



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 372

Wednesday, February 13, 1957

### SUPPORT PRICES

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced the 1957 price supports on many farm commodities. In the table below are summarized the minimum dollar-and-cents support levels and percentages of parity which have been announced for various commodities produced in the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) for 1957, with comparisons for 1956.

Commodity and unit	1957		1956	
	Support price	Percent of parity	Support price	Percent of parity
Cotton, lb. ....	\$ .2815	77	\$ .2934	82.5
Cottonseed, ton .....	46.00	65	48.00	70
Oats, bu. ....	.60	70	.65	76
Barley, bu. ....	.94	70	1.02	76
Rye, bu. ....	1.15	70	1.27	76
Grain sorghums, cwt. ...	1.83	70	1.97	76
Wheat, bu. ....	2.00	82.6	2.00	82.5
Rice, cwt. ....	4.43	80	4.57	82.5
Flaxseed, bu. ....	2.92	65	3.09	70
Manufacturing milk, cwt.	3.25	83	3.25	84
Butterfat, lb. ....	.586	80	.586	81

The incentive price for 1957-crop wool is 62¢ per lb. and that for mohair is 70¢. Both are the same as the year-earlier levels.

### CONSERVATION RESERVE DEADLINE EXTENDED

On February 8 the USDA announced that the deadline for signing 1957 Soil Bank Conservation Reserve contracts is being extended to April 15 from the original closing date of March 15.

The USDA officials explained that the action is being taken because of the current heavy work load in County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee offices. In addition to Conservation Reserve contracts, agreements are now being signed in the ASC offices on spring-planted "basic" crops for the 1957 Soil Bank Acreage Reserve Program. Under the Acreage Reserve, farmers have until March 1 to sign agreements placing cotton and tobacco allotment land in the program and until March 8 for agreements covering corn, rice, and spring wheat.

### TEXAS FARM PRICES

The index of prices received by Texas farmers and ranchers rose 2% during the month ended January 15, 1957, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The all farm products index, at 259% of the 1910-14 average, was 5% higher than a year earlier. The increase from the mid-December level resulted from a rise in the livestock and livestock products index as the all crops index was unchanged. Increases in prices received for meat animals and wool much more than offset declines in prices for dairy products, poultry, and eggs. Lower prices for commercial vegetables and fruit offset higher prices for cotton lint, sweet potatoes, feed grains, and hay.

## L I V E S T O C K

Cattle marketings at Fort Worth on Monday, February 11, totaled an estimated 3,000, reflecting increases of 11% from a week earlier and 20% from a year ago, according to the AMS. The market for slaughter cattle was fairly broad, and prices were fully steady to strong. Recent rains over sizable areas of Texas stimulated the demand for stocker and feeder cattle, and prices were also fully steady to strong. Good 950- to 1,100-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$18.50 to \$19; canner and cutter cows, \$9 to \$11.75; and Medium stocker and feeder steers, \$14 to \$16 per cwt.

Monday's calf receipts are estimated at 700, or 100 more than both a week ago and at the same time in 1956. Trading was active, and prices were fully steady to strong. Slaughter calves were quoted at \$17 to \$18, and most Good stocker and feeder steer calves sold at \$17.50 to \$18.50.

The hog supply is placed at 1,000, compared with 1,300 on the previous Monday's market and 1,100 a year earlier. Prices for butchers were steady to 25¢ lower than at the past week's close, and those for sows were steady. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 240-lb. barrows and gilts cleared at \$17.75.

A moderate volume of 3,800 sheep and lambs was received at Fort Worth on Monday of this week. The supply was 200 more than a week ago but 1,600 fewer than a year earlier. Sales of shorn slaughter lambs (which made up most of the sheep and lamb offerings) were slow, and prices were steady to weak. Most Good and Choice 80- to 95-lb. woolled slaughter lambs sold at \$18 to \$18.50.

## P O U L T R Y

The principal Texas commercial broiler markets were steady during the week ended Friday, February 8, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Trading was normal to heavy in east Texas, above normal in south Texas, and moderate to normal in Waco. Closing prices were generally unchanged from a week earlier, with the following prices quoted: South Texas and Waco, 20¢; east Texas, 20¢, with a very few at 20.5¢ and 21¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 21¢ to 21.5¢ per lb. During the comparable period in 1956, closing prices were: South Texas, 21¢; east Texas, 20¢ to 21¢, mostly 20¢; Waco, 20¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 21.5¢ to 22¢.

The Texas broiler markets continued steady on Monday of this week, and prices were about in line with the previous week's close.

	Area	Week ended February 2, 1957	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1956
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS				
	Texas.....	2,179,000	-3	16
	Louisiana..	315,000	4	24
	22 states..	25,652,000	2	13

J. Z. Rowe  
Agricultural Economist