FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The President has proclaimed October 9-15 as National Fire Prevention Week. Losses from farm fires in the Nation during 1954 are estimated at $157 million, reflecting a 13-percent rise from the preceding year and the greatest percentage increase from a year earlier since 1948, according to a report from Texas A. & M. College.

Faulty wiring, improper use of fuses, spontaneous combustion, and lightning are the major causes of fires in barns and outbuildings. The major cause of fires in the farm home is defective or overheated cooking and heating equipment.

RECORD FEED SUPPLIES

U. S. supplies of feed grains and other concentrates in the 1955-56 season are expected to total a record 195 million tons, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. This would be 15 million tons larger than the previous year's record supply and 20 million tons above the 1949-53 average. With the number of livestock on farms expected to increase to about 176 million grain-consuming animal units, the 1955-56 feed concentrate supply per animal unit is estimated at 1.1 tons. The national hay crop was forecast in early September at 108 million tons, or 4 million tons above that in 1954 and slightly above the previous record high in 1951.

CCC PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Commodity Credit Corporation's investment in price support commodities as of June 30, 1955, amounted to $7,069,277,000. Of this total, loans outstanding were $2,097,814,000 and the cost of inventories was $4,971,463,000. Cotton, corn, tobacco, and wheat accounted for the major portion of the operations. On the corresponding date last year, the CCC investment was $6,005,511,000, of which loans outstanding accounted for $2,337,289,000 and inventories, $3,668,222,000.

POULTRY

During the week ended Friday, September 30, major Texas broiler markets opened weak but closed steady at prices 1¢ to 2¢ per lb, lower than prices during the preceding week, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were: South Texas, 23¢; east Texas, 21¢ to 23¢, mostly 22¢; Waco, 22¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 22¢ per lb. During the comparable week in 1954, closing prices were 21¢ in all areas.

Broiler chick placements on Texas farms during the week ended September 24 totaled 1,192,000, reports the AMS. This is 1% below placements in the previous week and about the same as those for the corresponding period in 1954.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

The number of chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in the United States during August totaled 107,636,000, or the largest of record for that month, according to the AMS. Of the chicks hatched, 89% were for broilers, and the remaining chicks were for other purposes. The demand for chicks for broiler production is strong, and there probably was a relatively large hatch in September.
In Texas the number of chicks produced in commercial hatcheries during August is estimated at 7,067,000, compared with 6,020,000 during the same month last year. Broiler chicks comprised 98% of the output, compared with 92% in August 1954.

**LIVESTOCK**

Receipts of cattle and calves at Fort Worth on Monday, October 3, are estimated at 6,900, compared with 3,790 a week earlier and 5,138 on the corresponding day a year ago, reports the AMS. Prices for slaughter cattle were generally weak to 50¢ per cwt. lower, although stocker and feeder prices were about steady with last week's close. Commercial and Good beef slaughter steers averaged $11 to $21, while Good stocker and feeder steers brought $16.50 to $18.50. A few stocker cows sold at $10 to $11. Slaughter calves were 50¢ per cwt. lower, although stocker and feeder calves were about steady with last week's closing prices. Commercial and Good slaughter calves averaged $12 to $16, while Good stocker steer calves were $17 to $19 per cwt.

Hog supplies on Monday of this week are estimated at 1,100, about 300 more than a week ago and 500 more than a year earlier. Mixed U. S. No. 1 to No. 3 Grades of 200- to 250-lb. barrows and gilts sold at $16.25 to $16.75 per cwt. Sows brought $12 to $14.50.

Trading was active on slaughter lambs and feeders, with prices strong to $1 per cwt. higher than last week's closing prices. Good and Choice slaughter lambs sold from $18 to $20 per cwt., while Medium and Good stocker and feeder lambs averaged $15 to $16.50.

**RICE EXPORTS**

U. S. rice exports during the 1954-55 marketing season totaled 9,840,000 bags (cwt.) of milled rice, reports the Foreign Agricultural Service. This is a 37% decrease from the 15,748,000 bags (cwt.) exported a year earlier.

**PEANUT STOCKS**

Supplies of peanuts in off-farm positions on August 31, 1955, totaled 203 million lbs. of equivalent farmers' stock peanuts (uncleaned and unshelled), or 9% below stocks at this time last year, according to the AMS. Of the total supply, about 16% was held as uncleaned and unshelled stocks, 79% as shelled edibles, and 5% as roasting stock. The quantity of farmers' stock milled through the season ended August 31 for shelled edibles and roasting was 44% below the quantity milled during the same period a year earlier.

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