TEXAS FARM PRICES

The index of prices received by Texas farmers and ranchers at mid-September is placed at 21.8% of the 1910-11 average, reflecting declines of almost 1% from a month earlier and nearly 2% from a year ago, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Lower prices received for cotton, cottonseed, peanuts, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, some commercial vegetables, beef cattle, and chickens more than offset increases in prices for all grains except sorghums, hay, calves, eggs, wool, and milk sold at wholesale. The all-crops index was 24.3%, or 2% lower than a month earlier but unchanged from a year ago. The livestock and livestock products index - at 255% of the 1910-11 average - rose 1% from mid-August but was 5% below the level on September 15, 1955.

1956 ACREAGE RESERVE PAYMENTS

Through September 21, payments to farmers participating in the 1956 Acreage Reserve program of the Soil Bank totaled $3,784,906.64 in the 29 states for which data were available, according to a recent report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is the first official report of disbursements under the 1956 Acreage Reserve program.

1957-CROP WHEAT ACREAGE RESERVE AGREEMENTS

On October 1 the Secretary of Agriculture announced that farmers signing 1957 wheat Acreage Reserve agreements and having farm allotments on other crops will be permitted to revise or cancel their wheat agreements after the mailing of their last official notice of a farm allotment for 1957. The deadline for cancellation or revision of the agreements will be 15 days after the farmers' notices are mailed from the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

The value of U.S. agricultural exports during July and August (the first 2 months of the current fiscal year) is estimated at $505 million, or 22% more than shipments during the corresponding months in 1955, reports the Foreign Agricultural Service. Exports of cotton, wheat, rice, and soybean oil were much larger than a year ago, while those of tobacco were considerably smaller. According to the report, indications are that the current fiscal year will be one of the best for U.S. agricultural exports; at the present rate, the total could reach $4 billion.

ELECTRICITY ON FARMS

As of June 30 this year, 91.2% of the Nation's farms and ranches had central station electrical service, according to a recent report of the Rural Electrification Administration. The number compares with 84.3% of the farms having such service 10 years ago. In 39 states, nine out of 10 farms now have electricity.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle marketings at Fort Worth on Monday, October 8, totaled an estimated 7,700, or 600 more than a week earlier and 3,000 more than on the corresponding date in 1955, reports the AMS. Cows (mainly canners and cutters) comprised
over 40% of the receipts. Prices were steady to weak on all classes of cattle. Most Good beef steers brought $17.50 to $19.50; Utility beef cows, $8.50 to $10; and Good stocker and feeder steers, $14.50 to $16.50.

Calf receipts are placed at 2,000, reflecting increases of 21% from the previous Monday's market and 82% from a year ago. Sales of Good and Choice grades of both slaughter and stocker calves were fully steady, while the market for other classes was inactive. Most Good slaughter offerings were quoted at $14.50 to $16.50, and Good stocker steer calves cleared at $14.50 to $17.50 per cwt.

Monday's hog supply of an estimated 1,200 was 700 fewer than the unusually large receipts of a week ago and 100 fewer than at the same time last year. Trading was fairly active, with slaughter hogs selling at prices which were steady to 25¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of mixed 200- to 275-lb. butchers brought $16 to $16.35, with most sales at $16.25. Sheep and lamb offerings are estimated at 1,500, which is 600 more than on the preceding Monday's market and 2,800 more than a year ago. Trading on slaughter ewes was active, and prices were steady; while trading on slaughter lambs was slow, and prices were steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower. Stocker and feeder lambs sold at prices which were $1 to $2 lower than in the past week. Good and Choice slaughter lambs brought $17 to $19, with the latter price being paid for Choice grades of No. 2 and No. 3 pelt lambs.

POULTRY

The Texas commercial broiler markets opened weak and then held about steady during the week ended Friday, October 5, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Trading was fairly active in all the areas, with the heaviest movement reported in the east Texas area. Closing prices were 1¢ to 1.5¢ per lb. lower than in the preceding week, with the following prices quoted: South and east Texas, 15¢ to 16¢, and Waco, 15¢ to 15.5¢. During the corresponding period in 1955, closing prices were 2¢ to 23¢ in south Texas and Waco and 23¢ to 26¢, mostly 23.5¢ to 24¢, in east Texas.

On Monday of this week, broiler markets were steady in south Texas, unsettled in east Texas, and firm in Waco. Trading was normal to heavy, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 15¢ to 17¢; east Texas, 15¢ to 18¢; and Waco, 16¢ to 16.5¢, mostly 16¢, per lb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
<th>Percentage increase from Previous week</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1955</th>
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<tr>
<td>Area</td>
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<tr>
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J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist