

FARM AND RANCH BULLETIN

Vol. 15, No. 3

March 15, 1960

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTING IS BIG BUSINESS

The United States is the world's largest exporter of farm products. During fiscal 1959, the Nation supplied 17 percent of the world's export volume of the commodities which are produced in this country, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. The output from 41 million acres—1 out of every 8 acres of cropland—moved abroad.

United States agricultural exports in fiscal 1959 were the third largest in quantity and the sixth highest in value. The total value of \$3.7 billion compared with \$4 billion in 1958 and the \$4.7 billion record in 1957. Both the quantity and the value of agricultural exports during the past 4 years averaged higher than in any other comparable period.

Of the \$3.7 billion of exports in fiscal 1959, more than one-third moved under such Government-financed programs as Public Law 480 and Mutual Security programs. Under Public Law 480, agricultural commodities can be sold for foreign currencies, bartered, donated, and used for emergency relief. Commercial sales amounted to \$2.4 billion, of which \$1.6 billion was exported at prevailing domestic market prices; the remainder represented estimated sales at less than domestic market prices. These latter sales—which were primarily of cotton, wheat, and feed grains—received some governmental assistance.

Agricultural exporting is a big business, says the FAS. Shipments of farm products in 1959 required financing, inland transportation, storage, and ocean shipping for 32 million long tons

of cargo, which is enough to fill 800,000 freight cars or 3,200 cargo ships. An average of nine ships a day weighed anchor in moving the commodities.

The following are summaries of United States exports of some commodities which are important in the Southwest. Data are for fiscal 1959 except where noted otherwise.

WHEAT—Shipments of wheat grain and flour equivalent, at 443 million bushels, were the fourth highest of record. Sixty-nine percent of the quantity moved under specified Government programs. The export volume accounted for 30 percent of the 1958 United States wheat crop and 36 percent of the world wheat trade.

COTTON—Exports of cotton during 1959 were the fourth lowest in the post-World War II period. Of the 3.1 million-bale total, 59 percent moved under specified Government programs. The shipments were 27 percent of the 1958 United States cotton crop and comprised 22 percent of world cotton trade during the August 1958-July 1959 season. Exports of cottonseed oil were also of major importance.

RICE—Rice exports totaled 14.2 million bags, valued at \$104 million. Almost one-half of the quantity moved under Government programs. The exports were 43 percent of this country's 1958 rice production and made up one-tenth of the world rice trade (calendar year 1958).

FEED GRAINS—Exports of the four feed grains—corn, barley, oats, and grain sorghums

—reached a record 12 million tons in 1959 and were valued at \$558 million; 22 percent moved under specified Government programs. Shipments abroad accounted for 19 percent of the feed grain sales by the Nation's farmers in 1958 and were 53 percent of the world feed grain trade.

DAIRY PRODUCTS — United States shipments of 1.3 billion pounds of dairy products (whole milk equivalent) during 1959 were valued at \$144 million. Of the total value, 66 percent moved under specified Government programs. The total exports were 2 percent of domestic milk production and 8 percent of world trade (calendar year 1958). Nonfat dry milk, cheese, and evaporated milk made up nearly two-thirds of the total exports.

POULTRY—Shipments of poultry and poultry products from this country during 1959 amounted to \$49 million (8 percent moved under specified Government programs). Included in the exports were 81 million pounds of poultry meat, 28 million dozen eggs, 15 million day-old chicks, and 2.8 million pounds of egg solids.

FRUIT—Fruit exports, valued at \$229 million, were the third highest of record. Less than 1 percent of the total value moved under specified Government programs. During the 1958 calendar year, the United States supplied 14 percent of the world's fresh citrus trade, 9 percent of the fresh deciduous fruit trade, 38 percent of the canned deciduous fruit trade, and 17 percent of the dried fruit trade.

