



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1956

On March 16 the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued a report on the indicated acreages of certain crops to be planted in 1956. The report is based on replies from farmers in all parts of the country regarding their plans as of March 1. The acreages which are actually planted this year may be larger or smaller than the March 1 indications as a result of weather conditions, price changes, labor supplies, financial conditions, the agricultural program, and the effect of the prospective plantings report upon farmers' actions.

The table below shows the percentage changes in acreages of selected spring crops which farmers intend to plant in 1956 from the planted acreages in 1955 for the District states and the United States.

PLANTINGS OF SELECTED SPRING CROPS  
Five Southwestern States and United States  
(Percentage changes, 1956 from 1955)

Area	All corn	Oats	Barley	All sorghums	All hay <sup>1/</sup>	Flaxseed	Soybeans
Arizona.....	-10	-4	-10	10	-3	0	-
Louisiana.....	-4	-14	-	-8	0	-	15
New Mexico.....	-6	0	-3	-5	0	-	-
Oklahoma.....	-2	-13	-14	-11	-6	-	-10
Texas.....	-10	-5	-2	0	2	-22	50
Five states..	-8	-8	-9	-2	-2	-21	10
United States	-4	-4	-8	#	#	5	11

<sup>1/</sup> Acreage harvested.

# Indicates change of less than one-half of 1%.

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## L I V E S T O C K

Cattle receipts at Fort Worth on Monday, March 19, are estimated at 2,800, or about the same as a week earlier but 1,000 more than on the corresponding date in 1955, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Fed steers and heifers comprised the major part of the offerings. Trading was slow on slaughter steers and heifers but was active on cows. Stockers and feeders moved readily and brought firm prices. Good fed steers sold at \$16 to \$17.50; Utility cows, \$12 to \$12.50; and Medium and Good yearling stocker and feeder steers, \$14 to \$17.50.

Monday's calf supplies totaled an estimated 600, or about the same as both a week ago and on the comparable date last year. Most calves sold readily and brought generally steady prices. Commercial and Good slaughter offerings and Medium and Good stocker steer calves cleared at \$14 to \$18 per cwt.

Hog receipts are placed at 1,100, which is 16% larger than on the preceding Monday and almost triple the supplies on the corresponding date in 1955. Trading was active, and butchers sold at prices which were fully 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. Prices of sows were steady to strong. U. S. mixed No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 250-lb. butchers sold mainly at \$14.50; a few lots of No. 1 and No. 2 Grades brought \$14.75, or the highest price since early February.

Monday's sheep and lamb marketings are placed at approximately 16,500 - the largest receipts since mid-May last year. Spring lambs accounted for about one-half of the supplies, and old-crop shorn lambs made up most of the remainder. Trading was very slow. Prices of spring lambs were 50¢ lower than in the latter part of the past week, and those for old-crop slaughter lambs were steady to 50¢ lower. Slaughter ewes and feeder lambs held mostly steady. Good and Choice spring lambs were quoted at \$19 to \$21 per cwt.

#### 1 9 5 6   E A R L Y   S P R I N G   L A M B   C R O P

The 1956 early spring lamb crop in the principal early lamb-producing states of the Nation is estimated to be 2% below that in the previous year, as a result of the smaller number of breeding ewes, reports the AMS. The 1956 lambing percentage (lambs saved per 100 ewes) is about the same as the 1955 percentage.

In Texas the 1956 early spring lamb crop is estimated to be smaller than a year earlier. This decrease is the result of a 4% decline in the number of breeding ewes in the State on January 1 this year and a smaller percentage of ewes lambing early.

#### P O U L T R Y

The major Texas broiler markets held mostly steady throughout the week ended Friday, March 16, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Trading was active in all the areas. Closing prices - which were unchanged to 1¢ per lb. higher than on the preceding Friday's market - were: South Texas, 23¢, a few at 24¢; east Texas and Waco, 22¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 22¢ to 23¢. During the corresponding week in 1955, the following closing prices were quoted: South Texas, 29¢ to 30¢, mostly 29¢; east Texas, 30¢ to 31¢, mostly 30¢; Waco, 30¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 31¢ per lb.

The principal Texas broiler markets were steady to firm on Monday of this week, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 23¢ to 24¢; east Texas, 22¢ (a few at 1/2¢ premium); Waco, 22¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 22¢ to 23¢ per lb.

	Area	Week ended March 10, 1956	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1955
BROILER CHICK				
	Texas.....	1,891,000	-2	24
PLACEMENTS	Louisiana..	269,000	2	23
	22 states..	24,217,000	2	22

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