



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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## REFERENDUM DAY

December 13, 1960, is an important day for many farmers in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District. Growers of rice and both upland and extra-long staple cotton will vote in three separate referendums on marketing quotas for these 1961 crops. A favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the producers voting is required in order for marketing quotas to remain in effect.

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## SURPLUS FOOD DONATIONS INCREASE

During the first quarter of the 1961 fiscal year (July-September 1960), donations of surplus foods by the U. S. Department of Agriculture at home and overseas totaled 933 million lbs., or almost one-third above the volume distributed in the corresponding period last year. The gain was accounted for principally by increased shipments of rice and flour for foreign relief and by donations of dry beans and lard to domestic welfare outlets that were not receiving these latter two foods a year earlier.

The following are the numbers of needy persons in family units in the Eleventh District states who were receiving donated foods in September 1960: Arizona, 49,536; Louisiana, 79,334; New Mexico, 38,439; Oklahoma, 177,774; and Texas, 111,148.

## FRUIT - PEST IMPORT QUARANTINE URGED

A strong quarantine program to prevent entry of new citrus and subtropical fruit pests into the United States has been urged by the USDA's Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Research and Marketing Advisory Committee. In addition, the committee has called for greater emphasis on all phases of research on citrus and subtropical fruits, including research on farm production, utilization, marketing, and marketing services.

## TEXAS FARM PRICES

The index of prices received by Texas farmers and ranchers as of November 15 was 247% of the 1910-14 average, reflecting increases of 2% over the month-earlier figure and 1% over a year ago, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Prices for livestock and livestock products advanced 6% from the mid-October level, while those for crops declined 2%.

## WORLD HOG SLAUGHTER EXPECTED TO RISE

According to the Foreign Agricultural Service, next year's hog slaughter in 29 countries is expected to rise 2% above the 1960 level. Most of the gain is expected in Europe, although a slight advance may occur in North America. The increases in Mexico, the United States, and Cuba probably will more than offset the decline expected in Canada.

## L I V E S T O C K

Receipts of all classes of livestock at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, December 1, were substantially above the 3-day trading period of the preceding week, reports the AMS. Cattle marketings totaled an estimated 9,300 head, or more than double a week ago and 50% greater than the comparable period last year. Demand was broad for all slaughter cattle, and prices ranged from 50¢ to \$1.50 per cwt. higher than on the previous Wednesday. Standard and low-Good 905- to 1,135-lb. slaughter steers brought \$23 to \$23.50, and Utility and Commercial cows sold at \$14.75 to \$17.25. Trading on stockers and feeders was active, and quotations were \$1 to \$2.50 higher than in the preceding week. Good and Choice 500- to 775-lb. stocker steers sold at \$22.50 to \$28.30.

The calf run of about 2,000 compared with 900 a week ago and 2,400 a year earlier. Prices for Good slaughter calves were mainly \$22.50 to \$24.50, and those for Good and Choice 275- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves were \$24.50 to \$29.70.

A total of 2,200 hogs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended December 1, or 1,000 more than in the previous week but 400 below a year ago. Trading was active, and prices were steady to 50¢ higher than on the preceding Wednesday. Mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 255-lb. butchers cleared at \$17.50 to mostly \$18.

Sheep and lamb marketings were approximately 11,100, reflecting gains of 122% over the preceding week and 13% over the corresponding period of 1959. Closing prices for slaughter lambs were steady to weak, with Good and Choice 80- to 95-lb. woolled and shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts quoted at \$16.25 to \$17.

## P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, December 2, commercial broiler markets opened weaker in south Texas and about steady in east Texas, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Prices in south Texas held steady throughout the trading period, while those in east Texas fluctuated slightly and closed higher. Friday quotations were 16¢ per lb. in south Texas and 15¢ to 15.9¢ in east Texas, with 34% of the sales in the latter area at undetermined prices. During the corresponding period of 1959, closing quotes were 16¢ in south Texas and 16¢ to 17½¢ in east Texas.

The Southwest Poultry Exchange offered 75,800 broilers on Friday, of which 63,300 sold at 15½¢ to 15.7¢ (farm producers absorbed all rejected birds) and 2,500 brought 15.1¢ (buyers absorbed all rejects).

On Monday, December 5, prices in the south Texas commercial broiler markets were unchanged, and the east Texas markets were about steady. Prices were: South Texas, 16¢; and east Texas, 15½¢ to 15.8¢, although 44% of the sales were at undetermined quotes.

	Area	Week ended November 26, 1960	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1959
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,730,000	-2	3
	Louisiana..	362,000	-6	21
	22 states..	29,692,000	-1	8