FARMERS CHOOSING (B) PLAN

Through February 20, a total of 17,067 farm operators in the Nation had elected the Choice (B) upland cotton program for their farms for 1959, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cotton allotments for the farms that elected Choice (B) are thereby increased 40% from 440,617 acres to 616,866 acres. (These figures are based on a preliminary report representing only a small percentage of the total number of farms for which elections are expected to be made by the deadline on March 16.) If a farm operator does not elect the Choice (B) program for his farm by March 16, legislation requires that the Choice (A) program shall be in effect for the farm.

In the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District - Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas - 6,794 farm operators (or 2% of the total) had elected the Choice (B) upland cotton program for their farms through February 20. The cotton allotments for these farms are thus increased from 233,517 acres to 326,925 acres.

PEANUT PRICE SUPPORT ANNOUNCED

On March 4 the USDA announced that price support on 1959-crop peanuts will be available by means of nonrecourse warehouse storage loans to grower associations and nonrecourse farm storage loans and purchase agreements to individual producers at a minimum national average level of $193.50 per ton, which is 75% of the March parity price. The support price for the 1958 peanut crop was $213.20 per ton, reflecting 80.8% of the parity level in August 1958.

FARM INCOME

Cash receipts from farm marketings in the states of the Eleventh District during 1958 amounted to $3.9 billion, or 26% above the 1957 level, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Government payments of $209 million boosted the total cash farm income to $4.1 billion - an all-time high. This is the first time cash farm income in the District states has reached the $4-billion mark.

WOOL PRODUCTION

The total output of wool in the United States during 1958 is placed at 271 million lbs. (grease basis), up 1% from the year-earlier figure, according to the AMS. Shorn wool comprised 89% of the production, and pulled wool accounted for the remainder. The value of sales of 1958-crop wool (exclusive of incentive payments) amounted to nearly $89 million, or 29% below the 1957 level.

In the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District, wool production during 1958 was an estimated 54 million lbs., reflecting a 1% decline from a year ago. The value of sales was $20 million, which was down 32% from the 1957 value.

LIVESTOCK

The cattle supply at Fort Worth on Monday, March 9, was the smallest in 3 weeks, reports the AMS. The receipts totaled an estimated 1,700 - down about one-third from the previous Monday but approximately the same as a year ago. Trading on slaughter steers was slow in getting under way but was active later in the day. Prices of slaughter cattle were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the latter part of the preceding week, and prices of stocker cattle were fully steady. Most
of the Good and Choice 750- to 1,250-lb. slaughter steers brought $26 to $28; Utility and Commercial cows, $18 to $21; and Medium and Good stocker yearling steers, $24 to $28.

Calf receipts are placed at 500, which was 200 more than a week ago and 100 above the year-earlier figure. Slaughter calves sold at prices which were fully steady to $1 higher than in the latter part of the past week. Most Good and Choice offerings brought $26.50 to $28.50, and the bulk of the Medium and Good stocker and feeder steer calves cleared at $26 to $32.50.

Monday's hog marketings are estimated at 1,050, reflecting gains of 17% over a week earlier and 50% over the corresponding date in 1958. Barrows and gilts sold at prices which were steady to 25¢ higher than in the latter part of the previous week, and prices of sows were steady. Most mixed No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 240-lb. slaughter hogs were quoted at $16 to $16.50.

Sheep and lamb offerings totaled approximately 5,500, compared with 2,600 on the preceding Monday and 4,800 a year ago. Trading was fairly active, and prices ranged from steady to $1.50 higher than in the latter part of the past week. Good and Choice 90- to 107-lb. wooled and shorn slaughter lambs brought mainly $18 to $18.50.

RECORD TURKEY CROP IN PROSPECT

The Nation's farmers are heading toward an all-time high turkey crop this year, with attendant low prices, warns the Secretary of Agriculture. Indications are that the 1959 turkey crop could exceed the previous record of 81 million birds raised in 1957. The Secretary pointed out, however, that there is still time to make some adjustment in production trends and suggested substantial early marketings of breeder turkeys.

POULTRY

During the week ended Friday, March 6, the Texas commercial broiler markets opened slightly unsettled and then became weaker until after midtrading, when the markets in both south and east Texas started to recover the declines, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Closing prices - which were unchanged from the week-earlier level - were 17¢ per lb. in south Texas and 15¢ to 16¢ in east Texas. (In the latter area, 68% of the sales were at undetermined prices.) During the corresponding period in 1958, closing prices were: South Texas, 21¢ to 22¢, mostly 22¢; and east Texas, 21¢.

The Texas commercial broiler markets were firm on Monday, March 9. Trading was about normal in south Texas and heavy in east Texas, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 18¢, and east Texas, 16¢ to 17¢ (65% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined prices).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended February 28, 1959</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1958</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas...</td>
<td>2,178,000</td>
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<td>-12</td>
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<td>509,000</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>33,787,000</td>
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J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist