



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE DOWNWARD

The number of farms in operation during 1965 decreased from a year earlier in 47 states and remained unchanged in the other 3 states, points out the Statistical Reporting Service. The national total is placed at 3.4 million farms, or 3% below 1964. However, the total land in U.S. farms, at about 1,155 million acres, declined less than 1% from 1964. The decline results, in part, from the gradual encroachment of urban and suburban extensions, wider highways, and other nonfarm uses of the land. The total of 3.3 million farms in prospect for operation in 1966 continues the downward trend from earlier years, with little change in the rate of reduction. The reduction in the total land in farms also continues at practically the same rate as in previous years.

The changes in estimated national totals have been much greater for the number of farms than for the land in farms. Farm numbers during the period from 1959 to 1966 declined 20%, while the land in farms decreased only 3%. The "average farm operator" in 1966 manages a farm unit of 350 acres, which is one-fifth larger than 7 years earlier. The discontinuance of small farming enterprises and the mergence of larger units with existing farms continue as important influences in the change in farm numbers, according to the SRS.

The table below shows the number of farms and land in farms for the Eleventh District states for 1964, 1965, and 1966.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

Five Southwestern States

Area	NUMBER OF FARMS			LAND IN FARMS (In thousands of acres)		
	1964	1965	1966 ^{1/}	1964	1965	1966 ^{1/}
Arizona.....	7,000	6,700	6,400	45,000	45,000	45,000
Louisiana.....	68,000	65,000	62,000	10,200	10,100	10,100
New Mexico.....	15,400	14,900	14,600	51,700	51,600	51,500
Oklahoma.....	88,000	86,000	84,000	37,300	37,300	37,300
Texas.....	<u>210,000</u>	<u>202,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>	<u>154,000</u>	<u>154,000</u>	<u>154,000</u>
Five states..	388,400	374,600	363,000	298,200	298,000	297,900

^{1/} Preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

COTTON EXPORT MARKET ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS

Preliminary reports of county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committees show that cotton farmers in eight states have requested a 100,096-acre share of the total acreage reserved for the production of cotton for export

only. Under the provisions of the new cotton program, a national export acreage reserve of 250,000 acres was established for 1966, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The preliminary list of the cotton export acreage applied for, by states, is as follows: Alabama, 984 acres; Arizona, 17,075 acres; California, 69,732 acres; Louisiana, 4,100 acres; Missouri, 1,708 acres; New Mexico, 2,223 acres; Tennessee, 253 acres; and Texas, 4,021 acres.

L I V E S T O C K

The Fort Worth livestock market report is no longer issued from the Fort Worth office but is included with other major Texas markets in a combined Texas livestock market news report. Persons who have not been receiving any of the individual market reports may wish to be placed on the mailing list for this report. The report, entitled Texas Livestock Market News, may be obtained from the Texas Department of Agriculture, John Reagan Building, Austin, Texas 78701.

A L T E R N A T E C R O P S F O R D I V E R T E D A C R E A G E

The USDA recently named the alternate nonsurplus crops that may be grown on the acreage diverted for payment from the 1966 production of wheat, feed grains, or cotton. Farmers participating in any of the three commodity programs can plant the following alternate crops: Guar, sesame, safflower, sunflower, castor beans, plantago ovata, mustard seed, and crambe. As was the case in 1965, the plantings can be made only on program acreage diverted for payment. Under the 1966 feed grain and wheat programs, no payment is made for minimum diversion except to farmers having small feed grain bases. In the cotton program, payment is made for all acreage diverted.

	Area	Week ended January 22, 1966	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1965
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,715,000	-5	16
	Louisiana..	688,000	2	21
	23 states..	46,434,000	-1	15