COTTON PRODUCTION
Data recently released by the Agricultural Marketing Service show that 11.5 million bales of cotton were produced in the United States during 1958, or 5% above the preceding year's output but 19% below the 10-year (1947-56) average. The 1958 outturn of cottonseed of 4.8 million tons was up 4% from the 1957 figure. The combined value of cotton and cottonseed is placed at $2.1 billion, representing a 14% gain over the total value of the 1957 crop.

CCC PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS
The Commodity Credit Corporation's investment in price support programs as of March 31 totaled nearly $9.0 billion, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The cost value of inventories accounted for 56% of the total; and loans outstanding, 44%. On the corresponding date last year, the CCC's investment amounted to $7.3 billion, of which nearly two-thirds was inventories and the remainder was loans outstanding.

Price supports extended (total loans, plus direct purchases and purchase agreements) on 1958 crops alone through March 31, 1959, totaled $3.9 billion, compared with $2.5 billion on 1957 crops through the same period of 1958.

WHAT MAKES FARMERS' PRICES
In order to help farmers, agricultural leaders, consumers, and handlers of farm products understand the economic forces that affect the prices farmers receive, the USDA recently issued a bulletin entitled, "What Makes Farmers' Prices."

The publication - which contains 23 charts illustrating economic forces affecting prices of crops and livestock - presents in language for the general reader the more important findings of studies made during the past 30 years. Single copies of the bulletin (AIB No. 204) may be obtained free of charge from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD AGRICULTURE FAIR AT NEW DELHI
A World Agriculture Fair will be held at New Delhi, India, from December 11, 1959, to February 14, 1960, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The Fair will feature exhibits from most of the free world and from the Soviet-bloc countries.

The U. S. exhibit at the New Delhi Fair "will demonstrate how the American farmer utilizes the results of basic research to increase productivity and to improve living standards." The USDA and the Atomic Energy Commission have major responsibilities for developing exhibit materials "to illustrate the close inter-relationship between publicly and privately sponsored scientific studies and the productive efficiency of the independent American farmer."

LIVESTOCK
Cattle and calf receipts at Fort Worth showed marked expansion during the week ended Thursday, May 7, resulting from dry weather in some areas serving the stockyards and from a special auction, points out the AMS. The cattle run of 9,200 was the largest since the third week of June 1958. Trading on slaughter cattle was much less active than in the preceding week; however, prices averaged about steady.
Trading on stockers and feeders was moderately active, and closing prices were steady to $1 per cwt. lower than a week earlier. Good and Choice 800- to 1,050-lb. slaughter steers cleared at $28 to $29.50; Utility and Commercial cows, $19 to $22.50; and Good 500- to 600-lb. stocker and feeder steer yearlings, $29 to $31.50.

Calf marketings totaled 2,200, which was the largest supply since January and 22% above the corresponding period in 1958. Most of the Good and Choice slaughter calves brought $30 to $31, and the major portion of the large supply of Medium and Good stocker and feeder steer calves was quoted at $28 to $33.

The hog supply is placed at 3,700, compared with 3,300 in the preceding week and 2,800 a year ago. Trading was slow, and prices were mainly 25¢ to 50¢ lower than in the latter part of the previous week. Mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 240-lb. barrows and gilts brought $15.50 to $16.

A total of 26,700 sheep and lambs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended May 7. The receipts were up 15% from a week ago but were 43% below the year-earlier figure. Spring lamb prices reached a new peak for the season and were the highest in over a year. Good and Choice 70- to 85-lb. offerings sold at $22 to $23.

**MEAT PRODUCTION UP**

U. S. output of red meat during the first quarter of 1959 totaled 6.3 billion lbs., reflecting a 6% gain over the corresponding period of last year, according to the AMS. Increases of 17% in pork production and 20% in the output of lamb and mutton more than offset decreases of 2% for beef and 22% for veal.

**POULTRY**

During the trading week ended Friday, May 8, the Texas commercial broiler markets opened at slightly lower price levels and then held unchanged through the close, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Trading was moderate in south Texas and mostly normal in east Texas, becoming heavy at the market's close. As compared with a week earlier, closing prices were unchanged to ½¢ lower in south Texas and unchanged to 1¢ lower in east Texas, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, mostly 16¢; and east Texas, 15¢ to 16¢. (In the latter area, 40% of the sales were at undetermined prices.) During the corresponding period in 1958, closing prices were: South Texas, 21¢, with a few at 20¢; and east Texas, 19½¢ to 20¢, mainly 20¢.

On Monday, May 11, broiler markets were about steady in south Texas and steady in east Texas. Prices per lb. were: South Texas, 16¢; with very few reported lower; and east Texas, 15¢, although 42% of the sales in this area were at undetermined prices.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
<th>Percentage change from</th>
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<tr>
<td>PLACEMENTS</td>
<td>May 2, 1959</td>
<td>Previous week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Comparable week, 1958</td>
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J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist