, R.P. Tolmacheva, R.R. Hisamutdinova [5, 15, 16, 54 - 55 ], as well as Kurgan researchers – A.Ya. Kodintsev, V.V. Podshivalov, M.N. Fedchenko [9, 12, 24]. The aforementioned authors cited a significant body

of data on the issues under study, made interesting conclusions and generalizations. Valuable results are also contained in the works of “small forms” devoted to the implementation in the region of the “Stalinist plan for the transformation of nature” [54], the development of the Ural virgin lands [21], the dynamics of grain production in the Urals [17, 19].

**The purpose and methodology of the study.** In general, it can be stated that the state of agriculture in the Kurgan region in the postwar decade turned out to be better studied. The second half of the 1950s turned out to be virtually out of sight of researchers. At the same time, the study of the historical experience of the agrarian development of the region and the development of agriculture is an important area of research problems. It makes it possible to better understand the processes occurring in the modern agrarian sector, to identify and evaluate miscalculations made in different years and mistakes in the management of the industry. In this work the documentary materials of the Central Statistical Office under the USSR

Council of Ministers, stored in the funds of the Russian State Archive of Economics, are used. Based on their analysis, the dynamics of grain production in the Kurgan region in the postwar years are presented. The influence of various factors on it is determined, the role of various categories of farms (collective farms, state farms, individual farms) in grain production in those years is shown.

On the eve of the Great Patriotic War, crops of grain crops in the territory of the Kurgan Region occupied 1,690.3 thousand hectares (89.5% of all crops). The main cereal crop was wheat, mainly spring. Common crops were also oats, winter rye, barley, and millet (Table 1). The gross grain harvest in 1940 was 11,562.0 thousand centners, which was 1.2% of the gross grain harvest in the USSR. The main suppliers of grain in the Southern Trans-Urals, as well as throughout the country, were collective farms. On the eve of the Great Patriotic War, they accounted for 89.7% of the harvested grain (Table 3).

**Table 1:** Sown area of grain crops in the Kurgan region (all categories of farms, thousand hectares)

Year	All crops	including grain	among them						
			wheat	rye	barley	oat	millet	buckwheat	bean
1940	1888,3	1690,3	936,3	285,2	37,6	360,7	37,2	0,9	26,2
1946	1065,7	949,9	404,8	233,9	9,5	231,4	18,2	2,6	5,8
1950	1571,4	1356,9	819,4	245,7	18,2	207,1	9,5	2,6	42,8
1960	2484,1	1716,9	1370,9	22,7	67,0	217,1	-	2,3	20,9

*Source:* [18, p. 109, 113; 30, p. 69; 32, p. 103; 36, p. 71; 46, p. 77]

The war caused great damage to the country's agriculture, including its rear areas. The population in the Kurgan region has significantly decreased, mainly due to the able-bodied villagers. The decrease in the population has led to an increase in the production burden on rural workers. A negative impact on the highly mechanized grain sector of the region and the reduction in the volume of work of machine and tractor stations. The course of expansion of the acreage carried out in the country during the initial period of war also led to negative consequences for agriculture. In the Kurgan region the grain crops increased from 1690,3 thousand hectares in 1940 to 1717,4 thousand hectares in 1942. However, in wartime, to remove the sown area was impossible. As a result, tens of thousands of hectares of crops remained uncollected and went under the snow.

In subsequent years, the acreage of grain began to decline rapidly. In 1943, the crops in the area occupied 1178,0 thousand hectares, and in 1944 998,3 thousand hectares, and in 1945 was reduced to 987,9 thousand hectares, i.e. decreased in comparison with 1942 by 42.5%. In wartime, the yield of grain crops has decreased dramatically.

Farms everywhere were violated the correct alternation of cultures. The same crops were sown on the same fields for several years, perennial grasses have occupied small areas, reduced the area of clean vapor, etc. All this led to high weed infestation, especially by wild oat and reduce crop yields. So the

productivity of the farm, the main grain producer in the region decreased from 6.8 t/ha in 1940, to 4.9 t/ha in 1945 [18, p. 113, 126]. The reduction of acreage and the fall in yields led to a significant reduction in grain harvest (table. 3).

After the end of the war in the USSR began rapid recovery economy. In a joint resolution of the Kurgan oblast Executive Committee and the regional Committee of the CPSU (b) of March 22, 1946 "on the plan for the development of agriculture in the region in 1946" were outlined the main directions in the conduct of agricultural activities pre-sowing and sowing campaigns.

First, collective and state farms of the region were strongly recommended to organize work on the accumulation and conservation of moisture in the soil, which is to hold the detention of spring meltwater in the fields, and the entire area of vapors and plowing to hold for two to three days early spring harrowing in two tracks. Secondly, it was recommended to carry out preliminary loosening or peeling of areas intended for spring sowing and not plowed in the first 15 days from the beginning of field work. Third, plow and fence as much as possible to be sown areas in the first 10-15 days from the beginning of field work. Fourth, the sowing of spring wheat was proposed to produce from early may to finish it by may 20 [9, p. 121, 122].

However, the first postwar year was extremely unfavorable for agriculture. The most important agricultural areas of the country (the Volga region, the North Caucasus, Ukraine, the Center) struck inexpensive. Extremely adverse weather conditions in the spring of 1946 complicated the field work in the Kurgan region. As a result, spring sowing began 2-3 weeks later than usual. The whole of June and half of July in the area was very hot, and from the second half of July began continuous rains that lasted until the beginning of November, i.e. before frost and snowfall. About 100,0 thousand ha rye died from soaking, and its surviving arrays on the area of 214 thousand hectares due to the June and July drought gave in most areas of the region an extremely low yield – 1.5-2 C per hectare.

Because of the wet fields, the grain had to be removed mainly by hand scythes and sickles, often standing almost knee-deep in water. Harvesters in these circumstances, could not move and was put instead of stationary threshers for threshing. Unpaved roads were impassable, and cars which should transport grain, could move only at a speed of 4-5 kilometers per hour. In these circumstances, a considerable part of the crop had not been cleaned and went under the snow [9, p. 124, 125]. As a result of crop failure in 1946, grain harvest decreased even compared to 1945 by 19.4% [31, L. 60; 32, L. 103].

Crop failure in 1946 and the ensuing famine in the country demanded urgent measures to increase grain production. In this regard, in December 1946, a resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR was adopted, providing for the expansion of acreage and increasing the yield of grain crops in the Eastern regions of the USSR [26, p.368]. Much attention was paid to the restoration of grain production at The February (1947) Plenum of the CPSU (b). It set the task for 1947-1949 by increasing the yield and expansion of crops significantly exceed the pre-war level of grain production by the end of the five-year plan [10, p. 103]. At the same time, the country took measures to eliminate violations of the Charter of the agricultural cooperative.

The most important problem of agriculture in those years was the increase in grain yield. Table 2 shows that in 1946 the yield of grain crops in the Kurgan region was significantly lower than the pre-war level. The subsequent years of the fourth five-year plan were more favorable for grain farming in the southern Trans-Urals. The acreage was gradually restored, the yield grew, as a result, the gross grain harvest increased annually (table 3). Especially successful for the grain economy was 1950: the yield and gross harvest of grain crops were significantly higher than pre-war indicators (table 2, 3).

For achievements in harvesting grain crops, many agricultural workers of the Kurgan region were awarded the title Hero of Socialist Labor. Among them – M. I. Vtorushin, I. E. Grazhdankin, V. F. Dubenko, F. N. Zhilin, P. I. Ivanov, N. M. Ivashin, P. T. Krivonosov, A. N. Mikhalev, M. K. Trebunsky, N. D. Cheremisin [12, p. 24, 27, 35, 43, 47, 48, 53, 58, 63, 81, 87].