VEGETABLES—The value of vegetables shipped abroad in 1959 was the highest in 11 years. Included in the \$135 million total were \$47 million worth of fresh vegetables, \$37 million of dried peas and beans, and \$25 million of canned vegetables.

During fiscal 1959, four-fifths of United States agricultural exports went to 20 markets. Two-thirds of the shipments went to the following 11 countries, each of which took over \$100 million worth: the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, West Germany, India, the Netherlands, Cuba, Spain, Yugoslavia, Italy, and Belgium.

Prevent Cotton Seedling Disease

A net profit of \$15 to \$20 an acre can be expected when in-the-furrow fungicides are used at cotton planting time to control seedling disease, states Harlan E. Smith, Extension Plant Pathologist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The disease—commonly known as sore shin or damping-off—takes its toll of cotton seedlings, thus reducing stands and lint yields. It is caused by fungi which live in the soil and attack young seedlings from the time of germination until leaves appear on the young plants.

The purpose of using in-the-furrow fungicides at cotton planting time is to provide disease protection for the young sprouts. A combination of captan, zineb, and PCNB is suggested for general use. This combination can be applied as a spray or dust. Nabam is applied as a spray and can be used where soils have a pH of 7.3 or below.

Mr. Smith says that the following practices are also helpful in reducing cotton seedling disease.

1. Plant high-quality seed which has been treated properly.
2. Plant in a good seedbed at the proper depth and rate for the area.
3. Use recommended fertilizer placement.
4. Plant when soil temperature and moisture are favorable.

Impact of Industry in Rural Areas

What happens when industry moves to the country is the central question in a series of cooperative studies in five representative areas of the United States, according to Nathan M. Koffsky, Deputy Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Several significant findings have been noted in studies in selected rural areas where new industrial plants have been located recently. Rural people who obtain jobs in the new factories are much younger than average residents of employable age. For example, the average factory worker in the areas under study is about 30

Recommended Corn Hybrids for Texas

Considering both yield and important vegetative characteristics of corn hybrids over a period of years, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station recommends the following hybrids, in the order of preference, for the corn-producing areas of the State.

AREA	YELLOW CORN HYBRID	WHITE CORN HYBRID
Coast Prairie.....	Texas 34, 30	Asgrow 101W, Texas 17W
East Texas Timberlands.....	Texas 30, 28, 34, 36	Texas 17W, Asgrow 101W
Blacklands and Grand Prairies		
Northern.....	Texas 28, 30, 36, Asgrow 104	Texas 17W, Asgrow 101W
Southern.....	Texas 28, 30, Asgrow 104, Texas 36	Texas 17W, Asgrow 101W
Rio Grande Plain		
Dry-land.....	Texas 28, 36, 30	Texas 17W, Asgrow 101W
Irrigated.....	Texas 30, 34, 36, 28	Asgrow 101W, Texas 17W
West Cross Timbers.....	Texas 28, 36	Texas 17W
Rolling Plains.....	Texas 28, 36	Texas 17W
High Plains Irrigated.....	Texas 28, 30, 36	Asgrow 101W, Texas 17W
Alluvial soils.....	Texas 30, 28, 34	Asgrow 101W, Texas 17W

years old, compared with an average of 50 years of age for heads of farm families in the same areas.

The incomes and living standards of rural people finding jobs in the new plants have gone up at faster rates than have those of other rural residents. Incomes of plant workers equal—and, in many cases, exceed—incomes of average families in the same community. Plant workers were found to be among the leaders in rural community organizations and groups. Rural residents who find jobs in local industry continue to take an active part in community and religious activities.

About one out of every four plant workers in the areas studied operates a farm, although such farms generally are much smaller than the average in the community. Farmers usually reduce their operations after taking jobs in industry. Farmers working in the plants studied had reduced the number of days they farmed by as much as 50 percent. Almost all the rural people working in the new plants and most other residents agreed that industry had benefited their community. The primary reason most often given was simple: more money and jobs in the community.

