



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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COTTON ACREAGE

The cotton acreage in cultivation in the United States on July 1, 1957, at an estimated 14,224,000 acres, is the smallest since 1878, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The acreage is 15% below the year-earlier level and 37% less than the 1946-55 average. Participation in the Acreage Reserve Program is the principal factor contributing to the reduced plantings this year. As compared with a year earlier, cotton acreage declines were reported for all of the states in the Nation, with the sharpest reductions occurring in the Eastern Cotton Belt and Oklahoma.

The following table shows the cotton acreage in cultivation on July 1 in the five states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District and comparisons with 1956 and the 1946-55 average.

COTTON ACREAGE IN CULTIVATION, JULY 1

Five Southwestern States

(In thousands of acres)

<u>Area</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>Average 1946-55</u>
Arizona.....	361	372	406
Louisiana.....	470	586	825
New Mexico.....	187	189	233
Oklahoma.....	600	802	1,135
Texas.....	<u>6,250</u>	<u>7,065</u>	<u>9,093</u>
Five states.....	7,868	9,014	11,692

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

W H E A T

On July 1 the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced that the national average support price for 1957-crop wheat will be \$2 per bushel - unchanged from the support price for the 1957 crop announced on July 2 last year. The support price is 79.7% of the June 15 parity price of \$2.51 per bushel.

The USDA announced on July 3 that it was relaxing price-support requirements on 1957-crop wheat to include light-weight wheat that otherwise would not be eligible for price support. The action was taken because wet weather in the Southwest at harvesttime is resulting in a higher percentage of light-test wheat than usual. The lighter weight wheat included under the relaxed provisions will be

"Sample" grade on test weight only, but no wheat testing less than 40 pounds per bushel will be eligible for support. According to the USDA, the eligibility requirements are being broadened to make price support more generally available to farmers, to prevent a demoralized market price for this quality of wheat, and to encourage more orderly marketing.

L I V E S T O C K

Cattle receipts at Fort Worth on Monday, July 8, totaled an estimated 6,300, or 11% more than a week earlier but 28% fewer than on the corresponding date in 1956, reports the AMS. Trading on most classes of slaughter cattle was active, and prices were generally steady with the past week's close. Trading on stocker and feeder cattle was very active, and prices were strong to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the preceding week. Good slaughter yearling steers brought \$17 to \$22; Commercial cows, \$14 to \$14.50; and Medium and Good 500- to 700-lb. stocker and feeder steers, \$16 to \$21 per cwt.

Monday's calf run, at an estimated 1,500, was 200 above a week ago but about the same as a year earlier. Trading on slaughter calves was slow; prices were steady early in the day but were weaker at the close. Most Good slaughter calves sold at \$19 to \$20.50, and Medium and Good stocker steer calves cleared at \$16 to \$21.

Hog offerings are placed at approximately 1,100, compared with 1,300 on both the previous Monday's market and on the comparable date last year. Trading was slow in getting under way, mainly as a result of higher asking prices. Most barrows and gilts sold at prices which were 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week, while prices for sows held steady. Most No. 2 and No. 3 Grades of 195- to 260-lb. slaughter hogs brought \$20.50 and \$20.75.

Sheep and lamb marketings are estimated at 4,500, reflecting declines of 21% from a week ago and 26% from a year earlier. Trading was active, and all classes sold at fully steady prices. Good and a few Choice 70- to 90-lb. slaughter spring lambs were quoted at \$21 to \$22 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

The major Texas commercial broiler markets were generally steady throughout the week ended Friday, July 5, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were unchanged from a week earlier, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 22¢; east Texas, mostly 21¢; and Waco, 21¢ per lb. (Prices at the Corsicana F.O.B. plant were not available.) During the corresponding period last year, closing prices were: South Texas, 21¢; east Texas, 20¢ to 21¢; Waco, 20.5¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 21.5¢.

Texas commercial broiler markets were steady on Monday, July 8, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 22¢; east Texas, mainly 21¢; Waco, 21¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 22¢ per lb.

	Area	Week ended June 29, 1957	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1956
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,198,000	-3	-2
	Louisiana..	357,000	-12	-4
	22 states..	28,478,000	-2	3

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