



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 621

Wednesday, November 22, 1961

OUTLOOK FOR MEAT CONSUMPTION

U. S. production of both beef and pork in 1962 is expected to be greater than in the current year, according to the Economic Research Service. Output of veal may be about the same, while that of lamb and mutton probably will be down slightly. With beef and pork production expected to rise, a new record red meat output of 29.3 billion lbs. is in prospect for 1962.

The ERS says that the increase in red meat production probably will slightly exceed the growth in population, thereby resulting in a small gain in per capita consumption. Civilian per capita consumption of red meat for 1962 is forecast at 161 lbs., or 0.4 lb. more than in 1961 but 0.5 lb. below 1960 and 5.7 lbs. less than the record set in 1956. Per capita consumption of poultry meat in 1962 is forecast at 37 lbs., compared with 37.5 lbs. in 1961 and 34.6 lbs. in 1960.

CITRUS TREE PLANTINGS IN THE LOWER VALLEY

Licensed citrus nurserymen in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas reported that 466,000 citrus trees moved from nurseries to groves in the area between July 1, 1960, and June 30, 1961, points out the Statistical Reporting Service. Of the total, 39% were grapefruit trees, 57% were orange trees, and 4% were other citrus fruit trees, including lemon, lime, and tangerine. (Trees grown by noncommercial nurserymen are not included.)

A survey of Texas citrus nurserymen has been made annually since 1952. Largest plantings of trees were reported in 1953-54, and the smallest number was in 1958-59. Of the total plantings during the 9 years, grapefruit accounted for 61%; oranges, 35%; and other citrus fruits, 4%.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market in the seven major feeding states as of November 1 totaled 2.4 million head, or 6% below the year-earlier figure, reports the SRS. Decreases were reported in three of the states - Nebraska, 18%; Iowa, 17%; and Colorado, 12%. The states showing increases were: Kansas, 19%; California, 9%; Texas, 5%; and South Dakota, 2%.

SOUTH TEXAS ONION HEARING

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that a public hearing will be held to consider proposed amendments to the Federal marketing order which regulates the handling of onions grown in south Texas. The hearing - which was requested by the South Texas Onion Committee - will begin at 9:30 a.m., November 28, at the Echo Motor Hotel in Edinburg, Texas.

HAMBURG FOOD FAIR DRAWS THRONGS

The U. S. Food Fair, which opened in Hamburg, Germany, on November 10, attracted such throngs of visitors that some food items were sold out the opening day. The fair - sponsored by the USDA and American food and agricultural industries - ended November 19 and was the largest overseas market promotion exhibit of U. S. food products ever presented, according to the USDA.

L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth marketings of all classes of livestock except hogs during the week ended Thursday, November 16, were below week-earlier levels, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. At an estimated 6,900 head, the cattle supply compared with 8,500 in the preceding week and 12,400 a year ago. Trading on slaughter steers, heifers, and bulls was moderately active, while that on cows was generally slow. Slaughter steers and heifers sold at prices which were 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. higher than on the previous Thursday. Good and Choice 965- to 1,180-lb. slaughter steers brought \$24 to \$24.25, and Utility and Commercial cows were quoted at \$14 to \$17. Demand for stockers and feeders was fairly good; prices were mostly 50¢ to \$1 lower than a week ago. Good and Choice 500- to 750-lb. stocker steers sold at \$21.50 to \$26.50.

The calf run was about 1,200, reflecting declines of 25% from the preceding week and 43% from the corresponding period in 1960. Closing quotes on killing calves were mainly 50¢ to \$1 higher than a week ago. Good slaughter calves brought \$23 to \$24.50, and prices for Good and Choice 250- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves ranged from \$23 to \$28.

Hog receipts are placed at 1,700, which is 200 more than a week earlier but 300 fewer than a year ago. Closing quotations on barrows and gilts were steady to 50¢ higher than on the preceding Thursday. The majority of the U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 260-lb. butchers sold at \$15.75 to \$16.50.

Sheep and lamb offerings were approximately 4,200, or 47% below the previous week and 43% fewer than in the comparable period last year. The approaching Thanksgiving holiday was the major bearish factor in the sheep trade. Closing quotations were generally 50¢ lower than at the previous week's close. Good and Choice shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 through No. 3 pelts cleared largely at \$14 to \$15.

P O U L T R Y

Texas commercial broiler markets opened slightly stronger in south Texas and steady in east Texas during the week ended Friday, November 17, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Markets in both areas were steady on Tuesday and held firm through the close. Supplies were adequate for the slow pre-Thanksgiving holiday demand. Compared with a year ago, trading volumes were up 10% in south Texas and 12% in east Texas. Closing quotations were 13¢ per lb. in south Texas, and the weighted average price in east Texas was 12.3¢. During the corresponding period in 1960, closing quotations were 17¢ in south Texas; the weighted average in east Texas was 16.4¢.

The south Texas commercial broiler market was steady on Monday, November 20; quotations were 13¢ per lb. No reports are to be issued for the east Texas commercial broiler market for the week of November 20-24, because the Department of Agriculture is re-evaluating the sources of market news quotations.

| | Area | Week ended November 11, 1961 | Percent change from | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Previous week | Comparable week, 1960 |
| BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS | Texas..... | 1,741,000 | -1 | -1 |
| | Louisiana.. | 371,000 | -7 | -3 |
| | 22 states.. | 29,620,000 | 2 | -1 |