

## \$3½ Billion of Farm Surplus Consumed in '58

Disposal of surplus farm products from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks continued at a high rate during 1958, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported today in a year-end summary of inventory operations.

Commodities costing \$3,459,000,000 were moved into consumption during the 12-month period that ended June 30, 1958. In addition, products costing \$748 million were disposed of in the four months, July 1 - Oct. 31, 1958, bringing the 16-month total to \$4,206,000,000.

Among the commodities moved out of inventory during the 16-month period were upland cotton, having a cost value of \$1,482,000,000; corn and other feed grains, \$856 million; wheat and flour, \$683 million; and dairy products, \$519 million.

The department pointed out, however, that inventories remained at high levels despite the brisk disposal activity. Actually, the out-movement of commodities was a little more than offset by the acquisition of "new" products under price support program.

In terms of cost value, CCC's price support inventory increased from \$5,372,000,000 on July 1, 1957, to \$5,576,000,000 on Oct. 31, 1958.

Of the \$4,207,000,000 worth

Under the Department's coordinated sales program for CCC inventory commodities, sales dollars continued to be the most important disposal method, accounting for \$2,420,000,000, or 58 per cent of total commodity dispositions during the 16-month period, July 1 1957-Oct. 31, 1958.

As one means of stimulating export sales for dollars, CCC has sold to exporters on credit for periods of up to 36 months. Credit sales approved up to December 1958 amounted to about \$70 million.

Although the emphasis has been on dollar sales, other types of outlets also are used.

Sales under Title I. Public Law 480 accounted for \$594 million or 14 per cent of total commodity disposals during the 16-month period. Public Law 480 permits nations lacking dollars to purchase American farm products with their own currencies.

Commodities costing \$214 million, or 5 per cent of the disposal total, were bartered during the 16 months that ended Oct. 31. Cotton, wheat, corn, and other feed grains were the principal commodities bartered during the period.

Among the strategic and

th of commodities moved out of stockpiles in the 16-month period, CCC's proceeds were \$2,956,000,000—a return of 70 cents on the dollar. The difference between cost value and proceeds—\$1,251,000,000—represented a loss to CCC.

Other expenses and charges brought CCC's total net realized loss on the price support program in the 16-month period to \$1,245,000,000.

Direct price support activities of the Commodity Credit Corporation represent only part of the Department of Agriculture's overall program for stabilization of farm prices and income. The program as a whole also includes National Wool Act pay.

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## Two Billion School Lunches Served In 1958, USDA Says

Two billion lunches were served to about 12 million children — 30 per cent of total school enrollment — under the National School Lunch Program in 1958, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today. Nearly 60,000 schools participated in the program.

Most of the food used in those lunches was purchased from local producers and suppliers. During the last fiscal year, local purchases were estimated at more than \$400 million worth of food.

First reports for the new school year to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service indicate that the value of such purchases will be still higher in 1958-59.

Children participating in the National School Lunch Program, which is carried out

critical materials acquired through barter were lead, zinc, industrial diamonds, ferromanganese, and chrome metal.

in cooperation with the States and Territories, pay nearly \$500 million a year for their lunches. It is estimated that State and local government contribute about \$80 million to the program, and other contributors add about \$90 million more.

USDA has appropriated \$93 million from appropriated funds to the States as a contribution to operation of the program, and about \$50 million is available for buying foods specifically for use in school lunches. Commodities valued at about \$75 million, acquired through price-fixing, support and surplus-removal programs, also are being donated to schools this year.

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