COTTON

Disappearance of cotton in the United States during the 1957-58 season (which ends July 31) is estimated at 13.6 million bales, points out the Agricultural Marketing Service. Exports are expected to reach 5.6 million bales, and domestic consumption is placed at 8.0 million. At these levels, exports will be about 2.0 million bales below the previous season, and mill consumption will be down about 0.6 million. The prospective disappearance in 1957-58 exceeds production by about 2.7 million bales; therefore, the carry-over on August 1, 1958, probably will be about 8.7 million, or approximately a fourth less than the 1957 figure. According to the report, this will be the second successive year that stocks have declined, following a steady increase from 1951 through 1956.

PEANUT ALLOTMENT INCREASED

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced an increase of 2,388 acres in allotments for states producing Valencia-type peanuts in 1958. The increase raises the national total for all types of peanuts to 1,612,388 acres.

Final 1958 acreage allotments for the states in the Eleventh District which produce Valencia-type peanuts (and previous state allotments) are: New Mexico, 6,703 acres (4,933) and Texas, 356,661 acres (356,644).

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the 13 major feeding states on April 1 totaled 4.9 million, or 2% fewer than on January 1 but 12% above a year earlier, reports the AMS. The January to April decline was much less than usual and compares with a 15% decrease during the same period in both 1956 and 1957. In Texas the number of cattle and calves on feed for market as of April 1 was 103,000. The figure is 10% below that at the beginning of 1958 but is 43% higher than a year ago. Curtailed marketings, together with an increased number of replacements, accounted for the higher level of operations as compared with a year earlier.

U. S. AGRICULTURAL EXHIBIT AT JAPANESE FAIR

Thousands of Japanese have visited the U. S. agricultural exhibit at the Fifth Japan International Trade Fair since the Fair opened in Osaka on April 12, reports the USDA. The exhibit - which is sponsored by the Foreign Agricultural Service in cooperation with U. S. and Japanese agricultural trade associations - displays consumer products made in Japan from U. S. cotton, soybeans, tobacco, wheat, and tallow. The purpose of the exhibit is to help the Fair visitors become better acquainted with the high quality and usefulness of products made in Japan from U. S. farm commodities and to stimulate greater demand for those products, according to the USDA.

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS AT 8-YEAR LOW

U. S. agricultural imports in 1957, at an estimated $3,923 million, were the smallest since 1949, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Complementary imports (items not produced commercially to any significant extent in the United States) accounted for nearly 60% of the total.
BEE OUTLOOK PROMISING

Prospects are excellent this year for ample stocks of packaged bees for beekeepers in the United States and Canada and for a good outturn of honey, reports the USDA. However, the season is about 3 weeks later than usual as a result of severe weather during the past winter.

POULTRY

During the week ended Friday, April 18, trading conditions in the Texas commercial broiler markets continued irregular, varying from generally steady in south Texas to mostly unsettled in east Texas and Waco, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were unchanged to 1¢ per lb. lower than a week earlier, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 19¢; east Texas, 18¢ to 19¢; and Waco, 18½¢. During the corresponding period in 1957, closing prices were 18¢ per lb. in all these areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK</th>
<th>Week ended April 12, 1958</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1957</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas.........</td>
<td>2,635,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana...</td>
<td>414,000</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 states...</td>
<td>32,587,000</td>
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<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVESTOCK

Cattle receipts at Fort Worth on Monday, April 21, were an estimated 2,100 compared with 1,200 a week earlier when the supply was the smallest for any Monday in several months, according to the AMS. Slaughter animals accounted for approximately 70% of the total cattle run. Prices were mainly steady with those in the latter part of the preceding week. Most Good slaughter steers sold at $26 to $27.50 per cwt.; Canner and Cutter cows, $14 to $17.50; and Medium and Good 550-to 700-lb. stocker and feeder steers, $22 to $28.

Calf offerings totaled an estimated 300, or about the same as a week ago but 200 fewer than a year earlier. Prices were generally steady. Good slaughter calves brought mostly $26 to $27.50 per cwt., and Medium and Good stocker and feeder steer calves were quoted at $24 to $30.

Monday's hog marketings are placed at 800, which is 60% above both the week-earlier level and the corresponding date in 1957. Trading was slow, and prices of butchers were steady to 25¢ per cwt. lower than in the latter part of the previous week. The bulk of the No. 2 and No. 3 Grades of 200- to 270-lb. barrows and gilts cleared at $21 and $21.25.

Sheep and lamb supplies, at an estimated 11,300, were more than double the limited receipts of a week earlier. Old-crop shorn lambs accounted for around two-thirds of the total. Trading was very slow as a result of lower bids on all classes, and prices were 50¢ to $1 per cwt. lower than in the latter part of the past week. Good and Choice 90- to 107-lb. shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 through No. 3 pelts sold at $18.50 to $19.50.

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Agricultural Economist