



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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BEEF CATTLE PRICE TRENDS

Thus far in 1963, prices received by Texas farmers for beef cattle have averaged about 3% below the comparable period last year. These prices, which include quotes on all types of cattle, mask some of the price movements which occurred for fat cattle and for stockers and feeders. Prices for slaughter cattle during January-July this year have averaged lower than in the same 7 months in 1962, while those for stockers and feeders have remained about unchanged. (See charts on reverse side.) Top prices on slaughter cows at the Fort Worth market averaged 2% less, and those for Good 800- to 1,100-lb. slaughter steers were 6% lower.

The output of commercial beef in the United States in the first half of this year totaled 7,812 million lbs., an amount which is 6% greater than in the same period a year ago. Most of the rise in beef production reflected an increase in the output of fed beef, which increased quite notably during the April-June quarter. Supplies of fed beef may continue large for several months during the latter part of this year. On July 1 of this year, the number of cattle on feed in 28 major feeding states was 11% larger than a year earlier, and in Texas the number of cattle being fed was almost one-fourth larger. In the major feeding states, steers and steer calves accounted for most of the increase - 14% above last year - in total numbers on feed; heifers and heifer calves on feed were 6% larger, while numbers of cows and other types of cattle being fed were 16% below July 1962. Cattle feeders in the major livestock feeding areas have indicated they expect to market 3.8 million head, or 56% of their July 1 numbers on feed, by the end of September. Marketings of this magnitude would be 9% above those in the same period last year.

P O U L T R Y

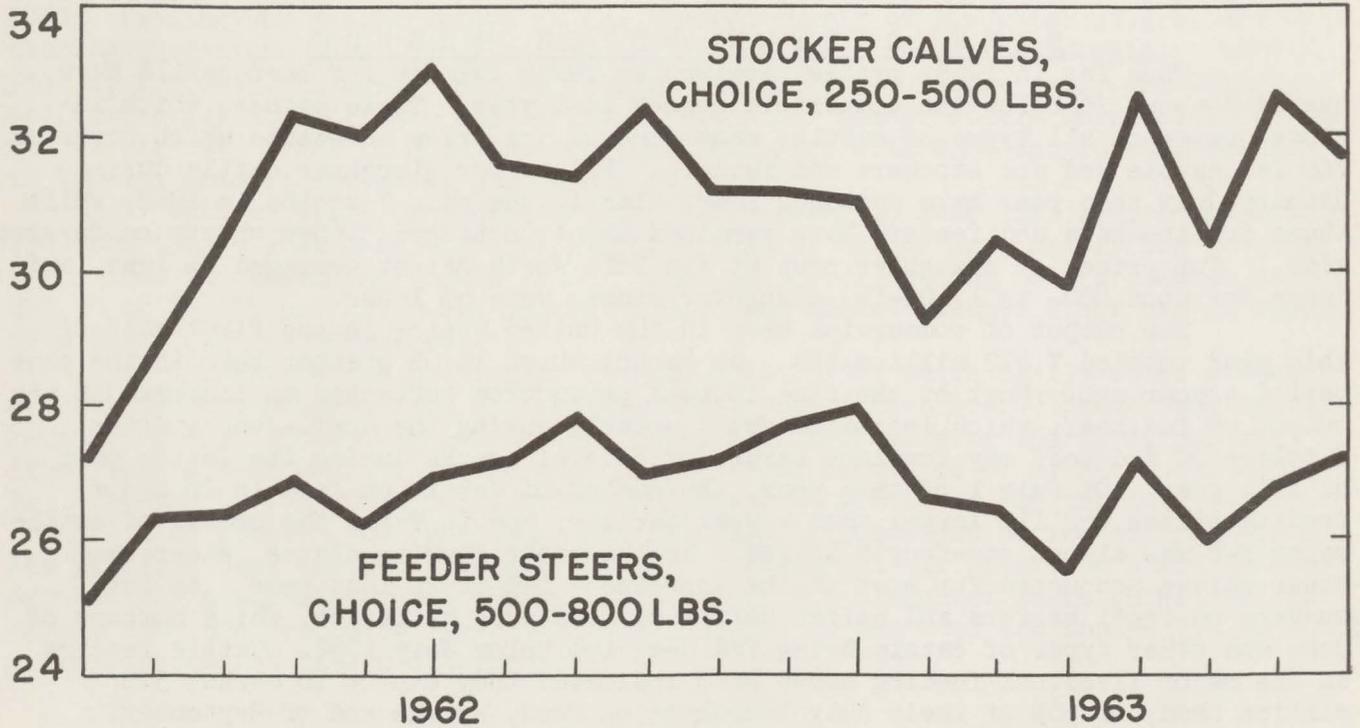
During the week ended Friday, August 9, the major Texas commercial broiler markets opened steady in south Texas and were slightly stronger in east Texas. Movement of broilers during the week ranged from normal to brisk; supplies were a little short throughout the week. Trading continued to be highly competitive, and out-of-state supplies remained a factor in the market. At the close of the week, the market in south Texas was steady, while the east Texas market was slightly stronger, reflecting price increases in other major broiler producing areas. The undertone was firm in both areas. The closing price in south Texas was 14¢ per lb., and quotes in east Texas ranged from 13.1¢ to 13.6¢ per lb. During the corresponding period a year ago, the closing quotation in south Texas was 15.5¢ per lb. and prices in east Texas were 14.6¢ to 14.9¢ per lb.

