



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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### C O T T O N

Based on August 1 conditions, the 1956 national cotton crop is forecast at 13,552,000 bales, according to the first official estimate of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A crop this size would be 8% less than the 14,721,000 bales produced in 1955 but 3% above the 10-year (1945-54) average output. The lint yield per harvested acre in 1956 is indicated at 394 lbs., compared with the previous year's yield of 417 lbs. and the 10-year average of 283 lbs. With acreage allotments in effect for the third successive year, yield per acre prospects continue to reflect the effects of growing cotton on the best land, the increased use of higher-analysis fertilizers, and other improved cultural practices, according to the USDA.

The following table shows indicated cotton production in 1956 for the five states in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District and comparisons with the output in 1955 and the 10-year average.

### COTTON PRODUCTION

Five Southwestern States

(In thousands of bales)

<u>Area</u>	<u>1956 Indicated August 1</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Average 1945-54</u>
Arizona.....	825	728	559
Louisiana.....	570	582	586
New Mexico.....	280	266	237
Oklahoma.....	400	463	356
Texas.....	<u>3,600</u>	<u>4,039</u>	<u>3,518</u>
Five states....	5,675	6,078	5,256

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

### F H A C R E D I T S E R V I C E S E X P A N D E D

Credit services of the Farmers Home Administration will be expanded as a result of recently enacted legislation, according to the USDA. The new law (1) provides loans for refinancing existing debts, (2) increases the maximum amount that can be advanced for operating loans, and (3) as a part of the Rural Development Program, makes loans available for operating and developing farms where the farmer works part-time off the farm. All of the present loan services of the FHA are to be continued. As is the case of the loans already available from the FHA, the new loans will be made only to applicants who are unable to obtain adequate credit from other sources.

## P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, August 10, the principal Texas commercial broiler markets opened steady but closed weak, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were unchanged to 3¢ per lb. lower than in the previous week, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 19¢ to 20¢, mostly 19¢; east Texas, 18¢ to 20¢; Waco, 19¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 20¢. During the corresponding period in 1955, closing prices were 26¢ to 27¢ in south Texas and 26¢ in the other areas.

The major Texas broiler markets were generally steady on Monday of this week, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 19¢ to 20¢, mostly 19¢; east Texas, 18¢ to 20¢; mostly 19¢; Waco, 19¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 19.5¢ to 20¢ per lb.

	Area	Week ended August 4, 1956	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1955
BROILER CHICK				
	Texas.....	1,893,000	-5	10
PLACEMENTS	Louisiana..	345,000	2	32
	22 states..	23,898,000	0	15

## L I V E S T O C K

Cattle marketings at Fort Worth on Monday, August 13, were the largest in 3 weeks, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The supply is estimated at 7,800, reflecting increases of 32% from a week ago and 63% from the corresponding date in 1955. Many thin yearlings and cows included in the receipts showed evidence that they had been in dry areas. Trading on slaughter steers was active, and prices were strong. Prices of cows were mostly steady with the past week's close, while those for stockers and feeders of above Medium grades were strong. Good slaughter steers sold at \$19 to \$21.50 per cwt.; most canner and cutter cows, \$6.50 to \$8.50; and Medium and Good stocker and feeder steers (mainly yearlings), \$13 to \$17.50.

Monday's calf supply is placed at 1,800, or 200 more than a week earlier and 700 above the receipts on the comparable date last year. Prices were about steady with the previous week's close. Good slaughter calves brought \$14.50 to \$17, and Medium and Good stockers sold at \$13 to \$18 per cwt.

Hog receipts totaled an estimated 1,200, compared with 1,400 on the preceding Monday's market and 900 at the same time in 1955. Trading was active. Prices of barrows and gilts were 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week, and those for sows were fully steady. Most mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 280-lb. barrows and gilts cleared at \$16.75 to \$17.

Sheep and lamb offerings are estimated at 5,600 - the largest Monday supply in several weeks and more than double the receipts at the same time last year. Aged ewes and spring lambs comprised the major part of the supply. Prices were generally steady, with Good and Choice slaughter spring lambs quoted at \$19 to \$20 per cwt.

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