

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

C O T T O N

Trading in most spot cotton markets was at a virtual standstill last week, according to the PMA. Cotton futures markets remained closed. Most branches of the cotton industry are awaiting further information on price ceilings.

A national cotton acreage goal of 28.5 million acres for the 1951 crop has been announced by the Secretary of Agriculture. This goal includes 28.4 million acres for Upland cotton and 135,000 acres for specified varieties of American-Egyptian cotton. The 1951 acreage goal is 52 percent larger than the acreage in cultivation on July 1, 1950, but is only 3 percent larger than the 1949 acreage.

CCC purchase rates for 1951-crop Amsak and Pima-32 varieties of American-Egyptian cotton were announced on February 5. The purchase rate for Grade No. 2, 2-1/2 inches long will be \$1.038 per pound in Arizona and \$1.042 per pound in the New Mexico-west Texas area.

It is reported that an estimated 100,000 acres of cotton planted in the Lower Rio Grande Valley prior to the recent freeze will have to be replanted. Moreover, moisture is badly needed in that area.

All federal plant quarantine regulations and orders affecting the importation of cotton and cotton products will be reviewed at a hearing in Washington on March 28, according to an announcement by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is the Department's intention, the Secretary stated, to consider currently known facts regarding the risk of introducing plant pests on cotton imports.

G R A I N S

Prices of wheat and corn on the Fort Worth Cotton and Grain Exchange continue to rise slowly, while prices of other grains are holding steady or fluctuating within narrow ranges. On Tuesday, February 13, No. 1 hard wheat sold for a top price of \$2.76-1/2 per bushel, or 6 cents over a week earlier and 16 cents over a month ago.

No. 2 yellow corn sold Tuesday for a top price of \$1.99 per bushel -- up 2-1/2 cents from a week earlier and 9 cents above the same date in January. No. 2 white corn brought \$2.20 per bushel, likewise up 2-1/2 cents from a week earlier.

No. 2 barley and No. 2 yellow milo held steady at \$1.75 per bushel and \$2.63 per cwt., respectively. No. 2 white oats at \$1.19-3/4 were slightly over a week earlier but have made little net change for the past month.

The wheat futures markets have risen sharply during the past several months. On Tuesday of this week, March wheat sold in Chicago for \$2.60-3/4 per bushel, compared with \$2.43-1/8 a month ago and \$2.25-3/8 on the same day in November.

Southern rough rice markets were at a standstill and milled rice markets held firm during the week ended February 5, according to a report of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association. At Houston No. 1 Rexoro was generally quoted at \$12.00 and No. 2 at \$11.75 per 100 pounds. No. 1 Zenith brought \$10.25 to \$10.50.

L I V E S T O C K

Livestock prices on the Fort Worth market during the past week held firm or advanced. Hogs sold on Tuesday of this week at a top price of \$23.50 per cwt., the highest price paid since September. Hog prices normally decline during the last four or five months of the year and begin rising again in January and February. The seasonal peak on the Fort Worth market in 1950 was \$24.75 per cwt., paid in August; the seasonal low was \$18.50, paid in December.



Tuesday's top slaughter cattle prices: steers, \$36.00; heifers, \$35.00; cows, \$28.00; and calves, \$36.00. The top price for feeder and stocker steers was \$36.00, while feeder calves went for \$40.00 per cwt.

Woolled lambs brought as high as \$38.00; shorn lambs moved at a top price of \$34.00. Feeder lambs reached a record \$37.00 per cwt.

Goat sales on the San Antonio market last week were steady to strong. Most animals in the Common and Medium grades secured \$16.00 to \$18.00, with a load of Medium and a few Good 79 lb. Angoras in the hair at \$18.50 per cwt. Kids commanded \$7.00 to \$8.00 each.

Total meat production in the US in January was seasonally below December but above January of last year, according to the BAE. January production of beef and pork was larger than last year; production of veal and of lamb and mutton was smaller.

Pork and beef supplies may be up enough in 1951 to fill military needs and provide 3 pounds more meat per person than the 145 pounds in 1950, says the USDA.

The condition of ranges in Texas on February 1 was graded by the BAE at 69 percent, compared with 71 percent a month earlier and 82 percent a year ago. The condition of cattle was 77 percent, vs. 84 a year earlier; while the condition of sheep, placed at 79 percent, was well below the estimate of 85 on February 1, 1950.

#### WOOL AND MOHAIR

Business in the Boston wool market remained stagnant during the past week while awaiting some action which would clarify the recent price control order, according to a PMA report.

Offers last week of around \$1 41-1/2 per pound for 12-months wool in Texas were rejected by the growers. Some clippings were purchased in the State at 75 cents, grease basis, f.o.b. This was the equivalent of around \$2.40 to \$2.60 per pound, clean basis, delivered to Boston.

There was no business in mohair last week.

#### POULTRY AND EGGS

Prices paid for poultry on the Dallas wholesale market have risen during the past several weeks, while prices of eggs have declined. Tuesday's price for hens weighing 4 pounds and over was 26 cents per pound, which was higher than at any time in 1950. Hens weighing 3 to 4 pounds brought 22 cents per pound.

Arkansas fryers are quoted at 29 cents per pound, vs. 28 cents a month ago. Local fryers are bringing 27 to 28 cents per pound, vs. 25 to 27 cents at this time last month. No. 1 turkey hens have been bringing 32 cents per pound since mid-December.

Egg prices, declining seasonally, are reported at 37 cents per dozen for current receipts and 40 cents for No. 1 infertile eggs. The latter sold as high as 65 cents in December.

Commercial broiler chick placements on Texas farms during the week ended February 3 were 993,000 -- 4 percent more than in the previous week and nearly 50 percent more than in the same week last year. Placements for the first five weeks of 1951 totaled almost 4.6 million chicks, vs. 3.1 million in the same period in 1950.

Egg production in Texas in January is estimated at 188 million, vs. 201 million in the same month last year, according to the BAE.

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