● Ag. Outlook

(Continued from Page 1)

grow, laying foundation for larger fed cattle numbers Slaughter of other cattle will decline Focus is swinging to West and Southwest On October 1 there were 73 percent more cattle on feed in these 10 States compared with only 5 years ago

Big fed cattle supplies headed for market this fall and winter October-December marketings may be 12 percent over like period of 1968 Early 1970 marketings likely to be moderately larger than in early 1969, based on current feedlot population.

Next year: Moderately larger fed cattle marketings expected. First half 1970 marketings will reflect a small increase in fall placements of cattle on feed . . . Gain in 1969 calf crop will supply feeders for larger second-half 1970 marketings. But increase won't match the projected 12-percent increase in marketings this fall.

1970 Prices May Rise

This fall, smaller output of nonfed cattle, pork, veal, and lamb is partly offsetting larger fed cattle slaughter Fed cattle prices were still above 1968 levels on November 1 Prices will continue about the same through New Years

Prices could pick up during first half 1970. Fed cattle supply increase will be modest, but consumer beef-buying ability and preference will remain strong . . Warning: Some producers started to hold onto heavy cattle in early fall following summer price weakness. This could lead to top-heavy market if trend continues.

While the feeder market weakened in the summer, prices this fall stayed well above a year earlier . . . Next year, as more cattle are fed, feeder demand will increase, and feeder cattle prices will stay well above average.

Meat Supply Uptrend

Total red meat supply declined this year . . . But will resume uptrend in 1970, with more fed beef and pork offsetting smaller output of veal, lamb, and nonfed cattle . . . Broiler output expanding also

Egg Uptrend

Egg output through September was below 1968 level . . . Smaller laying flock responsible. Now, laying flock is getting larger with addition of higher yielding younger birds So egg output in first half 1970 will be larger than in like period this year . . Greater output will be partly offset by strong demand for liquid egg, tending to hold prices close to early 1969 levels.

More Poultry Predicted

USDA experts forecast larger broiling and turkey output in first half 1970 . Broiler replacement flock has been increasing recently, paving the way for increased output in first half 1970 . . . Economists foresee this action weakening prices next spring.

Early 1970 price outlook better for turkey producers . . . Big cold storage stock are being worked down. Prices in October averaged 22½ cents a pound, versus 20½ January-September 1969, and should hold up through New Years . . . Hatch of poults for early 1970 markets is 3 percent higher than last year. More breeder hens being kept, too. So output will be up next spring, while cold storage stocks are down.

Big Citrus Crop

Florida's orange crop up a tenth to an expected 143 million boxes this season . . . Exceeds the 1966-67 record by a few million boxes . . Other records, too: Temples, tangelos, and limes Texas orange crop forecast up a fifth, but California's navel orange crop will be down, as will tangerine and grapefruit harvests With record orange crop, larger pack of processed products — especially frozen concentrated orange juice — is likely . . . Prices for frozen orange juice will likely be lower in 1970.

Deciduous Fruit Output Up

Output of most deciduous items up this year, particularly apples . . . Total fruit pack is big and frozen supplies above last year . . . Tree nut supplies also larger than last season. Lower than 1968 prices for noncitrus fruits that prevailed this summer are extending into fall.

Top Potato Crop

October estimates point to a new record for late summer and fall crop potatoes . . . Production increase to come from western States . . . Despite higher than 1968 prices in some areas, season average is expected to be lower than last season.

Fewer Tomatoes

Smallest early fall tomato crop in many years expected . . . Fresh supply will be lower, and prices higher . . . But Mexican imports will supplement the domestic supply . . . U.S. processing crop will be off sharply: Growers cut acreage to offset record supplies of canned tomatoes and products. And yields will be down a tenth this year.