COTTON
The deadline for signing 1958 cotton Acreage Reserve agreements has been moved up from March 7 to February 20, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The action is a result of the unexpectedly heavy signup in some areas. Farmers with acreage allotments for upland cotton must either sign agreements or be listed on the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committee registers not later than February 20 if they desire to participate in the program.

The USDA has set the price support for 1958-crop upland cotton at a minimum level of 30.75¢ per lb., gross weight, basis Middling 7/8" at average location. The level reflects 81% of the current parity price of 37.96¢ per lb. for upland cotton. The support level for Middling 7/8" 1957-crop upland cotton is 28.81¢ per lb., or 78% of the parity price as of August 1, 1957.

WHEAT ACREAGE RESERVE
State allocations of funds for payments to farmers participating in the 1958 wheat Acreage Reserve were announced recently by the USDA. The allocations are for payments to farmers who signed 1958-crop winter wheat Acreage Reserve agreements last fall and for payments to producers of spring wheat who sign agreements during the current signup period which closes February 20. During the past fall the Nation's wheat growers placed 3.9 million acres of land in the winter wheat Acreage Reserve and are eligible for payments of about $80.2 million, which are to be made from the total of $97 million allocated to states for wheat.

Funds committed for 1958-crop winter wheat Acreage Reserve agreements in the District states are: New Mexico, $1,138,482; Oklahoma, $10,148,598; and Texas, $7,914,368.

RECORD BROILER PRODUCTION
Commercial broiler outturn in the 22 important broiler-producing states, which are covered by weekly chick placement reports, totaled a record 1,295 million birds in 1957, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Georgia - the leading state - produced 261 million birds in 1957, followed by Arkansas with 110 million, North Carolina with 105 million, Alabama with 102 million, and Texas with 101 million birds.

The average price received for U. S. broilers in 1957 was 18.8¢ per lb. live weight, or 0.7¢ less than in the previous year. However, because of the larger number of birds produced, the gross income from sales of broilers, at an estimated $779 million, was 6% higher than in 1956.

POULTRY
During the week ended Friday, February 7, the major Texas commercial broiler markets were unsettled and weaker, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Over-all trading was light to moderate in all the areas. Closing prices were around 2½¢ per lb. lower than in the preceding week, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 20¢, with a few at 21¢; east Texas, 19¢ to 20¢, mostly 19¢; and Waco, 19¢. During the comparable period in 1957, closing prices were 20¢ in all the areas.

The Texas commercial broiler markets were steady on Monday, February 10, and prices were unchanged from those at the previous week's close.
### Broiler Chick Placements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended February 1, 1958</th>
<th>Percentage increase from Previous week, Comparable week, 1957</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2,256,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>381,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 states</td>
<td>28,746,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**L I V E S T O C K**

The cattle run at Fort Worth on Monday, February 10, totaled only 1,400 head, compared with 1,700 a week ago and 3,200 a year earlier, according to the AMS. Prices of slaughter cattle were strong to 25¢ per cwt. higher than in the preceding week, and those for stockers and feeders were fully steady. Good 800- to 1,100-lb. slaughter steers sold at $23.50 to $24.50; the bulk of the Utility cows, $16 to $17; and Good 550- to 700-lb. stocker and feeder steers, $22 to $24.50.

Monday's calf supply is placed at 500, or 100 more than a week earlier but 200 fewer than on the corresponding date in 1957. Prices of slaughter calves were around 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the preceding week. Most Good grades of slaughter calves were quoted at $24 to $26, and stocker and feeder steer calves cleared at $24 to $27.

Hog receipts were about 550, reflecting declines of 39% from the previous Monday's market and 45% from a year ago. Prices were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. Mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 250-lb. barrows and gilts brought $21 to $21.50.

Sheep and lamb supplies are estimated at 1,500, or 200 fewer than a week ago and 2,100 below the year-earlier figure. Slaughter lambs and yearlings accounted for the major part of the offerings. Prices for all killing classes were fully steady. Good and Choice 85- to 107-lb. shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 pelts sold at $22 to $23 per cwt.

**Peanut Supplies**

Peanut stocks in off-farm positions in the United States as of December 31, 1957, excluding shelled oil stocks, totaled 935 million lbs. of equivalent farmers' stock (uncleaned, unshelled basis), according to the AMS. The supplies were 21% below holdings at the end of 1956.

**CCC Price Support Programs**

The Commodity Credit Corporation's investment in price support commodities as of December 31, 1957, amounted to $7,200,362,000, according to the USDA. The cost value of inventories accounted for 76% of the investment, and loans outstanding made up the remainder. Price support operations in four commodities - tobacco, wheat, upland cotton, and corn - comprised the bulk of the loan total. As of December 31, 1956, the CCC's investment in price support commodities was $8,211,018,000, of which inventories were 72% and loans outstanding were 28%.

Price supports extended (total loans made, plus direct purchases and purchase agreements) on 1957 crops alone through December 31, 1957, are placed at $1,299,116,841, compared with $1,911,225,730 on 1956 crops through December 31, 1956.

J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist