NATIONAL "EGGTOBER" CAMPAIGN

The second national "EGGtober" campaign is being held during the month of October, according to the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The expanded EGGtober activity will be built around the central theme, "Eat More Eggs - A Good Health Habit."

TEXAS FARM PRICES DOWN

Lower prices for most agricultural products reduced the September 15, 1959, index of prices received for all farm products by Texas farmers and ranchers to 274% of the 1910-14 average, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The index was 4% below the month-earlier figure and 6% lower than a year ago. The all-crops index decreased 7% from the mid-August level, and the livestock and livestock products index was down 1%.

WHEAT UTILIZATION MEETING

A meeting of the Wheat Utilization Committee will be held in Washington, D.C., October 14-16, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Committee, which was organized earlier this year, is made up of members from the major wheat-exporting countries (Australia, Canada, France, and the United States). The purpose of the Wheat Utilization Committee is to explore opportunities for (1) using more wheat in feeding the people of the world, (2) supporting foreign economic development programs, and (3) safeguarding established commercial wheat markets.

STOCKER AND FEEDER LIVESTOCK SHIPMENTS

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and calves into nine selected North Central states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) during August 1959 totaled 444,460 head, or 22% more than a year ago, according to the AMS. Of the total, 46% moved through public stockyards and 54% were received direct. The July-August cumulative total stocker and feeder cattle and calves shipped was 773,699 head, compared with 612,949 head during the corresponding 2 months of 1958.

August shipments of stocker and feeder sheep and lambs into the above nine selected North Central states totaled 430,775 head, reflecting a 21% gain over the year-earlier figure. Of the total, 27% moved through public stockyards and 73% were received direct. Stocker and feeder sheep and lamb shipments during July-August were 650,500 head, which was 5% more than in the corresponding months of 1958.

RETAIL MEAT PRICES MAY BE LOWER

Increased national supplies of meat this fall will likely be reflected in lower retail prices for nearly all cuts, according to the AMS. Prices of beef and lamb are expected to show small declines and may average near, or only slightly below, year-earlier levels. Pork prices probably will decline seasonally and are expected to continue substantially below those in the fall of 1958.
Livestock

The cattle supply at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, October 1, totaled an estimated 8,700 head, representing a 5% increase over the previous week and a 14% gain over the comparable period in 1958, according to the AMS. Trading on slaughter steers was very slow, and closing prices were 50¢ to $1.50 per cwt. lower than the preceding week. Demand was broad for Good grades of stocker and feeder cattle, and Thursday prices were fully steady. Standard and Good 900- to 1,200-lb. slaughter steers were quoted at $22 to $24; Utility and Commercial cows, $16 to $18.50; and Medium and Good 500- to 700-lb. yearling stocker steers, mostly $24 to $26.

The 4-day calf receipts were about 2,900, compared with 2,500 in the preceding week and 3,100 a year ago. Trading on slaughter calves was moderately active, and prices were generally unchanged from the previous week. The majority of the Good and Choice cattle sales realized at $23.50 to $25, and Good stocker and feeder steer calves weighing around 500 lbs. brought $29 to $30.

A total of 2,800 hogs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended October 1, which was 33% more than a week earlier and 56% above the comparable period last year. Prices continued downward along with decreases in the corn belt markets and the dressed meat trade. Barrows and gilts cleared at prices which were 25¢ to mainly 50¢ lower than the week-earlier levels. Most No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 240-lb. butchers brought $13.50 to $14, or the lowest level since March 1956.

Sheep and lamb offerings were approximately 5,300, which was 200 fewer than in the preceding week but 1,500 a year ago. Demand for slaughter classes was fair, but prices weakened in line with declines at other markets. Quotations were mostly 50¢ lower than in the latter part of the previous week, with Good and Choice 80- to 95-lb. woolled and shorn slaughter lambs ranging from $17.50 to $19.50.

Poultry

During the week ended Friday, October 2, the two major Texas commercial broiler markets opened weak and unsettled, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The east Texas market remained unsettled throughout the trading period, while the south Texas market became steady at midweek and remained steady through the close. Closing prices were 15¢ per lb. in south Texas and 13¢ to 13½¢ in east Texas, although 47% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined levels. During the comparable period in 1958, closing prices were 16¢ in south Texas and 15¢ to 16¢ in east Texas.

The Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 193,700 broilers on Friday afternoon, selling 84,600 as follows: 11% off-quality, at 13.4¢; 28%, at 13.5¢ to 13.6¢; 42%, at 13.7¢ to 13.8¢; and 19%, at 13.9¢.

On Monday, October 5, commercial broiler markets were slightly weaker and unsettled in south Texas and weak and unsettled in east Texas. Quotes were: South Texas, 14¢ to 15¢, with the bulk of the trading at 14¢ to 14½¢; and east Texas, 13¢ to 13½¢, with 36% of the sales at undetermined prices.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Week ended September 26, 1959</th>
<th>Percentage change from Previous week</th>
<th>Comparable week, 1958</th>
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<tr>
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J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist