



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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## COTTON MICRONAIRE READINGS

Micronaire readings on samples of cotton submitted for classification under the Smith-Doxey program will be available on a fee basis during the 1963-64 season, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This service provides a measurement of fiber fineness of cotton as determined by airflow instruments. Fiber fineness is a quality factor important in spinning. Testing for micronaire readings is authorized under the Cotton Testing Service Act.

Applications for the testing service must be submitted by a ginner to the Agricultural Marketing Service cotton classing office serving the territory in which the gin is located. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible and not later than July 1. Applications for micronaire readings and additional details regarding the service may be obtained from any local cotton division classing office of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

## TURKEY INTENTIONS

The Nation's turkey growers intend to produce 3% more birds in 1963 than the 1962 output, states the Statistical Reporting Service. If the growers carry out their intentions, approximately 94.4 million turkeys will be raised this year, compared with 91.8 million in 1962. An increase of 3% is planned in the output of heavy breeds, with heavy whites up 10% and other heavy breeds down 1%. Present plans are for a 2% increase in the production of light-breed turkeys.

Texas turkey growers intend to produce 4.2 million birds in 1963, or 2% more than last year's output. Heavy breeds are expected to account for virtually all of the State's turkey production this year.

## CATTLE ON FEED

The number of cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 28 major feeding states on January 1, 1963, totaled nearly 9 million head, according to the SRS. The number was 12% above a year earlier and up seasonally from the 6.1 million on feed as of October 1, 1962. Animals weighing less than 900 lbs. accounted for about 85% of the gain in the number on feed as compared with January 1, 1962. Cattle feeders in the 28 states plan to market 3.8 million animals during the first quarter of 1963, representing about 42% of the total number of cattle on hand at the beginning of the year.

In Texas, there were 430,000 cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market on January 1, 1963, which was approximately one-third more than both a year earlier and on October 1, 1962. Feedlots with a capacity of more than 1,000 head continued to increase during 1962. At the beginning of 1963, there were 172 feedlots in the State with a capacity of 1,000 head and over, compared with 145 a year earlier. The area showing the largest increase in the number of cattle feeders was northeast Texas; however, the High Plains registered the biggest gain in the number of cattle on feed.

## HOG FARMS GETTING BIGGER

Measured by either the number of hogs farrowing or the number of swine sold, the Nation's hog farms are getting larger, says the Economic Research Service. The proportion of hog farms with 10 or more litters increased from 29% in 1954 to 34% in 1959, and the number of swine sold per hog farm rose about 60% during this period.

## L I V E S T O C K

Extremely cold weather continued to curtail Fort Worth cattle and calf marketings during the week ended Thursday, January 24; however, total supplies were little changed from a year ago, when adverse weather conditions also sharply reduced receipts. At an estimated 3,500, the cattle run was 100 above a week earlier but was about unchanged from a year ago. Trading on slaughter steers and heifers was fairly active on Monday but was only moderately active thereafter. Quotations for slaughter steers ranged from 25¢ to \$1 per cwt. lower than on the preceding Thursday. Good 900- to 1,150-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$24 to \$25.50 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$14.50 to \$17.50. Closing prices for feeder steers were mostly steady to 50¢ lower than a week earlier, with Good and Choice 500- to 700-lb. animals quoted at \$23.50 to \$26.

Calf offerings of about 800 were 11% below the previous week but one-third above a year ago. Slaughter calves sold at prices which were fully steady with the preceding Thursday's close. Good grades of killing calves cleared at \$24 to \$24.50 per cwt., and feeder steer calves weighing under 500 lbs. sold at \$23.50 to \$26.50.

A total of 1,125 hogs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended January 24, compared with 1,300 a week earlier and 800 during the corresponding period in 1962. Trading was moderately active in most sessions, and price fluctuations on barrows and gilts were minor. The majority of the U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 175- to 250-lb. butchers cleared at \$15.75 to \$16.50 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb marketings are placed at 8,300, reflecting increases of 77% over the previous week and 6% over a year ago. Thursday prices for slaughter lambs were mainly 50¢ per cwt. lower than a week earlier, with the bulk of the Good and Choice 71- to 90-lb. animals with No. 1 through No. 3 pelts quoted at \$17 to \$18.50 per cwt.

## P O U L T R Y

Commercial broiler markets opened fully steady in south Texas and slightly stronger in east Texas during the week ended Friday, January 25. According to the State Department of Agriculture, the south Texas market began to show strength on Tuesday; at Friday's close, markets in both areas continued to strengthen. Trading ranged from normal to brisk toward the end of the week, as many supermarkets were running specials on broilers. Closing prices in south Texas were 14.9¢ to 15¢ per lb., and those in east Texas were 14¢ to 14.8¢. During the corresponding period in 1962, closing quotations in south Texas were 18¢ to 19¢, and prices in east Texas ranged from 17.5¢ to 19.3¢.

On Monday, January 28, commercial broiler markets were fully steady in south Texas and about steady in east Texas. Prices per lb. were: South Texas, 14.9¢ to 15¢; and east Texas, 14.4¢ to 14.6¢.

	Area	Week ended January 19, 1963	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1962
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,353,000	-6	0
	Louisiana..	459,000	2	19
	22 states..	34,867,000	-4	-2