



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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## USDA TO MAKE SAMPLE SURVEY OF FARMS

In a survey to be conducted the latter part of May and the first week of June, U. S. Department of Agriculture enumerators will gather data on numbers of livestock and planted acres of crops, as well as obtain information on farm wages and labor. The results of the survey will be used in preparing reports, to be issued in June and July, on the size of the spring pig crop and the number of acres of crops planted this year. A scientifically selected group of farms in each of the 48 states of the Continental United States will be surveyed. With this type of on-the-spot collecting of facts and figures to be analyzed by high-speed computers, the Statistical Reporting Service is better able to provide reliable information to farmers, manufacturers, and consumers, say USDA officials.

## VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PER FARM

The average value of land and buildings per farm in the Continental United States as of March 1, 1964, amounted to \$47,950, according to the USDA. The range was from \$14,300 per farm in West Virginia to \$403,600 in Arizona. Values in 11 states - mainly in the Appalachian area - averaged less than \$30,000 per farm, while those in 6 states averaged more than \$100,000. States in which the average value of land and buildings per farm exceeded \$100,000 (in descending order of rank) were: Arizona, Nevada, California, Florida, Wyoming, and New Mexico. Illinois was the top-ranking midwestern state, with an average of \$76,200 invested per farm.

## NATIONAL RICE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Secretary of Agriculture Freeman recently announced the appointment of a National Rice Industry Advisory Committee which will consider and advise the USDA on problems affecting the rice industry. The first meeting of the committee will be held in Washington, D. C., on June 1 and 2. The committee membership consists of 15 growers, 3 millers, an exporter, and a consumer representative.

According to the USDA, deliberations of the committee will cover a broad area, including (1) domestic and export requirements for rice, (2) foreign trade policies, (3) adjustment of supplies to requirements, (4) provisions of the export subsidy program, (5) balanced production by varieties, and (6) price-support problems.

## MEAT ANIMALS

Farm production of meat animals in the United States totaled a record 54.5 billion lbs., live weight, in 1963, or 4% above the previous year, according to a recent release of the Statistical Reporting Service. Production of cattle and calves accounted for 59% of the total; hogs, 38%; and sheep and lambs, 3%. The value of production for the three categories, at an estimated \$9.8 billion, was 3% less than in 1962. Decreases in value were 1% for cattle and calves, 7% for hogs, and 3% for sheep and lambs. Prices were lower for cattle, calves, and hogs but were higher for sheep and lambs.

Gross income (cash receipts plus value of home consumption) from meat animals in the Nation amounted to \$11.7 billion in 1963, a figure 2% below the 1962 record. The aggregate live weight of meat animals marketed in 1963 was 5% larger

than in the preceding year, with cattle and calves up 6% and hogs up 5%; in contrast, the live weight of sheep and lambs marketed was down 4%.

### L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth marketings of all classes of livestock except hogs showed increases during the week ended Thursday, May 21. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, cattle receipts totaled an estimated 4,500, compared with 4,100 a week ago and 3,800 in the corresponding 1963 period. Slaughter steers sold at prices which were steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower than the previous Thursday's close. Good and mixed Good and Choice 780- to 1,250-lb. slaughter steers cleared at \$18 to \$20 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$12.25 to \$13.50. Prices for feeder cattle were steady to weak, with Good 450- to 600-lb. feeder steers quoted at \$15 to \$19 per cwt.

The calf supply of about 850 was one-tenth larger than a week earlier and one-fifth above a year ago. Prices for slaughter calves held steady. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 600 lbs. cleared at \$19 to \$21.50 per cwt., and quotations for 250- to 450-lb. stocker steer calves ranged from \$17 to \$21.

A total of 1,100 hogs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended May 21, reflecting decreases of 15% from the preceding week and 19% from a year ago. Demand was fairly broad for the reduced supplies, and closing prices for barrows and gilts were mostly 25¢ per cwt. higher than on the preceding Thursday. The bulk of the U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 260-lb. butchers brought \$14.50 to \$15.

Sheep and lamb offerings are placed at 17,500 - the largest volume since April 1963. Trading was rather slow throughout most of the week. Compared with the preceding Thursday, quotations on spring lambs showed declines of \$1 to \$3 per cwt., mostly around \$1.50 to \$2. Good and Choice 67- to 95-lb. slaughter spring lambs brought \$20 to \$23.50 per cwt.

### P O U L T R Y

For the week ended Friday, May 22, the major Texas commercial broiler markets opened stronger, became steady on Tuesday, and then remained steady during the rest of the trading period, points out the State Department of Agriculture. At Friday's close, the markets were steady with a firm undertone, reflecting price increases in other states. East Texas supplies were adequate throughout the week, but some south Texas processors purchased broilers outside the area in order to meet requirements. Closing quotations per lb. were: South Texas, 14.5¢ to 15¢; and east Texas, 13.5¢ to 14.5¢. During the corresponding 1963 period, closing quotations in south Texas were 13.7¢ to 14¢ per lb., and those in east Texas ranged from 12.5¢ to 14.4¢.

On Monday, May 25, commercial broiler markets were about steady in south Texas and fully steady in east Texas. The south Texas price was 15¢ per lb., and east Texas quotes ranged from 13.5¢ to 14.5¢.

	Area	Week ended May 16, 1964	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1963
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	3,038,000	-1	-5
	Louisiana..	666,000	0	7
	22 states..	45,399,000	2	-1