



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 648

Wednesday, May 30, 1962

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 \* MILK - THE PITCHER OF HEALTH \*  
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 \* JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH! \*  
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### EXTENSION WORKERS TO STUDY MARKETS ABROAD

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that teams of selected Federal and state cooperative extension workers from this country will visit four major world areas in order to make studies designed to facilitate foreign marketing of U. S. agricultural products. The extension teams will conduct firsthand studies in Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East, south Asia, and the Caribbean area. The purpose of the studies will be to obtain information which will enable U. S. farmers and professional agricultural workers to gain a better understanding of (1) foreign food and fiber needs, (2) problems of modern export marketing, and (3) the background for a successful foreign trade policy.

The teams are scheduled to leave the United States around June 15 and return about July 23. Following their observations abroad, the extension specialists plan to develop discussion material to be transmitted to urban and rural people - as well as professional agricultural workers - throughout the Nation.

### WORLD HOG POPULATION AT NEW PEAK

The world hog population reached an all-time high of 483 million head in January 1962, according to the USDA. The number was 4% above a year earlier and 40% larger than the 1951-55 average.

### FARM FIRE LOSSES REDUCED

A recent Economic Research Service report estimates U. S. farm fire losses in 1961 at \$163 million, or 1% less than the 1960 figure and 6% below the all-time high of \$174 million for 1959. Farm fire losses accounted for about one-seventh of the total national fire losses in 1961. On the average, fires occur on about 2 out of every 100 U. S. farms each year.

### ONE ACRE PER PERSON

At 4:30 p.m. on May 16, the population of the United States was the same as the number of acres of forestland in this country. As registered on the population clock in the U. S. Department of Commerce, each person owned, theoretically, one acre of forestland at that time. This ratio is constantly changing, however, because of the increasing population and the relatively fixed number of forest acres. Research by the USDA's Forest Service is conducted to provide better protection and management of these areas.

## L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth cattle and calf receipts rose for the fifth consecutive time during the week ended Thursday, May 24, reflecting the continuing inadequate moisture condition in the marketing territory. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, the cattle run totaled an estimated 7,100, compared with 6,700 in the preceding week and 11,000 a year earlier. Trading on slaughter steers and heifers was generally slow throughout the week, and prices were mostly 50¢ to \$1 lower than on the previous Thursday. Good and low-Choice 800- to 1,050-lb. slaughter steers were quoted at \$23 to \$25.25 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$13.25 to \$16. Prices for feeder cattle were steady to \$1 lower; Good 500- to 700-lb. steers sold at \$21 to \$24.50.

The calf supply was about 1,400, or 300 more than a week ago and 100 larger than the year-earlier figure. Trading on slaughter calves was moderately active, and prices were lower. Good grades of killing calves brought \$23 to \$24.50 per cwt., and 250- to 500-lb. feeder steer calves cleared at \$22 to \$26.50.

At an estimated 2,000, hog marketings were 300 more than both a week ago and a year ago. Trading opened slowly on most days but became active later in the day, and closing quotations were generally steady. The majority of the U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 250-lb. barrows and gilts sold at \$15 to \$15.85 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb offerings declined during the week ended May 24 but remained seasonally large. Receipts, at 41,800, were 21% below a week ago but 10% higher than the year-earlier level. The local run on Monday, May 21, was the largest in a year. Good and Choice 65- to 105-lb. slaughter spring lambs brought \$17 to \$19; most Good and Choice 55- to 75-lb. feeder lambs ranged from \$11 to \$14.25.

## P O U L T R Y

During the week ended Friday, May 25, commercial broiler markets opened steady in both south and east Texas, according to the State Department of Agriculture. Prices remained constant throughout the week, and supplies were adequate for the fair demand in the two areas. Both areas closed with a firm undertone. Closing prices per lb. were: South Texas, 14¢; and east Texas, 13.5¢ to 14¢. During the corresponding period in 1961, the closing quotation in south Texas was 14¢, and the weighted average price in east Texas was 13.11¢.

Commercial broiler markets were steady in both south and east Texas on Monday, May 28. Prices in south Texas were 14¢ per lb., and those in east Texas ranged from 13.3¢ to 14¢.

	Area	Week ended May 19, 1962	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1961
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,911,000	-1	-3
	Louisiana..	553,000	-7	-12
	22 states..	42,333,000	-1	0