	Area	Week ended August 3, 1963	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1962
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,631,000	2	4
	Louisiana..	538,000	5	23
	22 states..	38,353,000	-2	3

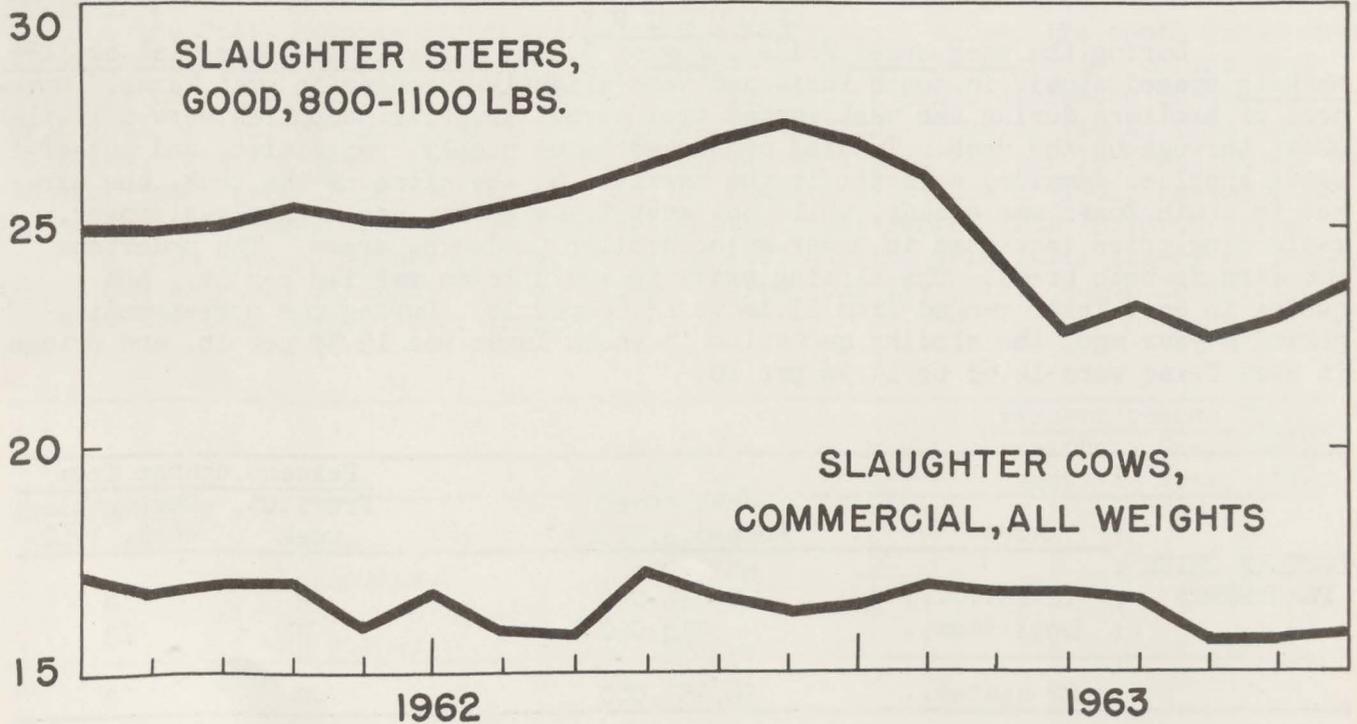
CATTLE PRICES ON THE FORT WORTH MARKET

(Monthly averages of top Thursday prices)

DOLLARS PER CWT.



DOLLARS PER CWT.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture.