



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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COTTON

The 1957 national cotton crop is forecast, as of August 1, at about 11.9 million bales, or 11% below the 1956 production and 13% less than the 10-year (1946-55) average, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The reduction in the 1957 cotton crop is expected to be in the Eastern and Central Cotton Belts. The lint yield per harvested acre in the United States is indicated at 416 lbs., compared with that of 409 lbs. in 1956 and the 10-year average of 300 lbs.

In contrast to the reduction in the U. S. cotton crop, production in Texas, at an estimated 3,775,000 bales, is expected to be 4% above the 1956 output and 1% higher than the 1946-55 average. The lint yield per harvested acre is placed at 306 lbs. - the highest since 1866. Prospective cotton outturns for the other states in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (and production figures for 1956) are: Arizona, 830,000 bales (829,000); Louisiana, 390,000 bales (581,000); New Mexico, 275,000 bales (301,000); and Oklahoma, 245,000 bales (261,000).

On August 8 the USDA announced that the average loan rate for 1957-crop upland cotton, basis Middling 7/8", will be 28.81¢ per lb., gross weight. This rate is an increase of 0.66¢ per lb. above the advance "minimum" rate announced last winter and reflects 78% of the parity price for upland cotton on August 1, 1957.

1958 ACREAGE RESERVE PROGRAM

The Acting Secretary of Agriculture recently announced general provisions of the Soil Bank's 1958 Acreage Reserve Program, including its application to the winter wheat crop which will be planted this fall. Changes in the provisions of the Acreage Reserve Program as compared with 1956 and 1957 include the following:

- * Establishment of a total crop acreage figure for each farm, to be based primarily on past production history and known as the "Soil Bank base," with the requirement that total harvested acreage of all crops in 1958 will be held below the "base" by the equivalent of the number of acres placed in the Soil Bank. (The "Soil Bank base" provision has been in effect for the Conservation Reserve since the beginning of that program. For 1958, it will apply to farms taking part in either or both of the Soil Bank programs.)
- * A limit of \$3,000 on the total of 1958 Acreage Reserve payments which can be made to any one producer, as required by legislative action.

Farmers who participated in the 1957 Acreage Reserve Program will be paid a 10% premium above the 1958 compensation rates if they place the identical land in the 1958 Acreage Reserve Program.

The 1958 Acreage Reserve Program will be available first for winter wheat. The signup period is scheduled to open on August 26 and to close on October 4, 1957. The "national" average rate for the 1958 wheat Acreage Reserve will be \$20.88 per acre, compared with \$20.04 for 1957.

1 9 5 8 A G R I C U L T U R A L C O N S E R V A T I O N P R O G R A M

On August 9 the Acting Secretary of Agriculture announced the 1958 Agricultural Conservation Program for sharing the cost of approved conservation practices with farmers and ranchers. The program will be substantially the same as in 1957 except that the maximum cost-share any one person may receive will be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

L I V E S T O C K

The cattle run at Fort Worth on Monday, August 12, totaled only an estimated 3,300 head, reflecting declines of 27% from a week ago and 56% from the corresponding date in 1956, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Prices for slaughter cattle were mostly steady to weak, while those for stockers and feeders were strong to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the past week. The bulk of the Good and Choice 825- to 1,025-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$21.50 to \$23; Utility and Commercial cows, \$11.50 to \$14; and most Choice 500- to 525-lb. stocker steers, \$23 to \$24.

Monday's calf receipts are estimated at 800, or about the same as a week earlier but 1,100 fewer than a year ago. Prices of slaughter calves were strong to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. Choice killing calves sold at \$21 to \$22, and Good and Choice stocker calves cleared at \$18 to \$22.50.

Hog offerings, at an estimated 800, were 500 below those on the previous Monday's market and were 300 fewer than on the comparable date last year. Prices for all classes were generally steady with those in the latter part of the past week. U. S. No. 2 and No. 3 Grades of 190- to 250-lb. barrows and gilts brought mostly \$22.50 per cwt.

Monday's sheep and lamb marketings totaled an estimated 2,000, compared with 1,800 a week ago and 5,700 a year earlier. Prices of slaughter classes generally were steady to weak, while those for feeder lambs were mostly steady. Good and Choice 75- to 90-lb. slaughter spring lambs were quoted at \$22 to \$22.50.

P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, August 9, the principal Texas commercial broiler markets opened about steady to weak but were generally steady during the remainder of the period, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were 21¢ per lb. in south Texas, east Texas, and Waco. (No prices were reported for the Corsicana F.O.B. plant.) During the corresponding week in 1956, the following closing prices were quoted: South Texas, 19¢ to 20¢, mostly 19¢; east Texas, 18¢ to 20¢; Waco, 19¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 19¢ to 20¢.

The Texas commercial broiler markets were steady on Monday, August 12. Prices were mostly 21¢ per lb. in south Texas, east Texas, and Waco and were 22.5¢ at the Corsicana F.O.B. plant.

	Area	Week ended August 3, 1957	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1956
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,874,000	-7	-1
	Louisiana..	394,000	15	14
	22 states..	26,879,000	-4	9

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