



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 816

Wednesday, August 18, 1965

P R O S P E C T I V E 1 9 6 5 C O T T O N P R O D U C T I O N

Based on August 1 conditions, the 1965 cotton crop in the United States is indicated at 14.9 million bales, according to the Statistical Reporting Service. An outturn of this size would be 2% below the 1964 production but nearly 2% above the 1959-63 average. Greater participation than last year in the Domestic Allotment Program by upland cotton growers and a reduction in the allotment of American-Egyptian cotton accounted for a 4% decrease in acres planted. Yield prospects, at 525 lbs. of lint per harvested acre, are the highest of record. Prospective output is less than in 1964 in every major cotton-producing state except Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

Prospective 1965 cotton production (and outturns for 1964) for the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District are as follows: Arizona, 735,000 bales (799,000); Louisiana, 575,000 bales (590,000); New Mexico, 250,000 bales (257,000); Oklahoma, 320,000 bales (287,000); and Texas, 4,250,000 bales (4,122,000).

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

A new U. S. Department of Agriculture publication helps to determine how much food to buy for the church supper, week at scout camp, family reunion, or nursing home meal. The handbook also contains useful information on the percentage of edible meat from various grades and cuts, the amount of canned or frozen products obtained from specified quantities of fresh vegetables and fruits, and the methods of figuring cost per portion. Single copies of the publication, Food Purchasing Guide for Group Feeding, (AH-284), may be obtained, without charge, from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

S U B T E R R A N E A N T E R M I T E S F O U N D I N H O U S T O N

Formosan subterranean termites have recently been found infesting a shipyard's warehouse in Houston, Texas, reports the USDA. The discovery marks the first detected infestation of this destructive termite in the continental United States. Inspectors of the Plant Pest Control Division of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and cooperators are continuing surveys in the Houston area to determine the extent of the infestation.

The termites occur primarily in humid tropical or subtropical areas. They attack all kinds of wood and may cause severe damage to lumber and wooden structures before they are discovered. Although Formosan subterranean termites are thought to have only one generation a year, large populations can build up rapidly once a colony has become established.

A C R E A G E - M A R K E T I N G G U I D E S A N N O U N C E D

The USDA has announced national acreage-marketing guides for 16 major vegetables, including potatoes, that will be marketed in fresh form - mainly during the first 3 months of 1966. For a number of commodities, the guides recommend that growers plant acreages equal to those of last winter; however, larger seedings of snap beans are suggested. Recommended decreases in acreages of lettuce and carrots account for the bulk of the total reductions recommended. The guides recommend a planted acreage of winter potatoes that is slightly smaller than in 1965. Current prospects are that storage holdings of potatoes will be much larger this winter than last.

L I V E S T O C K

Cattle and calf marketings advanced at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, August 12, while receipts of other classes of livestock showed decreases. According to the Consumer and Marketing Service, the cattle run totaled an estimated 6,000 head, or 700 more than in the preceding week but 900 fewer than in the corresponding 1964 period. Demand was fairly broad for all classes through midweek, and trading was moderately active. Compared with the preceding week's close, prices for slaughter steers were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher. Good 775- to 1,100-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$22.10 to \$25.10 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows brought \$13.50 to \$16. Feeder steer prices were mainly steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than on the preceding Thursday, with Good 500- to 700-lb. yearling steers quoted at \$20 to \$24.50.

Calf supplies are placed at 1,950, compared with 1,350 a week earlier and 2,250 last year. Quotations for slaughter calves were steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower than at the previous week's close. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 550 lbs. sold at \$21.50 to \$23.50 per cwt., and 250- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves brought \$21 to \$25.50.

A total of 750 hogs was received at Fort Worth during the week ended August 12, reflecting decreases of 12% from the previous week and 38% from a year ago. Prices for barrows, gilts, and sows were steady to strong. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 180- to 280-lb. butchers brought \$23 to \$24 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb offerings were approximately 1,900, compared with 2,900 a week ago and 5,000 a year earlier. Quotations for slaughter spring lambs were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than a week ago, and those for other classes were mostly steady. The majority of the mixed Good and Choice grades of 75- to 95-lb. woolled spring slaughter lambs cleared at \$22 to \$22.50 per cwt., and shorn lambs and yearlings with No. 1 through No. 3 pelts brought \$17 to \$21 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

For the week ended Friday, August 13, Texas commercial broiler markets opened stronger as a result of price increases in other major broiler-producing regions, reports the Texas Department of Agriculture. The Texas markets became steady on Tuesday and remained relatively unchanged throughout the rest of the trading period. At Friday's close, the undertone was slightly unsettled in south Texas but was firm in east Texas. Closing quotations were 15.5¢ per lb. in south Texas and 14.4¢ to 15.1¢ in east Texas. During the corresponding 1964 period, the closing price in south Texas was 15¢ per lb., and east Texas quotes ranged from 14¢ to 15¢.

Commercial broiler markets were fully steady in south Texas and steady in east Texas on Monday, August 17. The following prices per lb. were quoted: South Texas, 15.5¢, and east Texas, 14.8¢ to 15.1¢.

	Area	Week ended August 7, 1965	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1964
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,632,000	-10	3
	Louisiana..	560,000	-12	4
	23 states..	45,238,000	-2	12