**Table 2:** Yield of grain crops in the Kurgan region (all categories of farms, C / ha)

Year	All grains	among them						
		wheat	rye	barley	oat	millet	buckwheat	bean
1940	6,8	6,7	9,2	4,4	6,1	3,5	3,1	4,3
1946	4,3	4,2	3,1	3,8	6,0	1,8	3,1	4,3
1950	12,2	13,2	8,6	9,7	14,0	4,1	4,6	8,2
1960	15,1	15,2	13,4	14,3	16,4	-	5,2	11,3

*Source:* [30, p. 69; 32, p. 103; 36, p. 71; 46, p. 77].

In the early postwar years, the decisive role in the collection of grain, as in the years of the Great Patriotic War, belonged to collective farms. The share of other producers – state farms, subsidiary farms, industrial enterprises, organizations and institutions, individual farms of collective farmers, workers and employees, individual farmers during the fourth five-year plan averaged 13.0% (Table 4). Thus, in the Southern Trans-Urals, for the first postwar years there was a tendency towards the restoration of grain farming, the main part of the grain in the region was produced by collective farms. In the early 1950s in the country there was a decrease in the volume of agricultural production. Similar processes were characteristic of the Kurgan region. If in 1950 the value of agricultural products obtained in the field of agriculture was 212.7 million rubles (in prices of 1926/27), then in 1951 –183.2 million, and in 1952 – 113.6 million rubles [27, l. 25, 25 ob; 28, l. 14, 14 ob; 29, l. 19, 19 ob.]. Grain harvest also decreased markedly (Table 3). The reasons were not only in weather conditions, but also in unsolved problems that had accumulated in the agriculture of the USSR during the 1930s-1940s. By the early 1950s the development benefits of the industry associated with its recovery have been exhausted. In this situation, at the September (1953) Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, a set of measures to boost agriculture was planned and began to be implemented. A strip of measures to reform agriculture began in the USSR, the effect of the decisions taken in 1953 remained until the end of the 1950s. As a result, if in 1950 the gross agricultural output of the USSR in comparable prices in 1983 was 75.6 billion rubles, in 1960 it was 122.1 billion. Thus, in the 1950s it increased by 61.5% [20, p. 38].

**Table 3:** Gross harvest of grain crops in the Kurgan region in 1940, 1945-1960, thousand hectares

Year	All	among them			% of the USSR
		collective farms	state farms	individual farms	
1940	11562	10372	1189	1	1,2
1945	5087	4303	783	1	1,1
1946	4102	3517	585	0	1,0
1947	5681	5032	649	0	0,9
1948	5761	5126	634	1	0,9
1949	8154	7162	992	0	1,2
1950	16494	14123	2371	0	2,0
1951	13927	12053	1874	0	1,8
1952	8155	7106	1049	0	0,9
1953	15636	13624	2012	0	1,9
1954	17773	15250	2523	0	2,1
1955	11393	10042	1351	0	1,1
1956	19907	16959	2947	1	1,6
1957	10987	8122	2865	0	1,0
1958	10730	7921	2809	0	0,8
1959	27583	19273	8310	0	2,2
1960	26324	16101	10223	0	1,9

*Source:* [18, p. 128, 130; 30, p.1, 68, 69; 31, p.1, 60; 32, p. 2, 3, 103; 33, p. 2, 3, 103; 34, p.1, 2,70; 35, p. 1,2,71; 36, p. 1, 2, 71; 37, p.1, 2, 72; 38, p.1, 2, 71; 39, p.1, 2, 71; 40, p. 71; 41, p.1,2,70; 42,p.1,2,71; 43,p.1,2,65; 44, p.1,3,72; 45, p. 2,3,61; 46, p. 1, 2, 77].

In the postwar years, the development of agriculture in the Kurgan region occurred by expanding the acreage, and by increasing yields. After a slight increase in grain yield to 5.9 kg per hectare in 1947, the next year it fell again and the average for all categories of farms was 4.6 kg. In state farms of area it was even lower – 4,5 t [32, l. 103; 34, l. 70]. Low grain yields were the result of both adverse climatic conditions and serious violations in agricultural engineering. In these conditions, new methods of tillage and crops proposed by T.S. Maltsev became widespread in the region. T.S. Maltsev – the farmer collective farm "Lenin's Covenants" Shadrinsky district of the Kurgan region. Thanks to the agrotechnical methods used by him during 1930-1940, the collective farm received high yields of grain crops. Wheat on the farm "Lenin's Testament" was taken out of the context for sowing stubble without plowing, and received up to 40 quintals per hectare. In preparation for the couple to spring wheat crops has been deep plowing plow without special dumps, and then steam several times was treated by harrowing [14, p. 8-14].

The success of the Kurgan field crop were seen, and the order of the Minister of agriculture of the USSR D. Benediktov Krasnoufimskiy, Kurgan and Chelyabinsk state breeding station, and Makushinski experimental field was comprehensively test the effectiveness of sentences of T.S. Maltsev. In 1949 in the village of Maltsevo Shadrinsk district of Kurgan region was held scientific conference with the participation of agricultural Sciences, Ministry of agriculture of the USSR, the Executive Committee of Kurgan and Shadrinsk RK the CPSU (b). The meeting noted the scientific and economic prospects of proposals T.S. Maltsev [54, p. 109].

In 1950, on the instructions of Stalin at the collective farm "Lenin's Covenants" was established Shadrinsk' experimental station headed by T.S. Maltsev. Over several years the station was designed subsurface system of tillage including the plough of his own design and a system of five fields of agriculture with subsurface tillage. T.S. Maltsev empirically proved that the waste-free tillage is a decisive

factor in the preservation and accumulation of fertility and yield growth. Dump-free tillage has become an important agrotechnical technique, which allowed to protect the soil from erosion and increase the stability of agriculture in the vast areas of the Eastern regions of the USSR. Mal farming has gradually been applied in many farms. Already in 1953, moldboard plowing was performed in the area in the square at 59.2 thousand ha. Proposed T.S. Maltsev early spring harrowing of fall plowing vapors and used all the collective farms of the region, the destruction of pre-seed wild oat – 85,0%, crossed, narrow sowing – 90,0%, the sowing of two varieties of wheat are early maturing and late maturing and 95.0% of the farms [9, p. 148]. In the 1950s, working in the field 9 state variety testing plots, each of which catered to group areas of similar soil and climatic conditions [55, p. 96]. Due to this, high-yielding zoned varieties of grain crops such as "Spring", "Iskra", "Lutesens", "Milturum" became widespread. The area of collective and state farm lands sown with these seeds increased every year. So, if in 1953 the area of crops of the zoned grades of grain crops in area made 867,1 thousand hectares, in 1958 1163,4 thousand [11, page 54; 29, page 267]. As a result, grain yield significantly increased. In 1945 she was in the field of 5.1 t/ha, in 1950 – 12.2 C/ha, and in 1960 – 15.1 C/ha (table. 2).

In the second half of the 1950s, one of the ways of solving the grain problem was the development of virgin and fallow lands, which began by the decision of the February-March (1954) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee [10, pp. 359-391]. In those years, in the Eastern regions of the USSR there were large untilled land areas suitable for use in agriculture. In the Urals virgin and fallow lands were available in Bashkiria, Kurgan, Orenburg and Chelyabinsk regions. Mass development of virgin lands in the USSR began in 1954, this year the collective and state farms of the Kurgan region raised 287,0 thousand hectares of virgin and fallow lands, and in 1955 plowed another 157.0 thousand hectares [22, p. 56]. However, the results of the first years of virgin lands development were very modest. In 1955, in the

southern Trans-Urals grain harvested much less than in the previous 1953-1954 years. Mass development of the Ural virgin continued in subsequent years, so in 1956 in the region plowed another 15.0 thousand hectares of new land. However, unlike previous years, this year in the Urals was fruitful. In 1956 in the Urals collected 140,0 million C. grain, which was 11.2% of the all-Union crop [17, p. 80, 81]. Great success was achieved by rural workers of the Kurgan region, who collected 19.9 million tons of grain (table. 3).

