



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 770

Wednesday, September 30, 1964

EARLY MORNING PICKING OF COTTON COSTLY

Wait for the moisture in cotton to drop to reasonable levels before picking, advises Beverly G. Reeves, Cotton Ginning and Mechanization Specialist of Texas A&M University. Regardless of how dry the weather, cotton should not be harvested at night, nor in the hours of the early morning and late afternoon. Although not always seen or felt, moisture from humidity is present in seed cotton. The loss of grade and quality from excess moisture in cotton may cost the grower \$10 or more per bale. Harvesting with mechanical pickers should be delayed until the relative humidity in the field at boll height is 60% or less. If a hygrometer or cotton moisture meter is not available, pick a handful of cotton, squeeze it tightly in your hand and release it quickly. If the cotton fluffs when released, it is dry enough for mechanical picking.

YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE RELEASED

Farmer's World, the 1964 Yearbook of Agriculture released this week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, surveys in depth the U. S. stake in world agricultural trade and aid. The 1964 edition contains 608 pages and covers a broad range of topics, such as world food sources; production of many crops in world trade; world marketing of farm goods; trade agreements and international organizations, including the Common Market; needs and problems as to research, income, and the development of nations, nutrition, and economics. Distribution of the Yearbook of Agriculture is being made primarily by members of Congress; however, copies are for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402, for \$3 each.

MACHINERY COSTS AND EFFICIENCY

Successful management and operation of farm machinery is becoming increasingly important, says Henry O'Neal, Extension Agricultural Engineer at Texas A&M University. Average machine costs for Texas farms range between 20% and 25% of total farm receipts. To achieve efficiency, operators of farm machinery should become familiar with the manufacturers' recommendations. Lower power requirements and reduced operating costs result when machinery is adjusted properly and all mechanisms are timed and in good working condition. When machinery is purchased, not only prices, but also the service expected and the particular type of farming to be done, merit consideration.

WESTWARD MARCH OF BOLL WEEVIL

A cooperative campaign to stop the recent westward march of the boll weevil in the High Plains cotton-growing area near Lubbock, Texas, has been announced by the USDA. The campaign will be conducted by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas A&M University. The effort is being financed by a Federal appropriation of \$1 million which is to be matched by the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., through an assessment of 50 cents a bale paid by its members. The infestation in the Lubbock area marks a new western penetration. The presence of boll weevils in large numbers below the Cap Rock, which borders the High Plains, has aroused concern. The campaign has a twofold purpose: (1) Eliminate the weevil below the Cap Rock region to

prevent development of a strain tolerant to the adverse environmental conditions on the High Plains, and (2) keep weevils from crossing the Cap Rock and invading the irrigated cotton fields of Arizona, New Mexico, and California. The treatment will involve the use of undiluted technical malathion applied by aircraft at the rate of only 12 ounces per acre. Spraying will be repeated at 10-day intervals until the first killing frost.

L I V E S T O C K

Cattle marketings at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, September 24, totaled an estimated 4,200 or 34% below a week earlier and 45% below a year ago. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, slaughter steers and heifers sold at prices which were weak to 50¢ lower compared with prices for the previous week. Prices for Good 850- to 1,140-lb. slaughter steers ranged from \$21 to \$22 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows sold from \$12.50 to \$14.50. Demand for feeder cattle closed fully steady, and prices of all classes were up mostly 50¢ to \$1 per cwt. The bulk of the Medium and Good yearlings sold from \$14.30 to \$18.50 per cwt.

The calf supply, at 1,400, was 29% below the preceding week and 36% below the corresponding 1963 period. Demand for slaughter calves was fully steady each day. Good grades of 300- to 500-lb. killing calves cleared at \$17.50 to \$21 per cwt. Good 250- to 500-lb. stocker steer calf prices ranged from \$18 to \$21.50.

Hog receipts are placed at 925, slightly above a week earlier, but 34% below the same period a year ago. Demand was steady to strong, and prices were quoted 25¢ to 50¢ higher than a week ago. The majority of the supply was composed of U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 260-lb. butchers which cleared at \$16.25 to \$17 per cwt.

Fort Worth sheep and lamb receipts of an estimated 3,400 were 15% below the previous week and 19% below a year ago. Prices were mostly 50¢ lower, after 11 consecutive weeks of stable prices. Most lots of lambs offered were shorn. The small number of good and Choice 70- to 95-lb. slaughter woolled spring lambs sold at \$19 to \$21 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

For the week ended Friday, September 25, the major Texas commercial broiler markets opened fully steady in south Texas and steady in east Texas, reports the State Department of Agriculture. Prices at the close of the week were steady in south Texas and unsettled in east Texas. Supplies were ample for the fair to good demand. The closing price in south Texas was 15¢ per lb., and quotes in east Texas ranged from 13.8¢ to 15¢. During the corresponding 1963 period, closing prices were 14¢ in south Texas and 13¢ to 14.8¢ in east Texas.

Texas commercial broiler markets were steady to fully steady with fair demand on Monday, September 28. The price quoted in south Texas was 15¢, and quotations in east Texas ranged from 13.8¢ to 15.1¢ per lb.

	Area	Week ended September 19, 1964	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1963
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,192,000	3	4
	Louisiana..	516,000	-8	3
	22 states..	35,145,000	-2	2