The Secretary of Agriculture has announced marketing quotas and acreage allotments for the 1955 cotton crop. Existing legislation requires that marketing quotas and acreage allotments be proclaimed whenever the "total supply" (carry-over plus production) of upland cotton is in excess of the "normal supply" (consumption and exports plus reserve). The Secretary proclaimed a marketing quota for 1955 of 10 million bales, the minimum permissible under the Agricultural Act of 1949. On the basis of average yields, the Department has determined a national acreage allotment for upland cotton at 18,113,208 acres. The national cotton marketing quota referendum will be held on December 11, 1954. At least two-thirds of the cotton farmers voting in the referendum must approve quotas before they may be made effective. A referendum on marketing quotas for the 1955 crop of extra long staple cotton will be held on the same date.

Cotton ginned in the U.S. prior to October 1 this season totaled 5,691,000 bales, compared with 5,542,000 to the same date last year, according to a report of the Bureau of the Census. Grade reports indicate that upland cotton averaged slightly higher in grade than a year earlier but the average staple length was the shortest since 1947. Strict Middling and higher grades comprised a somewhat smaller proportion of total ginnings than a year earlier. Low Middling and lower grades also accounted for smaller proportions of the total. On the other hand, there was a sharp increase in the proportion represented by Middling and a moderate proportionate increase for Strict Low Middling.

Through October 8 CCC loan entries accounted for 262,700 bales of 1954-crop cotton. The weekly movement into the loan program has been rising and in the week ended October 8 totaled 51,200 bales. On the other hand, trading in 1953 loan equities has increased also. During the first week of October, farmers repaid their loans on 15,100 bales of 1953-crop cotton. Since August 1, 1954, CCC loans have been repaid on about 75,000 bales of 1953-crop cotton, leaving loans outstanding on more than 5.1 million bales as of October 8.

Spot cotton prices are holding fairly steady. Fluctuations during the past week have been within very narrow ranges. Net changes in prices, although minor, have been mostly downward, however.

The Agricultural Marketing Service office in Dallas reports that cottonseed prices in wagon load lots at the gins last week averaged $58.70 per ton in Texas and $58.10 in Oklahoma, or about the same as in the previous week. Cottonseed meal was quoted at $71 per ton wholesale, bag lots, carloads, in the Dallas market. Prices in other markets were: Abilene, $70; Lubbock, $71; Altus, Oklahoma, $81; and Oklahoma City, $78.

**CROP PRODUCTION**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released last week its crop report based on conditions as of October 1, and the report indicates an improvement in crop production prospects since September 1. However, present production estimates indicate that the volume of crops produced in the U.S. this year will be about 4% less than in 1953.

Some increases indicated in production of individual crops this year: Oats, 24%; barley, 52%; sorghum grain, 35%; and rice, 18%. Some crops showing percentage declines: Corn, 7%; and wheat, 18%. Production of all feed grains is up 2%, while production of all food grains is down 15%.
Corn production in four of the states of this Federal Reserve District is up from 1953 despite the drought. Production presently indicated, in millions of bushels, with 1953 figures in parenthesis: Louisiana, 12.1 (10.9); Oklahoma, 3.3 (6.4); Texas, 35.2 (33.9); New Mexico, 1.4 (1.3); Arizona, 0.53 (0.51).

Oat production, in millions of bushels: Louisiana, 3.3 (2.4); Oklahoma, 17.9 (11.6); Texas, 42.4 (39.2); New Mexico and Arizona, about 550,000 bushels each.

Sorghum grain production, in millions of bushels: Oklahoma, 4.0 (7.7); Texas, 84.0 (55.2); New Mexico, 1.0 (1.4); Arizona, 3.5 (1.9).

Rice production, in thousands of bags: Louisiana, 13.9 (12.2); and Texas, 16.4 (14.9).

Hay production, in thousands of tons: Louisiana, 373 (406); Oklahoma, 1,616 (1,791); Texas, 1,539 (1,705); New Mexico, 533 (489); Arizona, 650 (672).

Citrus production in Texas for the 1954-55 season is forecast at 3.7 million boxes of grapefruit and 2.3 million boxes of oranges. Total citrus production of 6 million boxes is almost three times last season's harvest. The AMS office at Austin reports that south Texas has about 3.4 million citrus trees of producing age this season - 4 years old and older - and that they are about equally divided between grapefruit and oranges. Development of fruit has been very satisfactory this season and good quality is expected throughout the season. Oranges will continue to move fairly actively in October but volume of grapefruit is not expected until late this month or in early November.

LIVESTOCK

There was some pickup in livestock marketing in the Southwest last week, as compared with the previous week, but market receipts of cattle and sheep were well below a year ago. On the Fort Worth market, cattle generally lost some of the gains of the previous week with markdowns of 25¢ to 50¢. Sheep prices gained further, however, largely on the strength of a strong demand from feeder buyers. Meanwhile, hog prices appear to have continued the slow downward movement of the past few weeks.

Cattle on feed for market on October 1 in the three leading cattle-feeding Corn Belt states - Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska - totaled 1,305,000 head, according to the USDA. This is 3% less than the number on feed October 1 last year but about 1% above 2 years ago.

WOOL AND MOHAIR

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced last week a shorn wool incentive price of 62¢ per pound of wool, grease basis, and a mohair support price of 70¢ per pound for the 1955 marketing year. If average prices received by producers for wool and mohair fall below these levels, payments will be made to producers.

The wool incentive price is equivalent to 106% of the September 15 wool parity price, and the mohair support is equivalent to 91% of the September 15 mohair parity price. These supports have been established under the provisions of the National Wool Act of 1954, which provides for a shorn wool incentive price up to 110% of parity as may be required to encourage an annual production of 300 million pounds of shorn wool.

Approximately half a million pounds of fall wool were sold in Texas last week at around 51¢ per pound, grease basis, to the warehouse, and were estimated to cost around $1.35, clean basis, delivered to Boston. About 100,000 pounds of 8-months wool brought 57¢, to the warehouse.

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