



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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1 9 5 6 A C R E A G E R E S E R V E P A Y M E N T S

Through December 31, 1956, payments to the Nation's farmers participating in the 1956 Acreage Reserve Program of the Soil Bank totaled \$242,524,097, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Payments to farmers in the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) amounted to \$30,224,336, or 12% of the national total.

E M E R G E N C Y G R A Z I N G P R O G R A M E X T E N D E D

The USDA recently extended the program permitting emergency grazing of Soil Bank Acreage Reserve land in certain drought-designated counties from January 31 to February 28, 1957. State Drought Committees are being asked to survey their respective areas and to make appropriate recommendations. The recommendations by State Governors to the Secretary of Agriculture may be for (1) termination of the program before February 28, (2) termination on that date, or (3) extension of the program beyond that date.

Farmers affected most by the emergency grazing program are those with Acreage Reserve agreements for 1957-crop winterwheat and those who have planted a cover crop on the acres designated in the agreements. In the Eleventh District, 341 counties in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas are affected by the program.

A G R I C U L T U R A L P R I C E S

The index of prices received by U. S. farmers as of January 15, 1957, is placed at 238% of the 1910-14 average, or .4 of 1% higher than a month earlier and 5% above the corresponding date a year ago, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Substantial increases in prices for meat animals, plus smaller increases for fruit and grain crops, more than offset lower prices for commercial vegetables, eggs, dairy products, and cotton.

The mid-January parity index (which reflects prices paid for commodities and services, plus interest, taxes, and wage rates) reached an all-time high of 292, or an increase of 2/3 of 1% from the previous month. About half of the advance from the December 15 level resulted from higher commodity prices; the remainder was from the continued rise in taxes on farm real estate, interest on farm mortgage indebtedness, and farm wage rates.

Although the parity index increased somewhat more than farm product prices, the parity ratio remained at 82. The ratio compares with 80 in January 1956.

G R A I N S T O C K S

Total U. S. wheat stocks on January 1, at 1,487 million bu., were the second largest for that date since comparable records were started in 1935. The total is 5% smaller than the record holdings on January 1, 1956, but 54% larger than the 1946-55 average. Stocks of other grains at the beginning of this year are placed at 5,085 million bu., or 2% above the year-earlier level.

In Texas, total wheat stocks on January 1 are estimated at 107.4 million bu., which is 6% below a year ago. Stocks of other grains totaled 160.2 million bu., or 10% smaller than holdings at the beginning of 1956.

L I V E S T O C K

Cattle and calf receipts were normal at Fort Worth on Monday, February 4, reports the AMS. The cattle supply, at an estimated 2,900, was more than triple the unusually small volume of a week earlier and 35% above receipts on the corresponding date in 1956. Trading on slaughter steers and heifers was slow, and prices were rather uneven. Prices for cows were little changed from those in the preceding week; prices for stocker and feeder cattle were mostly steady. Most Good fed steers brought \$17 to \$18.75; Standard slaughter steers, \$15 to \$16.75; and most Utility and Commercial cows, \$11.75 to \$13.50 per cwt.

Monday's calf receipts are placed at 700, compared with only 100 a week ago and 350 at the same time last year. Prices were generally steady with those in the preceding week. Good slaughter calves sold at \$17 to \$18, and Medium stocker and feeder steer calves brought \$14 to \$17.

Hog offerings totaled an estimated 1,000, compared with 400 on both the preceding Monday's market and the comparable date in 1956. Prices of butcher hogs were 25¢ to mostly 50¢ lower than in the latter part of the past week, while those for sows were mostly steady. Most No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 265-lb. barrows and gilts cleared at \$19.

Sheep and lamb marketings, at an estimated 3,500, were 350 above a week ago and more than double the year-earlier supply. Trading on slaughter lambs was slow, and prices were unevenly weak to mostly 50¢ below the previous week's close. Other classes, including stocker and feeder lambs, held about steady. Good and Choice woolled slaughter lambs were quoted at \$17.50 to \$18.50.

P O U L T R Y

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, commercial broiler markets in the State were steady to firm during the week ended Friday, February 1. As compared with the previous week, closing prices were 1¢ per lb. higher in south Texas and mostly 2¢ higher in east Texas and Waco. Closing prices were 20¢ in south Texas and Waco and 19¢ to 20¢, mostly 20¢, in east Texas. During the corresponding period in 1956, closing prices were: South Texas, 21¢ to 22¢; east Texas, 20¢ to 21¢; and Waco, 20.5¢ to 21¢, mostly 21¢.

Texas commercial broiler markets were steady on Monday, February 4. Trading was heavy in south and east Texas and about normal in Waco. Prices were mostly 20¢ per lb. in all the areas.

	Area	Week ended January 26, 1957	Percentage increase from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1956
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,254,000	7	24
	Louisiana..	303,000	4	7
	22 states..	25,250,000	5	15

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