



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 233

Wednesday, June 16, 1954

## C O T T O N

The minor changes that have occurred in spot cotton prices during the past week were pointed downward. On Monday, June 14, Middling 15/16-inch cotton on the 10 spot markets averaged 34.14¢ per pound, a few points below a week ago.

The Agricultural Marketing Service office in Dallas reports that inquiries from domestic mills last week continued fairly numerous for both old-and new-crop cotton. Mill buying of cotton for summer delivery increased in volume. Most shippers were said to be offering less freely at the basis mills were willing to pay for cotton for fall and winter delivery. Inquiries from foreign sources continued rather numerous.

CCC loan repayments continue in substantial volume. In the week ended June 4, loan repayments covered 75,700 bales, bringing the season's total thus far to 1.4 million bales. Over 5.4 million bales of 1953-crop cotton remained under loan.

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that there will be no cotton export subsidy on cotton during the 1954-55 marketing season. "Today, with foreign cotton substantially in line price-wise with our own cotton," the Secretary said, "there would appear to be every reason to continue during the 1954-55 season the same export policy we adopted last year, and we propose to do so."

It was announced last week that the Foreign Operations Administration had issued a cotton purchase authorization of \$12 million to the United Kingdom, with the contracting period running from June 14 to November 30, 1954.

## G R A I N S

The USDA announced last week its June 1 estimates of winter wheat production this season. The Texas wheat crop is estimated at 31,224,000 bushels, reflecting a sharp gain over earlier forecasts. This estimate compares with a crop of 23,035,000 bushels in 1953 and a 1943-52 average of 57,221,000 bushels. Yield per acre is 12.0 bushels, slightly above average.

The Texas wheat crop made remarkable recovery during May, says the USDA; moisture generally was ample. As soils dried, wheat combining started in scattered areas during the latter part of May and much acreage in the Low Plains, Cross Timbers, and north Texas was ready for combining by the first week in June.

Winter wheat production estimates for other states of this District are: Oklahoma, 66,052,000 bushels; New Mexico, 410,000 bushels; and Arizona, 546,000 bushels. Each of these estimates is slightly below 1953 harvests.

The U. S. winter wheat crop is forecast at about 740 million bushels, compared with 878 million last year and a 10-year average of 833 million. Yield per acre is estimated at 19.6 bushels, the second highest on record.

Rye production in Texas this year is forecast at 255,000 bushels, down 60,000 bushels from last year but well above average. Oklahoma has a bumper crop of 756,000 bushels.

The USDA has announced that through May 15 a total of 406.3 million bushels of 1953-crop corn had been placed under CCC price support, which compares with 344.6 million for the previous crop.

Texas and Louisiana rough rice markets are virtually inactive. Meanwhile, the new rice crop is reported to be making good progress, with moisture conditions generally satisfactory.

#### L I V E S T O C K

The Agricultural Marketing Service office in Fort Worth, reporting on the local market, gives the following livestock price quotations for Monday, June 14: Good and Choice slaughter steers and yearlings \$18.50 to \$23.00, Utility and Commercial \$12.00 to \$17.50; Utility cows \$11.00 to \$12.50, Commercial \$13.50 to \$14.00; Medium and Good stockers and feeders \$13.00 to \$18.50; Good and Choice slaughter calves \$16.50 to \$20.50, Medium and Good stocker steer calves \$13.00 to \$20.00; Choice 190-240-pound butcher hogs \$24.50 and \$24.75, Choice 250 to 300 pounds \$22.00 to \$24.25; Good and Choice spring lambs \$21.00 and \$22.00, Utility and Good grades mixed \$19.00 to \$20.00; Utility and Good shorn lambs and yearlings \$13.50 to \$15.00.

The USDA reports that the Bluestem-Osage pastures of Kansas and Oklahoma received 26 percent less cattle during the 1954 spring season than in the spring of 1953. However, the pastures are well stocked with a near-record number of cattle and calves, reflecting the heavy receipts prior to the spring season.

Cattle slaughter in commercial plants in Texas is running well ahead of a year ago. In the first 4 months of 1954 there were 515,000 head slaughtered, compared with 438,000 a year earlier. Calf slaughter numbered 317,000 head, as against 266,000 last year.

#### W O O L

Average weekly consumption of apparel wools, shorn and pulled, by domestic mills in March was slightly above 4.9 million pounds, about the same as in February but far below the 7.5 million pounds of March 1953.

It is reported by AMS that about 7 cars of original bag 12-months Texas wool, bulk Good French Combing and staple, sold last week at \$1.80 to \$1.81, clean basis. A small quantity of greasy Texas fall wool brought 69¢ per pound.

A recent large sale of graded wool from Sonora, Texas, was estimated to have cost as follows: Fine staple, \$1.90; Fine French, \$1.80; and original bag 12 months, \$1.80, delivered to Boston.

#### P O U L T R Y   A N D   E G G S

Texas broiler markets firmed this week, after showing considerable weakness last week. On Monday, June 14, broilers or fryers weighing 2½ to 3 pounds brought 24¢ to 25¢ per pound, according to the Texas State Department of Agriculture.

Egg production in Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in May was above a year ago, while Oklahoma reports a slight decline. For the first 5 months of 1954, egg production in Texas totaled 1,381 million eggs, up 63 million from last year. Five-month totals for other District states and changes from a year earlier (all in millions): Louisiana 197, up 12; Oklahoma 505, down 8; New Mexico 61, up 4; and Arizona 41, up 1.

W. M. Pritchett  
Agricultural Economist