

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

C O T T O N

Spot cotton prices continue to decline and are lower than at any time since last August. On Tuesday, July 24, Middling 15/16-inch cotton in the 10 designated spot markets averaged 37.77 cents per pound, compared with 38.35 cents a week earlier and 45.25 cents a month ago. Tuesday's comparable price on the New Orleans Exchange was 37.25 cents; Dallas averaged 37.10 cents.

Cotton futures have fluctuated within relatively narrow ranges for the past two weeks, after having declined for several weeks. October 1951 futures closed Tuesday on the New Orleans Exchange at 34.79 cents, compared with 34.61 a week earlier and 35.23 two weeks ago.

Farmers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where cotton harvest is under way, are said to be offering current ginnings freely. The crop in this area is later than usual and the peak movement is not expected until after the first of August.

Domestic mills consumed a total of 819,000 bales during the 4-week period ended June 30, 1951. During the August 1950-June 1951 period this season, mills consumed 9.9 million bales, vs. 8.2 million in the corresponding 11 months a year earlier. It now seems likely that mill consumption this season will total in the neighborhood of 10.6 million bales. This would be the largest consumption since the 1942-43 season and the third largest on record.

Cotton exports through May this season were 3.8 million bales vs. 4.8 million last year. Exports for the current season will approximate  $4\frac{1}{4}$  million bales.

G R A I N S

Grain prices on the Fort Worth Grain and Cotton Exchange continue to fluctuate around levels maintained for the past several months. The principal change during the past week was a decline of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cents for oats. Tuesday's top prices: No. 1 hard wheat, \$2.53  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; No. 2 white oats, \$1.02; No. 2 yellow corn, 2.02  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; and No. 2 white corn, \$2.28 per bushel. Sorghum grain is holding at \$2.50 per cwt.

In the Houston rice market, No. 1 Rexoro and Blue Bonnet are quoted generally at \$11.00 to \$11.50 per hundred pounds. Zenith is quoted at \$10.00 to \$10.50.

Combining of a poor sorghum crop neared completion in the Coastal Bend this week and harvest was active over most of south Texas. Rains were received in many North High Plains and Low Rolling Plains counties where the crop has been badly in need of moisture.

L I V E S T O C K

Only minor changes in livestock prices on the Fort Worth market have occurred during the past week. Top quotations on Tuesday, July 24: hogs \$22.75; slaughter steers \$36.00; slaughter calves \$34.00; and feeder and stocker steers \$35.00 per cwt. Lambs held at \$31.00.

Goat prices in San Antonio dropped \$1.00 to \$1.50 per cwt. last week. Medium and good Angoras in the hair brought \$15.75 to \$16.00; some sold lower. Angora kids on stocker account went at \$8.50 each.

The number of cattle for feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on July 1 this year is estimated by the BAE at 9 percent smaller than the relatively large number a year ago. During June the average cost of stocker and feeder steers shipped from the leading markets was \$6.03 per cwt. higher than in June 1950.

### P O U L T R Y   A N D   E G G S

Poultry prices in the Dallas wholesale market held steady during the past week, except for a rise of 1 cent in the price of fryers. Tuesday's quotations: Arkansas fryers, 30 cents on farms; local fryers, 27 cents; hens 4 lbs. and over, 22 cents; hens 3 to 4 lbs., 18 cents; and baby beef turkey hens, 35 cents per lb.

No. 1 infertile eggs are quoted at 45 cents, while candled mixed eggs are moving at 41 cents per dozen.

Texas commercial hatchery production during June totaled 7 million chicks, the largest output on record for the month. Commercial broiler chicks comprised 3/4 of the total.

During the first six months of 1951, commercial hatchery production in Texas totaled 58.5 million chicks - 26 percent more than a year ago. U. S. production was up 15 percent.

The placement of broiler chicks on Texas farms totaled 1,078,000 during the week ended July 14, bringing the total for the year to 33,600 chicks, vs. 20,300 to the same week last year.

Broiler prices in Texas averaged 30.2 cents per pound during the week ended July 14, compared with 30.3 cents the previous week and 30.0 cents a year ago.

### W O O L

Trading in the Boston wool market came to a virtual halt last week, with no greasy worsted wools reported sold, while prices were unknown throughout the trade.

Growers in Texas continued to ask prices above what buyers were willing to pay, resulting in a stagnant market. Estimates placed the unsold quantity of 12-months wool in Texas at around 3.5 million pounds, with about 1/2 million pounds of 8-months wool unsold.

### M I S C E L L A N E O U S

The USDA announced a final decision to issue Federal orders to regulate handling of milk in North Texas and Wichita Falls, Texas, milk marketing areas. Federal orders would establish appropriate minimum prices to be paid by milk dealers to dairy farmers for milk approved under local health regulations. They also would require that milk dealers' payments for milk be pooled and paid out to individual farmers on basis of a uniform or average price. The milk marketing area to which North Texas order would apply includes 16 counties of Cooke, Collin, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Lamar, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant. Milk marketing area for Wichita Falls would include Wichita County only.

U. S. production of truck crops for commercial canning and freezing this year are expected to be adequate to provide for the increased military requirements and the demand of civilian consumers. Acreages are expected to be larger than last year for lima beans, snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, cucumbers, spinach, and tomatoes.

The U. S. farm population decreased by nearly 5 million between April 1940 and April 1950, according to a report issued last week by the Bureau of the Census and the BAE. The farm population in 1950 was 24,533,000 persons, according to the report; this compares with 32,077,000 in 1910.

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