



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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C O T T O N

Cotton prices continued their downward trend which started on October 8, following the announcement of the Department of Agriculture's October 1 forecast of cotton production. Prices on Monday of this week were around 1 cent per pound lower than a week ago and nearly 3 cents below a year ago. Middling 15/16-inch staple sold in Dallas on Monday, October 27, at 34.55 cents per pound, compared with 35.60 a week earlier and 37.80 a year ago.

Weakness in the cotton market is generally attributed to slowness in the cotton goods market and failure of export trade to develop. This has been true despite some improvement in prices of cloth goods. Mill margins are now wider than at any time since October 1951; however, during the past week or 10 days, the textile market has failed to show as much activity as most traders anticipated.

Farmers are reported to be holding an increased proportion of current ginnings. Interest in the Government Loan Program is increasing, but actual entries continue relatively light, with less than 35,000 bales reported in the loan through October 17.

The Department of Agriculture has forecast domestic consumption of cotton during the current season, which ends July 31, 1953, at 9.5 million bales and exports at 4.5 million bales. This compares with actual domestic consumption in 1951-52 of 9.2 million bales and exports of 5.5. If these estimates prove correct, the carry-over next July 31 will be somewhat higher than this year.

L I V E S T O C K

During the past week the cattle market has become more stable and at times shown some strength, with prices edging upward on some classes. Receipts continue large, with over 7,000 head received at Fort Worth on Monday of this week, but demand at the lower prices has improved and most of the cattle sold at generally steady prices. Hogs declined about \$1 per cwt. during the week as marketings increased seasonally. Sheep and lambs were generally steady, with prices unchanged.

Prices per cwt. at the Fort Worth Livestock Market on Monday, October 27, were: Good and Choice slaughter steers and heifers \$23 to \$30, utility cows \$13 to \$16, Medium and Good stocker steer yearlings \$15 to \$21, Good and Choice slaughter calves \$18 to \$24, Good and Choice stocker steer calves \$19 to \$22, one load of 216-pound calves sold at \$24.50, Good and Choice butcher hogs \$18, Utility to Choice slaughter lambs \$18 to \$23, Common to Good feeders \$10 to \$14.

G R A I N S

Grain prices continued a mixed trend during the past week, with wheat and oats moving upward and corn and grain sorghums declining. These seasonal trends have been given further impetus by the continued drought in major wheat producing sections and a bumper corn crop in the Midwest.

Closing prices per bushel on the Fort Worth Grain and Cotton Exchange on Monday of this week were: No. 1 hard wheat \$2.70-1/4, No. 2 barley \$1.78, No. 2 white oats \$1.13, No. 2 yellow corn \$1.85-1/2. No. 2 yellow milo closed at \$3.40 per cwt.

The light peanut crop in Texas and Oklahoma is estimated to be from 70 to 80 percent marketed. Prices are well above the loan rate, largely as a result of the extremely small crop.

Rice markets remain strong and some prices advanced slightly, reflecting a continued active demand. Harvest is virtually complete in Texas and Louisiana, and offerings are decreasing rapidly. A new high price for the season was set in Texas last week, as a large lot of Patna brought \$11.37 per barrel.

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

Prices paid for Texas broilers weakened somewhat during the past week, with only the south Texas area holding firm at 31 to 32 cents per pound. The east Texas and Waco areas were generally quoted at about 30 cents per pound on a relatively weak market. The BAE reported that commercial broiler chicks placed on Texas farms during the week ended October 18 were 8 percent above the previous week and about one-third higher than a year ago. The number of eggs set continued to increase and for that week were nearly 100,000 above the previous week. These trends suggest the probability of relatively heavy marketings in February and early March next year.

Turkey prices were generally unchanged, with prices at the farm for well-finished, broad-breasted toms quoted at 29 to 31 cents per pound and turkey hens at 33 to 36 cents per pound.

A total of 13,424,224 pounds of turkey meat has been purchased by the USDA to remove temporary surpluses from the market in some areas; 180,000 pounds have been purchased in Texas. The USDA states that these turkeys will be delivered during November and December for distribution to nonprofit school lunchrooms.

W O O L A N D M O H A I R

Prices in the Boston wool market last week remained generally unchanged. In Texas, graded fine, average French combing wool sold at prices ranging from 65 to 70 cents per pound, grease basis. Original bag Texas 12-months wool sold at about 65 cents, grease basis.

A few cars of mohair sold last week in Texas at 93 and 93-1/2 cents for adult and \$1.18 and \$1.18-1/2 per pound for kid.

F A R M I N C O M E

The USDA now predicts that gross farm income in 1952 will be a little higher than in 1951 but that net farm income will be about the same or slightly lower. In 1953, gross farm income is expected to be slightly lower than in 1952, and because of further anticipated increases in costs, net farm income may be about 5 percent below 1952.

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

The Second Annual Farm and Ranch Credit School for Commercial Bankers will be held on the Texas A. and M. College Campus, December 7-10. Bankers wishing to attend should send their reservations to Dean Chas. N. Shepardson, Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas.

Carl H. Moore
Agricultural Economist