In the second half of the 1950s, due to the plowing of virgin lands, the size of crops in the Kurgan region increased significantly. If in 1950 the crops occupied an area in 1356,9 thousand ha, in 1960 – 1716,9 thousand hectares (tab.1). Especially successful for the agriculture of the southern Trans-Urals was 1959. This year was obtained unprecedented grain yield of 16.2 t / ha, the harvest was equal to 27.6 million kg of grain, which was 2.2% of its all-Union collection (table 2, 3). Kurgan region sold 14.4 million tons of grain to the state and was awarded the order of Lenin.

However, at the turn of the 50s-60s, the country's agriculture faced difficulties caused by the reduction of capital investments in the industry, as well as the reorganization of machine and tractor stations. Negative changes occurred in the structure of grain crops, in many areas without taking into account regional characteristics began to plant corn indiscriminately. The rapid expansion of maize crops, which affected the southern Trans-Urals, became a characteristic feature of the development of agriculture of the USSR in the late 1950s – early 1960s. Put forward in may 1957 N.S. Khrushchev's idea to overtake the United States in the production of livestock products per capita marked the beginning of the voluntaristic policy of "big jump" in the field of agriculture. One of its directions was "corn fever". Corn began to grow everywhere, up to the Arkhangelsk region, where it gave low yields of green mass. In the Kurgan region in 1954 corn crops made 3,5 thousand hectares, and in 1956 already 218,8 thousand hectares, i.e. for three years increased in 62,5 times [3, page

115]. Maize crops continued to grow in the following years, but in the Urals they required large investments from agricultural enterprises and gave low yields. In addition, spring wheat monoculture was introduced everywhere in virgin areas, in 1960 in the region it accounted for 80.0% of grain crops (table1). Thus violated the requirements of agricultural technology, which led to a decrease in crop yields. As a result, after the record for the southern Trans-Urals 1959-1960 harvests, in the first half of the 1960s in the region there was a slowdown in the growth of grain production [47, L. 74; 48. L. 77; 49 L. 78; 50, 175; 51, L. 84].

It should be noted that in the postwar years, the gross harvest of grain crops was subjected to strong fluctuations, being in constant dependence on weather conditions. Therefore, to study the patterns of gross fees in agricultural statistics, different methods of processing of time series are used. In particular, the method of averages is widely used. Table 4 allow us to calculate that in the Kurgan region the average annual gross grain harvest in the years of the fourth five-year plan was 8.0 million centners. During the fifth five-year period, the average annual gross collection was 13.4 million centners, and in the sixth five-year plan – 19.1 million. Thus, the analysis of the dynamics of the five-year cycles shows a steady increase in grain production throughout the study period.

**Table 4** :Dynamics of grain production in the Kurgan region by categories of farms (thousand C)

Category of farms	average per year		
	1946 - 1950	1951- 1955	1956 - 1960
collective farms	6992	11615	13675
state farms	1046	1762	5395
in total	8038	13377	19070

**Source:** [18, p. 128, 130, 131; 30, p.1, 68, 69; 31, p.1, 60; 32, p. 2, 3, 103; 33, p. 2, 3, 103; 34, p.1, 2,70; 35, p. 1,2,71; 36,p. 1, 2, 71; 37, p.1, 2, 72; 38, p.1, 2, 71; 39, p.1, 2, 71; 40, p. 71; 41, p.1,2,70; 42, p.1,2,71; 43,p.1,2,65; 44, p.1,3,72; 45, p. 2,3,61; 46, p. 1, 2, 77].

