



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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 * E L E V E N T H A N N U A L O B S E R V A N C E O F *
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 * N A T I O N A L F A R M - C I T Y W E E K *
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 * N O V E M B E R 19-25, 1965 *
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S H A R P I N C R E A S E I N F H A L O A N S

Nearly 250,000 inhabitants of the United States will benefit from the \$192 million loaned by the Farmers Home Administration during the first quarter of the 1966 fiscal year (July-September), states Secretary of Agriculture Freeman. The \$192 million figure represents a 68% increase over the volume of funds advanced during the first quarter of 1964.

L E G U M E S I N B E R M U D A G R A S S

Legumes seeded in Bermuda grass during the winter months have a greater advantage in areas of high rainfall and where grasses are dormant for a long period during the winter, according to Texas A&M University. Legumes increase the quality of forage, extend the grazing period, and add nitrogen for the grass. Grass must be essentially dormant before a legume can be established satisfactorily; consequently, production from the legume occurs in late winter and spring.

N E W C O T T O N P R O G R A M F O R 1 9 6 6

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced a new program for 1966-crop cotton, based on The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, which was recently signed into law by President Johnson. Incorporating several new features, the program is designed (1) to bring about a better balance between supply and demand, (2) to prevent runaway cotton production, (3) to keep cotton priced competitively on domestic and world markets, (4) to protect the income of cotton farmers, and (5) to reduce Government costs.

As in past years, the program must be approved by cotton growers before it can be placed in operation. A national cotton referendum is set for November 23, 1965. In this referendum, at least two-thirds of the cotton farmers must approve cotton marketing quotas for 1966 before the essential provisions of the new program can go into effect. If more than one-third of the growers disapprove quotas, the only cotton program will be a price support at 50% of parity for growers who do not exceed their acreage allotments.

In the November 23 referendum, cotton farmers in each county will have an opportunity to vote on whether they want to permit acreage allotments to be sold, leased, or transferred out of the county. A favorable vote of two-thirds is required before transfers may be made.

WORLD SOYBEAN OUTPUT AT RECORD HIGH

World production of soybeans for 1965 is estimated at an all-time high of 1.2 billion bu., reports the Foreign Agricultural Service. An output of this size would be nearly 17% greater than the 1964 production and 15% above the previous record crop of 1963. A 25% gain in U. S. production (which accounts for more than 70% of the world total) is mainly responsible for the overall increase.

L I V E S T O C K

Fort Worth livestock marketings decreased during the week ended Thursday, November 4, points out the Consumer and Marketing Service. The cattle supply, at an estimated 4,500, was down 51% from the previous week but was 15% above the corresponding 1964 period. Trading on most classes was moderately active, and prices for slaughter steers and heifers were steady with the preceding Thursday's market. Mixed Good and low-Choice 996-lb. slaughter steers sold at \$24.25 per cwt., and Canner and Cutter cows brought \$9 to \$13.50 per cwt. Trading on feeder cattle was slow through midweek but was fairly active on Thursday. Steer prices were steady to 50¢ per cwt. lower than a week ago, with Good 475- to 650-lb. yearling steers quoted at \$20 to \$24 per cwt.

The calf run totaled about 2,200, compared with 4,100 in the previous week and 1,275 a year ago. Prices for slaughter calves were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than a week earlier. Good grades of killing calves weighing up to 550 lbs. brought \$20 to \$22 per cwt., and 280- to 500-lb. stocker steer calves cleared at \$20.40 to \$21.80.

Hog receipts are placed at 825, or 50 fewer than a week ago but 150 more than in the corresponding period last year. Quotations were 50¢ to \$1 per cwt. higher than a week earlier. U. S. No. 1 through No. 3 Grades of 185- to 260-lb. barrows and gilts sold at \$22.50 to \$23.50 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb offerings were approximately 1,100, or 27% fewer than a week ago and 62% below a year earlier. Demand continued broad, and prices were steady to 50¢ per cwt. higher than in the preceding week. Good and Choice 70- to 107-lb. woolled slaughter lambs cleared at \$21 to \$22.50 per cwt.

P O U L T R Y

The weekly review of the Texas broiler-fryer markets is no longer available from the State Department of Agriculture; consequently, this report will no longer be included in the Agricultural News of the Week. This publication will continue to carry the table relating to broiler chick placements.

	Area	Week ended October 30, 1965	Percent increase over	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1964
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,820,000	6	6
	Louisiana..	631,000	3	29
	23 States..	42,291,000	7	11