The U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised its forecasts for agriculture for the remainder of 1952, and here, briefly, are some of the trends and developments foreseen.

Meat: Production for the rest of the year probably will total larger than in the same period in 1951.

Meat animals: Prices of most classes may average a little lower this year than last; no marked weakness is likely; hogs may move upward for the next several months; cattle to go on grass may rise seasonally this spring.

Dairy products: Demand continues strong, and prices for the rest of 1952 probably will be equal to or above those of 1951.

Eggs: The spring price decline has run its course, but prices are expected to continue below 1951 levels.

Feed: Demand is expected to continue generally strong over the next several months but may weaken later in the year because of unfavorable product-feed price ratios for hog and poultry producers.

Wheat: Cash wheat prices may continue at about present levels or slightly higher for the next several weeks; biggest uncertainties are weather and export demand.

Spring vegetables for fresh market: Prices received by farmers for carrots and onions are expected to average moderately lower than last year, but prices for cauliflower and shallots probably will be higher; little change is expected for asparagus and lettuce.

Sweet potatoes: 1951 crop will continue scarce and high priced; a larger crop in 1952, as presently indicated, probably would bring lower prices.

Wool: Consumption is at a greatly reduced rate; no forecast is made as to probable prices this year, although support rate is set at 54.2 cents per pound.

Dry beans: Prices received by farmers this spring and summer are expected to remain firm at about present levels or slightly higher.

Farm costs: Prices farmers pay for goods and services used in farm production will average higher in 1952 than in 1951.

The winter wheat crop for harvest in Texas in 1952 is estimated at 31,600,000 bushels, or double last year's very small crop of 17,307,000. The Oklahoma crop is estimated at 79,820,000 bushels, vs. 38,902,000 a year ago. However, the final outcome of the Texas and Oklahoma wheat crops is still uncertain, and much will depend upon rainfall received in the next few weeks. Soil moisture conditions are critical in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles.

The U.S. winter wheat crop forecast is placed at 947 million bushels — 47% over the 1951 crop and one-fifth larger than the average of the previous 10 years.

Partly as a result of the rather favorable winter wheat crop forecast, the wheat market eased somewhat this week. On Tuesday, April 15, No. 1 hard wheat sold on the Fort Worth market at $2.73-1/2 per bushel, or about 2 cents below a week earlier.

The PMA has announced that there will be no "reseal" loan program for 1951-crop wheat and other crops under price support. Also, none of the reseal loans maturing this year will be extended.
OTHER GRAINS

Stocks of corn on Texas farms on April 1 totaled less than 8.1 million bushels, compared with 11.1 million a year ago and an average of 11.8 million on the same date in the previous 10 years. Stocks of oats totaled 2.2 million bushels, vs. 5.9 million a year earlier and an average of about 6 million.

Only minor changes have taken place in prices of oats, corn, and sorghum grain on the Fort Worth market during the past week, although most price changes were downward. On Tuesday, April 15, No. 2 white oats sold at a top price of $1.12-3/4 - 2-1/2 cents under a week earlier. No. 2 yellow corn at $2.12-3/4 was off 2-1/2 cents. No. 2 yellow milo brought $3.15 per cwt, down 2 cents.

No. 2 white corn moved up last week and then declined slightly, but Tuesday's top quotation of $2.35-3/4 per bushel was still above a week earlier and was the same as 2 weeks ago.

Rice markets in Texas and Louisiana were strong last week, with prices firm to slightly higher. There were large sales made to Japan and Cuba.

COTTON

Spot cotton markets eased downward this week. On Tuesday, April 15, Middling 15/16-inch cotton sold on the Dallas market at 80.85 cents per pound, which compares with an April peak of 81.95 and with 80.45 a month ago. This most recent decline in cotton prices is attributed, at least in part, to private surveys over the Cotton Belt which have indicated that farmers may plant a large crop this year, if weather conditions permit.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley the condition of the cotton crop ranges from poor to good; it is estimated that from 500,000 to 600,000 acres of cotton is up. Insect infestation has begun to increase, with the most noticeable insect so far being the boll weevil, which arrived early. However, dry weather is still more of a problem than insects.

In the Coastal Bend area the condition of the cotton crop is spotty, with the crop in some counties beginning to die, due to high winds, sand, and a lack of moisture.

LIVESTOCK

There is little news to report from the livestock markets, as prices generally are in line with last week's quotations. The principal change has been a decline in spring lamb prices from the high pre-Easter levels of a week ago. The April 1 BAE report on the early lamb situation in the United States says that early lambs generally are in good condition, but development was retarded somewhat during March by cool, wet weather. The early lamb crop in the Nation is expected to be somewhat smaller this year, and marketings are expected to be later.

U.S. meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended April 5 was estimated at 312 million pounds - 4% above the production in the same week last year. This was the tenth consecutive week in which total meat production under Federal inspection was above that of a year ago.

Commercial meat production in Texas in February totaled 68,136,000 pounds, according to last week's BAE report from Austin. This was 17% under January but 27% above February a year ago. Production during the first 2 months of this year was 40% more than during the corresponding period in 1951.

Research Department