



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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TEXAS FARM PRICES

Prices received by Texas farmers and ranchers during January-September 1965 averaged fractionally above those of the corresponding period last year, points out the Statistical Reporting Service. An increase in prices received for livestock and products more than offset a decrease in crop prices.

MORE CROP - HAIL INSURANCE PURCHASED

American farmers purchased \$2.8 billion worth of crop-hail insurance (at a cost of \$109 million) in 1963, the most recent year for which data are available. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the \$2.8 billion figure is double the amount purchased in 1951 and is triple that acquired since the end of World War II. Corn Belt farmers took out about one-half of the country's crop-hail insurance in 1963. Corn was the most heavily protected crop in the United States, accounting for nearly one-third of the total insurance. Wheat, tobacco, soybeans, and cotton combined accounted for another 46%.

Crop-hail protection is offered by cooperatives owned by policy holders, by stock fire and marine insurance companies, and by state hail insurance departments. In addition, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation includes hail protection in its all-risk insurance program.

MEAT IMPORTS BELOW QUOTA REQUIREMENT LEVEL

Secretary of Agriculture Freeman recently reported that the revised estimate of meat imports into the United States during 1965 places the total at 630 million lbs. He stated that this quantity would not require Presidential action to invoke meat-import quotas during 1965. The expected volume of meat imports for 1965 is 110 million lbs. below the 1964 level of about 740 million lbs.

NEAR - RECORD WORLD BREAD GRAIN CROP

World production of bread grains (wheat and rye) in 1965 is expected to total 280 million tons, a volume that is second only to the record 1964 crop, according to the first estimate of the Foreign Agricultural Service. The decline in prospective world wheat output from a year ago is due mainly to reduced crops in the Soviet Union and Mainland China. World rye production is expected to be up 3% from 1964 and the largest outturn in 4 years.

FARM CREDIT

U. S. farmers are currently borrowing a record \$4 billion annually through their production credit associations, reports the Farm Credit Administration. This amount is nearly triple the figure of 10 years ago.

YOUTHS CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION WORK

More than 1,200 youths made contributions to soil and water conservation activities in their communities during the past summer under the Economic Opportunity Act, reports Secretary of Agriculture Freeman. The youths were employed in work-training and work-study projects sponsored by local groups with technical assistance from the USDA. The purpose of the program was to provide young people

with the opportunity to gain work experience and training in order to increase their employability or to earn money with which to resume their education.

L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth cattle and calf receipts for the week ended Thursday, October 7, were below both a week ago and a year earlier, reports the Consumer and Marketing Service. At an estimated 4,500, the cattle run reflected decreases of 29% from the previous week and 31% from the corresponding 1964 period. Trading on all classes of slaughter cattle was moderately active until Thursday, when trading on cows became slow. Slaughter steers sold at prices which were mainly 25¢ to 50¢ per cwt. lower than the previous week's close. Good 885- to 1,175-lb. slaughter steers brought \$21.80 to \$25 per cwt., and Utility and Commercial cows cleared at \$13.50 to \$16.90. Prices for stocker steers and heifer yearlings were mostly steady, with mixed Good and Choice 485- to 700-lb. steers quoted at \$22 to \$23 per cwt.

The calf supply is placed at 2,600, or 125 fewer than in the preceding week but 100 below a year ago. Slaughter calf prices were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than on the previous Thursday, and quotations for stocker steer calves were steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 550 lbs. cleared mostly at \$21 to \$22 per cwt., and 300- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves brought \$20 to \$23.50.

Hog marketings, at about 675, were unchanged from a week ago but were 37% below last year. Quotations for barrows and gilts were generally 50¢ per cwt. higher than the preceding week's close. The majority of the mixed U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 200- to 300-lb. butchers cleared at \$22 to \$22.75 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb offerings totaled approximately 700, compared with 1,525 in the previous week and 3,200 a year earlier. Rain and muddy roads over much of the Fort Worth marketing territory were largely responsible for the sharp reduction in the receipts. Demand was broad, and trading was fairly active. Prices were fully steady for all classes, with Good and Choice 60- to 97-lb. woolled slaughter lambs quoted at \$21 to \$23 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

Texas Commercial broiler markets were steady during the week ended Friday, October 8, reports the State Department of Agriculture. At Friday's close, the undertone was stronger in both south and east Texas. Closing prices were 14¢ per lb. in south Texas and 13.5¢ to 14.2¢ in east Texas. For the corresponding 1964 period, the closing quotation in south Texas was 14¢ per lb., and east Texas prices ranged from 12.8¢ to 14¢.

On Monday, October 11, commercial broiler markets were unsettled in south Texas and slightly stronger in east Texas. Prices per lb. were reported to be 15¢ in south Texas and 13.7¢ to 14.6¢ in east Texas.

| BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS | Area | Week ended October 2, 1965 | Percent change from | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Previous week | Comparable week, 1964 |
| : | Texas..... | 2,580,000 | -5 | 11 |
| : | Louisiana.. | 629,000 | 11 | 25 |
| : | 23 States.. | 41,316,000 | 9 | 9 |