



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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WEST TEXAS DUST STORM WORST IN DECADE

Following land damage in large areas of western Texas by high winds on January 24-25, Secretary of Agriculture Freeman ordered special wind erosion reports from the Soil Conservation Service's Plains field offices. SCS Administrator Donald A. Williams said that the damage in the Texas areas appeared to be the worst in 10 years, because of less than normal rainfall and the consequent absence of effective plant cover. Reports to the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicated that winds reaching 75 miles per hour covered wide areas around Midland, Odessa, Lubbock, and Muleshoe with a choking blanket of dust. The winds carried the dust eastward across Texas into Louisiana. Snow cover prevented land damage in the Texas Panhandle, but the winds reportedly caused erosion of farm and range lands in eastern New Mexico, according to the SCS Administrator.

RICE GROWERS APPROVE MARKETING QUOTAS

The Nation's rice growers approved marketing quotas for 1965-crop rice by a favorable vote of 91% in a referendum held on January 26, according to preliminary reports received by the USDA. Approval of at least two-thirds of the growers voting in a referendum is required before quotas may be put into effect. For 1964-crop rice, producers approved marketing quotas by 89.8%.

Price support at a national average support of \$4.50 per cwt. will be available to rice growers who comply with acreage allotments. Growers who exceed their 1965 acreage allotments will be subject to marketing quota penalty on their excess production. The amount of the penalty will be equal to 65% of the rice parity price (as of June 15, 1965) as required by law under a quota program.

HONEY PRODUCTION

U. S. honey production in 1964 totaled an estimated 285.7 million lbs., or 5% below the record output in 1963, points out the Statistical Reporting Service. Production per colony of bees averaged 50.9 lbs. of honey, compared with 54.2 lbs. for the 1963 season. The 5.6 million colonies on hand at the beginning of the 1964 season were 2% more than a year earlier. With the price of all honey averaging 18.5¢ per lb., the 1964 output had a value of \$52.9 million. At an average of 44.4¢ per lb., the beeswax output was valued at \$2.4 million.

Texas honey production during 1964 is placed at 12.1 million lbs., reflecting a 5% increase over the preceding year. There were an estimated 252,000 colonies of bees in the State - down 11,000 colonies from 1963. The combined value of honey and beeswax produced in 1964 amounted to \$1.9 million, or slightly above a year earlier.

MARKETING GUIDE FOR TURKEYS

A production of 97 million turkeys in 1965, or 2% less than the 1964 output, is being suggested to the Nation's producers by the USDA in its 1965 Marketing Guide for Turkeys - the first marketing guide to be issued for poultry. This level would avoid overproduction of turkeys in 1965, but provide adequate supplies for consumers and other commercial users at reasonable prices for consumers and producers, according to the USDA.

L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth receipts of all classes of livestock were reduced during the week ended Thursday, January 28, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service. The cattle supply totaled an estimated 3,900, or 5% below both a week ago and a year earlier. Compared with the previous week's close, slaughter steers weighing over 850 lbs. sold at prices which were steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower, while quotations for lighter-weight animals were steady. Mixed Good and Choice 1,055- to 1,300-lb. slaughter steers brought \$22 to \$22.40 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows sold at \$12.75 to \$14.50. Thursday prices for feeder cattle were mostly 50¢ to \$1 per cwt. higher than a week earlier, with mixed Good and Choice 475- to 675-lb. yearling steers quoted at \$19.50 to \$20.60.

The calf run is placed at 1,175, compared with 1,550 in the preceding week and 1,225 in the corresponding 1964 period. Demand for slaughter calves was good, and trading was fairly active. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 575 lbs. brought \$18 to \$19.75 per cwt., and mixed Good and Choice 300- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves cleared at \$20.50 to \$22.50.

Hog marketings of about 650 were 275 fewer than a week ago and less than one-half of the year-earlier figure. Demand was fairly broad each day, and Thursday quotations for barrows and gilts were steady to 25¢ per cwt. higher than in the preceding week. The majority of the mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 260-lb. butchers sold at \$16 to mainly \$16.50 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb offerings are placed at 1,600, reflecting decreases of 24% from the preceding week and 59% from a year ago. Prices generally were fully steady with the previous Thursday. Most of the Good and Choice 71- to 96-lb. shorn slaughter lambs with No. 1 through No. 3 pelts brought \$19 to \$21.50 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

For the week ended Friday, January 29, the principal Texas commercial broiler markets opened stronger, reflecting price increases in most other major U. S. broiler-producing regions toward the close of the previous week. According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, broiler supplies in the State were fully adequate throughout the trading period, as some resistance to higher prices developed. At Friday's close, markets were steady in south Texas and slightly weaker in east Texas, with the undertone very unsettled in both areas. The closing quotation in south Texas was 16¢ per lb., and east Texas prices ranged from 14¢ to 15.5¢. During the corresponding 1964 period, closing quotes in south Texas were 12.5¢ to 13¢ per lb., and those in east Texas ranged from 12.4¢ to 13.5¢.

On Monday, February 1, commercial broiler markets were weaker in south Texas but fully steady in east Texas. The following prices per lb. were quoted: South Texas, 15.5¢, and east Texas, 14¢ to 15.5¢.

	Area	Week ended January 23, 1965	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1964
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,348,000	2	-11
	Louisiana..	597,000	1	7
	23 states..	40,386,000	2	8