Methods of agricultural statistics allow us to investigate not only the change in the total gross grain harvest, but also the influence of various factors on it. Change in acreage is a quantitative

factor. The change in gross yield due to this factor is determined by multiplying the increase (decrease) of crops for the compared periods by the level of productivity of the base year according to the formula  $(S_1 - S_0) \cdot Y_0$ . The change in gross yield due to the change in yield (also a quantitative factor) is determined by multiplying the value of the change in yield by the size of the sown area of the reporting year according to the formula  $(S_1 - S_0) \cdot Y_0$ . According to tables 1, 2, 3 in 1946 in the Kurgan region with 949,9 thousand hectares of grain collected 4.1 million quintals of grain with an average yield of 4.3 t/ha. In 1960, these figures were respectively 1716,9 thousand hectares 26.3 million kg and 15.1 kg/ha. Performed calculations show that in the postwar years, the increase of grain yield due to changes in the size of crops amounted to:  $(1716,9 - 949,9) + 4,3 = 3298,1$  thousand C. Due to the increase in productivity, the increase in production was:  $(15,1 - 4,3) + 1716,9 = 18542,5$  thousand C. The influence of these factors can be expressed in relative terms. Calculations show that the overall increase in the gross grain harvest due to the increase in productivity was 84.9%. This means that intensive factors prevailed in the increase of grain production.

Materials of the CSO of the USSR allow to characterize the role of different categories of farms in grain production. From data table 4 it follows that in the first postwar decade the main supplier of grain in the southern Trans-Urals were collective farms. The share of farms of industrial enterprises, state farms and individual households (collective farmers, workers and employees, sole traders) was less than 15.0%. In the second half of the 1950s, the development of virgin lands and the mass transformation of agricultural cooperatives into state farms led to an increase in grain harvest in the fields of state farms. According to data for 1960 when the gross grain harvest in thousand 26324,0 C the share of the farms had 16101,0 million (61.2 per cent), and state farm collected 10223,0 thousand kg (38.8 per cent). In the second half of the 1950s, due to the transformation of some collective farms and the creation of virgin state farms, the role of the public sector in grain

production increased annually. In 1959 in the Kurgan region of the 50 farms 15 farms (Alabujskiy, Bolshevik, Vargashinskiy, Kargapol'skiy, Lebyazh'evskiy, Lopatinskiy, Makushinskiy, Petuhovo, Pioneer, Safakulevskoe, Siberian, Steppe, Sukhmenskiy, Shadrinskiy, Yalanskiy) had a grain direction. As a result, if in 1955 the share of state farms in grain production was 11.9%, in 1956 – 14.8%, in 1957 – 26.1%, and in 1959 – 30.1%. As for individual households, during the postwar years their role in grain production did not exceed one percent (table 3).

Changes in the organizational forms of agricultural producers, as well as annual fluctuations in grain yields caused by weather conditions, carried out in the 1950s, make it difficult to identify the main patterns of their fees. Therefore, to determine the dynamics of grain production more reliable results gives the use of the method of moving average. The application of this method excludes the sharpest fluctuations due to weather conditions. When using the moving average method, the actual data for several years are leveled from the influence of the features of each year, as a result, a General trend is manifested. The accuracy of the average results depends on the length of the oscillation period (table. 5).

