CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the 13 major feeding states as of October 1 is estimated at nearly 3.6 million head, or 12% more than a year ago but 16% below the level on July 1, 1958, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The number of cattle weighing over 900 lbs. showed a 24% gain over a year earlier. Of the total number of cattle and calves on feed at the beginning of October, cattle feeders expect to market 26% in October, 21% in November, 22% in December, and the remaining 31% after January 1.

EXTRA-LONG STAPLE COTTON

On October 13 the Secretary of Agriculture proclaimed a national marketing quota of 73,989 bales (standard bales of 500 pounds gross weight) and a national acreage allotment of 70,822 acres for the 1959 crop of extra-long staple cotton. These figures compare with a national marketing quota of 79,022 bales and a national acreage allotment of 83,286 acres for the 1958 crop of extra-long staple cotton. The quotas and allotments will apply to American-Egyptian, Sea Island, and Sealand cotton.

TEXAS CITRUS CROP UP

Total citrus fruit production in Texas for the 1958-59 season is estimated at 6.5 million boxes, which is 1 million boxes greater than the output in the preceding season, points out the AMS. Grapefruit outturn, at an estimated 4.2 million boxes, is up 20%; and the orange crop, forecast at 2.3 million boxes, is 15% above the 1957-58 harvest.

HONEY

The 1958 honey crop in the United States is estimated at 252.1 million lbs., or 4% above the previous year's output, according to the AMS. Production per colony of bees averaged 46.7 lbs. of honey, compared with 44.8 lbs. in 1957 and the 1952-56 average of 43.5 lbs. At mid-September, beekeepers had approximately 108 million lbs. of honey on hand for sale, which is about 43% of the estimated 1958 outturn.

In Texas, this year's honey output is placed at 12.5 million lbs., or 5% greater than the 1957 production and more than double the 1956 crop. Honey outturn per colony averaged 48 lbs., compared with 45 lbs. a year earlier and 23 lbs. in drought-stricken 1956. At mid-September, Texas beekeepers had nearly 4.8 million lbs. of honey on hand, which is 38% of the estimated 1958 production.

CCC PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS

As of August 31, the investment of the Commodity Credit Corporation in price support programs totaled $7.1 billion, states the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The cost value of inventories accounted for 78% of the total, and loans outstanding made up the remainder. The CCC's investment on the corresponding date in 1957 amounted to $6.7 billion, of which inventories comprised 79% and loans outstanding were 21%.

FARM EMPLOYMENT

The number of persons at work on the Nation's farms during the week of September 21 totaled nearly 9.4 million, points out the AMS. The total reflected a 2% gain over the month-earlier figure as compared with the average August-September
increase of 9%. The number of family workers, including farm operators, employed on farms in September was 3% below a year ago, while the number of hired workers was up 3%.

POULTRY

The principal Texas commercial broiler markets were steady throughout the major part of the trading week ended Friday, October 17, but became weaker toward the close, following declines in other states, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture. Although closing prices in both south and east Texas were mostly unchanged from a week earlier, a few sales were ½¢ to 1¢ per lb. lower, and the closing undertone was unsettled in both areas. Closing prices were: South Texas, 15¢ to 16¢, mostly 16¢, and east Texas, 14½¢ to 15¢. (In east Texas, 69% of the sales were at undetermined prices.) During the corresponding period in 1957, closing prices were 17¢ in both areas.

On Monday, October 20, broiler markets were weak in south Texas and unsettled in east Texas, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 15¢, with a very few higher, and east Texas, 14½¢ to 15¼¢ per lb. (About three-fourths of the sales in east Texas were at undetermined prices.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Week ended October 11, 1958</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous Comparable week, 1957</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2,165,000</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>404,000</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 states</td>
<td>26,574,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVESTOCK

The cattle supply at Fort Worth on Monday, October 20, totaled an estimated 2,300, which was the smallest Monday receipts in 14 weeks and only about one-half the year-earlier figure, reports the AMS. Prices were fully steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. Good and Choice 1,000- to 1,075-lb. slaughter steers brought $25.50 to $26.75; Canner and Cutter cows, $13.50 to $18; and Medium and Good stocker yearling steers weighing around 700 lbs., $24 to $26.50.

The calf run is placed at 800, reflecting declines of 20% from the preceding Monday and 64% from the comparable date in 1957. Prices generally were fully steady. The bulk of the Good and Choice slaughter calves sold at $24 to $26, and Medium and Good stocker steer calves weighing under 500 lbs. cleared at $24 to $31.

Monday's hog offerings were approximately 600, or about the same as a week earlier but about a third fewer than a year ago. After a late start, butcher hogs and sows sold at prices which were fully steady with those in the latter part of the previous week. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 260-lb. barrows and gilts were quoted at $19 and $19.25.

Sheep and lamb marketings totaled about 1,400, or 100 more than on the preceding Monday but 500 fewer than on the corresponding date last year. Trading was fairly active. Prices for slaughter lambs were strong, and those for other classes were mainly steady. Good and Choice 85- to 95-lb. slaughter lambs sold at $22.50.

J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist