The USDA's October 1 estimate of cotton production, announced last Wednesday, is 11,143,000 bales, up 521,000 bales from the September 1 estimate, but 731,000 bales below production in 1951. The increase over the September 1 report occurred in the states of Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

Texas cotton production was estimated at 3,600,000 bales, up 100,000 bales over the September 1 forecast, but still more than 400,000 bales short of production in 1951. Most of the increase occurred in the south Central Blacklands, in east Texas, and in the northern High Plains, where yields were turning out somewhat better than expected, or where September rains improved crop prospects.

The consensus of reports of freeze damage to west Texas cotton, as a result of low temperatures the nights of October 6 and 7, are that total damage will be light. Some loss in production and grade has occurred, but it is not likely to affect substantially the October 1 forecast of production.

The October 1 estimate was nearly a half-million bales higher than the trade anticipated and as a result, prices dropped sharply following the announcement of the estimate. Losses amounted to about $1.75 per bale on middling 15/16-inch cotton, and prices on the Dallas market Friday, October 10 were 36.35 cents, compared with 37.60 cents a week earlier. The market appears to have stabilized somewhat at the lower level. Reports continue to indicate that many farmers are reluctant to sell at current prices, and especially in the far west a substantial volume is being withheld from the market. Loan entries also continue very light in volume, with only 11,100 bales reported by the CCC through October 3. Domestic mill buying slackened somewhat last week and demand from foreign sources continued limited.

Harvest of the Texas crop is virtually complete in south Texas and is gaining momentum in the south Plains.

No acreage allotments or marketing quotas will be in effect on the 1953 cotton crop, according to an announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan on Tuesday, October 7. This applies to both short and long staple cotton produced in the 1953 season. In making the announcement, Secretary Brannan pointed out that according to present calculations of supply and demand for cotton, the anticipated supply for the 1953-54 season will be 1,632,000 bales below "normal." The supply of extra long staple cotton is calculated to exceed the "normal" supply by 8 percent and thus acreage allotments and marketing quotas could be imposed; however, in view of the fact that extra long staple cotton is a strategic raw material for national defense, marketing quotas are not being proclaimed.

The hog market at Fort Worth reopened Tuesday of this week. It had been closed since October 2, following the discovery of hogs with vesicular exanthema, a relatively uncommon disease. This disease has been found in a number of Midwest and eastern states and in most of those areas has been brought under effective control.

Stockyard officials emphasize that there is no market for stocker or feeder pigs and that such animals should not be shipped to the Fort Worth Stock Yards. As a result of the outbreak of the disease, pigs held in the yards more than 48 hours must be slaughtered.
Cattle prices continued under pressure last week, with most grades and classes showing some additional declines. On Monday of this week a few Good and Choice fed steers and yearlings brought $22 to $28 per cwt., while Common and Medium kinds sold at $13 to $21. Good and Choice fat calves brought $17 to $21. Stoker demand was very limited with only Choice quality light weights creating any interest. Good and Choice stoker steer calves brought $18 to $23, while stocker steer yearlings and stocker steers sold for $17 to $23.

Resumption of trading in the sheep market in Fort Worth (the sheep market was also closed because of the outbreak of vesicular exanthema) found prices on slaughter lambs about steady with the last market day, which was October 2. One lot of Good and Choice 86 pound slaughter lambs brought $23, while feeder lambs changed hands at from $10 to $18 per cwt.

The October 1 report by the USDA on the condition of ranges and livestock indicates a further deterioration in range and pasture feeds, and in the condition of cattle throughout the Western states. In Texas some improvement was noted in the condition of range feed, cattle, and sheep largely as a result of heavy rains in the Colorado and Guadalupe River sheds during September. Reported condition of both ranges and livestock is still substantially below a year earlier, except for sheep, which are reported to be in somewhat better condition than on October 1, 1951.

Estimates of commercial meat production in Texas during the first 8 months of 1952 indicate an increase of 11 percent over the corresponding period in 1951. According to the USDA, 577,179,000 pounds of meat were processed by packing plants in the state during that period. This does not include farm slaughter nor poultry processing. In the US, commercial meat production during the first 8 months of 1952, was 4 percent above the comparable period a year earlier.

**WOOL AND MOHAIR**

Wool markets were reported to be a little stronger and prices somewhat higher during the week ended Friday, October 10. Most foreign markets showed additional strength and this has been reflected in somewhat higher prices. Ten to 12 cars of original bag 12-months Texas wool was sold at prices ranging from $1.32 to $1.67 per pound, clean basis, delivered to Boston.

Sales of up to 200,000 pounds of mohair were reported in Texas at 92-1/2 cents per pound for adult and $1.17-1/2 per pound for kid.

**GRAINS**

Prices on the Fort Worth Grain and Cotton Exchange were generally steady last week except for corn, which registered declines of around 5 cents per bushel. Closing prices on Friday, October 10 were: No. 1 hard wheat $2.60-3/4 per bushel, No. 2 barley $1.75, No. 2 white oats $1.09, No. 2 yellow corn $1.97-1/2, No. 2 white corn $2.37, No. 2 yellow milo $3.18 per cwt.

Seeding of the wheat crop continues to be delayed by the lack of moisture in the principal wheat producing sections, although considerable acreage has been "dusted in". In the extreme northwestern part of the Panhandle, where earlier rains were ample to bring up a stand, the crop is now badly in need of additional moisture. In eastern Plateau and south central Texas counties, oats seeded immediately following the September rains are up and making fair to good development.

The rough rice market continues strong, with prices steady to firm. Prices in Texas weakened slightly early last week but closed on Friday, October 10 steady to firm, with some of the highest prices of the season paid for No. 1 Patna. Reports indicate that very little rough rice is going under the loan.

Carl H. Moore
Agricultural Economist