



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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## TEXAS COUNTY TO HAVE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Secretary of Agriculture Freeman recently reported that people of low income in nine areas of five states will be able to buy additional food under the expanding Food Stamp Program, starting in October. Texas, one of the five states, will have a Food Stamp Program for the first time. The new program in Texas will be in Tarrant County.

Under the Food Stamp Program, families that are certified by state welfare agencies to be in need of food assistance will exchange the amount of money which they normally spend on food for coupons that are worth more than they pay for them. According to the USDA, the additional amount enables the families to buy more and better food for improved diets. The coupons are spent like cash at retail food stores that are authorized by the Consumer and Marketing Service to accept them.

## GOAT TROUBLES

Severe parasitosis and coccidiosis outbreaks have caused heavy losses in Texas goat herds. Dr. Maurice Shelton, Animal Geneticist at Texas A&M University's Livestock and Forage Research Center at McGregor, Texas, advises a 3-step program for the control of internal parasites.

1. Treat the goats for internal parasites by drenching them as often as necessary. Suggested drugs to use are Thiobenzole or Phenothiazine.
2. Change management procedures. If possible, move the goats to a different pasture and provide supplemental feed consisting of one-half cottonseed meal and one-half grain sorghum. Hand-feed at the desired level or self-feed with salt as a limiter.
3. Treat coccidiosis-infected animals with sulfa drugs, added to either the feed or the water.

## OATS FOR WINTER GRAZING

More than a million acres of oats are planted in Texas each year for winter and spring grazing of beef cattle, according to Texas A&M University. In a 7-year test at the Livestock and Forage Research Center at McGregor, steers gained 1.7 lbs. per day during the winter grazing period (November 15-March 1) and 2.4 lbs. daily during the spring period (March 1-June 7). With no supplemental feed, the average daily gain was 2.1 lbs. per steer for the entire grazing period.

## BROILER PRODUCTION STILL BOOMING

Broiler production in the Nation is still setting records, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Broiler-type chick output for January-August 1965 totaled 1.7 billion, up 7% from a year earlier and the largest on record for the 8-month period. Increases in the South Central States (up 11%) and the South

Atlantic States (up 7%) were mainly responsible for the booming broiler production. These two regions have accounted for 85% of the U. S. broiler chick output this year.

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

Fort Worth marketings of all classes of livestock except sheep and lambs advanced sharply during the week ended Thursday, September 30, points out the Consumer and Marketing Service. The cattle supply, at an estimated 6,600, was 38% larger than a week earlier but 2% below the corresponding 1964 period. Trading on all classes of cattle was moderately active. Slaughter steers sold at prices which were fully steady to strong as compared with the preceding week's close. Mixed Good and Choice 1,065-lb. slaughter steers brought \$25.30 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows sold mainly at \$14.50 to \$16.50. Thursday prices for feeder yearling steers were mostly 50¢ to \$1 per cwt. lower than a week ago, with mixed Good and Choice 500- to 700-lb. steers quoted at \$22.70 to \$24.20 per cwt.

Calf offerings totaled about 2,625, compared with 1,850 in the previous week and 2,200 a year earlier. Slaughter calf prices were steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower than a week ago. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 550 lbs. sold at \$20.60 to \$23 per cwt., and quotations for 300- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves ranged from \$21 to \$25.50 per cwt.

Hog receipts are placed at 675, or 150 more than a week earlier but 150 fewer than in the comparable 1964 period. Thursday quotations for barrows and gilts were strong to 25¢ per cwt. lower than a week earlier. The majority of the mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 195- to 285-lb. butchers cleared at \$22.25 to \$22.75 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb marketings, at approximately 1,550, were only about one-half as large as both a week ago and a year earlier. Prices for both slaughter and feeder lambs were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than on the preceding Thursday. The bulk of the mixed Good and Choice 70- to 97-lb. unshorn slaughter spring lambs sold at \$20 to \$22.50 per cwt.

### P O U L T R Y

Texas Commercial broiler markets were generally steady during the week ended Friday, October 1, reports the State Department of Agriculture. At Friday's close, the undertone was firm in both south and east Texas. Closing prices were 14¢ per lb. in south Texas and 13.5¢ to 14¢ in east Texas. For the corresponding 1964 period, the closing quotation in south Texas was 15¢ per lb., and east Texas prices ranged from 13.5¢ to 15.3¢.

The Texas broiler markets were steady on Monday, October 4. Prices per lb. were reported to be 14¢ in south Texas and 13.5¢ to 13.8¢ in east Texas.

	Area	Week ended September 25, 1965	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1964
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,719,000	-4	33
	Louisiana..	568,000	-5	3
	23 States..	37,970,000	-9	8