REFERENDUM DAY

December 11 is referendum day for many farmers in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District. Producers of peanuts, rice, and both upland and extra-long staple cotton will vote in separate referendums on marketing quotas for the 1957 crops. Peanut growers will vote on an extension of present marketing quotas for a 3-year period. A favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the producers voting is required to keep marketing quotas in effect.

FARM INCOME

Cash receipts from farm marketings in the states of the Eleventh District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) totaled $2,037,870,000 during January-September this year, reflecting a 6% increase from the comparable period in 1955, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Receipts from crops were 12% larger, and those from livestock were 1% higher.

1957 ACREAGE RESERVE PAYMENTS

On November 27 the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it does not expect to be in a position to deliver payment certificates to farmers who participate in the 1957 Acreage Reserve programs of the Soil Bank until about harvest-time for the latest of the crops for which compliance must be checked. The announcement applies both to winter wheat and to all other basic crops which will be eligible for payment certificates under the Acreage Reserve part of the Soil Bank. According to the USDA, the delay in delivering payment certificates to participating farmers is necessary to make sure that all regulations of the programs have been met before the certificates are issued.

RATES FOR ACREAGE RESERVE PROGRAMS

On November 30 the Secretary of Agriculture announced the base unit rates from which payments under the 1957 Acreage Reserve program of the Soil Bank will be determined for all basic crops except peanuts and extra-long staple cotton. Base unit rates for crops important to the Southwest are: Wheat, $1.20 per bu.; upland cotton, 15¢ per lb.; and rice, $2.25 per cwt. These rates are the same as for the 1956 crops. The following national acreage reserve goals for these crops also were announced: Wheat, 12 million to 15 million acres; cotton, 3.5 million to 4.5 million acres; and rice, 175,000 to 225,000 acres.

POULTRY

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the major commercial broiler markets in the State gained slight trading strength during the week ended Friday, November 30. Closing prices were mostly unchanged from a week earlier, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 15¢ to 16¢; east Texas, 15¢ to 16¢,
with a few at 17¢; and Waco, 15.5¢ per lb. During the corresponding period in 1955, closing prices were: South Texas, 20¢ to 22¢; east Texas, 19¢ to 21¢, mostly 20¢; and Waco, 20¢.

On Monday, December 3, broiler markets were steady to firm in south Texas, steady in east Texas, and fully steady in the Waco-Corsicana area. The following prices were quoted: South Texas, 15¢ to 17¢, mostly 17¢; east Texas, 15¢ to 17¢, mostly 15¢ to 16¢; Waco, 15.5¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, a few at 17¢ per lb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended November 21, 1956</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week, 1956</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1955</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas.........</td>
<td>1,628,000</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana...</td>
<td>258,000</td>
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<td>-20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22 states....</td>
<td>21,130,000</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>

LIVE STOCK

A moderate supply of 4,100 cattle was received at Fort Worth on Monday, December 3, according to estimates of the AMS. The receipts were about 1,000 larger than the previous Monday's unusually small supply but were 500 fewer than on the comparable date in 1955. Trading on cows (which comprised approximately a third of the cattle supply) was active, and prices were fully steady with the past week's advances. Trading on slaughter steers and yearlings was slow, and prices were about steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower. Stockers and feeders brought generally steady prices. Good slaughter steers sold at $18 to $19; most Utility cows, $10 to $11.50; and Medium and Good stocker and feeder steers, $13 to $17.

Monday's calf run is estimated at 1,200, which is 100 more than a week ago but 200 fewer than a year earlier. Trading was fairly active, and prices were generally steady with the past week's close. Most Good and Choice slaughter calves cleared at $16 to $18.50, and Medium and Good stocker steer calves brought $13 to $18 per cwt.

Hog marketings are placed at 1,200 - about the same as a week ago but more than double the year-earlier supply. Trading was fairly active, with butchers selling at prices which were mostly 25¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of mixed 200- to 265-lb. slaughter hogs sold mainly at $16.

Sheep and lamb offerings totaled an estimated 3,500, or only slightly more than half the previous Monday's supply and 5% below the year-earlier level. Trading was slow as a result of lower bids. Prices of most slaughter lambs were 50¢ lower than at the past week's close, and those for slaughter ewes and feeders were steady. Good and Choice wooled and shorn slaughter lambs with average weights of 75 to 85 lbs. brought $16.50 to $18 per cwt.

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