



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 822

Wednesday, September 29, 1965

## CONSUMERS ALL

Consumers All, the 1965 Yearbook of Agriculture, is a one-volume, how-to-do-it reference book for American households. Subjects covered in the U. S. Department of Agriculture publication include the purchase and use of food, clothing, household furnishings and equipment; money management; care of yards, gardens, and houses; health hints; community improvement; and use of leisure time. Many illustrations, charts, and tables are used in the 496-page release. Consumers All may be purchased for \$2.75 per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402.

## WARNING AGAINST GRAZING COTTON FIELDS

The USDA recently cautioned farmers against the practice of grazing livestock on harvested cotton fields that received pesticide treatment late in the growing season. The likelihood of residues exceeding tolerance limits in milk or meat from animals grazed on such fields is further increased by late-season use of insecticides, defoliants, and dessicants.

## TEXAS CITRUS TREE PLANTINGS

Licensed citrus nurserymen in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas reported that 660,000 citrus trees were moved from nurseries to groves during the July 1, 1964-June 30, 1965 period. According to the Statistical Reporting Service, this figure represents the largest number of trees set annually in the Lower Valley groves since 1953 and is about 10% more than a year earlier. Of the total number of trees moved, approximately 37% were grapefruit; 57%, orange; and 6%, other citrus, including lemon, lime, tangerine, and tangelo.

## FEWER HOGS AND PIGS IN THE CORN BELT

The number of hogs and pigs on farms in the 10 Corn Belt states as of September 1, 1965, is placed at 43.2 million head, reflecting a 12% decrease from a year earlier, points out the SRS. The 10 states are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

## MEAT IMPORTS

U. S. meat imports during July 1965, at 90.7 million lbs., were up nearly one-fourth from a year earlier; however, the total for the first 7 months of this year, at 362.3 million lbs., was down one-fourth from the corresponding 1964 period. According to the USDA, increased imports from Australia, New Zealand, and Canada accounted for the higher July total this year, while decreased imports from all countries except Canada accounted for the lower January-July import total. Although meat imports from Australia were reduced nearly one-third during the 7-month period and those from New Zealand and Mexico were cut 50% and 90%, respectively, imports from Canada were doubled.

## MAN-MADE FIBERS AND MANUFACTURES

U. S. imports of man-made fibers and manufactures during the first half of 1965 totaled \$52 million, and the value of exports was placed at \$143 million. Consequently, the export balance amounted to \$91 million, points out the Textile Economics Bureau, Inc.

### L I V E S T O C K

General rains over much of the marketing territory resulted in reduced cattle and calf receipts at Fort Worth during the week ended Thursday, September 23, reports the Consumer and Marketing Service. The cattle run totaled an estimated 4,800 head, or 20% below the preceding week but 14% above the corresponding 1964 period. Thursday quotations for slaughter steers were mostly steady with the previous week's close. Good 815- to 1,115-lb. slaughter steers brought \$23.50 to \$25 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows sold at \$14 to \$16.70. Feeder steers weighing over 500 lbs. sold at prices which were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than a week earlier, with mixed Good and Choice 500- to 700-lb. animals quoted at \$23.50 to \$25.

Calf receipts are placed at 1,900, compared with 2,400 a week ago and 1,575 a year earlier. Quotations for slaughter calves were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than on the preceding Thursday's market. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 550 lbs. brought \$20.50 to \$23 per cwt., and prices for 250- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves ranged from \$21.50 to \$26.

Hog offerings, at about 550, were down 41% from both the previous week and a year ago. Demand was fairly broad, and Thursday quotations for barrows and gilts were mainly 50¢ to 75¢ per cwt. higher than a week earlier. The majority of the U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 190- to 255-lb. butchers cleared at \$22.50 to \$23 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb marketings totaled approximately 3,100, a figure that is almost double the week-earlier offerings but moderately below the comparable period last year. Closing quotations for slaughter lambs and ewes were mostly 50¢ per cwt. lower than a week ago, and those for feeder lambs were steady to weak. Most of the Good and Choice 75- to 90-lb. shorn slaughter lambs with No. 2 and No. 3 pelts sold at \$21 to \$21.50 per cwt.

### P O U L T R Y

For the week ended Friday, September 24, commercial broiler-fryer markets opened weaker in south Texas and about steady in east Texas, points out the State Department of Agriculture. Supplies were adequate, and trading ranged from normal to brisk. At Friday's close the undertone was unsettled in south Texas and unchanged to unsettled in east Texas. Closing prices were 14¢ per lb. in south Texas and 13.5¢ to 13.6¢ in east Texas. During the corresponding period last year, the closing quotation in south Texas was 15¢ per lb., and east Texas prices ranged from 13.8¢ to 15¢.

Texas commercial broiler markets were steady on Monday, September 27. Prices per lb. were 14¢ in south Texas and 13.5¢ in east Texas.

	Week ended September 18, 1965	<u>Percent change from</u> <u>Previous Comparable</u> <u>week week, 1964</u>	
BROILER CHICK			
PLACEMENTS			
Texas.....	2,831,000	7	31
Louisiana..	596,000	1	16
23 states..	41,683,000	-2	16