SCREWWORM INFESTATIONS FOUND

Screwworm-infested cattle have been found in herds near Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Tallulah, Louisiana. The U. S. Department of Agriculture urges livestock owners and persons engaged in handling livestock to be on the alert for the appearance of screwworms in their animals. Suspicious cases should be reported immediately to the nearest county agent or veterinarian.

TUNG OIL OPERATIONS TRANSFERRED TO DALLAS

Effective September 1, the inventory management and disposition operations for tung oil acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under the price support program for tung nuts will be transferred from the Cincinnati, Ohio, to the Dallas, Texas, CSS Commodity Office. According to the USDA, the transfer will bring these operations closer to the tung nut production areas and oil storage locations.

Tung nuts are grown in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The oil is used primarily in the manufacture of protective coatings.

LEADING COTTON VARIETIES

Acala and Deltapine remain the two leading cotton varieties in the United States, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. In 1959 plantings, Acala surpassed Deltapine in comparative importance for the first time of record. The next three cotton varieties in the order of their relative importance are Lankart, Coker, and Delfos.

"CONTROLLED QUALITY" EGG GRADING PROGRAM

The USDA recently announced that a new "controlled quality" egg grading program will become effective on September 15, 1959. The program provides for Government certification of the quality of eggs produced and marketed under controlled conditions. The quality control factors specified include uniformity in age of laying flocks, constant temperature and humidity levels, and promptness in handling. Eggs handled according to these requirements and meeting the quality standards proposed will be eligible for either the U. S. Grade AA label or the new grade label designation, "Fresh Fancy Quality." Eggs meeting the standards for A quality also may be identified as having been produced under the quality control program.

MILK COWS ON FARMS

The number of milk cows on the Nation's farms in June 1959 totaled an estimated 19.3 million head, or the lowest June level in three decades of records, reports the AMS. Except for the 3.2% decline of a year earlier, the 1959 figure reflected the sharpest decrease in June cow numbers in the past 11 years and was a continuation of the decline generally prevailing since the 1944 peak. Factors mainly responsible for the further decrease in milk cow numbers were (1) the trend toward fewer but larger and more commercialized dairy farms and (2) the continuation of favorable meat animal prices.

In the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas), the number of milk cows on farms in June was 1,387,000 head - down 2% from a year ago and 21% below the 1948-57 average.
POULTRY

The Texas commercial broiler markets were steady throughout the week ended Friday, August 21, points out the State Department of Agriculture. Trading was about normal, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 16¢ per lb.; and east Texas, 15¢ to 15½¢ (63% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined levels). During the corresponding period in 1958, closing prices were 17¢ in south Texas and 16¢ to 17¢ in east Texas.

The Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 235,000 birds on Friday afternoon. A total of 122,200 head was sold as follows: 17% off-quality at 14.6¢ to 14.9¢; 35% at 15¢ to 15.1¢; 29% at 15.2¢; 16% at 15.3¢; and 3% at 15.4¢.

The south Texas broiler market was steady on Monday, August 24, and east Texas offerings and supplies were balanced with needs. Prices in both areas were unchanged from the preceding Friday's close although 60% of the sales in east Texas were at undetermined levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Week ended August 15, 1959</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week, 1959</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas. . .</td>
<td>2,073,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana.</td>
<td>413,000</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 states. .</td>
<td>30,082,000</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVESTOCK

A total of 7,800 cattle was received at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, August 20, reports the AMS. The receipts reflect gains of 30% over a week ago and 22% over the corresponding period in 1958. Trading on slaughter steers and heifers was fairly active, and quotations were mostly fully steady. Demand for stockers and feeders was broad; trading was fairly active; and prices were generally fully steady to strong. The majority of the Good and Choice 950- to 1,200-lb. slaughter steers cleared at $25.25 to $27.50 per cwt.; Utility and Commercial cows, $17.50 to $19; and some Good and Choice 500- to 550-lb. yearling stocker steers, $29 to $30.50.

The calf run was 2,400, or 500 more than in the preceding week but 200 fewer than the year-earlier level. Closing prices of killing calves were strong to $1 higher than a week ago. The bulk of the Good and Choice slaughter calves sold at $26 to $27, and Medium and Good stocker steer calves ranged from $26 to $32.

Hog offerings totaled an estimated 2,800 - up 17% over both the previous week and the comparable period last year. New-crop swine weighing less than 200 lbs. accounted for a large part of the receipts. Quotations on butcher hogs advanced 50¢ during the week ended August 30, with U. S. mixed No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of barrows and gilts selling at $15 to $15.50.

Sheep and lamb marketings of 3,600 were the smallest number since December 1958. Despite the limited supplies, demand decreased during the trading period, and prices for slaughter spring lambs declined $1 and more. Utility and Good 70- to 93-lb. spring slaughter lambs were quoted at $18 to $20.

J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist