



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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F E E D G R A I N S I G N U P S E T S N E W R E C O R D S

Nearly 1.5 million U. S. farmers have signed up to participate in the voluntary 1965 feed grain program, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These farmers intend to divert almost 36.6 million acres from feed grain production, or 42% of their base acreage. The base acreage on the enrolled farms, 86.6 million acres, represents 65% of the total on all farms in the Nation.

The 1965 signup exceeds previous feed grain program high points by the following amounts: 11% greater than the 1962 enrollment of 1.3 million farmers, 7% larger than the 1964 agreed diversion of 34.3 million acres; and 12% higher than the 77.5 million acres of feed grain base on enrolled farms in 1964. Of the nearly 36.6 million acres of intended diversion for 1965, corn base acreage to be diverted accounts for 24.9 million acres (22.9 million acres in 1964); sorghum, 7.3 million acres (6.8 million acres in 1964); and barley, excluding malting barley farms, 4.3 million acres (4.5 million acres in 1964, but there was no malting barley exemption).

P R O C L A M A T I O N O N 1 9 6 6 - C R O P W H E A T

On April 14, the USDA announced the proclamation of a national wheat marketing quota of 1,292 million bushels and a national acreage allotment of 47.8 million acres for 1966-crop wheat. This proclamation was made in accordance with provisions of wheat legislation currently in effect.

S C R E W W O R M D I S C O V E R Y I N T E X A S

The recent discovery of screwworms in southern Texas ended a 10-week period of freedom from this costly livestock pest in the five southwestern states that have made an all-out effort to eradicate the pest since 1962, reports the USDA. Following the discovery, eradication workers acted immediately to curb the outbreak by releasing thousands of sterile screwworm flies on, and near, ranches in Brooks and Webb Counties, where the infestations were found, and by inspecting and spraying livestock in nearby areas.

USDA officials urge livestock producers to inspect their cattle regularly and to make an immediate report on worm-infested wounds of the animals to county agricultural agents or veterinarians. Samples of screwworms should be collected for identification.

M O R E M I L K U S E D B Y M I L I T A R Y A N D V E T E R A N S

Under a special program to stimulate expanded use of milk for troop feeding, U. S. Armed Forces and veterans hospitals increased consumption of milk over the standard ration by 613 million pints in 1964. In this program, the USDA pays part of the cost of the additional milk consumed. Total consumption of fluid milk by personnel in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, and veterans hospitals was more than triple what it would have been if only standard ration purchases of fluid milk had been made.

U N I T E D S T A T E S E X H I B I T S L I V E S T O C K

The USDA and cooperating trade groups are participating in Japan's First International Livestock Show, which is being held April 10-May 10 in Chiba Prefecture on the 2,000-acre farm of a new agricultural school. A U. S. livestock display is

informing Japanese producers about U. S. breed characteristics and the merits of cross-breeding U. S. animals with Japan's native Wagyu cattle in order to increase milk output and meat productivity. An exhibit of U. S. feeds demonstrates the value of feed grains, soybean meal, and tallow in high-energy livestock feeding.

L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth cattle supplies advanced during the week ended Thursday, April 15, but receipts of all other classes of livestock were reduced, points out the Consumer and Marketing Service. The cattle run of an estimated 2,500 compared with 2,050 in the preceding week and 3,400 in the corresponding 1964 period. Slaughter steers sold at prices which were steady to 25¢ per cwt. lower than the preceding Thursday's close, with Good 810- to 1,040-lb. animals quoted at \$21 to \$23 per cwt. Utility and Commercial cows brought \$13.25 to \$15 per cwt., and Canners and Cutters sold at \$11 to \$14. Demand was broad for all classes of feeder cattle, and steer prices were mainly steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than a week ago. Mixed Good and Choice 470- to 645-lb. feeder steers cleared at \$21.80 to \$22.70 per cwt.

Calf offerings are placed at 600, or 75 fewer than a week earlier and 250 less than last year. Slaughter calf prices were about steady to \$1 per cwt. higher than in the previous week. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 550 lbs. cleared at \$20 to \$21.50 per cwt., and mixed Good and Choice 275- to 440-lb. stocker steer calves brought \$22.20 to \$24.20.

Hog marketings of approximately 800 were one-fourth smaller than in the preceding week and one-fifth below the comparable 1964 period. Demand was fairly broad, and price changes were rather narrow. Thursday prices for barrows and gilts were steady to 25¢ per cwt. higher than a week earlier. The majority of the mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 270-lb. butchers sold at \$16.50 to \$17.25 per cwt.

A total of 5,100 sheep and lambs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended April 15, reflecting decreases of 24% from a week ago and 4% from the year-earlier level. Closing prices for slaughter spring lambs were generally 50¢ to \$1 per cwt. lower than on the previous Thursday, with most of the Good and Choice 67- to 99-lb. animals quoted at \$24 to \$25.50 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

For the week ended Friday, April 16, the major Texas commercial broiler markets opened steady and then remained about steady throughout the trading period, reports the State Department of Agriculture. The undertone was highly unsettled at Friday's close. The closing price in south Texas was 16¢ per lb., and east Texas quotations ranged from 15¢ to 15.6¢. During the corresponding 1964 period, closing prices were 14¢ in south Texas and 13.3¢ to 14.6¢ in east Texas.

Texas commercial broiler markets were weaker on Monday, April 19. The following prices per lb. were quoted: South Texas, 15¢, and east Texas, 14.8¢ to 15.4¢.

	Area	Week ended April 10, 1965	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1964
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS				
	Texas.....	3,112,000	0	1
	Louisiana..	588,000	-1	-5
	23 states..	47,695,000	1	6