COTTON

The condition of the cotton crop in the Southwest has begun to deteriorate as a result of extended hot, dry weather. There were showers last week in scattered sections, but in most cases only light rain was received and the area covered was small. The dry-land crop in parts of west Texas is beginning to wilt, and some excessive shedding is reported. The condition of irrigated cotton is good to excellent. At the present time the Lubbock area has the brightest crop prospect in west Texas. Valley farmers are rushing harvest so that stalks can be turned under before September 1, in compliance with the program to combat the pink bollworm.

The USDA has announced that grade standards for American upland cotton have been revised. These changes will not become effective for another year, or on August 15, 1953. The revision will abolish the Middling Fair and Strict Good Middling standards for white cotton and all standards for extra white cotton. The remaining standards are changed so as to reflect the characteristics of recent cotton crops.

Spot cotton markets generally are holding steady.

GRAINS

Prices of most grains on the Fort Worth market rose last week. The week’s closing top prices and changes from a week earlier: No. 1 hard wheat $2.60 per bushel, up 2-1/2 cents; No. 2 white oats $1.10 per bushel, up 1/2 cent; and No. 2 yellow milo $3.53 per cwt., up 9 cents.

New-crop rice is being marketed in Texas at favorable prices. Top quality Century Patna sold last week up to $9.77 per barrel. This variety began moving at a number of Texas points, and the quality of the crop is far superior to that of last year, both in grade and milling quality, according to the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association.

The August 1 estimate of rice production in Texas is placed at 12,581,000 bags which, although fractionally below the July estimate, is still a record high; however, despite record production there probably will be a strong market for rice this season as foreign demand appears strong; most domestic mills have a large back-log of foreign sales already booked.

Corn production in Texas is estimated at less than 37 million bushels - the smallest crop since 1925 - and compares with a record high of 125 million bushels in 1908.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock prices in Fort Worth rose slightly last week; advances occurred for most classes except hogs. Slaughter steers and yearlings closed out the week at steady prices, while beef cows rose $1.50 to $3, and stocker kinds increased $1 to $1.50. Slaughter steers and yearlings sold as high as $32.50, but mostly in the $27 to $30 range.

Slaughter calves sold $1 to $1.50 higher, ranging as high as $28.50. Good and Choice stocker calves advanced $2, or as high as $29.50.

Slaughter spring lambs rose 50 cents, bringing a top price of $29. Slaughter ewes topped at $8, up about 50 cents.

Butcher hogs were off about 25 cents; Choice 180-to-240-pounders brought a top of $23.
Commercial meat production in Texas in the first 6 months of 1952 totaled 424 million pounds - about 16 percent more than during the corresponding period last year. For the US the increase was 5 percent.

The United States Department of Agriculture has adopted new grade standards for slaughter hogs and hog carcasses. These grades will become effective September 12, 1952. The grades are: Choice No. 1, Choice No. 2, Choice No. 3, Medium, and Cull.

Livestock producers in the Southwest face increasing feed difficulties as a result of the continued drought. Supplemental feeding is increasing, while there is still a heavy movement of cattle, calves, and sheep out of the dry areas.

**WOOL**

Buying of fall Texas wools was reported last week at prices ranging from 50 cents to 60 cents per pound, grease basis, f.o.b., Texas. On a clean basis delivered to Boston this was the equivalent of about $1.25 to $1.35 per pound.

Contracting for fall-clip mohair in Texas early last week was at around 91-1/2 cents for adult and $1.16-1/2 for kid. Later, buyers lowered their bids 5 cents per pound but were able to buy very little mohair at the lower prices.

**POULTRY**

Texas fryer and broiler markets were steady to firm last week, with prices unchanged to 2 cents higher, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture. A good demand prevailed for top-quality birds, which continued short of needs, while slightly off-grade chickens were fully adequate at discounts. Last week's closing prices: south Texas 31 cents; east Texas 32 cents; and Waco area 31 cents.

Egg production in Texas last month totaled 221 million, or 4 million more than a year earlier. Production for the first 7 months of this year was up 9 percent from the corresponding period of a year ago.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The 1952 Yearbook of Agriculture is now available for purchase. Copies are for sale at $2.50 by the Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. This year's edition contains 952 pages and is entitled Insects. It is designed to be a practical aid in identifying insects, making better use of the helpful ones, and controlling the pests that cause an estimated $4 billion damage each year.

The widespread drought is causing prices of all feedstuffs not under ceilings to continue to advance. Wheat meal feed prices advanced over $2 per ton last week. There were no general offerings of regular oilseed meals at ceiling prices.

Milk production in Texas in July totaled 283 million pounds, compared with 311 million pounds in the same month last year. This sharp reduction reflects both the effects of the drought and the downward trend that has been under way for several years.

Prices received by farmers for milk and butterfat will continue to rise seasonally until early winter and will average higher than a year earlier, says the USDA. Prices are already above parity.

Harvesting of early crop peanuts has begun in south Texas, but operations are light due to lack of moisture. Late plantings in that area are still in fair condition and could make a good crop provided adequate rainfall comes in the next few weeks. A few new-crop peanuts have been delivered in south Texas at prices to growers ranging up to $30 per ton above support.

Pecan production in Texas is estimated at 28.5 million pounds, which is 5 times the very small crop of last year but 6 percent below average.

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