



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES - TEXAS

The mid-August index of prices received by Texas farmers and ranchers - at 250% of the 1910-14 average - was 2% lower than a month earlier and almost 3% below the August 1955 level, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Decreases in prices received for corn, rice, Irish potatoes, cotton, cattle, sheep, lambs, and chickens much more than offset higher prices received for wheat, sorghum grain, sweet potatoes, hogs, and hay. The all-crops index on August 15 was 249% of the 1910-14 average - 3% lower than a month earlier but unchanged from a year ago. The livestock and livestock products index declined only 1 point from mid-July but was 6% lower than on August 15, 1955.

FARM INCOME

Cash receipts from farm marketings in the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) totaled \$1,193,577,000 during January-June this year, or 2% more than in the corresponding months in 1955, reports the USDA. Receipts from livestock were 3% larger, while those from crops were about the same as a year earlier.

CCC PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

As of June 30, 1956, the investment of the Commodity Credit Corporation in price support commodities amounted to \$8,257,308,000, according to a recent report of the USDA. Loans outstanding accounted for \$2,285,180,000 of the investment, and the value of inventories was \$5,972,128,000. As of June 30, 1955, the CCC's investment in price support commodities totaled \$7,069,277,000, of which loans outstanding amounted to \$2,097,814,000, and inventories were \$4,971,463,000.

According to the report, the net realized loss on CCC price support operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1956, totaled \$974,767,365. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1955, the program loss on price support operations was \$799,061,464.

FARM DEBTS CONTINUE TO RISE

Both farm-mortgage debt and nonreal-estate debt of the Nation's farmers rose again in 1955, according to the Agricultural Research Service. As of January 1, 1956, the farm-mortgage debt amounted to nearly \$9.0 billion, or about 10% more than a year earlier; the nonreal-estate debt of farmers (excluding price-support loans) totaled approximately \$7.9 billion, which is 8% larger than a year ago.

During 1955, banks and production credit associations increased their outstanding loans on nonreal-estate items nearly 13% and 12%, respectively; loans made by the Farmers Home Administration for these purposes decreased about 6%.

LIVESTOCK

Trading was slow on cattle and calves at Fort Worth on Monday, September 10; however, prices were steady at the market's close. Cattle receipts totaled an estimated 7,800, of which approximately 40% were cows. Good and Choice slaughter steers and heifers sold at \$17 to \$23; butcher and beef cows, mostly \$9.50 to \$12; and Medium and Good stocker and feeder yearlings, \$13.50 to \$17.50.

Monday's calf receipts are estimated at 2,000. Utility and Commercial calves brought \$10 to \$14 per cwt., and Good stocker steer calves cleared at \$16 to \$18.

Hog marketings totaled an estimated 1,300. Prices were steady, with mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 260-lb. butchers quoted at \$16.50 and \$16.75 per cwt.

Monday's sheep and lamb receipts totaled an estimated 4,500. Trading was active, and prices were fully steady. Good and Choice slaughter spring lambs brought \$18 to \$20, and stocker and feeder lambs sold at \$13 to \$16.50 per cwt.

M E A T P R O D U C T I O N

Red meat production in the Nation's commercial slaughter plants totaled 15,318 million lbs. during January-July this year, or 10% above the output in the corresponding months in 1955, reports the AMS. Production of both beef and pork was 11% larger than in the same period last year; veal output was 1% higher; while the outturn of lamb and mutton was 2% lower.

P O U L T R Y

Texas commercial broiler markets were weak throughout the week ended Friday, September 7, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were 2¢ to 3¢ per lb. lower than in the preceding week, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 18¢; east Texas, 17¢ to 18¢, mostly 17¢; and Waco, 17¢. During the corresponding period last year, closing prices were: South Texas, 26¢ to 27¢, mostly 27¢, and east Texas and Waco, 27¢.

On Monday, September 10, broiler markets were weak in south Texas, about steady in east Texas, and steady in the Waco-Corsicana area. The following prices were quoted: South Texas, 16¢ to 17¢, mostly 17¢; east Texas, 16¢ to 18¢, mostly 17¢; Waco and Corsicana, at the farm, 17¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 18¢ per lb.

	Area	Week ended September 1, 1956	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1955
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,885,000	1	29
	Louisiana..	306,000	-18	25
	22 states..	22,633,000	-3	28

P E A N U T S U P P L I E S

Peanut supplies in the United States on July 31 amounted to 387 million lbs. of equivalent farmers' stock (uncleaned and unshelled) peanuts, or 85% larger than a year earlier. Of the total, 29% was held as farmers' stock, 66% as shelled edibles, and 5% as roasting stock.

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