



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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### F A R M C E N S U S T O B E T A K E N T H I S F A L L

U. S. farmers will be asked to cooperate in a nationwide farm census which will be taken this fall. This will be the seventeenth agricultural census in which farmers and the United States Government have participated. The Bureau of the Census is urging each farmer to keep a record of his harvest, farm products sold, and major farm expenses in order that he can complete his census report accurately this fall.

### K H A P R A B E E T L E Q U A R A N T I N E F O R T E X A S ?

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has scheduled a hearing in Dallas, Texas, on June 23 to consider proposed extension of the Federal khapra beetle quarantine to include Texas. The action is a result of finding infestations of the khapra beetle in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, the two westernmost counties of the State.

Under the Quarantine Act of 1912, it is necessary to quarantine the entire State before measures can be taken to regulate the movement of possible carriers of the khapra beetle from infested localities. Cooperative Federal-State programs to control the khapra beetle in Arizona, California, and New Mexico have been in progress since 1955.

The khapra beetle feeds on stored grains. If allowed to spread, the beetle could readily develop into a destructive pest in the South and in heated warehouses in the North.

### F A R M R E A L E S T A T E

The value of U. S. farm real estate rose 3% during the 4 months ended March 1, 1959, reports the Agricultural Research Service. The national index of value per acre was 168% of the 1947-49 base, or 8% above the year-earlier figure. Values increased by 2% or more in 46 states during the 4-month period and were at record levels in all states except South Dakota. The total value of farm real estate (farm land and buildings) in the Nation was estimated at \$125.1 billion on March 1 as compared with \$116.3 billion a year ago.

Farm real-estate values in the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District on March 1, 1959, were up 10% from a year earlier in Louisiana, 8% in Oklahoma, 7% in both Arizona and Texas, and 6% in New Mexico.

### P O U L T R Y

Conditions in the Texas commercial broiler markets were generally stable during the week ended Friday, May 22, points out the State Department of Agriculture. The over-all trading volume was normal in south Texas and normal to heavy in east Texas. As compared with a week earlier, closing prices were 1¢ per lb. higher in south Texas and unchanged in east Texas. The following closing prices were quoted: South Texas, 15¢ to 16¢, mostly 16¢; 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¢ in south Texas and 19¢ to 20¢ in east Texas.

The Texas commercial broiler markets were steady on Monday of this week. Prices were mainly unchanged from the previous Friday's close; however, 49% of the sales in east Texas were at undetermined prices.

BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Area	Week ended May 16, 1959	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1958
	Texas.....	2,023,000	-5	-30
	Louisiana..	396,000	-18	-24
	22 states..	34,187,000	0	-4

Broiler chick placements both in the Nation and in the major broiler-producing states in the District have generally trended downward during the past 2 or 3 weeks. The decline in broiler placements probably is a reflection of the continued low prices for broiler meat. Prices for broilers in Texas markets during the past several weeks have ranged from 3¢ to 5¢ per lb. below those of a year earlier.

#### L I V E S T O C K

Receipts of cattle and calves at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, May 21, were 27% and 23%, respectively, above those in the preceding week, when marketings were curtailed because of rains, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The cattle supply is placed at 7,900, or 1,900 fewer than a year earlier. Trading on all classes of slaughter steers and heifers was slow; however, prices generally held about steady. On the other hand, prices of stockers and feeders were moderately active, and prices were steady to strong. Choice 840- to 1,150-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$29 to \$29.50 per cwt.; Commercial cows, \$18.50 to \$19.50; and Medium and Good 500- to 650-lb. stocker and feeder yearling steers, \$24 to \$30.

The calf run totaled an estimated 1,600 head, compared with 1,900 a year ago. Trading on slaughter calves was more active than on the older animals, and prices were about steady. Good and Choice grades of slaughter calves brought \$28 to \$30, and stocker and feeder steer calves cleared at \$30 to \$34.

The hog supply of 3,000 was down 19% from the preceding week but was up 43% over the year-earlier level. Prices of barrows and gilts showed some strength during the first 3 days of the trading week but lost most of the gain on Thursday. Closing prices were mostly steady, with mixed No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 240-lb. butchers quoted at \$16.50 to \$17.

A total of 39,800 sheep and lambs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended May 21, or 2,700 more than a week ago but 6,000 below the corresponding period in 1958. Good and Choice slaughter spring lambs sold at prices which were steady to 50¢ higher than at the preceding week's close; 75- to 90-lb. animals were quoted at \$23 to \$24.

#### A D D I T I O N A L R E S T R I C T I O N S O N I M P O R T E D M E A T S

In order to provide an additional safeguard against accidental introduction of foot-and-mouth disease into the United States, the USDA recently amended the regulations governing importation of meats from countries where the disease occurs. The action requires the drying of cured meats that are not canned prior to entry into this country; the change will not affect canned or cooked meats.

Although not a human disease, foot-and-mouth disease generally is considered the most damaging livestock disease. North America is one of the few areas of the world which is relatively free of this plague.

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