Livestock production in the United States continues upward, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Numbers of cattle on farms are being increased approximately 5 million head this year and are expected to reach an all-time high of about 102 million at the beginning of 1960. The cyclical upswing probably will last several more years. With continued rapid expansion, cattle numbers could advance to a peak of 115 million by 1964; at a more moderate pace, the high might be 110 million. Either rate of increase undoubtedly would result in lower cattle prices, but the danger of a severe decline would be greater if expansion continues at the faster rate. Cattle prices may begin a gradual cyclical downsing in 1960.

Prices of hogs this fall and winter are expected to continue lower than a year ago because of the substantially higher production; the general level probably will be the lowest for several years. Any sizable increase in farrowings next spring would result in prices in the fall of 1960 as low as or lower than this fall. According to the AMS, the outlook does not justify any material expansion in hog numbers next year.

FARM REAL-ESTATE TAXES UP

Taxes levied on farm real estate in the United States during 1958 amounted to $1.1 billion, or about 6% above the year-earlier level, points out the Agricultural Research Service. State and local government levies on farm real estate averaged $1.03 per acre in 1958, compared with 97¢ in 1957. For the sixteenth consecutive year, farm real-estate taxes rose in 1958 - the first time the average tax has exceeded $1 per acre.

COTTON

The supply of all kinds of cotton in the United States during the 1958-59 season (which began August 1, 1958) totaled 20.3 million bales, or the lowest level since the 1952-53 season, according to the AMS. U.S. disappearance of cotton (domestic consumption and exports) on July 31, 1959, is placed at 11.5 million bales, compared with 13.7 million bales a year earlier and 16.2 million bales 2 years ago. Exports were only about one-half the level of the preceding season, while mill consumption was up 9%. The carry-over of cotton in the Nation as of July 31, 1959, was 8.9 million bales, compared with 8.7 million a year ago and 11.3 million 2 years before. Stocks of Government-owned and loan cotton totaled about 7.1 million bales; "free" stocks, excluding holdings at mills, were around 715,000 bales.

FOREST SERVICE RECEIPTS TOP $124 MILLION

National Forest Service receipts in the United States reached a peak $124.1 million in fiscal 1959, reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sale of timber accounted for $115.8 million of the total; grazing permits, about $4.5 million; and land and power use permits, approximately $2.5 million. The remainder came from mineral leases, cropping, haying, sale of seeds and seed harvesting permits, and recreation concessions.

The USDA points out that cash receipts, while important, are in addition to many other benefits the American people receive from national forests, such as
stable soils, outdoor recreation, wilderness and scenic beauty, water for farms and industry, and areas for hunters and fishermen.

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

The Fort Worth cattle run during the week ended Thursday, August 27, 1959, was an estimated 7,600 head, or 4% below the week-earlier level, but 21% above a year ago, states the AMS. Trading on all classes was less active than in the preceding week, and closing prices for slaughter steers and yearlings were weak to 50¢ per cwt. lower. Demand continued fairly broad for most stockers and feeders, and prices generally were fully steady. Most Good and Choice 900- to 1,150-lb. slaughter steer yearlings brought $25 to $26.25; Utility and Commercial cows, $17.50 to $18.50; and Good 550- to 575-lb. stocker steer yearlings, $29 to $29.50.

The calf supply of 2,600 was up 200 head over the previous week and 100 over the comparable period in 1958. Quotations on slaughter calves were fully steady. The bulk of the Good and Choice killing calves sold at $26 to $27, and Medium and Good stocker and feeder steer calves ranged from $24 to $30.

Hog receipts were an estimated 2,500, compared with 2,800 a week earlier and 2,100 a year ago. Although the market showed some strength during the early part of the period, most sales were steady with those in the latter part of the preceding week. Prices of U. S. mixed No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 240-lb. barrows and gilts ranged from $15 to $16.

A total of 4,900 sheep and lambs was marketed at Fort Worth during the week ended August 27, reflecting gains of 26% over the previous week's limited supplies and 11% over the corresponding period last year. Demand for slaughter classes remained poor, while that for replacement lambs showed some improvement. Most Utility and Good 75- to 95-lb. slaughter spring lambs cleared at $18 to $19.

**POULTRY**

The Texas commercial broiler markets were generally steady during the week ended Friday, August 28, with a slight improvement noted in the east Texas market at the close, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Compared with a week earlier, closing prices were unchanged in south Texas and were 5¢ per lb. higher in east Texas. Quotations were: South Texas, 16¢; and east Texas, 15¾¢, although 57% of the sales in this area were at undetermined levels. During the corresponding period last year, closing prices were 17¢ in south Texas and 16¢ in east Texas.

On Friday afternoon, the Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 151,400 broilers, selling 139,400 as follows: 11% off-quality, at 14.9¢ to 15.3¢; 15%, at 15.4¢ to 15.5¢; 17%, at 15.7¢; 41%, at 15.8¢; 6%, at 15.9¢; 7%, at 16¢; and 3%, at 16.4¢.

The Texas commercial broiler markets remained generally steady on Monday, August 31, with the following prices quoted: South Texas, 16¢ per lb.; and east Texas, 15¢ to 15½¢ (57% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined prices).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended August 22, 1959</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1958</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Texas......</td>
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J. Z. Rowe  
Agricultural Economist