FARM INCOME

Cash receipts from farm marketings in the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) during the first quarter of 1959 amounted to nearly $748 million, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The total was 2% below the year-earlier level as both crop receipts and livestock and livestock products receipts were down 2%.

COTTON UNDER GOVERNMENT LOAN

Through May 1, 1959, a total of 6.8 million bales of 1958-crop cotton had been placed under Government loan in the United States, representing 60% of the total ginnings for the season, reports the AMS. The loan volume compares with 34% for the 1957 crop and 37% for the 1956 output. As of May 1, 1959, a total of 434,086 bales of the 1958 crop placed under loan had been redeemed, leaving 6.4 million bales outstanding, or under loan.

TEXAS SPRING VEGETABLE OUTPUT DOWN SHARPLY

Production of spring-crop vegetables (excluding potatoes) in Texas is estimated to be down 27% from the 1958 outturn, according to the AMS. The decline reflects lower yield prospects for most crops, coupled with a 13% decrease in acreage for harvest.

FARM LABOR

The nearly 7.4 million persons working on the Nation's farms during the week of April 19 were generally adequate to meet the needs of the developing 1959 farm season, points out the AMS. The total number was up slightly from the year-earlier level. Family workers of an estimated 5.7 million were the mainstay of the labor force and, aided by increased machinery and advancing labor-saving methods, were sufficient for many farms.

In the Eleventh District states, the total number of farm workers during late April is placed at 906,000, or slightly below a year ago. Family workers accounted for 69% of the total, and hired workers made up the remainder.

BARTER CONTRACTS AND EXPORTS

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that barter contracts with an export value of $59.6 million were negotiated by the Commodity Credit Corporation during January-March 1959, compared with contracts valued at $12.7 million in the corresponding quarter last year and $65.1 million for the full fiscal year 1958. Barter contracts provide for the exchange on an equivalent-value basis of CCC-owned agricultural commodities for strategic materials.

POULTRY

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, commercial broiler market conditions in the State were mixed during the trading week ended Friday, May 15, as the south Texas area became unsettled at midtrading while the east Texas market held steady. Closing prices in south Texas were mostly 1¢ per lb, lower than a week earlier, while those in east Texas were unchanged. The following closing prices were quoted: South Texas, 15¢ to 16¢, mostly 15¢; and east Texas, 15¢. In the latter area, 55% of the sales were at undetermined prices. During the corresponding
period in 1958, closing prices were 19¢ to 19½¢, mostly 19¢, in south Texas and 18¢ to 19¢ in east Texas.

Commercial broiler markets were fully steady in south Texas and steady in east Texas on Monday, May 18. Prices were unchanged from the preceding Friday's close, although 44% of the sales in east Texas were at undetermined prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Week ended May 9, 1959</th>
<th>Percentage change from previous week 1957</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2,131,000</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>485,000</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 states</td>
<td>34,198,000</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIVESTOCK**

Marketings of cattle and calves at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, May 14, were sharply below a week earlier, apparently because of heavy rains over a wide section of the territory, according to the AMS. The 6,200 cattle receipts compare with 9,200 during the previous week and 9,400 in the corresponding period last year. Demand was good for the limited supply of fed slaughter steers and heifers, and prices advanced fully 50¢ per cwt. over the latter part of the previous week. Good and Choice 750- to 1,100-lb. slaughter steers brought $28 to $30; Commercial cows, $19 to $20.50, and Medium and Good 500- to 650-lb. stocker and feeder yearling steers, $25 to $30.

The calf supply is estimated at 1,400, reflecting declines of 39% from a week ago and 26% from a year earlier. Trading on slaughter calves was moderately active, and prices were fully steady with the preceding week's low close. Good grades of slaughter calves were quoted at $28 to $30, and stocker and feeder steer calves cleared at $30 to $33. Approximately 3,500 hogs were received at Fort Worth during the week ended May 14, or 200 fewer than in the previous week but 1,200 more than in the comparable period of 1958. Barrows and gilts sold at prices which were steady with those in the latter part of the preceding week. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 235-lb. butchers brought $15.75 to $16.50.

Sheep and lamb offerings are placed at 36,500, compared with 27,300 a week ago and 48,400 a year earlier. Trading was fairly active on killing classes. Prices of slaughter spring lambs were strong to mostly 50¢ higher than a week ago, with most Good and Choice 70- to 90-lb. animals bringing $23 to $24.

**EARLY LAMB SITUATION**

U. S. early lambs were in about average condition on May 1, reports the AMS. The growth and development of early lambs generally have been about normal. The 10 important early lamb states are Missouri, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California.

In Texas, marketings of yearlings and spring lambs during April were below the year-earlier level. Early April rains on the eastern side of the Plateau improved the feed situation, which will tend to delay peak marketings of lambs as producers will hold back to get added weight on the animals. The principal sheep area in the western part of Texas is still quite dry.

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Agricultural Economist