UNDISIRABLE WHEAT DISCOUNTED

On August 12 the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced a discount of 20¢ per bu., in 1956 price support rates for 23 wheat varieties designated as undesirable because of inferior milling or baking qualities. The producer will be responsible for certifying the variety of wheat placed under price support. The varieties in the Eleventh District states which will be discounted under the 1956 price support program are Red Chief, Red Jacket, Kanking, Chiefkan, Early Blackhull, New Chief, and Yogo.

COTTON EXPORT POLICY

The Secretary of Agriculture announced on August 13 that no material change is planned in the U. S. export policy for upland cotton for the 1955-56 marketing year but that after January 1, 1956, the Commodity Credit Corporation may offer to sell for export, on an open competitive-bid basis, not more than 1,000,000 bales of its lower-quality, short-staple stocks.

LIVESTOCK

A moderate supply of 6,100 cattle and calves was received at Fort Worth on Monday of this week, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Marketings were about 10% more than a week earlier but were approximately the same as on the comparable date last year. Trading was slow on all classes of cattle, and prices were generally steady to weak as compared with last week's close. Most Good slaughter steers brought $18 to $20.50; Utility cows, $10.50 to $11.50; and Medium and Good stocker and feeder steer yearlings, $15 to $19 per cwt. The market for slaughter calves was slow to weak, but prices for stockers held generally steady. Commercial and Good slaughter calves sold at $13 to $17.50; Medium and Good stocker steer calves were quoted at $15 to $20.

Monday's hog receipts are estimated at 1,000, compared with 942 a week earlier and 725 on the same day last year. Trading was active, with shippers and packers competing for a share of the supply. Barrows and gilts weighing 190 to 250 lbs. comprised the bulk of the marketings. Prices for these animals were 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher than last Friday's average, with mixed lots of mostly U. S. No. 2 and No. 3 Grade barrows and gilts selling at $17.25 to $17.75 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb supplies were 1,700, or substantially below either a week earlier or a year ago. Trading was moderately active, and prices were mostly steady with those in the latter part of last week. Good to Choice slaughter spring lambs sold at $17 to $18 per cwt.

POULTRY

During the week ended Friday, August 19, major Texas broiler markets were generally steady, and trading was normal in all areas, reports the Texas Department of Agriculture. Closing prices - which were unchanged to 1¢ per lb. higher than a week earlier - were 27¢ per lb. in south Texas, east Texas, and Waco and 28¢ at the Corsicana F.O.B. plant. During the corresponding week last year, closing prices were 26¢ per lb. in south Texas and 25¢ in all other areas. On Monday, August 22, Texas broiler markets remained steady, and prices were the same as last Friday's close.
Broiler chicks placed on Texas farms during the week ended August 13 totaled 1,576,000, according to the AMS. These placements are 8% below those in the previous week but 30% more than for the corresponding period in 1954.

**ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES**

Acreage-marketing guides for 1956-crop winter vegetables and potatoes were released recently by the USDA. These guides are directed toward balancing the supply of each crop with the prospective demand for it. The aggregate U.S. acreage guide for 18 winter vegetables in 1956 is an acreage about equal to that harvested in 1955 but 1% less than in 1954. If per acre yields are average, the 1956 production will be 2% less than in 1955 and 3% smaller than in 1954. Yields of 1954 and 1955 winter crop vegetables were generally higher than average. In Texas the suggested acreages of spinach, potatoes, lettuce, cauliflower, and cabbage for harvest in 1956 are the same as the harvested acreages in 1955. Acreage guides for carrots and beets are 5% and 20%, respectively, less than the acreages harvested in 1955, while that for broccoli is 10% higher.

**FARM OWNERSHIP LOAN PROGRAM**

On August 9 the President approved legislation (Public Law 273) which should help farmers acquire and improve family-size farms under the insured loan program of the Farmers Home Administration. Under the new law, the Government becomes the mortgagee for an insured farm ownership loan, and the lender holds the note. Previously, the lender was the mortgagee and held both the mortgage and the note.

**AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

During the week of July 25, an estimated 9,225,000 persons worked on the Nation's farms, or about the same number as a year earlier, according to a recent report of the USDA. July was the first month this year in which there was not a sizable decrease from the same month last year. Better crop prospects - especially in the West and South Central States - have helped maintain farm employment at the year-earlier level.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The USDA announced on August 16 that price support eligibility provisions were being relaxed on 1955 crops of barley and rye. This action was taken because weather conditions in some of the major producing states have resulted in a larger than normal proportion of lower-grade barley and rye. The eligibility provisions have been changed to include Grade No. 5 barley and Grade No. 4 rye.

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