



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 612

Wednesday, September 20, 1961

CROP INSURANCE FOR 100 NEW COUNTIES

Federal crop insurance will be available in 100 new counties throughout the United States in 1962, according to a recent announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Freeman. A total of 991 counties will be included in the program. Insurance will be offered on irrigated grain sorghums and peanuts next year for the first time. Crops on which insurance protection will be offered in 1962 are: Barley, beans, cotton, corn, citrus fruit, irrigated grain sorghums, oats, peaches, peanuts, rice, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat.

Under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation program, farmers in counties where the insurance is available pay premiums for protection of designated crops against loss from causes beyond their control, such as weather, insects, and disease.

USDA FOOD DONATIONS REACH ALL-TIME HIGH

U. S. Department of Agriculture food donations at home and abroad reached a record high during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1961. More than 3.7 billion lbs. of food were used in various programs, or 31% more than a year earlier. The cost of donated commodities to all outlets during 1960-61 amounted to nearly \$454 million, compared with \$295 million in the preceding fiscal year.

The following are the numbers of persons in family units receiving donated commodities in June 1961 in the Eleventh District states: Arizona, 81,046; Louisiana, 212,026; New Mexico, 69,966; Oklahoma, 273,754; and Texas, 201,410.

POTATO GROWERS TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Secretary of Agriculture Freeman recently announced that the USDA will assist potato growers in marketing the 1961 crop of potatoes by encouraging diversion of potatoes to starch, flour, and feed. This year's potato output is expected to provide supplies considerably in excess of market requirements.

MONKEYS IMPORTED FOR MAKING POLIO VACCINE

U. S. imports of monkeys and other primates - including baboons, chimpanzees, and lemurs - have averaged about 200,000 annually during the past 5 years, according to a recent report of the Foreign Agricultural Service. Most of the imports are Rhesus monkeys, transported by air from India, Pakistan, and the Philippines, for use in making polio vaccine.

PROGRAM TO ERADICATE HOG CHOLERA

President Kennedy recently signed legislation authorizing the USDA to undertake a broad Federal-state program to eradicate hog cholera from the Nation. The Animal Disease Eradication Division of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service will administer the Federal phases of the program in cooperation with states that desire to participate. ARS animal disease authorities point out that, with the incidence of hog cholera at a 13-year low, the time is ripe to attempt eradication.

LIVESTOCK

The cattle supply at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, September 14, was below both a week ago and a year earlier as a result of rains caused

by Hurricane Carla. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, the cattle run was an estimated 6,400, compared with 7,100 in the preceding week and 14,100 during the corresponding period in 1960. Trading on slaughter steers was fairly active, and prices were steady to weak. Mostly Good 925- to 1,215-lb. slaughter steers cleared at \$23 to \$23.75 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$14.50 to \$16.50. Trading on stockers and feeders was fairly active, and prices were fully steady, with Good and Choice 500- to 700-lb. stocker steers quoted at \$22 to \$26.

The calf run of 1,100 was 100 more than in the previous week but was less than half the year-earlier figure. Thursday prices for slaughter calves were fully 50¢ higher than a week ago. Good and Choice grades of killing calves brought up to \$24, and 350- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves sold at \$23.50 to \$27.

Hog receipts totaled approximately 1,200, reflecting decreases of 8% from the preceding week and 40% from a year ago. Trading was active throughout the 4-day period ended September 14. Compared with the previous Thursday, prices for barrows and gilts weighing over 200 lbs. were 50¢ to \$1 higher, while quotations on lighter weights were mostly steady. The majority of the U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 260-lb. butchers brought \$18.75 to \$19.25.

Sheep and lamb marketings are estimated at 4,300, compared with 6,500 a week ago and 9,000 during the corresponding period last year. Demand was broad, and trading was fairly active on the reduced supplies, despite the slow movement and generally lower dressed lamb prices at most major centers during the trading period. All classes of sheep and lambs sold at generally steady prices, with mixed Good and Choice 80- to 91-lb. slaughter spring lambs quoted at \$15.50 to \$16.

P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, September 15, the major Texas commercial broiler markets opened weaker in south Texas and about steady in east Texas, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The markets showed almost no sales and movement early in the week, as a result of Hurricane Carla. The south Texas market settled Thursday and remained steady through Friday's close; the east Texas market improved Thursday and closed steady. Undertone in both areas was firm at the close of the trading period. Closing quotations were about 0.5¢ per lb. higher in east Texas and 0.5¢ lower in south Texas. Closing prices were 11¢ in south Texas, and the weighted average price in east Texas was 10.9¢. During the corresponding week in 1960, closing quotations in south Texas were 16¢, and the weighted average in east Texas was 15.4¢.

Commercial broiler markets were stronger in south Texas and improved in east Texas on Monday, September 18. Supplies were adequate for the demand, and movement was normal. Quotations were: South Texas, 11.5¢; and east Texas, 11.2¢ to 11.6¢, with 34% of the sales at undetermined levels.

The Southwest Poultry Exchange at Center, Texas, offered and sold 138,000 broilers on September 18. The supply cleared at 11.2¢ to 11.6¢ (farm producers absorbed all rejected birds).

	Area	Week ended September 9, 1961	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1960
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,056,000	-7	25
	Louisiana..	381,000	1	7
	22 states..	31,742,000	-2	9