The Thirty-Sixth National Agricultural Outlook Conference, sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will be held in Washington, D. C., during the week of November 17-21. Participants in the Outlook Conference will study the national and international economic outlook, long-time agricultural trends, and immediate outlook for agriculture, including specific agricultural commodities.

1959 Conservation Reserve Signups

The acreage offered by U. S. farmers for signups for the 1959 Conservation Reserve Program exceeds the acreage goal, reports the USDA. (October 24 was the final date for filing applications.) The 232,401 applications filed would call for placing more than 20 million acres in the 1959 Conservation Reserve; the national goal for the 1959 signup was 12.5 million acres.

Because the authorized program for 1959 is not sufficient to permit offering contracts to all applicants, the previously announced priority system will be followed in most states in determining which applicants will be offered contracts. First preference will be given to farmers who had all their cropland in the Soil Bank in 1958 and are now offering to place in the Conservation Reserve the land that had been in the Acreage Reserve. Second priority will be given to farmers offering land at the lowest rates as compared with applicable maximum rates for their farms. The remaining applications will then be considered in order of the rate per acre, beginning with the lowest.

1959 - Crop Peanuts

On November 3 the USDA announced a national allotment of 1,610,000 acres of 1959-crop peanuts for picking and threshing and a marketing quota of 886,000 tons, which are the levels required by law. Price support for the 1959 crop of peanuts will be available at a level between 75% and 90% of parity, depending upon the supply at the time the price support level is determined. Marketing quotas have been in effect for peanuts continuously since 1949.

The following are the acreage allotments for 1959-crop peanuts for the states in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (and comparisons with the 1958 allotments): Arizona, 718 acres (719); Louisiana, 1,966 acres (1,968); New Mexico, 4,922 acres (4,918); Oklahoma, 137,964 acres (137,668); and Texas, 356,032 acres (355,955).

Extra-Long Staple Cotton Allotments

The USDA recently announced state acreage allotments for the 1959 crop of extra-long staple cotton, which are a breakdown of the national allotment of 70,822 acres. The 1959 acreage allotments for the Eleventh District states which produce extra-long staple cotton (and comparisons with the 1958 allotments) follow: Arizona, 29,908 acres (35,050); New Mexico, 14,003 acres (16,194); and Texas, 24,196 acres (27,829).

Meat Production

A total of 17.9 billion lbs. of red meat was produced in the United States during the first 9 months of this year, or 6% less than during the comparable period in 1957, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Beef accounted for 54% of the total production; veal, 5%; pork, 38%; and lamb and mutton, 3%. 
Livestock

Approximately 3,300 cattle were received at Fort Worth on Monday, November 10, compared with 3,100 a week ago and 2,100 a year earlier, according to the AMS. Trading on most slaughter classes was moderately active, and clearance was made fairly early in the day. Prices for slaughter steers and heifers were steady, and those for cows were fully steady. Trading on stocker and feeder cattle was fairly active, and prices were about in line with those at the close of the past week. Good 600- to 1,100-lb. slaughter steers cleared at $25 to $26 per cwt.; most Utility cows, $18.50 to $19.50; and Medium and Good 550- to 700-lb. stocker and feeder steers, $23 to $27.

Monday's calf run is placed at 1,000, which is 200 more than the week-earlier level but 100 fewer than on the corresponding date in 1957. Prices of slaughter calves were steady to strong. Choice slaughter calves brought mostly $27 and $27.25, and Good stocker and feeder steer calves were quoted at $30 to $32.50.

The hog supply totaled about 500, or one-fourth larger than on the preceding Monday, but about the same as a year ago. Butchers sold at prices which were steady to 25¢ lower than in the latter part of the past week, while prices for sows were steady to strong. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 255-lb. barrows and gilts brought $18.75 to $19.25.

Sheep and lamb marketings were an estimated 1,400, compared with 1,600 a week earlier and 1,200 on the corresponding date last year. Trading was slow. Slaughter lambs sold at prices which were 25¢ to 50¢ lower than in the latter part of the previous week, while prices for feeder lambs were steady. Good and Choice 80- to 95-lb. wooled and shorn slaughter lambs brought $20.50 to $22.

Poultry

The principal Texas commercial broiler markets closed the trading week ended Friday, November 7, on prices generally unchanged from the previous Friday's close, although there was considerable price variation in the east Texas market at midtrading, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices were 17¢ per lb. in both south Texas and east Texas, although 57% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined prices. During the comparable week in 1957, closing prices were 16¢ to 17¢ in south Texas and 15¢ to 16¢ in east Texas.

The east Texas broiler market was steady on Monday, November 10, with prices unchanged from the preceding week's close.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended November 1, 1958</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1957</th>
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<tr>
<td>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas.....</td>
<td>2,143,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>26,731,000</td>
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National Food Outlook

Supplies of most foods during the next few months are expected to be at about the year-earlier level, but beginning early in 1959 they are likely to be somewhat higher, according to the AMS. The demand for food probably will continue strong throughout the year ahead. Retail food prices are declining seasonally, but during the next few months they will likely remain above those in the fall of 1957. Prices next year are expected to average slightly below those of 1958 as a result of larger food supplies.

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