DECEMBER 1 IS SAFE-DRIVING DAY!

Thursday, December 1, has been designated as S-D (Safe-Driving) Day. The November issue of the Farm Safety Review says the watchword will be "Make Every Day S-D Day."

In the Nation last year, 36,000 persons were killed and 1,250,000 were injured in motor vehicle accidents. Rural residents have a big stake in the success of S-D Day, as three-fourths of the accidents resulting in death in 1954 occurred in rural areas and nearly 6,000 of the victims were rural residents.

ALLOCMENTS FOR EXTRA-LONG STAPLE COTTON

On November 21 the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced state acreage allotments for 1956-crop extra-long staple cotton, thus giving the breakdown of the national allotment of 45,305 acres announced on October 14. Varieties included are: American-Egyptian, Sea Island, Sealand, and all other varieties of the Barbadense species and any hybrid thereof.

Acreage allotments for the states in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District which grow extra-long staple cotton (and comparisons with 1955 allotments) are: Arizona, 18,133 acres (18,472); New Mexico, 8,424 acres (8,529); and Texas, 15,770 acres (15,964).

On December 13, farmers who grew extra-long staple cotton in designated counties in 1955 will vote on marketing quotas for the 1956 crop.

CCC INTEREST RATE INCREASED

Effective December 1, the rate of interest payable to lending agencies financing Commodity Credit Corporation price support loans on 1955 crops and 1954 reseal purchase agreement loans will be increased 1/4% of 1% per annum. Lending agencies - primarily country banks - which have funds invested in CCC commodity loans as of December 1, or which invest their funds in such loans after that date, will receive compensation at the rate of 2 3/8% for interest, plus the fees for services provided in the lending agency agreements. The action is designed to bring the interest rate in line with recent increases in rates on short-term Government and commercial borrowings. The interest rate charged farmers obtaining price support loans on their commodities will remain 3 3/4% per annum.

LIVESTOCK

A moderate supply of 4,600 cattle was received in Fort Worth on Monday, November 28, compared with the very small marketings of 3,783 a week earlier and 5,215 on the corresponding date last year, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Prices of most classes were steady to strong, but those for some steers, heifers, and stockers were 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher than at last week's close. Commercial and Good slaughter steers sold at $14 to $18.50; Utility cows, $10 to $10.50 and Good yearling stocker steers, $16 to $17.50.

Monday's calf receipts are estimated at 800, or 18% fewer than a week ago and only about one-half as large as those on the corresponding day in 1954. Trading was active, and prices were strong as compared with those in the previous week. Commercial and Good slaughter calves brought $13 to $17.50, and most Medium and Good stocker steer calves cleared at $14 to $17.50.
The supply of hogs totaled 700, compared with 413 on the preceding Monday and 604 at the same time last year. Trading was slow in getting under way because of lower bids. Prices of butcher hogs were mostly 25¢ per cwt. lower than on last week's market, while those for sows were steady to 50¢ higher. U. S. mixed No. 1 to No. 3 Grades of 200- to 250-lb. slaughter hogs sold at $11.75 and $12.

Monday's sheep and lamb marketings are estimated at 2,000, or 54% more than the week-earlier supplies but only one-third as large as on the corresponding day in 1954. Trading was fairly active, and prices for slaughter lambs were mostly 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the preceding week. Most Good and Choice 80- to 94-lb. shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts brought $18 to $18.50 per cwt.

POULTRY

During the week ended Friday, November 25, broiler markets generally were unsettled in south and east Texas and weak in the Waco-Corsicana area, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture. Closing prices - which were unchanged to 5¢ per lb. lower than in the previous week - were: South Texas, 20¢ to 21¢; east Texas, 19¢ to 20¢; Waco, 19¢ to 20¢, mostly 19¢; and the Corsicana F.O.E. plant, 20¢ to 21¢. During the comparable week in 1954, closing prices were mostly 20¢ in east Texas and 19¢ at Waco and the Corsicana F.O.E. plant. (No closing price was reported for south Texas.)

On Monday of this week, major Texas broiler markets were steady. Trading was moderate to normal, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 19¢ to 21¢, mostly 20¢ to 21¢ per lb.; east Texas, 18¢ to 20¢; and Waco, 18.5¢ to 19¢. (No report was received for the Corsicana F.O.E. plant.)

Broiler chick placements on Texas farms totaled 1,764,000 during the week ended November 19, reports the AMS. This is 3% larger than placements in the preceding week and 28% above those for the corresponding period in 1954.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

The number of chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in the United States during October is estimated at 107,796,000, or the largest of record for the month, reports the AMS. The October output compares with 86,422,000 chicks produced during the same month last year and the 1949-53 average of 81,171,000. Most of the chicks hatched were for commercial broilers.

In Texas the number of chicks produced by commercial hatcheries during October totaled 7,550,000, reflecting an increase of 12% from the corresponding month last year. Broiler chick production, which comprised 89% of the output, accounted for all of the increase from October 1954.

WORLD RICE CROP LARGE

According to the Foreign Agricultural Service, the 1955-56 (August-July) world rice crop is forecast at 270 billion lbs. of rough rice - 3% more than in the previous season but about 3% below the record output of approximately 277 billion lbs. in 1953-54. The rise in production from last season is the result of higher per acre yields in some areas, as well as increased acreages. The largest gain is in Asia, which is expected to harvest 88% of the world output.

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