



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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CROP PRODUCTION

Total U. S. crop production in 1955, indicated as of August 1, may equal the 1948 record-high output, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The August all crops production index is 106% of the 1947-49 average, or the same as the previous record in 1948; the per acre yield index is 117, compared with the former all-time high of 108. Record 1955 crops for the Nation are in prospect for oats, sorghum grain, hay, and soybeans. Corn production is estimated to be the second highest of record, with the indicated per acre yield at a new all-time high.

Production of major crops in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District for 1955 and 1954 and the 10-year (1944-53) averages are shown in the following table.

CROP PRODUCTION

Five Southwestern States^{1/}

(In thousands)

<u>Crop and unit</u>	<u>Estimated August 1, 1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>Average 1944-53</u>
Cotton (bales).....	5,685	6,032	5,067
Corn (bu.).....	73,632	52,047	84,584
Winter wheat (bu.).....	44,402	102,652	138,179
Rice (100-lb. bags).....	25,074	31,116	21,886
Sorghum grain (bu.).....	170,073	130,950	93,103

^{1/} Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

1955 PECAN CROP

Pecan production in the Nation this year is estimated, as of August 1, at 70,840,000 lbs. - the smallest crop since 1936, according to the AMS. The 1954 production totaled 90,510,000 lbs., and the 10-year average is placed at 141,437,000 lbs. In Texas the 1955 pecan crop is estimated at 17,500,000 lbs., compared with 24,000,000 lbs. in 1954 and the 10-year average of 32,665,000 lbs.

LIVESTOCK

Receipts of cattle and calves at Fort Worth on Monday, August 15, totaled 4,800, or about 7% below a week earlier and less than half the supply on the comparable date last year, reports the AMS. Prices of beef steers, heifers, and calves were about steady with last week's close. The following prices were quoted: Commercial slaughter steers, \$15 to \$17; Commercial and Good heifers, \$13 to \$19; Utility cows, \$11 to \$11.50; Commercial and Good slaughter calves, \$13 to \$17.50; and Medium and Good stocker steer calves, \$14 to \$20 per cwt.

Monday's hog supplies at Fort Worth are estimated at 900, compared with 1,117 on the previous Monday and 565 on the corresponding date in 1954. Prices were strong to higher, with barrows and gilts bringing 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. more than last Friday's averages. Mixed U. S. No. 1 to No. 3 Grade 180- to 250-lb. barrows and gilts sold at \$17.25 to \$17.50. Prices for sows held steady with Choice grades selling at \$12 to \$15.

Sheep and lamb receipts, totaling 2,500, were substantially above a week earlier but were considerably smaller than the offerings on the comparable date last year. Spring lambs continued to comprise the major part of the supplies and brought steady prices as compared with the latter part of last week. Good to Prime (mostly Good to Choice) slaughter spring lambs cleared at \$17 to \$19.50 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

The south Texas broiler market opened unsettled but closed steady during the week ended Friday, August 12, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture. In east Texas and the Waco-Corsicana area, broiler markets held steady through the week's close. Compared with the previous week, closing prices were unchanged to 1¢ per lb. higher in south Texas, unchanged in east Texas and Waco, and 1/2¢ higher at the F.O.B. plant in Corsicana. Last Friday's closing prices were: South Texas, 27¢; east Texas, 26¢; Waco, 26¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 27.5¢ per lb. During the corresponding week in 1954, closing prices were 27¢ per lb. in all areas.

On Monday of this week, broiler markets were steady in south Texas and the Waco-Corsicana area and steady to firm in east Texas. Trading was about normal in south Texas, heavy in east Texas, and normal in the Waco-Corsicana area. The following prices were quoted: South Texas, 27¢ per lb.; east Texas, 26¢ to 27¢, mostly 27¢; Waco, 26¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 28¢.

Broiler chick placements on Texas farms totaled 1,706,000 during the week ended August 6, reports the AMS. This is 2% below placements in the previous week but 30% above those during the corresponding period last year.

F A R M P O P U L A T I O N

The number of persons living on U. S. farms totaled 22,158,000 in April 1955. This is approximately the same as a year earlier but is 3,000,000 fewer than in 1950. The decrease in farm population between 1950 and 1955 was a continuation of the long-time downward trend, with the number of farm residents accounting for 13.5% of the total population by 1955.

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

The timber harvest from U. S. national forests during the year ended June 30, 1955, is the highest of record. A total of 6,328,229,000 bd. ft. was cut, compared with 5,365,113,000 bd. ft. during the previous year. The value of the 1955 timber is estimated at \$70,760,440.

U. S. agricultural exports totaled \$3,130,000,000 during the marketing season ended June 30, 1955, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This is 7% above the previous season's exports and 11% more than in the 1952-53 season. Vegetable fats and oils and livestock products accounted for the largest gains; however, exports of cotton, tobacco, and fruits and vegetables were also larger than in the preceding season.

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