

## Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

## C O T T O N

Spot cotton markets have held relatively stable since the first of the year. Closing prices for Middling 15/16-inch cotton on the Dallas Cotton Exchange during the 2-week period have ranged between 41.35 cents and 42.10 cents per pound. The comparable price on Tuesday of this week was 41.65 cents. The market has received some support from recent large purchases for export, but this has been mostly offset by relative inactivity in the domestic textile market.

PMA reports indicate that considerable cotton in Texas and Oklahoma remains to be harvested. It is indicated this week that several thousand bales were yet to be harvested in the Abilene area, while some 125,000 bales remained in the fields in the Lubbock area. The Oklahoma crop is about harvested, with final scrapping expected to be slow due to weather conditions.

CCC has announced purchase rates for 1952 crop Amsak and Pima-32 varieties of American-Egyptian cotton. The purchase price for Grade No. 2, 1½-inch staple, will be 106.90 cents per pound, net weight, in the Arizona-California area, and 107.30 cents in the New Mexico-West Texas area. Purchase rates for other grades and staple range from about 60.00 cents to 110.00 cents. This price support program is being undertaken to build up supplies of this strategic and critical material, according to the USDA.

Cottonseed prices in Texas last week for wagon lot seed, f.o.b. the gins, averaged \$75.20 per ton, or about the same as in the previous week. During the corresponding period a year ago the average gin-yard price in Texas was \$107.60 per ton, and 2 years ago the price was \$44.10 per ton.

## G R A I N S

Prices on the Fort Worth grain market are holding relatively steady. On Tuesday, January 15, prices of No. 1 hard wheat (\$2.76½ per bushel), No. 2 barley (\$1.76 per bushel), and No. 2 yellow milo (\$3.15 per cwt.) were unchanged from a week earlier.

No. 2 white oats closed Tuesday at \$1.22 per bushel, down 2 cents from last week. No. 2 yellow corn at \$2.17¼ per bushel was off 5-¾ cents, while No. 2 white corn at \$2.55¼ per bushel was up 2¼ cents.

Southern rice markets turned stronger last week as export demand became more active. Rough rice trade increased; lower grades moved readily but prices offered for better grades were below Government support rates. Texas mills offered around \$5.86 to \$5.92 per cwt. for U.S. No. 2 rough Patna, yielding 49 to 52 pounds of head rice and a total of 69 pounds milled. U.S. No. 2 Blue Bonnet brought \$5.40 per cwt.

A USDA report on grain stocks on farms on January 1 indicates the probability of serious feed problems for Southwest farmers and ranchers if the widespread drought continues. Stocks of all grains on Texas farms were considerably below a year earlier. As compared with the 1941-50 average for this date, stocks of corn for grain in the State were down 33%, wheat 81%, oats 63%, barley 86%, and hay 28%. Combined stocks of corn, wheat, oats, and barley totaled 27.7 million bushels, compared with 36.3 million on January 1, 1951, and the 1941-50 average of 57.3 million bushels.

## T R U C K C R O P S

Prospective production of vegetables in Texas estimated for this period of the year shows an improvement over that of a month ago. The winter beet crop

is estimated at 450,000 bushels, which is 30,000 bushels above last year's crop but less than 1/2 of the 10-year average. Production of winter cabbage is indicated at 90,000 tons, 34,000 over a year earlier but far below average. Production of winter lettuce is placed at 600,000 crates, down 250,000 from last year but above average. Production of winter spinach is forecast at 3,375,000 bushels, more than a million above last year but sharply below average.

Reports covering early spring onions in Texas indicate 40,500 acres for harvest this year, compared with 9,200 acres harvested from 14,400 acres planted in 1951. Intentions to plant late spring onions, as reported by farmers to the BAE, show a reduction of 25% from last year.

As compared with 1951, Arizona vegetable growers are expected to have smaller crops of winter cabbage and winter lettuce.

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

Prices on the Fort Worth livestock market for the past 2 weeks have been very uneven. On Tuesday, January 15, Good and Choice slaughter steers and heifers cleared from \$28.00-33.00, with one truck lot of Choice steers up to \$34.00. Medium and Good stockers and feeders turned from \$25.00-31.00.

Good and Choice calves brought \$29.00-33.00. Choice 180-270 lb. hogs sold at \$18.50-18.75. Good and Choice woolled slaughter lambs cashed at \$27.50; other lambs sold up to \$28.00.

The shortage of range and pasture grasses, together with periods of cold weather, has caused shrinkage of livestock in the District; supplemental feeding has been very heavy. The condition of all range feed in Texas on January 1 is rated by the BAE at 63%, which is the lowest condition rating reported for this season for the 30 years for which records are available, except for January 1, 1935. The comparable rating for range feed in other Southwest states on January 1: Oklahoma 75%, New Mexico 72%, and Arizona 80%. The ratings for Oklahoma and Arizona are about average for this season.

Commercial meat production in Texas totaled almost 81 million pounds during November, according to last week's BAE report. This was about 3% more than during 1950. Total production for the first 11 months of last year was 752 million pounds, compared with 733 million in the same months of 1950. Production of commercial meat in the U. S. for the first 11 months of 1951 was down 1% from a year earlier.

The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market in the U. S. on January 1 this year was 15% larger than last year. This is the first year since 1945 that there has been an increase over the previous year, but is still one of the lowest in the past 20 years and is about 30% to 45% below the number on feed in the years 1935-47. The number this year is estimated at 3.9 million head, compared with a record 7 million in 1943.

State estimates of sheep and lambs on feed show 105,000 head in Texas, unchanged from last year. Other states: Oklahoma 37,000, down 13,000; New Mexico 31,000, down 21,000; and Arizona 45,000, up 21,000.

Since release of figures on livestock numbers on farms, as enumerated by the Bureau of the Census in the census taken in 1950, the Department of Agriculture has revised downward its estimate of numbers of cattle on farms and ranches for the past several years. It is now expected that the January 1, 1951, estimates will show around 88 million cattle on farms and ranches, rather than the 90 million previously forecast.