CROP AND LIVESTOCK OUTLOOK

Based on growing conditions as of July 1, the Nation's crop output in 1957 may be about 7% below the year-earlier level and the smallest since 1951, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In addition to acreage reductions under the Soil Bank Program, poor starts are reported for major crops planted last fall and this spring in important producing areas. Prospects for wheat, corn, rice, tobacco, dry beans, peas, and sweet potatoes are below the respective 1956 outturns. On the other hand, oat and barley crops are expected to be substantially above a year ago, and the sorghum acreage is an all-time high.

According to the report, total production of livestock and livestock products is likely to be down slightly from the 1956 level. Some decline in pork output is indicated, and beef outturn may be slightly below that in the previous year. However, turkey production is expected to reach a new peak, and the output of broilers is likely to exceed the 1956 total. Egg outturn probably will be near last year's all-time high, while production of dairy products is expected to surpass the 1956 record.

According to the current production prospects, the combined output of both crops and livestock products may be down as much as 5% from 1956. However, supplies of farm products in general will continue large as a result of the big carry-over stocks of wheat, cotton, corn, and other feed grains.

EXCESS RICE PENALTY RATE

On July 26 the USDA announced a marketing quota penalty rate of $2.88 per cwt. on 1957-crop rough rice. The penalty, which will be assessed on the "excess" production from farms where acreage allotments have been exceeded, will be based on the announced rate and the normal production of the acres harvested in excess of the acreage allotment established for the farm for the 1957 crop. Legislation requires that the penalty rate for rough rice be set at 50% of the parity price as of June 15 of the year in which the crop is harvested. The current parity price for rice is $5.77 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle supplies at Fort Worth on Monday, July 29, were the smallest for any July Monday (except when the Fourth fell on Sunday or Monday) since 1941, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The estimated 3,100 receipts compared with 6,700 a week earlier and 7,400 on the corresponding date in 1956. Prices of slaughter cattle were generally steady with those in the preceding week, while prices for stockers and feeders were uneven. Standard and Good 650- to 850-lb. slaughter steers brought $17.50 to $22; Canner cows, $9.50 to $11.50; and Good 550- to 800-lb. stocker and feeder steers, $18.50 to $20.50.

Monday's calf receipts totaled only 700, reflecting declines of 56% from a week ago and 61% from a year earlier. Prices were uneven, with Good Grades of slaughter calves quoted at $18.50 to $20.50 and stocker steer calves at $19 to $22.

Hog offerings are placed at 740 - about the same as on the preceding Monday's market but 43% below the year-earlier level. Demand was good, and most barrows
and gilts sold at prices which were steady to 25¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the previous week. Most U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of mixed 200- to 250-lb. butchers cleared at $22.25 and $22.50.

Sheep and lamb marketings continue to decline. Monday's supply, at an estimated 2,200, was less than half the year-earlier receipts and was the smallest Monday run since February. Trading was fairly active, and prices were mostly steady with those in the past week. Good and a few Choice 70- to 87-lb. slaughter spring lambs sold at $21 to $22 per cwt.

POULTRY

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the major commercial broiler markets in the State were steady during the week ended Friday, July 26. Closing prices - which were unchanged from a week earlier - were mostly 22¢ per lb. in south Texas, east Texas, and Waco and were 23¢ at the Corsicana F.O.B. plant. During the corresponding period in 1956, the following closing prices were quoted: South Texas, 20¢; east Texas, 20¢ to 21¢; Waco, 20¢ to 20.5¢, mostly 20.5¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 21¢.

Texas commercial broiler markets remained steady on Monday, July 29, with prices unchanged from the previous week's close.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended July 20, 1957</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week, 1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas.......</td>
<td>2,009,000</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana..</td>
<td>385,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22 states..</td>
<td>28,222,000</td>
<td>-2</td>
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HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Commercial hatchery output in the United States during June totaled 169.4 million chicks, or 2% below the year-earlier level but 27% more than the 1951-55 average for the month, reports the AMS. The number of chicks hatched for broiler production was about the same as a year ago, while the outturn of egg-type chicks was down 11%.

In Texas the commercial hatchery output during June is placed at 9.4 million chicks, reflecting declines of 8% from a month earlier and 6% from a year ago. The outturn of egg-type chicks was less than half the May production and was a third smaller than a year ago. The number of chicks hatched for broilers (which accounted for 93% of the total hatchery production) was about the same as in the previous month but was 3% fewer than in June 1956. During the first half of this year, production of egg-type chicks was 26% lower than in the corresponding period of 1956, while the output of broiler chicks was 4% higher.

J. Z. Rowe
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