



# AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

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### FINAL EDITION!

A readership survey of the Agricultural News of the Week was conducted recently. An overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that it would meet their needs to incorporate into our monthly Farm and Ranch Bulletin much of the same type of material that has appeared in the weekly publication. Consequently, this is the last issue of the News of the Week. Those who would like to receive the Farm and Ranch Bulletin regularly may have their names added to the mailing list upon request to the Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Station K, Dallas, Texas 75222.

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### THE FARMER'S SHARE

Farmers received an average of 41¢ for each dollar the U.S. consumer spent for domestic farm foods in retail food stores during the first quarter of 1966, reports the Economic Research Service. This figure compares with 38¢ during the corresponding period last year.

### FOREST FIRES BURNED FEWER ACRES LAST YEAR

The acreage burned by forest fires in the United States was an all-time low in 1965, although the number of fires decreased only slightly, points out the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Fires swept 2.7 million acres last year, a reduction of almost 37% from the 1964 figure and 13% less than the previous low in 1961. The number of forest fires decreased from 116,358 in 1964 to 113,684 in 1965. Over 90% of the fires are still man-caused, with incendiaryists, debris burners, and smokers heading the list of offenders.

Secretary of Agriculture Freeman says that "The summer season is just ahead, and more people than ever will be using the forests and open spaces.... Speaking for my old friend and co-worker Smokey Bear, I'm asking people to be extra careful. The best way to reduce destruction from forest fires is to prevent fires from starting at all."

### USDA GRANT FOR STUDY OF HORN FLY

Attractants that could help control the horn fly, a serious bloodsucking pest of beef and dairy cattle, will be studied by New Mexico State University under a USDA grant. Horn flies - a major insect pest for many years - are found throughout the Nation. They reduce production of meat and milk, damage animal hides, and rob cattle of blood.

### FARM EXPORTS MAY REACH \$6.7 BILLION

Agricultural exports in the 1966 fiscal year (which ends June 30) likely will reach \$6.7 billion, a figure which is nearly 50% above that in fiscal 1960. Large gains in shipments of wheat, soybeans, and feed grains are expected to make

this achievement possible, according to Secretary of Agriculture Freeman. Since 1960, total U.S. exports of feed grains have more than doubled, wheat shipments are twice as large, soybean exports have almost doubled, and oilcake and meal shipments are three times as large. For the 1966 fiscal year, dollar sales are expected to account for three-fourths of the total U.S. exports.

MEXICO'S STRAWBERRY CROP RECORD HIGH

The 1965-66 strawberry crop in Mexico is a record high for the ninth consecutive year, although per-acre yields are at a 6-year low as a result of damage from hail and frost. The Foreign Agricultural Service reports that exports of both frozen and fresh strawberries to the United States have zoomed in recent years, and Mexican growers planted a record 11,000 acres of strawberries this season, or 40% more than in the preceding season and double the 1962-63 acreage. Yields are expected to average only 10,000 lbs. per acre in 1965-66, compared with the previous season's record of 12,000 lbs. Total production of strawberries in Mexico is placed at 110 million lbs., a figure that is 30% above the 1964-65 outturn and nearly double that in 1962-63.

	Area	Week ended May 21, 1966	Percent change from	
			Previous week	Comparable week, 1965
BROILER CHICK				
PLACEMENTS	Texas.....	3,704,000	2	14
	Louisiana..	764,000	-1	14
	23 states..	54,644,000	1	7