



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 602

Wednesday, July 12, 1961

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 \* JULY 23 - 29 IS FARM SAFETY WEEK!  
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## 1961 - CROP WHEAT SUPPORT PRICE UNCHANGED

On July 6 the United States Department of Agriculture announced that the national average support price for 1961-crop wheat will be \$1.79 per bushel, which is 75% of the July 1961 parity price. The support price is unchanged from the minimum "advance" support price used in setting county and terminal support rates which were announced on May 19. The national average support price for 1960-crop wheat was \$1.78 per bushel, or 75% of the July 1960 wheat parity price.

## USDA CHANGES BASIS OF ESTIMATING CORN CROP

The Crop Reporting Board of the USDA has announced that its monthly production forecasts of the 1961 corn crop (beginning with the July 11 report) will include only corn to be harvested for grain. The change in the basis of reporting will eliminate estimates of corn equivalent for silage, forage, or hogging, which have been included in estimates of "corn for all purposes" in previous years. In 1960 the total U. S. corn crop was an estimated 4.3 billion bushels, of which 3.9 billion bushels were harvested for grain.

## SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM EXTENDED

President Kennedy recently approved extension, for another fiscal year, of the Special Milk Program for the Nation's youngsters. Legislation signed by the President authorizes the use of \$105 million of Commodity Credit Corporation funds in the next 12 months for the milk program, or an increase of \$10 million over the 1961 fiscal year authorization.

The program is operated through state agencies, which, in turn, reimburse the schools and institutions for part of the cost of additional milk purchased locally and made available to youngsters through high-school age. This milk is in addition to that served in conjunction with the National School Lunch Program. More than half of the school children in the United States are now drinking milk at school provided through the school lunch and the special milk programs, according to the USDA.

## PENALTY RATE FOR 1961 "EXCESS" RICE

On July 7 the USDA announced a marketing quota penalty rate of \$3.93 per cwt. on 1961-crop rice. This penalty will be assessed on "excess" production from farms where acreage allotments have been exceeded.

## REMOVAL OF STRONTIUM 90 FROM MILK

A pilot plant for removing strontium 90 from milk is being tested at the USDA's Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland. The purpose of the test is to provide a practical method of assuring safe food supplies in case of nuclear attack.

## L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth receipts of all classes of livestock during the 3-day trading period ended Thursday, July 6, were substantially below both the previous week's 4-day supplies and the year-earlier offerings, according to the Statistical Reporting Service. (The market was closed on Tuesday, July 4; the corresponding trading period in 1960 also included the Fourth of July holiday.) Cattle marketings of an estimated 3,700 compared with 9,500 a week ago and 8,700 during the corresponding period in 1960. Trading on slaughter steers was fairly active, and Thursday prices for Good and Choice animals were 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher than at the preceding week's close; quotations on lower grades were about steady. Good 945- to 1,150-lb. slaughter steers cleared at \$21.75 to \$22.60, and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$13.50 to \$16. Trading on stockers and feeders was moderately active, and prices held mostly steady. Good and Choice 500- to 700-lb. stoker steers sold at \$21 to \$24.50.

The calf run totaled about 400, reflecting decreases of 79% from the preceding week and 64% from a year ago. Slaughter calves were in good demand, and prices were steady to strong. Good and low-Choice killing calves were quoted at \$22.50 to \$24, and prices for Good and Choice 250- to 500-lb. stoker steer calves ranged from \$22 to \$27.

The hog supply is placed at an estimated 1,000, or 1,400 fewer than a week earlier and 700 below the year-earlier figure. Trading was active, and closing levels were 50¢ to 75¢ higher than a week ago. Most of the mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 235-lb. barrows and gilts brought \$18.25.

A total of 5,900 sheep and lambs was received at Fort Worth during the 3-day trading period ended July 6, or 53% below the previous week's 4-day offerings and 43% less than the corresponding period of 1960. Prices were generally fully steady with the preceding Thursday's close. Good to mostly Choice 68- to 93-lb. slaughter lambs cleared at \$16.50.

## P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, July 7, the principal Texas commercial broiler markets opened weaker, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The south Texas market became steady on Tuesday and remained at that level through Friday's close. The east Texas market remained weak through Wednesday but strengthened on Thursday and closed steady. The trading volume in south Texas was 33% greater than in the comparable period in 1960, while that in east Texas was about unchanged. Closing prices were 12.5¢ per lb. in south Texas, and the weighted average price in east Texas was 12.3¢. During the corresponding period last year, closing prices were 18¢ in south Texas, and the weighted average in east Texas was 17.7¢.

On Monday, July 10, commercial broiler markets were stronger in south Texas but were slightly weaker in east Texas. Prices were: South Texas, 12.5¢ to 13¢, mainly 13¢; and east Texas, 11.9¢ to 12.3¢ (31% of the sales were at undetermined levels).

The Southwest Poultry Exchange at Center, Texas, offered 303,700 broilers on July 10. Of this number, 156,600 sold at 12¢ to 12.3¢ (farm producers absorbed all rejected birds), and 24,000 brought 11.9¢ to 12¢ (buyers absorbed all rejects).

	Area	Week ended July 1, 1961	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1960
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS				
	Texas.....	2,843,000	3	24
	Louisiana..	571,000	3	3
	22 states..	40,444,000	-2	8