



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The index of prices received by the Nation's farmers on November 15 was unchanged from a month earlier, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Lower prices received for meat animals and fruit were offset by higher prices for commercial vegetables, dairy products, food grains, and oil-bearing crops. The index, at 234% of the 1910-14 average, compares with 224 at mid-November last year. Higher automobile prices were primarily responsible for raising the parity index (which reflects prices paid for commodities, plus interest, taxes, and wage rates) almost 1% during the month ended November 15. At 289, the index was nearly 4% above a year earlier and less than 1% below the all-time high in May 1952. The parity ratio was 81 - down 1% from mid-October but 1% higher than a year ago.

The mid-November index of prices received by Texas farmers and ranchers, at 251% of the 1910-14 average, was 2% above the month-earlier level. The all-crops index is placed at 252, reflecting a 1% increase from October 15. The gain resulted from higher prices received for all grains except rice, cotton, cottonseed, and hay; lower prices were received for sweet potatoes and peanuts. Higher prices for dairy products were responsible for raising the index of all livestock and livestock products from 242 at mid-October to 250 on November 15.

GUIDES FOR SPRING CROPS

On December 5 the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued acreage-marketing guides for the 1957 spring crops of vegetables for fresh use, melons, and potatoes. Compared with the 1956 plantings of these crops, reductions of 2% for fresh vegetables and 5% for both melons and potatoes were recommended.

STATES GET NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS

The USDA announced on November 26 that checks totaling \$28,035,256 were mailed to 40 states and two territories containing national forest lands as their share of receipts from those forests. The checks represent a fourth of the money collected by the Forest Service from national forests between July 1, 1955, and June 30, 1956.

This amount is the largest ever distributed among the states and is 45% greater than the \$19,381,155 sent a year ago. The total reflects the record receipts from timber sales, grazing permits, and other land uses from national forests in fiscal 1956.

According to the law, the money sent to the states must be used for the benefit of public roads and schools within the counties in which the national forests are located.

POULTRY

The principal Texas commercial broiler markets were generally steady throughout the week ended Friday, December 7, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices - which were unchanged to 1¢ per lb. higher than in the preceding week - were: South Texas, 16¢ to 17¢; east Texas, 15¢ to 16¢; Waco, 15.5¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 16¢. During the corresponding period last year, the following closing prices were quoted: South Texas and the Corsicana

F.O.B. plant, 18¢ to 19¢; east Texas, 16¢ to 18.5¢, mostly 17¢; and Waco, 17¢ to 18¢ per lb.

On Monday, December 10, broiler markets were fully steady in south and east Texas and steady to firm in the Waco-Corsicana area. Trading was moderate to normal, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 16¢ to 17¢, mostly 17¢; east Texas, 15.5¢ to 17¢; and Waco and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 16¢ per lb.

	Area	Week ended December 1, 1956	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1955
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS				
	Texas.....	1,638,000	1	-8
	Louisiana..	293,000	14	0
	22 states..	21,536,000	2	6

L I V E S T O C K

The cattle supply at Fort Worth on Monday, December 10, is estimated at 3,800, reflecting declines of 16% from a week ago and 8% from a year earlier, reports the AMS. Trading on slaughter steers was slow, but a fairly good clearance was made late in the day. Slaughter cow trading was active, and prices were fully steady to strong. Most Good to Low-Choice fed steers sold at \$17.50 to \$19; Utility cows, \$9.50 to \$12; and most Medium and Good stocker and lightweight feeder steers, \$12 to \$15.

Despite an almost 50% decline in calf receipts (which are placed at 800), trading was slow on both slaughter and stocker classes. The bulk of the small supply sold for slaughter at prices which were weak to 25¢ per cwt. lower than in the previous week. Good and Choice slaughter calves brought mostly \$14.50 to \$16.50, and Medium and Good stocker steer calves sold at \$12 to \$15.

Monday's hog marketings totaled an estimated 1,200, or 100 more than a week ago and more than triple the year-earlier supply. After a slow start, butchers sold at prices which were 50¢ to 75¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 265-lb. slaughter hogs were quoted at \$17 and \$17.25 - the highest price since September.

Sheep and lamb offerings are placed at 4,700, compared with 3,500 a week earlier and 2,800 on the corresponding date in 1955. Trading was very slow as packers were determined to buy slaughter lambs at sharply lower prices. Slaughter lambs sold at prices which were 50¢ to \$1 lower than in the latter part of the preceding week. Most Good and Choice 75- to 95-lb. shorn lambs with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts brought \$16 to \$17 per cwt.

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