CHANGES IN 1960 CONSERVATION RESERVE

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that the method for determining basic annual payment rates for the 1960 Conservation Reserve Program is being changed in accordance with legislation approved by the President on September 21. In order to permit necessary payment rate adjustments and additional farmer participation, the deadline by which farmers must apply for the establishment of basic rates has been extended from September 30 to October 9. Following the determination of basic rates, farmers will have until October 16 to apply for Conservation Reserve contracts.

The new legislation supersedes the requirement in the 1960 Agricultural Appropriations Act that the annual payment rate in the 1960 Conservation Reserve must depend on production history during 1955-59 on the land placed in the Reserve. Under the new law, basic annual rates for 1960 will be determined on the same basis as for 1959, with the productivity and value of the land for agricultural purposes as the chief factors.

1959 YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE RELEASED

On September 27 the USDA released the 1959 Yearbook of Agriculture, entitled Food. "For good health, eat some of the basic foods each day" is the main theme of this Yearbook - the latest in the series of annual volumes that have been printed for 110 years.

The 1959 Yearbook is packed with information on how to eat better and cheaper. Its 736 pages tell much of what 72 nutrition experts in the USDA, other Federal agencies, and 12 colleges know about weight control, food energy, vitamins, proteins, amino acids, fats, carbohydrates, calories, minerals, quality in food, costs, fads, habits, and nutrition programs.

Copies of the Yearbook may be obtained for $2.25 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C. No person or unit in the USDA has copies for general distribution.

WOOL PRODUCER VIEWS ASKED

U. S. wool producer groups have been asked to submit their views and recommendations on the wool incentive price level for the 1960 marketing year, which runs from April 1, 1960, through March 31, 1961. These views should be submitted by Thursday, October 8, to the Livestock and Dairy Division, CSS, USDA, Washington 25, D.C.

In past years, representatives of producer groups have met with Department officials to present their recommendations on the wool incentive level for the coming marketing year.

CCC PRICE-SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The Commodity Credit Corporation's investment in price-support programs as of June 30, 1959, amounted to $8.7 billion, reports the USDA. The cost value of inventories accounted for 72% of the total, and loans outstanding made up the remainder. On the corresponding date of last year, the CCC's investment was $7.0 billion, of which inventories accounted for 78% and loans outstanding, 22%.

Price supports extended (total loans plus direct purchases and purchase agreements) on 1958 crops alone through June 30, 1959, totaled $4.0 billion, compared with $2.7 billion on 1957 crops through the comparable date a year ago.
The major Texas commercial broiler markets opened steady but became unsettled by midtrading during the week ended Friday, September 25, according to the State Department of Agriculture. The trading volume in south Texas was light to moderate, while the movement in east Texas ranged from moderate to normal. Closing prices per lb. were: South Texas, 15¢ to 16¢, with the bulk of the trading at 15½¢; and east Texas, 14¢, although 68% of the sales in this area were at undetermined levels. During the comparable week in 1958, closing prices were 16¢ in south Texas and 15¢ to 16¢ in east Texas.

On Friday afternoon, the Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 223,600 birds, of which 149,200 sold as follows: 12% off-quality, at 13¢ to 13.4¢; 32%, at 13.5¢ to 13.7¢; 40%, at 13.8¢; and 16%, at 13.9¢ to 14¢.

The two principal Texas commercial broiler markets were slightly weaker on Monday, September 28. Quotations were 15¢ per lb. in south Texas and 13¾¢ to 14¢ in east Texas, with 41% of the sales in the latter area at undetermined prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended September 19, 1959</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1958</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas..........</td>
<td>1,711,000</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana.....</td>
<td>308,000</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22 states.....</td>
<td>23,963,000</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Livestock

Fort Worth receipts of all classes of livestock during the week ended Thursday, September 24, were below those in the previous week, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The cattle run totaled an estimated 8,200 head, compared with 11,500 a week earlier and 7,500 in the corresponding period of 1958. Supplies of slaughter cattle increased as dryness became more pronounced in the area, and trading continued spotty and uneven. Trading on stockers and feeders generally was slow and very selective, and closing prices were mainly 50¢ to $1 per cwt. lower than in the preceding week. The bulk of the 4-day supply of Standard and Good 665- to 1,150-lb. slaughter steers sold at $22 to $25.50; Utility and Commercial cows, $17 to $20.50; and Medium and Good yearling stocker steers, $25 to $28.

Calf marketings of approximately 2,600 were down 40% from a week ago and 13% from a year ago. Slaughter calves were under price pressure each day, and closing quotes were mostly 50¢ to $1 lower than in the preceding week. The majority of the Good and Choice killing calves brought $24 to $25, and Medium and Good stocker steer calves weighing under 500 lbs. ranged from $24 to $30.

Hog offerings were approximately 2,200, or 300 fewer than in the previous week but 800 more than in the comparable period of last year. Prices declined to the low level of the year, which was about the same as in late July. Most mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 245-lb. barrows and gilts cleared at $13.75 to $14.50.

Supplies of sheep and lambs during the week ended September 24 totaled 5,500, representing an 11% decline from the preceding week but a 34% gain over a year ago. Trading was fairly active on the better grades of slaughter spring lambs and yearlings but was slow on other classes. Good and Choice 80- to 95-lb. slaughter spring lambs were quoted at $19 to $20.

J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist