WHEAT REFERENDUM

On Saturday, June 25, wheat farmers in commercial wheat states will vote in a referendum on marketing quotas for the 1956 crop. Any wheat producer in commercial wheat states who will be subject to marketing quotas is eligible to vote, including growers who have farm wheat allotments of 15 acres or less but intend to plant more than 15 acres of wheat for harvest as grain in 1956. Information on local voting places, voting hours, locally eligible voters, and program details may be obtained from the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office or from county or community ASC committeemen.

RICE

The CCC take-over of rough rice under the 1954 price support program is estimated at 25,800,000 cwt., according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Of this total, approximately 4,500,000 cwt. are from Louisiana and 8,100,000 cwt., from Texas.

World production of rice in the 1954-55 season is estimated at 2,612,000,000 cwt., reports the Foreign Agricultural Service. This is about 4½% less than the previous season's record crop but is 17% above the postwar (1945-46 through 1949-50) average. Output in Asia is sharply below last year's large crop, while that in Europe also is less. Production increased in Africa and North America, and there are indications of a moderate increase in South America.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle supplies at Fort Worth on Monday, June 20, totaled 6,300, compared with 7,068 a week earlier and 7,223 on the comparable date last year, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The supply of beef steers and heifers was very small. Cows comprised over 40% of the receipts and generally sold at lower prices than in the previous week. Demand for stocker cattle was good, and sales were firm. A few Good and Choice beef steers brought $19 to $22 per cwt., with Commercial grades selling at $18 and lower; Commercial and Good heifers cleared at $11 to $19. Commercial cows were $13 to $13.50, with Utility grades quoted at $11 to $12.50. Good stocker steer yearlings sold at $19 to $21; Choice kinds were scarce.

Calf receipts totaled 1,100 - a little larger than on the preceding Monday but smaller than a year ago. Slaughter calf trade was slow, and prices were mostly steady; the market for high-grade stockers was active and strong. Good and Choice slaughter calves sold at $17 to $20 per cwt., with a few bringing over $20. Utility and Commercial grades brought $12 to $16. A few Good and Choice stocker steer calves sold at $21.50 to $22.50, while most Good grades cleared at $19 to $21.

Monday's supplies of hogs were larger than either a week earlier or a year ago. Trading in Fort Worth was fairly active, with butcher hogs selling at 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher than on last Friday's market; prices of sows were steady. Choice 1 and 2 Grade 190- to 240-lb. butch hogs brought $21.25 to $21.50; the latter price was the highest since last August.

Sheep receipts are estimated at 10,500, with spring lambs comprising 50% of the supplies and shorn lambs, 35%. All classes of sheep and lambs sold at steady prices, with Good and Choice 70- to 80-lb. slaughter spring lambs bringing $21 to $22 per cwt.
POULTRY

Major Texas broiler markets were steady during the week ended Friday, June 17, and supplies generally were adequate, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture. Trading was moderate to heavy in south Texas, heavy in east Texas, and normal in the Waco-Corsicana area. Closing prices, which were unchanged to 1¢ per lb. higher than in the preceding week, were: South Texas, 28¢; east Texas, 26¢ to 27¢, mostly 27¢, with trading at 26¢ confined to two sales; Waco, 27¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 28¢ per lb. In the corresponding week last year, closing prices were 25¢ per lb. in all areas.

On Monday of this week, Texas broiler markets were steady, with supplies generally adequate for a fair to good demand. Trading was normal in all areas, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 28¢ per lb.; east Texas, 27¢; Waco, 27¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 28¢.

Broiler chick placements on Texas farms totaled 1,858,000 during the week ended June 11, reports the AMS. This is 6% above placements during the previous week and 36% above those in the comparable period in 1954.

The number of chicks hatched in commercial hatcheries in Texas during May totaled 9,150,000, or 7% more than in the same month last year, according to the AMS. Broiler chicks comprised 75% of the May output, compared with 72% a year earlier.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS

Cash receipts from farm marketings in the District states from January through April were down 3 percent from the same period last year; livestock receipts declined 1 percent, and receipts from crops decreased 5 percent. In the Nation, receipts from farm marketings during the first 4 months of 1955 totaled $8,333,549,000, or 3 percent below a year earlier - the same as in the District states. Crop receipts increased 6 percent, while livestock receipts declined 8 percent.

CCC PRICE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

According to a recent announcement by the USDA, the investment of the Commodity Credit Corporation in price support commodities as of April 30, 1955, amounted to $7,261,338,000. Of this total, loans outstanding were $2,692,553,000 and the cost value of inventories was $4,568,785,000. Cotton, corn, tobacco, and wheat accounted for the major portion of the operations. On the comparable date last year, the CCC investment was $6,188,738,000, of which loans outstanding amounted to $3,223,122,000 and inventories, $2,965,616,000.

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