



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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PLANTED COTTON ACREAGE UP 3%

U. S. cotton planted for the 1960 crop is estimated at 16.3 million acres, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The acreage is 3% more than that planted in 1959 but is 24% below the 10-year (1949-58) average. As compared with the preceding season, cotton plantings are larger in most states, with increases ranging from 6% to 12% in Alabama, Arizona, and California; gains of 1% to 4% are indicated for most other states.

The table below shows cotton acreage planted in 1960 for the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District as well as comparisons with 1959 and the 1949-58 average.

COTTON ACREAGE PLANTED

Five Southwestern States

(In thousands of acres)

<u>Area</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>Average 1949-58</u>
Arizona.....	435	389	455
Louisiana.....	520	517	742
New Mexico.....	215	206	244
Oklahoma.....	670	660	1,008
Texas.....	<u>6,950</u>	<u>6,775</u>	<u>8,988</u>
Five states.....	8,790	8,547	11,437

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

RATE ON 1960 CERTIFICATES OF INTEREST

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that, beginning August 1, 1960, the rate of interest payable on certificates of interest issued by the Commodity Credit Corporation to banks and other financial institutions for financing 1960-crop price support loans will be 3½% per annum. The rate for 1959-crop certificates which mature August 1, 1960, has been 4% per annum since November 1, 1959. The recent action will not affect outstanding 1959-crop certificates, and such certificates will not be called prior to maturity.

Lending institutions which invest in 1960-crop price support loans prior to August 1, 1960, will earn interest on this investment at 4% per annum through July 31 and 3½% per annum thereafter. The interest rate to be charged producers on 1960-crop price support loans will remain at 3½% per annum on all loan repayments received on or before the regular nonrecourse loan maturity dates.

L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth cattle supplies for the week ended Thursday, July 7, were down one-fourth from the previous week as a result of the Fourth of July holiday, reports the AMS. The 3-day receipts of 8,700 compared with 6,700 a year ago. Trading on slaughter cattle was generally more active than in the preceding week, and prices were mostly 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher. Choice 960- to 1,270-lb. slaughter steers were quoted at \$25.50 to \$26.75, and the majority of the Utility and Commercial cows brought \$14.25 to \$15.50. Widespread rains over the marketing territory resulted in improved demand for stockers and feeders, and trading was a little more active than in the previous week. Prices advanced 50¢ to \$1, with Medium and Good 600- to 820-lb. yearling stocker and feeder steers quoted at \$20 to \$22.50.

The calf run of an estimated 1,200 was one-third less than in the preceding week and 43% below the year-earlier level. Demand for all grades of slaughter calves was improved from the previous week, and prices were 50¢ to \$1 higher. Good and Choice killing calves sold at \$22 to \$23, and Medium and Good 300- to 600-lb. stocker steer calves cleared mainly at \$22 to \$27.

A total of 1,600 hogs was received during the week ended July 7, compared with 2,800 a week ago and 2,600 a year earlier. Despite downturns in the Corn Belt markets, Fort Worth quotations for barrows and gilts were 50¢ to 75¢ higher than in the latter part of the previous week. Mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 250-lb. butchers brought \$16.50 to \$17.25.

Sheep and lamb marketings totaled 10,500, reflecting gains of 35% over the week-earlier figure and 15% over a year ago. Demand for the limited supply of killing classes was broad, and prices for slaughter spring lambs were 50¢ to mostly \$1 higher than in the preceding week; quotations on other classes were steady to \$1.25 higher. Good to mostly Choice 85- to 97-lb. slaughter spring lambs reached a top price of \$19.

P O U L T R Y

As expected after the Fourth of July holiday, the major Texas commercial broiler markets opened weaker and were unsettled during the week ended Friday, July 8, according to the State Department of Agriculture. By the close, markets were steady in both south and east Texas. Friday quotations were 18¢ per lb. in south Texas and 17½¢ to 17.7¢ in east Texas, although 75% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined levels. During the corresponding period in 1959, closing prices were 17¢ in south Texas and 16¢ in east Texas.

The Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 178,200 broilers on Friday, of which 79,300 sold at 17½¢ to 17.9¢ (farm producers absorbed all rejected birds) and 29,500 sold at 16.9¢ to 17.3¢ (buyers absorbed all rejects).

On Monday, July 11, commercial broiler markets were steady in south Texas and about steady in east Texas. Prices were: South Texas, 18¢; and east Texas, 17¢ to 17.7¢, with 36% of the sales at undetermined quotes.

	Area	Week ended July 2, 1960	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1959
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,331,000	-6	-3
	Louisiana..	556,000	1	22
	22 states..	37,449,000	-2	9

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