

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

C O T T O N

Spot cotton prices generally are unchanged, although the 10 designated spot market average for Middling 15/16-inch cotton this week is 45.19 cents per pound, compared with a high of 45.25 cents reported since prices were placed under ceilings. The comparable price in the Dallas market is 44.77 cents per pound.

Cotton futures continue to decline irregularly. October 1951 futures on the New Orleans Exchange closed May 29 at 37.75 cents, compared with 38.89 cents a week earlier, and 39.47 cents 2 weeks ago.

Spot market activity in the southwestern markets last week followed about the same pattern as in previous weeks, according to the PMA. Desirable quantities of free cotton are becoming scarcer each week. Domestic and export inquiries for old-and new-crop cotton were not very numerous.

Mill consumption of cotton during the first 9 months of the current season (August - April) totaled 8,232,000 bales, compared with 6,683,000 bales in the corresponding period a year ago. It now appears that total consumption for the 1950-51 season will approximate 10.8 million bales - 2 million more than last season and the third largest on record.

Cotton bolls are reaching maturity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where early harvest is expected to start within 2 weeks. The crop is later than usual in most southern areas; plants are starting to set squares in the Coastal Bend. Planting and replanting of cotton is active in the northwest and High Plains sections of Texas; the growing crop in these areas is making good progress.

Cotton ginners and oil mill operators in 12 parishes in Louisiana, 1 county in New Mexico, 4 Oklahoma counties, and 44 Texas counties will be required to sterilize, fumigate, or process their lint, linters, and cottonseed before such products may move interstate from these pink bollworm-infested areas, under an amended quarantine order which became effective May 29.

G R A I N S

Prices of most grains on the Fort Worth Grain and Cotton Exchange moved up last week, after experiencing sharp declines in the previous week. One of the principal factors in the advance was the passage of the Wheat-to-India bill by the House; other grains shared in the strengthening of the market.

On Tuesday, May 29, No. 1 hard wheat sold in Fort Worth for a top price of \$2.59-1/4 per bushel, or 1-1/2 cents over a week earlier. No. 2 white oats at \$1.12-1/4 per bushel were up half a cent.

Corn prices showed considerable strength last week and are quoted this week (Tuesday) at \$1.99-1/4 for No. 2 yellow - up 3 cents - and \$2.15-1/2 for No. 2 white - up 4 cents - over a week ago. Sorghum grain (No. 2 yellow milo) at \$2.61 per cwt. was up 6 cents.

Texas and Louisiana rice markets are holding steady, although little business in milled rice is reported.

Wheat in Texas has made favorable response to the improved moisture supply, but the rains came too late for maximum benefit. Limited harvest started in the Seymour area last week and early fields in the South High Plains are expected to be ready for harvest next week.

Corn made very good growth in all areas last week, with fields in central counties of Texas approaching the tasseling stage. Corn ear worms are doing some damage in the southeastern counties of the State.



### L I V E S T O C K

Livestock prices on the Fort Worth market made few noteworthy changes during the past week. Hog prices, which have been holding between \$21.00 and \$22.00 per cwt. since March, were at the former price on Tuesday of this week - 25 cents under a week earlier.

Slaughter steers and calves sold as high as \$36.50 per cwt. on Tuesday - 50 cents under a week ago. Slaughter cows, at \$28.50, were also lower by 50 cents.

Lamb prices remained unchanged from a week earlier: spring lambs, \$34.00 and shorn feeder lambs, \$28.00 per cwt.

Goats on the San Antonio market were steady to strong last week; market receipts were small. Some Medium goats reached \$16.00, while a load of Medium and Good 78 lb., recently shorn Angoras brought \$18.00 per cwt. Kids sold as high as \$8.50 each.

All classes of livestock in the Southwest are gaining on the improving green feed supply. Furthermore, heavy run-off from rains the past two weeks has filled most tanks.

### W O O L   A N D   M O H A I R

Wool business in Texas and in Boston was practically at a standstill last week. There were unconfirmed reports that some Texas ranchers contracted fall wool at \$1.00 per pound.

A small volume of original bag adult mohair was reported sold in Texas last week at \$1.46 per pound, f.o.b. On the Boston market, Turkish adult mohair brought \$1.20 per pound, duty paid, while South African adult mohair sold up to \$1.35 per pound, duty paid.

The consumption of virgin wool in the major consuming countries showed an appreciable decline in the first quarter of 1951. Aggregate consumption in seven principal countries appears to have fallen 17 percent below the same period last year.

### P O U L T R Y

Trends in poultry prices in the Dallas wholesale market last week were mixed. Hens fell 2 cents per lb. This week's quotations: 4 lbs. and over, 26 cents; 3 to 4 lbs., 22 cents per lb.

Fryers, on the other hand, rose 2 to 3 cents. Tuesday's quotations: Arkansas fryers, 28 cents; and local fryers, 27 cents per lb.

Broiler prices in Texas last week rose to 28.2 cents per lb., compared with 27.1 cents a week earlier and 30.5 cents a month ago.

### F A R M   I N C O M E

Cash receipts from farm marketings in Texas in the first quarter of 1951 totaled \$332 million, or 15 percent below a year earlier. Receipts from sale of livestock and livestock products were up 25 percent; receipts from sale of crops were down 41 percent.

First quarter cash farm receipts in other southwestern states, and comparisons with a year ago: Arizona \$71 million, up 26 percent; Louisiana \$62 million, up 21 percent; New Mexico \$32 million, up 13 percent; and Oklahoma \$103 million, down 16 percent.

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