**Table 5:** Average moving gross grain harvest in the Kurgan region in 1946-1960 (thousand C)

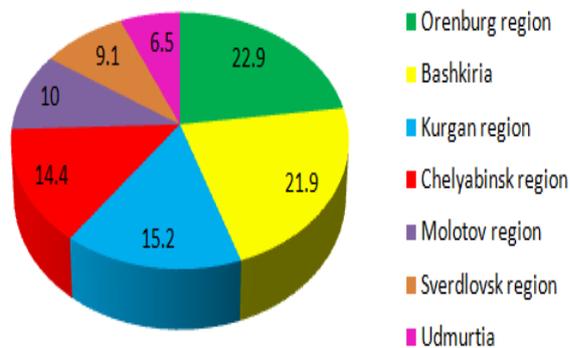
Five-year periods		Ten-year periods	
Years	Average gross yield	Years	Average gross yield
1946 – 1950	40192	1946 - 1955	107076
1947 – 1951	50017	1947 - 1956	122881
1948 – 1952	52491	1948 - 1957	128187
1949 – 1953	62336	1949 - 1958	133156
1950 – 1954	71985	1950 - 1959	152585
1951 – 1955	66884	1951 - 1960	162415
1952 – 1956	72864		
1953 – 1957	75696		

1954 – 1958	70790		
1955 – 1959	80600		
1956 – 1960	93531		

**Source:** [18, p. 128; 30, p.1, 68, 69; 31, p.1, 60; 32, p. 2, 3, 103; 33, p. 2, 3, 103; 34, p.1, 2,70; 35, p. 1,2,71; 36,p. 1, 2, 71; 37, p.1, 2, 72; 38, p.1, 2, 71; 39, p.1, 2, 71; 40, p. 71; 41, p.1,2,70; 42,p.1,2,71; 43,p.1,2,65; 44, p.1,3,72; 45, p. 2,3,61; 46, p. 1, 2, 77].

The analysis shows that the average moving five-year period clearly shows an increase in grain harvest in the first post-war years. This is followed by 1951-1955 and 1954-1958 years, giving reason to believe that the trend of grain yield growth has broken. However, the average moving over decades indicates that the growth of gross grain harvest, although with varying degrees of intensity, was observed in the Kurgan region throughout the post-war period.

**Fig. 1:** Gross harvest of grain crops in the republics and regions of the Ural region for 1946-1960 (%)



**The results of the study.**

Fifteen post-war years are an important stage in the history of the USSR and the Kurgan region. In those years there was a significant increase in the economic potential of the USSR, including the Kurgan region. By the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan, the agriculture of the region was restored at the pre-war level, and in the 1950s in the collective-farm-cooperative sector of the region, the process of concentration of property proceeded through both the consolidation of collective farms and the transformation of collective farms into state farms, as well as through the creation of new Soviet farms. The most important event of the second half of the 1950s was the development of virgin lands,

which was a major step in increasing agricultural production in the southern Urals. Analysis of the development of grain production in the Southern Trans-Urals in the post-war years shows that spring wheat was the main cultivated grain crop. As a result of the development of virgin lands, its share in grain crops in the second half of the 1950s further increased. In 1960, the share of wheat accounted for 79.8% of all grain crops. Wheat was grown spring, crops under winter wheat in 1960 occupied only 100 hectares. Oats occupied an important role in grain farming, in the post-war years barley crops increased markedly. As for winter rye crops, they have been reduced by more than 10 times. Until 1956, the main part of the grain in the Kurgan region was grown collective farms. The development of new lands and the creation of virgin state farms led to a significant increase in the role of state farms in grain production. A characteristic feature of the development of agriculture in the Kurgan region in the second half of the 1950s steel and high growth rates of grain production. The grain farming of non-chernozem regions of the Urals developed much more slowly. The study of the dynamics of the gross harvest shows that in the postwar years the main part of the grain was grown in the southern Urals (Fig. 1). For the years 1946-1960 most of all grain was harvested in Orenburg region – 304.7 million centners, which was 22.9% of the gross grain harvest in the Urals region. Then, Bashkiria accounted for 21.9% of the gross tax collection, 15.2% for the Kurgan region, 14.4% for the Chelyabinsk region, 10.0% for the Molotov region, 9.1% for the Sverdlovsk region and 6.5% for Udmurtia. In general, the data cited indicate that in the postwar years, especially in the second half of the 1950s, the Kurgan region was an important breadbasket of the country. Cleaned in 1946-1960 on its fields, the harvest amounted to 1.5% of the all-Union gross grain harvest (Table 3).

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