



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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NEW SYSTEM FOR REPORTING POULTRY DISEASES

A voluntary state-Federal system for reporting outbreaks of three costly poultry diseases caused by Salmonella organisms is scheduled to begin in early 1962, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The aim of the new system is to uncover reservoirs of infection and to provide estimates of losses from pullorum disease, fowl typhoid, and paratyphoid of poultry - the three most serious Salmonella diseases. The system will operate through state departments of agriculture, the Animal Disease Eradication Division of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and the National Poultry (NPIP) and Turkey (NTIP) Improvement Plans (ARS-sponsored programs aimed at breed improvement and eradication of poultry diseases).

WINTER WHEAT SIGNUP

As of December 1, 1961, a total of 11.2 million acres had been signed up on 696,939 farms in the United States to divert acreage under the 1962 wheat stabilization program, reports the USDA. Although December 1 was the closing date for signing up winter wheat farms under the program, reports were incomplete in many states; the signup for spring-planted wheat will be held later. The winter wheat acreage signed up through December 1 represents 34% of the program acres on the farms signed. (Program acres are the 1962 wheat acreage allotment before the mandatory 10% diversion or the highest acreage not in excess of 10 acres planted on the farm during 1959-61, which is a special provision for small farms.) For the farms which have been signed up, possible advance payments - under provisions permitting about one-half of the payments to be made this fall during the signup period - total \$123.7 million.

In the principal wheat-producing states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas), as of December 1, a total of 3.1 million acres had been signed up for diversion under the 1962 wheat program, or 36% of the program acres on signed farms. The value of advance payments for the signed acreage amounts to \$30.1 million.

COTTON GROWERS APPROVE MARKETING QUOTAS

Preliminary returns show that, in a referendum held on December 12, U. S. growers of upland cotton approved marketing quotas for the 1962 crop by a 96.9% favorable vote - the highest percentage in cotton marketing quota referendum history. According to the USDA, early results indicate a total vote of 276,598, or the largest total vote cast in an upland cotton quota referendum since the one for the 1956 crop.

In a separate referendum, producers of extra-long staple cotton approved quotas for the 1962 crop by an 88.5% favorable vote. Since more than the necessary two-thirds of the growers voting approved quotas on both types of cotton, marketing quotas will continue to be in effect for next year's crops.

TEXAS WINTER VEGETABLE ACREAGE LARGER

Plantings of vegetables for winter harvest in Texas are estimated at 81,000 acres, or 3% above the acreage harvested a year earlier, reports the Statistical Reporting Service. Larger plantings of beets, broccoli, and carrots were partially offset by reduced acreages of cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce.

LIVESTOCK

Icy road conditions and the most severe cold wave of the current season resulted in substantially curtailed livestock marketings at Fort Worth during the

week ended Thursday, December 14, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The cattle run totaled an estimated 4,000 head, compared with 5,900 in the preceding week and 7,900 a year ago. Closing quotations were steady to \$1 per cwt. higher than on the preceding Thursday. High-Standard and Good 750- to 1,130-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$23.50 to \$25, and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$15.50 to \$18. Price trends on stockers and feeders were mixed; Good and Choice grades sold at prices which were steady to 50¢ lower, while quotes on Common and Medium grades were steady to 50¢ higher. Good and Choice 500- to 700-lb. stocker steers cleared at \$22.25 to \$26.50.

The calf supply is placed at 500, reflecting decreases of 58% from the preceding week and 69% from the year-earlier figure. Good killing calves sold at \$23.50 to \$25.25, and Good and Choice 270- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves were quoted at \$23 to \$27.10.

At approximately 1,100, hog receipts were 400 fewer than in the previous week and 500 below the corresponding period in 1960. Compared with the preceding Thursday, quotations for barrows and gilts showed advances of 50¢ to \$1. The majority of the U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 265-lb. butchers cleared at \$17 to \$17.50.

Sheep and lamb offerings totaled about 3,700, compared with 8,500 a week earlier and 5,500 a year ago. The normally bullish influence of smaller receipts was largely offset by weakness at northern markets; therefore, Fort Worth prices were generally unchanged from the previous week. Most of the Good and Choice 70- to 115-lb. woolled and shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts brought \$15 to \$15.50.

P O U L T R Y

The major Texas commercial broiler markets opened stronger in south Texas and unsettled in east Texas during the week ended Friday, December 15. According to the State Department of Agriculture, the market in south Texas remained steady throughout the trading period, while that in east Texas weakened slightly on Tuesday and then held about steady through the close. The limited supplies of broilers in both areas were balanced for the slow seasonal demand. Closing prices per lb. were: South Texas, 17¢; and east Texas, 15.9¢ to 16.5¢. During the corresponding week in 1960, closing quotations were 16¢ in south Texas, and the weighted average price in east Texas was 15.2¢.

On Monday, December 18, commercial broiler markets were slightly weaker in south Texas and unsettled in east Texas. Prices were 16.5¢ in south Texas and 15.2¢ to 16.5¢ in east Texas.

	Area	Week ended December 9, 1961	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1960
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	1,905,000	-3	-5
	Louisiana..	395,000	-1	-7
	22 states..	32,162,000	2	4