



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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## C O T T O N

The 1957 national cotton crop is indicated, as of November 1, at approximately 11.8 million bales, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. A crop of this size would be 5% below the month-earlier forecast and 11% less than the 1956 output. All areas contributed to the decline from the October 1 forecast, with Central and Western States showing the sharpest reductions. The lower crops now indicated reflect damage from continued rains during the past month and freeze losses in northern areas.

In the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District, this year's cotton crop is placed at 5,635,000 bales - down 5% from the October 1 estimate but 1% above both the outturn in 1956 and the 1946-55 average.

## C C C P R I C E S U P P O R T P R O G R A M S

The Commodity Credit Corporation's investment in price support programs amounted to \$6,854,250,000 as of September 30, 1957, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The cost value of inventories accounted for \$5,354,511,000 of the total investment, and loans outstanding were \$1,499,739,000. As of September 30, 1956, the CCC's investment totaled \$7,898,112,000, of which inventories were \$5,258,763,000 and loans outstanding were \$2,639,349,000.

Price supports extended (total loans made, plus direct purchases and purchase agreements) on 1957 crops alone through September 30, 1957, amounted to \$530,276,623, compared with \$718,523,596 on 1956 crops through September 30, 1956.

## P U R C H A S E A G R E E M E N T S F O R P E A N U T S

On November 7 the USDA announced that purchase agreements, as well as loans, will be available to individual producers under the price support program for 1957-crop peanuts. The agreements will be handled through State and County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committees and will be available through January 31, 1958. Purchase agreements were available on 1952-crop peanuts but were discontinued in subsequent programs because of lack of grower participation. The purchase agreements are again being made available this year as a result of increased requests from peanut growers.

## L I V E S T O C K

Livestock marketings at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, November 7, were very limited, primarily as a result of widespread rains over much of Texas, states the AMS. Cattle receipts were an estimated 4,900, compared with 8,800 a week earlier and 10,300 during the corresponding period last year. Prices were mostly strong to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the preceding week. Most Good 800- to 1,150-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$20.50 to \$22; Utility beef cows, \$14 to \$14.75; and Medium and Good 525- to 725-lb. stocker and feeder steers, \$16.50 to \$20.50.

Calf receipts are placed at 2,000, or 56% fewer than the week-earlier level and 35% below the year-ago supply. The major portion of the Good slaughter calves cleared at \$20.50 to \$22, and Good stocker and feeder steer calves brought \$20 to \$23.

Hog supplies at Fort Worth during the week are estimated at 1,700, or 600 fewer than in the preceding week and 400 below the figure of a year earlier. Trading was slow, and prices of butchers were 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. lower than on the previous Thursday's market. Mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 270-lb. killing hogs were quoted at \$17.25 to \$17.75.

Sheep and lamb offerings, at an estimated 2,700, were 500 more than a week earlier but were only 42% of the receipts during the corresponding period in 1956. Trading was fairly active on all slaughter classes, and prices ranged from steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the preceding week. Good and Choice 80- to 95-lb. woolled and shorn slaughter lambs brought \$20.75 to \$22 per cwt.

#### P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, November 8, the principal Texas commercial broiler markets held generally unchanged and closed fully steady, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were unchanged to 1¢ per lb. higher than a week earlier, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 16¢ to 17¢, with a few lower; east Texas, 15¢ to 16¢; Waco, 15.5¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 16¢. During the comparable period of 1956, closing prices were: South Texas, 17¢ to 18¢; east Texas, 17¢ to 18.5¢, mostly 18¢; Waco, 18¢; and the Corsicana F.O.B. plant, 19¢.

	Area	Week ended November 2, 1957	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1956
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS				
	Texas.....	1,627,000	2	-4
	Louisiana..	241,000	-10	5
	22 states..	23,483,000	1	10

#### A G R I C U L T U R A L   E X P O R T S   L O W E R

U. S. agricultural exports during the first quarter of the 1957-58 fiscal year are estimated by the USDA at \$935 million, which is 5% less than the \$980 million total for the comparable period of 1956-57. This country's agricultural exports for the entire 1956-57 fiscal year reached an all-time high of \$4.7 billion.

The USDA says that drains on dollar reserves of some foreign customers and a tight balance-of-payments position may encourage some importers to reduce purchases of agricultural products in the 1957-58 marketing year. Higher interest rates abroad have discouraged the carrying of large inventories - a situation which is likely to affect exports of cotton in particular, as well as other storable raw materials.

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