



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 572

Wednesday, December 14, 1960

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS MAY SET RECORD

Data for the first 9 months of this year indicate that the value of U. S. farm products shipped abroad in 1960 may reach an all-time high of approximately \$4.6 billion, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This total would be 18% above that in 1959 and would exceed the previous record of \$4.5 billion in 1957. The greatest gains this year, both in volume and value, have been in shipments of cotton, wheat, and soybeans.

According to USDA officials, the outlook for U. S. agricultural exports in 1961 is very good. Movement of farm products abroad are expected to equal, or possibly exceed, the 1960 level.

ONION MARKETING AGREEMENT RECOMMENDED

On December 6 the USDA recommended a Federal marketing agreement and order which would authorize regulation of the handling of onions grown in 35 south Texas counties. The proposed program would be administered by a 17-member committee, composed of 10 growers and 7 shippers. The committee would be authorized to recommend regulation of onion shipments by grade, size, quality, pack, and container for any, or all, varieties. Regulations could be applied to any, or all, portions of the production area during any period of the marketing season.

The USDA's recommendation for the south Texas onion marketing agreement is based on the results of a hearing held at Edinburg, Texas, on June 13-14, 1960. Interested persons will have until December 24, 1960, to file exceptions to the recommended program.

PER CAPITA FOOD CONSUMPTION

Food consumption in the United States averaged 1,488 lbs. per person in 1960, reports the USDA. Estimates are based on retail weights of all food products from farms, ranches, and fisheries.

Consumption of dairy products led the list, with an average of 414 lbs. per person - the equivalent of approximately 250 quarts of milk. The fruit and vegetable group (excluding potatoes) was next with 409 lbs. per person. This year's meat consumption per person is placed at 178 lbs., including poultry and fish as well as beef, pork, and lamb. Per capita consumption of other food groups averaged 146 lbs. of flour and cereal products, 108 lbs. of sugar and sirup, 67 lbs. of fats and oils, 41 lbs. of eggs (about 26 dozen), and 17 lbs. of coffee, tea, and cocoa.

CCC PRICE - SUPPORT PROGRAMS

As of October 31, 1960, the Commodity Credit Corporation's investment in price-support programs totaled \$9,121 million, according to the USDA. The cost value of inventories accounted for 83% of the total investment, and loans outstanding comprised the remainder. On the corresponding date last year, the CCC's investment amounted to \$9,226 million, of which inventories accounted for 84% and loans outstanding were 16%.

Price supports extended (total loans plus direct purchases and purchase agreements) on 1960 crops alone through October 31 this year totaled \$1,438 million, compared with \$1,339 million on 1959 crops through the corresponding date last year.

L I V E S T O C K

The cattle run at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, December 8, totaled an estimated 7,500 head, compared with 9,100 a week ago and 6,100 during the corresponding period of 1959. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, prices for slaughter steers, cows, and calves advanced for the third consecutive week. Mixed Good and Choice 975- to 1,205-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$25.50 to \$26 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$15.50 to \$18. Trading on stockers and feeders was fairly active, and closing prices were steady to \$2 lower than in the previous week. Quotations for Good and Choice 500- to 700-lb. yearling stocker steers ranged from \$22 to \$27.

Calf offerings of about 2,000 were up 11% over the previous week but were 5% below the year-earlier level. Good and Choice Grades of slaughter calves cleared at \$23 to \$26, and 265- to 490-lb. stocker steer calves were quoted at \$24 to \$29.50.

Fort Worth hog marketings were approximately 1,700, or 500 fewer than a week ago and 1,100 below the year-earlier figure. Barrows and gilts closed at prices which were steady to 25¢ lower than on the preceding Thursday's market. Mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 260-lb. butchers brought \$17.75 to \$18.25.

Sheep and lamb receipts are placed at 5,800, reflecting decreases of 45% from the preceding week and 25% under a year ago. Despite the reduced supplies, trading on slaughter lambs and yearlings was relatively slow, and prices were weak to mostly 50¢ lower than in the latter part of the previous week. Choice 80- to 97-lb. woolled and shorn slaughter lambs sold mainly at \$16 to \$16.50.

P O U L T R Y

Prices in the major Texas commercial broiler markets opened steady during the week ended Friday, December 9, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The market held steady in south Texas, while that in east Texas advanced steadily and closed stronger. Although supplies were mostly below year-earlier levels, there were enough broilers to meet the limited demand. Friday quotations were 16¢ per lb. in south Texas and 15.3¢ to 16.9¢ in east Texas (25% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined prices).

Friday offerings at the Southwest Poultry Exchange totaled 46,100 broilers, of which 27,800 brought 17.1¢ to 17.6¢ (farm producers absorbed all rejected birds) and 12,300 sold at 15½¢ to 15.7¢ (buyers absorbed all rejects).

On Monday, December 12, broiler markets were steady in south Texas, while prices were up slightly in east Texas. Quotes were 16¢ in south Texas and 15½¢ to 17.6¢ in east Texas, although 34% of the sales in the latter area were at undetermined levels.

	Area	Week ended December 3, 1960	Percentage change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1959
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,947,000	13	10
	Louisiana..	280,000	-23	-24
	22 states..	30,546,000	3	6