



AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Number 851

Wednesday, April 20, 1966

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 * Some of the Agricultural News of the Week readers have not yet
 * returned the survey cards which were mailed with the April 6 issue
 * of the publication. We would appreciate your returning these cards
 * at your earliest convenience.
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CONTROLS OVER PESTICIDES IN FOODS

The Federal Government has moved to strengthen the controls over tolerance levels of pesticides in food. Tolerances will be fixed for safe, low levels of pesticides occurring inadvertently in some foods. The practice of allowing the use of pesticides on a "no-residue" basis will be ended because it is not realistic. In instances where a safe, low-level tolerance cannot be established, "zero-tolerances" will be set as a basis for removing contaminated foods from the market. The new approach in setting tolerances for residues of Federally-registered pesticides in foods was announced jointly by Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare John W. Gardner and Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman.

IT'S CASEBEARER TIME AGAIN!

Pecan growers are beginning to watch their orchards for signs of the pecan nut casebearer. The casebearer is the major pecan pest in Texas, and severe infestations of the insect can destroy an entire pecan crop. Tom Denman, Researcher at Texas A&M University's West Cross Timbers Experiment Station, near Stephenville, has conducted research which shows that the banding system eliminates much of the guesswork in timing the spraying schedule for controlling the casebearer. Mr. Denman advises pecan growers to contact their local county agricultural agents for detailed information on the banding system.

LIVESTOCK - FEED PRICE RATIOS MORE FAVORABLE

Livestock-feed price ratios were more favorable for the Nation's livestock and poultry producers during the first half of the 1965-66 feeding year (which ends September 30, 1966) than in the two previous years, points out the Economic Research Service. The favorable ratios are largely the result of a marked increase in prices of livestock and livestock products during the past year. During October 1965-March 1966, prices of meat animals averaged 33% higher than a year earlier; those for dairy products were up 4%; and poultry and egg prices were 16% higher. During this same period, feed grain prices averaged 3% lower, and prices paid by U.S. farmers for all feed purchased were about unchanged from a year earlier. The sharp rise in hog prices in the past year has resulted in a very favorable hog-corn price ratio. The hog-corn ratio (bushels of corn that can be purchased with 100 lbs. of live hog) averaged 23.2 during October-March, compared with 13.6 during the corresponding period a year ago and the 1955-64 average of 14.5.



P O I S O N - C O N T R O L C E N T E R S

County agricultural agents in Texas have been supplied a revised list of the poison-control centers located in the State. The list was furnished by the Texas Department of Health. Poison-control centers are designed to provide both treatment and public health information. Texas A&M University says that the services are available to local physicians who may not be familiar with the proper treatment and antidotes for specific pesticides or other poisonous materials. Entomologists of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service emphasize the importance of keeping physicians informed about which pesticides or other chemicals are being used in an area. The time interval between the onset of poison symptoms and the initiation of treatment is often critical, according to Texas A&M University.

	Area	Week ended April 9, 1966	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1965
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	3,374,000	0	9
	Louisiana..	716,000	-3	18
	23 states..	52,956,000	1	10