



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

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 \* INTERNATIONAL RICE YEAR \*  
 \* Secretary of Agriculture Freeman recently announced the support of \*  
 \* the United States for the observance of International Rice Year during \*  
 \* 1966. The observance is part of a world-wide effort to emphasize the im- \*  
 \* portance of this basic cereal crop as a daily staple food for more than \*  
 \* one-half of the world's people. The United States will participate in \*  
 \* International Rice Year along with other member nations of the Food and \*  
 \* Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, sponsor of the observance. \*  
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## CHECK STORED GRAIN FOR MOISTURE DAMAGE

Damaged grain can result from moisture migration at this time of the year; consequently, now is a good time to check stored grain, points out W. S. Allen, Extension Agricultural Engineer with Texas A&M University. Deterioration found near the top center of the grain bin may indicate damage due to moisture migration. Grain will show evidence of spoilage if it has not been properly aerated. Mr. Allen says that information on the proper aeration of grain may be obtained from local county agricultural agents.

## SPRAYING EFFECTIVE FOR BOLL WEEVIL CONTROL

For the second successive year, insecticide spraying during 1965 has prevented the boll weevil from reentering strategically important valleys near El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico. In addition to being important cotton-producing areas, the El Paso and Juarez Valleys are "jumping-off" places from which boll weevils could invade New Mexico, Arizona, and California, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## KNOW YOUR SOIL!

An important question which will be asked frequently by Texas farmers during the next few weeks is: "How should I fertilize in 1966?" According to Dr. C. D. Welch, Extension Soil Chemist at Texas A&M University, two factors should be considered when answering this question - the level of fertility in the soil and the desired yield. A soil test is the best way to determine soil fertility. In order to determine an expected-yield figure, production, management, and climatic factors should be evaluated. Moisture already in the soil, irrigation possibilities, and estimated rainfall should also be considered. In addition, past yields and management practices should receive consideration when determining a realistic yield goal.

## MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Red meat production in the 48 contiguous states during 1965 totaled 30,625 million lbs., or 3% less than the 1964 output, according to the Statistical Reporting Service. Of the 1965 total, 18,315 million lbs. were beef (up 2% from a year earlier); 936 million lbs. were veal (up 1%); 10,736 million lbs. were pork (down



11%); and 638 million lbs. were lamb and mutton (down 9%). The number of cattle slaughtered during 1965 was 5% greater than in the preceding year, and that of calves showed a 2% gain. In contrast, slaughter of both hogs and sheep and lambs was down 11%.

MORE TURKEYS FOR 1966

U.S. turkey growers intend to produce 7% more turkeys this year than the 1965 output, according to the SRS. Present plans of the growers are to increase the number of heavy breeds by 6%, with heavy whites up 15% and other heavy breeds down 2%. A 12% gain is planned for the output of light-breed birds. If the growers' intentions materialize, the 1966 national turkey crop will be about 112.1 million, compared with the revised estimate of 104.7 million birds raised in 1965. A turkey crop of this size would be 4% larger than the previous record in 1961. Increased production is planned for all regions of the United States.

	Area	Week ended January 29, 1966	Percent increase over	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1965
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS				
	Texas.....	2,767,000	2	11
	Louisiana..	723,000	5	19
	23 states..	47,532,000	2	13