



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 130

Wednesday, June 25, 1952

COTTON

Spot cotton prices made small gains last week. Middling 15/16-inch cotton on the Dallas market closed out the week at 40.80 cents per pound, compared with 40.20 a week earlier and 39.85 two weeks ago.

There has been some pickup in textile market activity; prices of many cotton fabrics have advanced. Domestic mill demand is fairly good for cotton for near-by and forward shipment. Some mills are reported to have bought cotton for delivery as far ahead as the early spring months of 1953.

Daily mill consumption of cotton during May averaged 35,200 bales, vs. 33,900 in April and 42,700 in May 1951.

GRAINS

Wheat prices have dipped further as the crop in the Southwest comes to market in an increasing volume. No. 1 hard wheat closed in Fort Worth last week at \$2.47 per bushel; this is 2-1/2 cents under a week earlier and 6-1/2 cents below 2 weeks ago.

Changes in corn prices in Fort Worth last week were mixed; No. 2 yellow corn fell 6 cents, or to \$2.12 per bushel, as compared with a week earlier. No. 2 white corn closed at \$2.47-1/2 per bushel - up 11 cents.

Barley, oats, and sorghum grain lost about 2 cents each last week; the week's closing prices: barley \$1.57 per bushel; white oats \$1.04-3/4 per bushel; and No. 2 yellow milo \$3.27 per cwt.

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that there will be no acreage allotments and no marketing quotas on 1953-crop wheat.

LIVESTOCK

Prices of cattle and sheep suffered sharp declines on the Fort Worth market last week. Beef steers and yearlings closed at \$2 to \$4 per cwt. lower; cows and slaughter calves declined \$3 to \$5; and stocker calves and yearlings fell \$5 to \$6. Fat spring lamb prices lost \$2 to \$3 per cwt., and feeder and spring lambs sold \$3 to \$5 lower; butcher hogs lost 25 to 50 cents per cwt.

Good and choice slaughter steers and yearlings closed out last week at \$27 to \$33; common to medium grades, \$17 to \$25; and cull yearlings, \$15 to \$17. Good and choice slaughter calves closed at \$27 to \$30.50.

Closing hog prices ranged up to \$20, while feeder pigs sold at \$15 to \$16.

Good and choice slaughter spring lambs sold at \$20 to \$25.50, and stocker and feeder spring lambs brought \$10 to \$17.

Commercial meat production in Texas during April totaled 67,125,000 pounds - 4 percent less than in March but 18 percent above April 1951. Total production of meat during the first 4 months of this year was about one-sixth more than during the corresponding period of last year.

The U.S. 1952 spring pig crop totaled 56,607,000 head - 9 percent below a year earlier. A similar decline is expected in the fall pig crop.

The Texas spring pig crop is estimated at 924,000 head, vs. 1,196,000 last year. Declines are reported also for Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Louisiana spring pig crop is estimated at 438,000 head, compared with 409,000 last year.

W O O L

World wool production in 1952 is estimated at 4,070 million pounds, grease basis, vs. 4,000 million in 1951. Production has increased steadily since 1947.

A slight pickup in sales of greasy combing wool was noted in the Boston wool market last week; prices were slightly higher than a week earlier.

A few cars of French combing 12 months Texas wool sold in the local market last week at \$1.55 to \$1.60 per pound, clean basis, while good French combing and staple wool brought from \$1.60 to \$1.65. Original bag average to good French combing wool sold in Texas at a price estimated at around \$1.55 delivered to Boston.

Some original bag adult mohair was sold in the local market for woolen purposes from \$1.10 to \$1.15 per pound.

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

Texas broiler markets were firm last week and closed strong at mostly 2 cents over the previous week. Dressing plant demand averaged fair to good, while truck demand increased. Closing prices: south Texas 29 cents; east Texas 28 to 29 cents; and Waco area 29 to 29-1/2 cents, mostly 29.

Broiler chick placements on Texas farms during the week ended June 14 totaled 1,258,000 - 3 percent above the previous week and 7 percent above the same week last year.

Egg markets were generally steady last week.

Commercial hatcheries in Texas produced 8.6 million chicks in May. This was 20 percent fewer than in May 1951. Sixty-four percent of the May output was commercial broiler chicks. Hatchery output in the first 5 months of this year was 17 percent more than in the same months last year.

Hatcheries reporting to the USDA on turkey operations have indicated that they produced 16 percent more poults during February, March, April, and May than in the same period last year. May production was 6 percent above that of May 1951; however, these same hatcheries reported 2 percent less eggs in incubators on June 1 than a year earlier.

F A R M I N C O M E

U.S. farmers' cash receipts from marketings in the first half of 1952 are tentatively estimated by the USDA at \$13.3 billion - 4 percent over the corresponding period last year. Approximately 7 percent more farm products were sold this year, but at prices averaging a little lower.

Texas farmers sold \$127 million worth of farm commodities in April, compared with \$139 million in April 1951. In the first 4 months of this year, Texas farmers' cash receipts from farm marketings totaled \$500 million, vs. \$468 million a year earlier.

Cash receipts from farm marketings in other southwestern states in the first 4 months of 1952 and comparisons with a year earlier: Louisiana \$81 million, up \$3 million; Oklahoma \$136 million, about unchanged; New Mexico \$59 million, up \$13 million; and Arizona \$148 million, up \$52 million.

W. M. Pritchett
Agricultural Economist