



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 842

Wednesday, February 16, 1966

## LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

Following seven consecutive years of increase, the number of cattle and calves on the Nation's farms as of January 1, 1966, decreased 1% from a year earlier to a total of 106.6 million head, according to the Statistical Reporting Service. A 6% decline in the number of milk animals more than offset a 1% gain in the beef cattle inventory. The number of cows and heifers 2 years old and older kept for milk decreased 6% to 16.6 million head, the smallest total since 1900. The inventory of hogs and pigs on U.S. farms at the beginning of the current year is placed at 51.2 million head, reflecting a 4% decrease from a year ago and the smallest January 1 inventory since 1955. The number of all sheep and lambs totaled 26.5 million head, the lowest inventory of record. The inventory of sheep and lambs on feed was up 1%, while the number of stock sheep showed a 1% decline. The number of chickens (excluding broilers) on farms at the beginning of this year declined 1% to 371.4 million head, while the inventory of turkeys advanced 9% to nearly 7.0 million head. The total value of all livestock and poultry on the Nation's farms and ranches as of January 1, 1966, amounted to \$17.5 billion, up 22% from a year earlier.

The table below shows the number of livestock on farms and ranches in the states of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District on January 1, 1966, and the year-earlier comparisons.

### LIVESTOCK ON FARMS AND RANCHES, JANUARY 1

Five Southwestern States

(In thousands)

Area	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965
Arizona.....	1,116	1,140	32	30	669	593
Louisiana.....	1,777	1,890	154	167	62	67
New Mexico.....	1,128	1,106	43	45	972	969
Oklahoma.....	4,358	4,190	312	271	183	182
Texas.....	10,546	10,239	752	702	5,154	4,790
Five states....	18,925	18,565	1,293	1,215	7,040	6,601

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The January 1, 1966, inventory of goats and kids on Texas farms and ranches was 4.4 million head, which is 9% more than a year ago. The total inventory value of goats in the State is placed at \$30.1 million, compared with \$28.4 million at the beginning of 1965. The average value per head was \$6.80, or 20¢ per head less than a year earlier.

REGISTRATION OF TWO INSECTICIDES CANCELED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently reported that it is canceling the registration of the insecticides aldrin and dieldrin for use on certain vegetable, grain, and forage crops. The action is based on recent scientific data which show that the use of these insecticides on some of the crops - especially forage crops and sugar beets - can result in illegal residues on the crops and, in some instances, in milk from cows that have been fed the crops.

The USDA says that aldrin and dieldrin have been used widely in insect control and have been especially effective in the destruction of soil insects. Cancellation will be in effect 30 days after registrants of aldrin and dieldrin products receive USDA notification; notices of cancellation were mailed on February 2. The restriction of aldrin and dieldrin registration now is particularly timely, since growers customarily apply the two insecticides to soil in the spring.

	Area	Week ended February 5, 1966	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1965
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	2,827,000	2	7
	Louisiana..	725,000	0	18
	23 states..	48,025,000	1	10