

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

C O T T O N

Spot cotton prices have risen further, continuing the rise started about a month ago, and are higher than they have been in about 2 months. On Tuesday, June 10, Middling 15/16-inch cotton closed in Dallas at 40.15 cents per pound, compared with 39.35 a week earlier and 38.55 a month ago.

The Nation's first bale of cotton from the new crop was sold in Houston this week for \$2,684. The bale was produced by a cotton grower near Mission, Texas.

The USDA this week gave cotton growers until August 1 to pay off the price support loans and to redeem their 1951-crop cotton. The market price is now high enough to permit growers to redeem most of the loan cotton and to sell it in the market at a profit.

W H E A T

The USDA this week forecast a 1952 Texas winter wheat crop of 41,532,000 bushels, which shows considerable improvement in production prospects since the forecast of 38,071,000 bushels was made a month ago. This increase reflects the good rains that have been received in north Texas and in the High Plains during recent weeks.

The USDA placed the wheat acreage estimate in Texas at 3,461,000 acres; yield per acre is set at 12 bushels.

In 1951, Texas produced 17,307,000 bushels of wheat from 1,923,000 acres harvested.

The U.S. wheat crop forecast was placed at 1,326,157,000 bushels, which is the second largest in the Nation's history. The record crop was in 1947, when 1,367,186,000 bushels were produced.

Meanwhile, cash wheat markets have weakened further as reports of a bumper wheat crop have come in. On Tuesday, June 10, No. 1 hard wheat closed in Fort Worth at a top price of \$2.51 per bushel - the lowest since last July. This price compares with a season peak of \$2.85-1/4 last December. Not only is the large crop weighing heavily on the market, but the domestic flour business is slow and exports are off.

O T H E R G R A I N S

Prices of most other grains on the Fort Worth market have made few net changes in the past week. No. 2 white oats, closing Tuesday at \$1.03-1/4 per bushel, were unchanged from a week earlier.

Corn prices dipped last week, but this week's quotations are near the levels of most other marketing days in the past several weeks. No. 2 yellow corn closed Tuesday at \$2.17-1/2 per bushel, while No. 2 white corn was quoted at \$2.34-1/2.

Sorghum grain, also off late last week, closed Tuesday at \$3.29 per cwt., compared with \$3.35 a week ago.

Corn is making excellent growth in central, northern, and eastern counties of Texas and in northern Louisiana. Early corn is in the tassel stage in southern and upper coastal sections of Texas.

Early rice is making good growth in Texas, although recent rains have hampered drainage operations for late seedings and have hindered weed control.

L I V E S T O C K

The PMA reports that livestock prices on the Fort Worth market on Tuesday of this week had a weaker tendency, with spotty losses of around 50 cents per cwt. Hogs are off even more as compared with a week ago.

The top price paid for hogs in Fort Worth Tuesday was \$20.50 per cwt., which compares with \$21.75 a week ago. Hog receipts at the principal market centers this week are considerably higher than last week, which largely accounts for the weakness in hog prices, according to trade reports.

Beef steers and yearlings grading Good and Choice brought \$29.00 to \$34.00 in Fort Worth Tuesday, while Utility and Commercial kinds sold at \$22.00 to \$28.00. Good stocker steer yearlings brought \$29.00 to \$32.00; a few Choice to \$33.00.

Marketings of sheep and lambs at Fort Worth are rising seasonally. Receipts totaled over 22,000 in the first 2 days of this week, compared with 17,000 in the same days last week. Trading was slow Tuesday, with many classes losing 50 cents or more. Utility to Choice slaughter spring lambs sold at from \$24.00 to \$28.50; a load of Choice 91-lb. lambs from New Mexico topped the market at \$30.00.

Steady prices prevailed in the goat division of the San Antonio livestock market last week. Receipts were small.

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

Broiler prices were firm in Texas early this week. On Tuesday, June 10, broilers or fryers all weights up to 3.25 pounds brought 25 to 27 cents, mostly 27, in the Gonzales area.

Around Nacogdoches and Center, Texas, the broiler market was steady, with birds under 3 pounds bringing 25 to 26 cents. The Waco-Corsicana area reports a steady market, with demand good; 2.50- to 2.85-pound birds are bringing 26 to 27 cents; 2.85- to 3.25-pound birds are quoted at 25 to 26 cents.

Egg prices strengthened this week. Prices on the New Orleans market, for example, rose almost 2 cents per dozen for top-quality eggs. On the Fort Worth market, graded eggs rose about \$1.00 per case; ungraded eggs gained about 75 cents.

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

The BAE index of farm prices in Texas at mid-May stood at 341, compared with 354 in April and 393 in May 1951.

The tomato market in Texas is holding steady. On the Dallas market this week, repacks lugs Texas 6x6 & larger US 1's \$4.75 to \$5.00; fair quality, \$3.00 to \$4.00; ordinary, \$2.00 to \$2.75. Prices at east Texas points run as high as \$5.75 for green and wrapped tomatoes. On the Dallas Farmers' Market, tomatoes turning and ripe are bringing \$4.25 to \$5.00 by the bushel.

Irish potato prices have risen sharply since price controls were removed. In east Texas, around Winnsboro, Texas reds are bringing 5 to 6 cents per pound to growers.

Watermelons are selling on the Dallas Farmers' Market at 5 to 6 cents per pound for 30- to 32-pound average melons in bulk.

The CCC had over \$1.6 billion invested in price-support program loans and inventories as of April 30, according to an announcement last week.

Food supplies for the next few months are expected to be at least as large as in the same period in 1951, says the USDA. Larger supplies of beef and veal, poultry products, canned fruit, and processed vegetables are in prospect. The overall level of retail food prices is expected to remain relatively steady.