Lightweight Calves Need Vitamin A

Lightweight calves — those weighing 250 to 400 pounds — being full-fed in feed lots need vitamin A (carotene) in their ration, according to U. D. Thompson, Animal Husbandman with the Texas Extension Service. The first and most recognizable symptom of the deficiency is night blindness. Reserve sources of vitamin A are stored in the liver and fat of beef cattle. However, lightweight calves do not have as much storage capacity as older animals, and a deficiency could develop within 45 to 60 days.

Although yellow corn is the only feed grain containing vitamin A, available commercial sources of the vitamin may be mixed with the ration. Alfalfa hay of good green color can be fed at the rate of 1 pound daily, or the requirements can be met by adding 5 percent alfalfa meal or pellets to the ration. Feed mixtures which contain only ground ear corn and cottonseed meal or ground sorghum grain and cottonseed meal are most likely to result in deficiencies if fed to lightweight calves. Baled hay, bundles, and other cured roughages that do not have a pea-green color are not good sources for the vitamin.



Cotton Insect Control Guide Available

Copies of the 1960 Texas guide for controlling cotton insects, L-218, are available from local county agricultural agents or the Agricultural Information Office, College Station, Texas.

At least six major changes have been made in the recommendations covering the control of cotton insects for 1960, says C. F. Garner, Associate Extension Entomologist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. As in past years, the control program includes both early- and late-season control measures and suggestions for early stalk destruction and farm cleanup.

Starting Turkey Poults

Turkey poults, like the young of most animals, require much care during the first few weeks of life. R. L. Atkinson, Assistant Professor in the Poultry Science Department of Texas A. & M. College, says that the primary requirements of a successful brooding operation include—

1. A sanitary environment which is free of disease organisms.
2. Sufficient heat (enough to keep the birds comfortable).
3. A well-balanced all-mash ration.
4. Ample fresh, clean water.
5. Plenty of fresh air.

During the first 10 days, the poults should be given a balanced, highly nutritious, and well-fortified all-mash prestarter ration. This ration should contain 32 percent protein; have a calorie-protein ratio of about 30 to 1; be well fortified with vitamins, minerals, and antibiotics; and contain a good coccidiostat. The use of Furizolidone (NF-180) also is recommended to prevent infections.

The prestarter ration should be followed with a 28 percent protein starter. This ration should be fed through the eighth week and should be a well-balanced and highly fortified diet containing a good coccidiostat and a combination

of two or more antibiotics. Furizolidone (NF-180) also may be used.

Mr. Atkinson points out that the use of colored whey during the first few days will help in eliminating "starve-outs." The poults will pick at the brightly colored pieces of dried whey and, in this way, will start eating much faster. Whey mixed in the feed is more costly and does not seem to be as effective as a small amount of colored whey sprinkled on top of the feed two or three times a day.

Development of Young Breeding Ewes

The size or weight of yearling ewes when they enter the breeding flock has a major influence on their subsequent breeding performance, according to a study made on Rambouillet ewes at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Substation at Sonora.

The report, written by Animal Husbandman Maurice Shelton, states that ewes weighing 100 to 115 pounds performed better than those weighing above or below this range. For each pound of increase—up to 100 pounds—in yearling breeding weights, there were gains of approximately 5 pounds in total lamb production and 0.6 of a pound in total wool production throughout the ewe's lifetime.

The weaning weight of ewe lambs was much less important in relation to breeding performance than the size at later dates. These results indicate that, if adequate development is permitted before the ewes enter the breeding flock, the size at weaning is not a critical factor in selecting replacement ewe lambs, although larger lambs are still preferred.

The optimum breeding weight for mature Rambouillet ewes under Edwards Plateau range conditions probably is around 120 pounds. Lamb production did not increase above this weight; and, assuming feed consumption is related to size, it appears there would be little advantage for intentionally producing and maintaining ewes above this weight.