



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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1959 COTTON CROP UP

The 1959 national cotton crop is forecast, as of August 1, at 14.8 million bales, according to the first official estimate of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A crop of this size would be 29% above the 1958 output and 5% more than the 10-year (1948-57) average. With yield prospects good to excellent in all states, the indicated national yield of 474 lbs. per acre is the highest of record.

Cotton yields in Texas this year are expected to average 362 lbs. per acre - second only to the 383 lbs. produced in 1958. Production is indicated at 4,750,000 bales, or one-tenth above that of a year ago and one-fifth greater than the 10-year average. Only once in the last 20 years has Texas produced a larger cotton crop - in 1949, when the output was 6,040,000 bales. Prospective 1959 cotton outturns for the other states in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (and production figures for 1958) are as follows: Arizona, 800,000 bales (734,000); Louisiana, 480,000 bales (297,000); New Mexico, 330,000 bales (301,000); and Oklahoma, 395,000 (313,000).

NATIONAL FOOD OUTLOOK

Food supplies in the United States will be somewhat larger during the remainder of this summer and early fall than a year earlier, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. Consumer demand is expected to be high, but retail food prices probably will continue to average slightly lower than a year ago because of the larger supplies.

The outstanding feature in the national food picture for the next several months is the prospective greater supplies and lower prices of pork. However, small gains are expected in beef and lamb output, as compared with a year earlier. More eggs and turkeys probably will be available, but supplies of chickens - although plentiful - may be down slightly. Production and commercial stocks of dairy products will be adequate to maintain civilian consumption at about the year-earlier rate, but total supplies will be lower because of reduced government stocks.

FHA LOANS RISE

Loans made and insured by the Farmers Home Administration during fiscal 1959 amounted to \$361.6 million, compared with \$330.2 million in fiscal 1958 and \$329.3 million for the past 5 years average, points out the USDA. As of June 30, 1959, outstanding FHA loans totaled \$1.1 billion - up 5% over a year earlier and 11% over the same date for the last 5 years. Increases were shown for the amounts of real-estate loans made with insured funds and for the amounts advanced for farm housing and farm operating. On the other hand, emergency lending declined. Approximately 196,000 farmers, including those who were still using credit received in previous years, used FHA credit services during fiscal 1959. Country banks were the primary source of funds.

The USDA recently announced that, effective September 1, the interest rate charged by the FHA on farm ownership loans and on soil and water conservation loans made to individuals will be increased from 4½% to 5%. Officials state that this advance will bring the interest rate more in line with rates paid for farm mortgage credit obtained from other sources.

L I V E S T O C K

During the week ended Thursday, August 13, Fort Worth receipts of all classes of livestock, except hogs, were below the levels of a week earlier and the corresponding period last year, according to the AMS. The cattle run totaled an estimated 6,000, compared with 7,800 in the preceding week and 6,200 a year ago. The market for both slaughter animals and stockers and feeders was uneven throughout the trading period. Good 800- to 1,150-lb. slaughter steers were quoted at \$25 to \$26.50 per cwt.; Commercial cows, \$17 to \$18; and Good 550- to 650-lb. stocker and feeder steers, \$25 to \$27.

Calf offerings were about 2,000, reflecting declines of 13% from a week ago and 23% from a year earlier. Trading on slaughter calves was rather slow, and closing prices were 50¢ and more below those in the latter part of the previous week. Good and Choice grades of killing calves brought \$25 to \$26.50, and 350- to 475-lb. stocker and feeder steer calves sold at \$28 to \$33.

Hog supplies of 2,400 head were 100 above the week-earlier figure and 800 more than in the comparable period of 1958. Barrows and gilts sold at prices which were steady to 50¢ higher than in the latter part of the previous week. Quotations for U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 235-lb. butchers ranged from \$14.25 to \$15.

The 4,000 sheep and lambs marketed at Fort Worth during the week ended August 13 were down 40% from the preceding week and 5% from a year ago. Demand improved for the limited supply, and prices for most slaughter lambs and yearlings recovered a large part of the previous week's decline. Good and Choice 90- to 96-lb. spring slaughter lambs cleared at \$21.

P O U L T R Y

The Texas commercial broiler markets opened weaker and unsettled but became steady by midtrading during the week ended Friday, August 14, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The closing undertone was steady in south Texas and fully steady in east Texas. Closing quotations were: South Texas, 16¢ per lb., and east Texas, 15¢. (In the latter area, 54% of the sales were at undetermined levels.) During the comparable period in 1958, closing prices were 18¢ to 19¢ in south Texas and 17¢ to 17½¢ in east Texas.

On Friday afternoon, the Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 148,700 birds, selling 109,200 as follows: 27% off-quality at 14¢ to 14.8¢; 31% at 15¢ to 15.1¢; and 42% at 15.2¢ to 15.3¢.

On Monday, August 17, commercial broiler markets were steady in south Texas and unchanged in east Texas. Quotations were the same as the preceding Friday's close, although 53% of the sales in east Texas were at undetermined prices.

	Area	Week ended August 8, 1959	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1958
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,014,000	-10	-12
	Louisiana..	374,000	3	-17
	22 states..	30,354,000	-2	-5

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