CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the United States on January 1, 1957, totaled an estimated 6,099,000, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The total reflects increases of 4% from a year earlier and 16% from the 5-year (1951-55) average.

In Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, the number of cattle and calves on feed at the beginning of this year is placed at 662,000, or 1% more than on January 1, 1956, and a fourth above the 1951-55 average.

LARGER TURKEY CROP IN PROSPECT

The Nation's turkey growers intend to produce 10% more turkeys this year than in 1956, according to the AMS. If growers' intentions are realized, there will be approximately 84 million turkeys raised, of which 84% are expected to be heavy-breed birds.

The prospective output of turkeys in the states of the Eleventh District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) in 1957 is placed at 6 million, or 14% above the 1956 level. Heavy-breeds are expected to account for 91% of the total.

WORLD COTTON TRADE

World cotton trade in the 1956-57 season is likely to be the largest since 1928-29, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Prospects are for world cotton exports to reach 14.5 million bales, compared with 12.8 million bales in 1955-56 and 14.8 million bales in 1928-29. According to the report, the following are the principal reasons for the anticipated increase in world cotton trade during the current season:

1. Confidence in the stability of world cotton prices based on the U.S. export sales program.
2. Rising consumption abroad.
3. Willingness of foreign importers and mills to rebuild depleted inventories at present prices.
4. Indications that there is likely to be little, if any, increase in foreign cotton production in 1957-58.

LIVESTOCK

The cattle supply at Fort Worth on Monday, January 21, at an estimated 3,000, was 500 more than a week earlier and 300 above the corresponding date in 1956, reports the AMS. Slaughter steers and heifers comprised the major part of the receipts; stockers and feeders were in rather small supply. Trading on all classes was moderately active, and prices were generally about steady with the past week's close. Choice beef steers sold at $19.50 to $20; Standard and Good heifers, $14 to $18; most Utility cows, $11.50 to $12.50; and Medium and Good stocker and feeder steers, $11 to $17.50 per cwt.

Calf marketings are placed at 600 - about the same as both a week ago and a year earlier. Although trading was limited, prices were generally steady with the previous week's close. Good and Choice slaughter calves brought $16.50 to $18, and Medium and Good stocker steer calves were quoted at $14 to $18.
Monday's hog offerings totaled an estimated 1,000, or 100 more than a week ago and double the receipts at the same time last year. Trading was active, with butchers selling at prices which were mostly 25¢ 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 sold largely at $19.25.

Sheep and lamb receipts are estimated at 3,500, reflecting declines of 39% from the preceding Monday's market and 8% from a year earlier. Prices for slaughter lambs (which comprised the major part of the offerings) were steady to 25¢ higher than in the previous week, and those for other classes held steady. Good and Choice 85- to 105-lb. shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 pelts and wooled slaughter lambs cleared at $17.75 to $18.50.

POULTRY

The principal Texas commercial broiler markets experienced a 1¢ per lb. decline during the early part of the week ended Friday, January 18, but were steady the remainder of the week, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were mostly 18¢ in all the areas. During the corresponding period in 1956, closing prices were 18¢ to 20¢ in east Texas and 19¢ in south Texas and Waco.

The Texas commercial broiler markets were steady on Monday of this week. Prices were: South Texas, 18¢ to 19¢; east Texas, 18¢, with a few at 17¢ and 19¢; and Waco, 18¢.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended January 12, 1957</th>
<th>Percentage increase from Previous week, Comparable week, 1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas........</td>
<td>2,168,000</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana..</td>
<td>335,000</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22 states</td>
<td>23,958,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Commercial hatchery production in the United States during 1956 was the highest of record, reports the AMS. The output is estimated at 2,112,672,000 chicks, or 11% above the 1955 production. Demand for broiler chicks continues relatively strong; the number of eggs for broilers in incubators on January 1, 1957, was 10% greater than a year earlier.

In Texas, commercial hatchery production during 1956 totaled 121,112,000, which is 19% more than the year-earlier output. Broiler chicks comprised over three-fourths of the outturn.

RICE IMPORTS INCREASE SHARPLY

U. S. rice imports during January-September 1956 totaled 21,355,000 lbs. of milled rice (most of which was broken rice), compared with imports of 399,000 lbs. during the corresponding period a year earlier. The following countries (in order of rank) were sources of the rice imports: Canada, Belgium-Luxembourg, Western Germany, the Netherlands, France, Japan, Burma, Italy, and the Philippine Republic.

J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist