



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO BE EXPANDED

Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse recently reported that the Rural Development Program will be operating in Puerto Rico and in more than 350 counties in 36 states by June 30, 1961. At the present time, Rural Development work is under way in 262 counties in 31 states and Puerto Rico.

The Congress has increased by \$3 million its appropriations for extension work this fiscal year, primarily for the purpose of increasing county agents' salaries. According to Mr. Morse, state budgets indicate that about two-thirds of a million dollars will be used specifically to finance additional Rural Development work.

COTTON EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

Exports of all types of U. S. cotton during the 1959-60 marketing season (which ended July 31, 1960) totaled nearly 7.2 million running bales, according to the latest figures of the Foreign Agricultural Service. The volume was more than 2½ times the 1958-59 cotton exports.

CARROT GROWERS APPROVE MARKETING ORDER

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that growers voting in a referendum held September 9-15 approved issuance of a proposed Federal marketing order for carrots grown in 51 south Texas counties. The marketing order authorizes regulation of carrot shipments by grades, sizes, qualities, packs, and containers.

Approximately 69% of the growers voting in the referendum, who produce 74% of the carrots in the area, favored issuance of the order. Handlers of south Texas carrots are being given an opportunity to signify their approval of the program by signing the proposed marketing agreement.

MEXICAN FARM LABOR PROGRAM EXTENDED

On September 14, President Eisenhower signed legislation extending the authority for the importation of Mexican nationals for seasonal farm work in the United States. The legislation extends the Mexican farm labor law from the former expiration date of June 30, 1961, to December 31, 1961.

Mexican nationals are employed by farmers and ranchers - especially in the Southwest and West - in the production of high-risk crops, such as fruits and vegetables, that must be harvested without delay at the time of maturity. The Mexican Farm Labor Program, authorized by Public Law 78, has been in operation since 1951.

TURKEYS RAISED - 1960

According to preliminary estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service, the number of turkeys being raised in the United States this year is placed at 82.3 million, compared with 82.1 million raised in 1959. The number of heavy-breed birds being raised (which accounts for 88% of the national total) is up 9% from a year ago, while the number of light breeds is down 37%.

In the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas), the number of turkeys being raised in 1960 is estimated at 5.3 million, or 7% more than a year ago. The number of heavy breeds is up 20%, while that of light breeds is down 60%.

P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, September 16, commercial broiler markets opened slightly weaker in east Texas and steady in south Texas, according to the State Department of Agriculture. The east Texas market weakened on Tuesday but became steady on Wednesday and held at that level through the close; the south Texas market was steady throughout the trading period. Friday quotations per lb. were 16¢ in south Texas and 13.8¢ to 15.6¢ in east Texas, although 34% of the sales were at undetermined levels. During the comparable week in 1959, closing prices were 16¢ in south Texas and 14½¢ in east Texas.

Friday offerings at the Southwest Poultry Exchange totaled 131,100 broilers, of which 59,200 sold at 14.8¢ to 15.3¢ (farm producers absorbed all rejected birds) and 3,200 sold at 14.6¢ (buyers absorbed all rejects).

The Texas commercial broiler markets were weaker on Monday, September 19. Prices in south Texas were mostly 15½¢, with some at 16¢; and those in east Texas were 14½¢ to 15.3¢, with 42% of the sales in the latter area at undetermined quotes.

	Area	Week ended September 10, 1960	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1959
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,611,000	-5	-21
	Louisiana..	356,000	0	9
	22 states..	29,037,000	-2	11

L I V E S T O C K

During the week ended Thursday, September 15, the Fort Worth cattle supply totaled an estimated 14,400, or 76% more than in the 3-day trading period of the preceding week (when the market was closed on Monday in observance of the Labor Day holiday) and 24% above the corresponding 4 days of 1959. According to the AMS, quotations on slaughter steers and heifers were about unchanged from the latter part of the previous week. Standard and Good 550- to 1,340-lb. slaughter steers cleared at \$19.50 to \$22.25 per cwt., and most of the Utility and Commercial cows brought \$13 to \$15.50. Trading on stockers and feeders was generally steady; Medium and Good 500- to 750-lb. yearling stocker steers sold at \$17 to \$22.50.

The calf run of about 2,400 was up 60% from a week ago but was 44% below the year-earlier figure. Late trading on slaughter calves was rather uneven. Prices of Good and Choice killing calves weighing around 650 lbs. ranged from \$21 to \$22.50, and quotations on the majority of the Medium and Good 310- to 550-lb. stocker steer calves were \$17.50 to \$24.50.

Hog receipts were approximately 2,100, or 100 more than a week earlier but 400 below the corresponding period last year. Closing prices on most butchers were 50¢ lower than a week ago, with mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 160- to 185-lb. barrows and gilts quoted at \$14.50 to \$16.

Sheep and lamb offerings are placed at 8,800, reflecting gains of 14% over the previous week and 42% over the year-earlier supply. Slaughter spring lambs sold at prices which were 50¢ to \$1 lower than in the latter part of the preceding week. Good and Choice 80- to 95-lb. woolled and shorn slaughter lambs brought \$16 to \$17.

J. Z. Rowe
Agricultural Economist