



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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 * F A R M - C I T Y W E E K *
 * The fourth annual Farm-City Week will be observed November 21-27 *
 * throughout the United States and Canada. According to the U. S. *
 * Department of Agriculture, the purpose of this observance is (1) *
 * to recognize the contributions American farm families have made *
 * to our civilization; (2) to promote better public understanding *
 * of the needs, problems, and opportunities of our country's agri- *
 * culture and farm people; and (3) to honor men and women who have *
 * contributed to agricultural achievements and progress. *
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D E M A N D A N D P R I C E O U T L O O K

Prices received by the Nation's farmers - which are averaging the best in 5 years - may decline somewhat in 1959, principally because of lower hog prices, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The increasing flow of products from farms likely will maintain total cash receipts from farm marketings at about the 1958 figure. However, elimination of Acreage Reserve payments after this year, coupled with the prospects for a further slight rise in production expenses, may result in a 5% to 10% reduction in realized net farm income, depending largely on the level of crop production in 1959. Net farm income this year is averaging approximately 20% above that in 1957 and is the highest in 5 years. The AMS points out that the income which farm people receive from nonfarm sources should increase as the economy continues to recover from the recent recession. Off-farm income currently provides about one-third of the net income of farm families.

F A R M I N C O M E

Cash receipts from farm marketings in the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) during January-September 1958 amounted to nearly \$2.5 billion, reflecting a 30% increase over the corresponding months last year. Receipts from crops were 48% higher, and those from livestock and livestock products were up 16%.

F A L L V E G E T A B L E S - T E X A S

The outturn of fall-crop vegetables in Texas this year is estimated to be 12% above the 1957 level, reports the AMS. The production is slightly higher than that indicated at the beginning of October, mainly as a result of better yields of lettuce in the Panhandle area.

L A M B F E E D I N G E X P E C T E D T O B E U P

The number of sheep and lambs to be fed for the winter and early spring market in the United States is expected to be above that of the three preceding years and may be near the 1954-55 level, points out the AMS. A large portion of the increase will be in the wheat pasture operations. Feed supplies are abundant in all of the important lamb-feeding sections of the Nation except a small area of the Northern Plains.

L I V E S T O C K

Cattle and calf offerings at Fort Worth were comparatively small on Monday, November 17, probably as a result of rains throughout the marketing area, reports the AMS. The cattle run was an estimated 2,300, reflecting declines of 36% from a week ago and 26% from a year earlier. Trading on all classes of slaughter cattle was active. Prices of slaughter steers and heifers were generally steady, and those for cows were strong to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the past week. Standard slaughter steers brought \$23 to \$25; most Utility cows, \$18.50 to \$19.50; and Medium and Good 550- to 750-lb. stocker and feeder steers, \$23 to \$27.

The calf supply is placed at 700, compared with 1,000 on the preceding Monday and 800 on the corresponding date in 1957. Prices of slaughter calves were strong to 50¢ higher than during the latter part of the past week. Good grades of slaughter calves brought mostly \$25 to \$26.50, and stocker and feeder steer calves cleared at \$30 to \$32.50.

Monday's hog receipts were about 600, or 100 more than a week earlier but 300 fewer than a year ago. Demand was broad, and butcher hogs sold at prices which were fully steady with those in the latter part of the previous week; prices of sows were steady to 25¢ higher. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 255-lb. barrows and gilts were quoted at \$19 and \$19.25.

Sheep and lamb marketings totaled an estimated 1,300, which is about the same as a week ago but 24% below the year-earlier level. Trading was slow, and prices ranged from 50¢ to \$1 lower than in the latter part of the preceding week. Good and Choice 85- to 103-lb. woolled and No. 1 pelt slaughter lambs sold at \$20 to \$21, with most sales at \$21.

P O U L T R Y

The major Texas commercial broiler markets were uneven at the close of the trading week ended Friday, November 14, according to the State Department of Agriculture. As compared with a week earlier, closing prices were unchanged in south Texas and 1¢ per lb. lower in east Texas. Closing prices were 17¢ in south Texas and 16¢ in east Texas, although almost 46% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined prices. During the corresponding period in 1957, closing prices were: South Texas, 18¢ to 19¢, mostly 18¢; and east Texas, 17¢, with a very few higher.

On Monday, November 17, commercial broiler markets were steady in south Texas and barely steady in east Texas. Trading was light to moderate in south Texas and normal in east Texas, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 17¢; and east Texas, 15¢ to 16¢. (In the latter area, 67% of the sales were at undetermined prices.)

	Area	Week ended November 8, 1958	Percentage increase from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1957
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS				
	Texas.....	2,158,000	1	33
	Louisiana..	367,000	3	51
	22 states..	27,032,000	1	12

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