



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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HAY AND PASTURE SEEDS

An estimated 60% of the Nation's 1954 commercial crop of alfalfa seed - second largest of record - had been sold by growers by mid-October, a recent release by the Agricultural Marketing Service notes. This compares with 42% at the same time last year and 46% for the 1948-52 average.

The supply of alfalfa seed for the 1954-55 planting season - including 1954 production and carry-over stocks on June 30, 1954 - is 1% less than in 1953 but twice the 10-year average.

Imports of alfalfa seed (mostly from Canada) for the year ended June 30, 1954, were 62,692 cwt., compared with 87,174 cwt. in the preceding year. The Canadian Department of Agriculture forecast on October 19 a supply of 33,400 cwt. of cleaned alfalfa seed for the 1954 crop, compared with 97,900 cwt. in 1953.

Exports from the United States for the year ended June 30, 1954, were 93,540 cwt. - the largest of record - compared with 14,571 cwt. for the preceding year and 11,681 cwt. for the 1943-52 average.

The quality of the 1954 crop of alfalfa seed is almost equal to the good quality of the 1953 crop. Farm prices to growers on January 15, 1955, for alfalfa seed per cwt. were: Texas, \$28.10; Arizona, \$31.00; New Mexico, \$30.00; and Oklahoma, \$27.20.

The AMS estimates that 67% of the 1954 commercial sweet clover seed crop had been sold by growers by mid-October. This is 5% more than last year but about the same percentage as the average for the past 10 years.

The quality of sweet clover seed for this year's planting is fairly good but is inferior to the 1953 crop. December 15 prices to growers in Texas were \$16.70 per cwt., while Oklahoma growers received \$13.40.

About 24% of the 1954 Sudan grass seed crop had been sold by growers by mid-October, compared with only 9% of the crop in 1953 and a 10-year average of 21%.

The 1954-55 supply of Sudan grass seed is estimated at 472,150 cwt. - 29% less than last season and 8% below the 1943-52 average.

RICE

Rough rice markets in producing areas were virtually at a standstill during the past week, with no sales reported in Louisiana and Texas. Southern milled rice markets remained steady; most prices were unchanged from last week. Asking prices for No. 2 Rexora were quoted at \$11.25 per cwt. at New Orleans and for No. 2 Bluebonnet, at \$10.75 per cwt.

The 1955 rice acreage allotments announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture last week were 486,522 acres for Texas and 519,634 acres for Louisiana. These allotments were 78% and 79.2% of the 1954 planted acreages of Texas and Oklahoma, respectively. An allotment of 1,840,508 acres was made nationally - 74.3% of the 1954 planted acreage. An additional 18,591 acres were held in reserve at the national level for future allocation to take care of unusual situations.

Preliminary reports indicate that 90.6% of the rice growers voting in the referendum on January 28 approved acreage allotments and marketing quotas on 1955-crop rice.

The total supply of rice for the 1954-55 marketing year is estimated by the USDA at 66,857,000 cwt. of rough rice. This supply results from a record 1954 crop of 58,950,000 cwt. and a 1953 crop carry-over of 7,557,000 cwt., plus imports

of 350,000 cwt. Consumption is estimated at 26,857,000 cwt.; exports of 26,000,000 cwt. of rough rice equivalent are expected. If these expectations are realized, a record carry-over of 14 million cwt. would be left to go into the 1955-56 marketing year.

C O T T O N

Middling 15/16-inch cotton in the Dallas market on Monday, January 31, was quoted at 33.85¢ per pound, compared with 33.65¢ a week earlier. Trading generally was slow last week, with few producers offering cotton for sale. All of the current ginnings were moving into trade channels.

Ginnings in the Nation prior to January 16 this season totaled 13,405,000 bales, compared with 16,119,000 bales in the previous year. The supply of upland cotton at mid-January, according to AMS, totaled 22.8 million bales - 6% larger than the supply on the same date last year.

L I V E S T O C K

Receipts of cattle, calves, and hogs at the Fort Worth market during the week ended January 28 were considerably greater than during the comparable week a year ago. Sheep and lamb receipts were about 35% below a year earlier. A large percentage of the cattle sales were lightweight fed yearlings and heifers, which averaged from 50¢ to \$1 higher than the previous week.

Good and Choice fed steers and yearlings brought \$19 to \$25, and Common and Medium, \$12 to \$18 per cwt.; Canners and Cutters sold at \$7 to \$10. Buyers were active bidders for Good and Choice stockers and feeders at \$17 to \$22 per cwt.

Good and Choice slaughter lambs sold from \$17 - and, if unshorn - up to \$20.50. Stocker and feeder lambs brought \$15 to \$20.

Last week's hog market opened strong, with price advances of 50¢ to 75¢ per cwt., but closing prices Friday for top slaughter hogs were \$17.50 to \$17.75 - the lowest prices since December 1952.

A USDA report for the Fort Worth market on Monday, January 31, indicates that receipts of cattle were smaller than on the comparable day a week earlier. Good and Choice beef steers sold at \$20 to \$24, and Utility and Commercial grades brought \$13 to \$19. Medium and Good stocker and feeder steer calves sold at \$14 to \$20.

Good and Choice shorn slaughter lambs sold on Monday's market at \$18 to \$20. Feeder lambs brought \$17 to \$20.25.

Choice 1 and 2 grade slaughter hogs weighing 190 to 235 pounds sold at \$17.75 and \$18; other weights of Choice butchers brought \$16.50 to \$17.50.

P O U L T R Y

Texas broiler markets were steady to weaker during the week ended January 28, according to the State Department of Agriculture, with prices closing 1¢ to 2¢ lower. The closing prices on the markets were: South Texas, 23¢ to 24¢, mostly 24¢; east Texas, 23¢ to 24¢; and Waco, 24¢.

Broiler markets on Monday, January 31, continued weak, with prices on major Texas markets as follows: South Texas, 23¢; east Texas, 22¢ to 24¢, mostly 23¢ to 24¢; Waco, 23¢; and Corsicana, F.O.B. Plant, 25¢.

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