



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 561

Wednesday, September 28, 1960

NEW LEGISLATION PROTECTS CROPLAND ACREAGE

Under the terms of legislation signed by President Eisenhower on September 14, cropland acreage and acreage allotment history of farmers and ranchers converting cultivated cropland acreages to permanent vegetation under the Great Plains Conservation Program and the Conservation Reserve Program are protected for double the periods of their contracts. Previously, cropland acreages of farmers and ranchers who made such land-use changes were protected only for the periods of their contracts with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Contracts under both programs range from periods of 3 to 10 years.

FEDERAL SEED ACT REGULATIONS AMENDED

The USDA has announced an amendment, effective November 1, of rules and regulations under the Federal Seed Act. The main purpose of the changes is to bring rules for seed testing under the Federal Seed Act in line with rules adopted by the Association of Official Seed Analysts.

Copies of the amended rules and regulations may be obtained from the Seed Branch, Grain Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. The amendments were published in the September 13 issue of the Federal Register.

DAIRY SUPPORT PRICES INCREASED

On September 19 the USDA increased dairy support prices for butterfat from a level of 56.6¢ per lb. to 59.6¢ per lb. and milk for manufacturing purposes from \$3.06 per cwt. to \$3.22 per cwt. These increases will be in effect for the remainder of the 1960-61 dairy marketing year (which ends March 31, 1961).

In order to carry out the dairy support increases, the Commodity Credit Corporation's purchasing prices have been increased by 2½¢ per lb. for butter, 1½¢ per lb. for cheese, and ½¢ per lb. for nonfat dry milk. These increases will apply only to products produced on or after September 17, 1960.

KNOW YOUR BUTTER GRADES

A new USDA publication, entitled "Know Your Butter Grades," helps shoppers to know and understand better the meaning of USDA grades. The compact folder lists grades of butter and tells important differences between them. It indicates where to look for the grade emblem on butter packages and explains the meaning of grades in terms of quality. Copies of the folder, Marketing Bulletin No. 12, may be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FALL FARROWINGS DOWN

The number of sows farrowing this fall in the 10 Corn Belt states is placed at 4.3 million, which is 3% below the 1959 level but 14% greater than the 10-year (1949-58) average. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, these 10 states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) accounted for 73% of the total U. S. pig crop in 1959.

P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, September 23, the Texas commercial broiler markets opened weaker, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The market in east Texas weakened again slightly on Tuesday but became steady on Wednesday and closed at prices which were $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb. higher; the south Texas market held steady throughout the trading period. Friday quotations were $15\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ in south Texas and 14.2¢ to 15.6¢ in east Texas, with 37% of the sales in the latter area at undetermined levels.

The Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 147,800 broilers on Friday, selling 97,300 at 15.3¢ to 15.6¢ (farm producers absorbed all rejected birds) and 6,500 at 14.1¢ (buyers absorbed all rejects).

Commercial broiler markets were steady in south Texas and about steady in east Texas on Monday, September 26. Prices were $15\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ in south Texas and 14.1¢ to 15.6¢ in east Texas (33% of the sales were at undetermined quotes).

	Area	Week ended September 17, 1960	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1959
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,583,000	-2	-15
	Louisiana..	334,000	-6	6
	22 states..	28,442,000	-2	15

L I V E S T O C K

An estimated 12,900 cattle were received at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, September 22, according to the AMS. The number was 8% below the expanded supply of a week earlier but 55% greater than in the corresponding period of 1959. Trading on slaughter steers and heifers was relatively slow. Prices of steers held mainly steady, but a few sales were 25¢ per cwt. lower than in the latter part of the preceding week. Good 890- to 1,335-lb. slaughter steers cleared at \$21.75 to \$23, and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$13 to \$15.50. Trading on all classes of stockers and feeders was generally steady, with Medium and Good 500- to 725-lb. yearling stocker steers quoted at \$16 to \$21.50.

Calf marketings were approximately 2,000, reflecting declines of 17% from a week ago and 20% from the year-earlier level. Trading on slaughter calves slowed considerably at midweek, and closing prices were steady to 50¢ lower than on the previous Thursday. Good and Choice grades of slaughter calves sold at \$19 to \$21.50, and quotations for 300- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves ranged from \$21 to \$25.50.

The hog supply was estimated at 2,000, or about the same as a week earlier but 100 fewer than a year ago. Trading on barrows and gilts was active, and prices advanced gradually during the 4-day trading period. Thursday quotations were 75¢ to \$1 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 \$16.25 to \$16.75.

Sheep and lamb offerings of approximately 5,000 were down 43% from the preceding week and 9% from the comparable period of 1959. Closing prices of slaughter lambs were steady to strong as compared with a week earlier. Good and Choice slaughter spring lambs sold at \$15.50 to \$16.