

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

C O T T O N

Spot cotton prices continue to be quoted at or near ceiling levels. Trading slackened and sales in the leading markets decreased last week. Offerings of most qualities were light; demand was dull.

Reports from the Lower Rio Grande Valley indicate that insects are increasing; this is particularly true of bollworms, thrips, and aphids. An estimated 60 percent of the acreage is beginning to square and a few blooms appeared last week.

The Texas 1950 cotton crop totaled 2,946,000 bales, according to revised figures released last week by the BAE. Production in 1949 was 6,040,000 bales. Cotton yields per acre last year averaged 211 pounds, vs. 266 pounds the previous year.

Production of cottonseed in Texas last year is estimated at 1,232,000 tons, vs. 2,438,000 tons in 1949.

G R A I N S

Prices of most grains on the Fort Worth Grain and Cotton Exchange declined during the past week. No. 1 hard wheat sold Tuesday, May 15, at a top price of \$2.61-3/4 per bushel--2 cents below a week earlier. Other grains: No. 2 yellow corn \$1.98-1/4 per bushel, down 5 cents; No. 2 white corn \$2.12-1/4 per bushel, off 6-1/2 cents; No. 2 yellow milo \$2.65 per cwt., down 5 cents; and No. 1 white oats \$1.15-3/4 per bushel, unchanged from a week ago.

Milled rice was quoted in Houston last week at \$11.75 for No. 1 Blue Bonnet and Patna and \$11.50 for No. 2.

Planting of the 1951 rice crop in Texas is nearing completion. Reports indicate a record acreage this year.

A winter wheat crop of only 14 million bushels was in prospect in Texas on May 1. This is the smallest crop since 1935 and compares with a 1940-49 annual average of 63 million bushels. An estimated 70 percent of the 6.4 million acres seeded last fall has been abandoned. This is the highest percentage loss of record and leaves less than 2 million acres for harvest.

Rye production in Texas is expected to total only 132,000 bushels, compared with 196,000 bushels in 1950; yields per acre average only 6 bushels.

The condition of the Texas oat crop on May 1 is set at 36 percent, the lowest for the date since 1936. Production prospects are poor in all parts of the State.

C O M M E R C I A L V E G E T A B L E S

Production of spring commercial vegetables in Texas this year is expected to fall sharply below last year. Production of early spring cucumbers is estimated at 88,000 bushels, vs. 112,000 bushels in 1950.

Early spring onions will total 1,886,000 sacks, or less than one-half last year's harvest. However, the late spring onion crop, estimated at 1,280,000 sacks, will more than double the harvest in 1950.

Production of early spring tomatoes in the Lower Valley of Texas is forecast at 1,540,000 bushels, vs. 2,450,000 bushels last year. Late spring production, on the other hand, is placed at 2,310,000 bushels, vs. 1,643,000 bushels in 1950.

The Texas late spring Irish potato crop of 350,000 bushels is 30 percent under last year, due principally to smaller acreage.

Prices of most fresh and processed vegetables during the next few months are expected to be higher than the relatively low prices of a year earlier, says the BAE. Military requirements are much larger than last year, consumer demand is stronger, and supplies are generally smaller.

L I V E S T O C K

Cattle prices on the Fort Worth market have recovered some of the loss that developed after the announcement of price controls on beef cattle. Tuesday's prices, as compared with a week earlier, show most classes up 50 cents to \$1.00 per cwt., although still \$1.00 to \$4.00 under prices in late April. Top prices on Tuesday, May 15: slaughter steers and calves, \$36.00; heifers, \$35.50; and cows, \$28.00 per cwt. Feeder and stocker steers brought as high as \$37.00 per cwt.

Spring lamb prices are declining and Tuesday's top price of \$34.00 was \$2.00 under the mid-April level.

Hog prices are holding relatively steady.

Receipts of cattle on the Fort Worth market during April totaled 36,150 head, or 1500 head more than in the same month last year. Calves received, totaling 9,500, were off 250. Hog marketings were up, totaling 71,000 head, vs. 58,600 a year earlier. Receipts of sheep and lambs were off sharply--59,000 vs. 129,000 in April 1950.

Commercial meat production in Texas during March totaled 59 million pounds, according to a BAE report issued last week. This was 10 percent larger than in February, but 8 percent below March 1950. Production during the first quarter of 1951 was 3 percent greater than a year earlier.

W O O L A N D M O H A I R

There is now very little trade in Texas wools in local markets. However, a considerable volume of contracted wool is being shipped to mills for processing.

Little mohair remains unsold in Texas. Adult mohair from Turkey was quoted last week at \$1.15 to \$1.20 per pound, in bond, while South African mohair was quoted from \$1.10 to \$1.15, in bond, for June/July shipment.

The trend in wool prices during the next few months, says the USDA, is uncertain. It will depend largely on the extent to which U. S. military ordering for the current fiscal year has been completed, the degree to which mills have covered military contracts with purchases, and the size of mill stocks abroad.

P O U L T R Y A N D E G G S

Poultry prices on the Dallas wholesale market declined last week; hens and fryers fell 2 cents per pound. Egg prices held steady.

Egg production in Texas during the first four months of 1951 totaled 1,101 million eggs, vs. 1,170 million in the same period last year.

January-April production of eggs in other southwestern states: Louisiana, 119 million, off 11 million; Oklahoma 511 million, off 14 million; New Mexico 47 million, off 3 million; and Arizona 34 million, up 3 million.

Commercial broiler placements on Texas farms during the week ended May 5 totaled 1,267,000, vs. 748,000 in the comparable week last year.

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