AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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1960 RICE ACREAGE ALLOTMENT ANNOUNCED

On November 5, 1959, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced a 1960 national rice acreage allotment of 1,652,596 acres - the minimum fixed by law. This figure is the same as the national allotment since 1956. With average yields, the 1960 national allotment will produce a crop of about 52 million cwt. after allowance for a small acreage placed in the Conservation Reserve Program and for normal underplanting and abandonment. A crop of this size, added to the estimated carry-over on August 1, 1960, of 13 million cwt. and imports of 150,000 cwt., would make a total supply of 65.2 million cwt., or 26% more than the estimated domestic consumption and exports during the 1960-61 marketing year.

The 1960 acreage allotments for the rice-producing states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (with comparisons for 1959) are as follows: Arizona, 229 acres (229); Louisiana, 475,008 acres (474,892); Oklahoma, 149 acres (149); and Texas, 422,313 acres (422,147).

MODERN FARMING BENEFITS TO BE SHOWN

The value of modern farming methods to farmers and consumers will be stressed in USDA exhibits at the 1959 International Livestock Exposition and Dairy Show in Chicago, Illinois, from November 27 to December 5. Featured in the exhibits will be push-button farming, including automatic hog feeding; the gathering and distribution of farm market news; selecting meats by cut and USDA grade; and publications not only for farmers and ranchers but also for rural and urban homemakers.

FOOD OUTLOOK FOR 1960

Indications are that U. S. civilian demand for food will remain strong through 1960, points out the Agricultural Marketing Service. Employment is expected to be high, and consumer disposable income may reach a record level. Supplies of most foods will probably be very large. Although marketing charges for food may be up slightly, prices to farmers are likely to be down somewhat and retail food prices may average a little lower than in 1959.

VESICULAR EXANTHEMA ERADICATED FROM U. S.

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that vesicular exanthema (VE), a serious swine disease, has been eradicated from the United States as a result of a 7-year State-Federal cooperative campaign. "Getting rid of VE means millions of dollars to the livestock and meat industries and eliminates a serious threat to our national meat supply," points out the Secretary.

Ten countries (Canada, the United Kingdom, Columbia, Venezuela, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Barbados, Jamaica, and British Guiana) have embargoes on U. S. pork because of the incidence of vesicular exanthema. The lifting of these embargoes will improve the prospect for export pork sales.

DRY MILK PRODUCTION AT PEAK

Output of total nonfat dry milk for human food totaled 96.2 million lbs. during September, or 6% above the year-earlier level and an all-time high for the month, reports the AMS. During the first 9 months of 1959, production of dry milk was an estimated 1.4 billion lbs., reflecting a 1% increase over the comparable period last year.

L I V E S T O C K

Reduced cattle and calf supplies at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, November 5, proved a stimulating factor to the trade, according to the AMS. The cattle receipts of 5,300 were 34% below the week-earlier level and 23% fewer than in the comparable period last year. The more active trade resulted in a fully steady to higher price trend, with the following quotations per cwt.: Mostly Good 795- to 1,195-lb. slaughter steers, $24; Utility and Commercial cows, $15.50 to $18; and Medium and Good 750- to 845-lb. stocker and feeder steers, $20 to $22.25.

Calf marketings totaled an estimated 2,500, compared with 2,600 in the preceding week and 2,300 a year ago. Closing prices for slaughter calves were strong to 50¢ higher than in the previous week. The majority of the Good and Choice slaughter calves cleared at $22.50 to $24.50, and the bulk of the Medium and Good stocker and feeder steer calves ranged from $23 to $28.

In contrast to the reduced supplies of cattle and calves, hog receipts of approximately 2,600 were 24% higher than the preceding week and were 73% greater than a year ago. Prices showed very little change from a week earlier, with mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 260-lb. barrows and gilts quoted at $13 to $13.75.

Sheep and lamb offerings were an estimated 7,400 head, or 19% more than in the previous week and almost double the level of a year ago. Trading on slaughter lambs was active the first part of the week but was slow later, while sales of other classes generally were fairly active. Closing quotes on slaughter lambs were steady; Good and Choice 85- to 100-lb. wooled and shorn slaughter lambs brought $18.50 to $19.50.

P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, November 6, commercial broiler markets opened steady in south Texas but were slightly weaker and unsettled in east Texas, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Both markets closed steady, with the following Friday prices quoted per lb.: South Texas, 14¢ to 15¢, mainly 15¢; and east Texas, 12¢ to 14¢ (48% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined levels). During the comparable period in 1958, closing prices were 17¢ in both areas.

The Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 136,600 broilers on Friday afternoon, of which 106,800 sold as follows: 6% off-quality, at 12.3¢; 24% off-quality, at 13.2¢ to 13.5¢; 19% off-quality, at 13.6¢ to 13.7¢; 4%, at 13.8¢; 8%, at 14.0¢ to 14.1¢; and 39%, at 14.3¢ to 14.4¢.

On Monday, November 9, commercial broiler markets were steady in south Texas and unchanged in east Texas. Quotations were: South Texas, 14½¢, with one load off-color at 14¢; and east Texas, 13½¢ to 14¢, although 57% of the sales were at undetermined prices.

	Area	Week ended October 31, 1959	Percentage change from Previous week	Percentage change from Comparable week, 1958
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,336,000	-13	-38
	Louisiana..	323,000	-1	24
	22 states..	25,494,000	7	-6

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