



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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NEW PLANS FOR BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has adopted two new procedures for the establishment and maintenance of brucellosis-free areas. Recommended by the U. S. Livestock Sanitary Association's Committee on Brucellosis, the new plans are designed to enable states with effective market cattle testing programs to accelerate their certification of counties. The two new procedures do not require the involvement of every beef cattle herd if certain requirements are met. These requirements include: (1) For certification, market testing of at least 30% of the cows in the area within a 3-year period and tracing 90% of the animals reacting to the brucellosis test back to the herd from which they originated; and (2) for recertification, market testing of at least 50% of the beef cows in the area during a 5-year period.

CROP PROGRAM SIGNUPS UNDER WAY

More than three-fourths of the total U. S. harvested cropland acreage will be affected by decisions of American farmers during the program signups for wheat, feed grains, and cotton, which are being held February 8 through March 26. The USDA says that the following are the goals for these three major commodity programs: (1) to reduce excessive stocks, (2) to lower Government costs, and (3) to maintain the general level of farm income.

Information about the programs and details concerning participation and signups are available at all county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) offices.

GRASSHOPPER INFESTATIONS REDUCED SLIGHTLY

Grasshopper infestations on U. S. rangelands surveyed in the fall of 1964 were slightly lower than in the 1963 fall surveys, according to a recent USDA report. In the fall of 1964, there were 8.7 million acres of rangelands in 14 states that were infested by grasshoppers in numbers considered to be economically important. In the preceding fall, 10 million acres in 16 states were found to be infested. The fall surveys provide advance warning to farmers and ranchers about locations and potential severity of infestations they may face the following summer.

Acreage infested in some states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District in 1964 exceeded that in 1963. The following are the acres of rangelands infested with moderate or higher numbers of grasshoppers in 1964 (and in 1963) for the Eleventh District states included in the USDA survey: Arizona, 1,467,900 acres (81,800); New Mexico, 5,000 acres (4,500); Oklahoma, 115,300 acres (123,280); and Texas, 5,000 acres (63,800).

GRAIN STOCKS DOWN

U. S. stocks of the four feed grains (corn, oats, barley, and grain sorghums) as of January 1, 1965, totaled 155 million tons, or 10% less than a year ago and 8% smaller than average, points out the Statistical Reporting Service. Wheat stocks were down 11%, and soybean holdings declined 6% from the record high of January 1, 1964. Of the total grain sorghum stocks, 71% were either owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation or under Government loan.

L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth marketings of all classes of livestock except sheep and lambs advanced during the week ended Thursday, February 4. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, the cattle run of approximately 4,000 was up 5% from the previous week and was 60% larger than in the corresponding 1964 period. Good grades of slaughter steers sold at prices which were weak to mainly 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. lower than the preceding Thursday's close. Good 960- to 1,130-lb. slaughter steers brought \$18.50 to \$21.60 per cwt., and Utility and low-Commercial cows cleared at \$13 to \$14.50. Prices for feeder steers were mostly 50¢ to \$1 per cwt. higher than a year earlier, with mixed Good and Choice 465- to 650-lb. animals quoted at \$20.10 to \$20.80 per cwt.

Calf receipts are placed at 1,600, compared with 1,200 a week earlier and 575 a year ago. Slaughter calf prices were mostly 50¢ per cwt. higher than on the preceding Thursday. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 575 lbs. sold at \$18.50 to \$20 per cwt., and mixed Good and Choice 300- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves brought \$20.50 to \$23 per cwt.

A total of 750 hogs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended February 4, or one-fifth more than a week ago but only about one-half the year-earlier offerings. Trading was fairly active at Thursday's close, and prices for barrows and gilts were steady to 25¢ per cwt. higher than a week ago. The majority of the mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 260-lb. butchers cleared at \$15.75 to \$16.50 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb supplies, at an estimated 650, were sharply reduced from both the preceding week and the corresponding period last year. Demand was broad, and prices were fully steady to strong. The bulk of the mixed lots of Good and Choice 80- to 105-lb. slaughter woolled lambs sold at \$18 to \$21.50 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

For the week ended Friday, February 5, commercial broiler markets opened weaker in south Texas and about steady in east Texas, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The south Texas market became steady on Tuesday, and little change was noted in either market during the remainder of the week. At Friday's close, the undertone was firm in both areas. The closing price in south Texas was 15.5¢ per lb., and east Texas quotations ranged from 14¢ to 15.3¢. During the comparable 1964 period, closing prices in south Texas were 13¢ to 13.5¢ per lb., and those in east Texas ranged from 12.9¢ to 13.5¢.

The Texas commercial broiler markets were fully steady on Monday, February 8. The following prices per lb. were quoted: South Texas, 15.5¢, and east Texas, 14¢ to 15.3¢.

	Area	Week ended January 30, 1965	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1964
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,486,000	6	-8
	Louisiana..	610,000	2	8
	23 states..	41,983,000	4	9