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NEW SOUTH WALES
STATE MARKETING BUREAU
DIVISION OF MARKETING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

FEBRUARY, 1943.

Vol. 9 No. 6

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING,
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MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Released during the Second Week of each Month

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

FEBRUARY, 1943.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The F.A.Q. wheat standard for 1942/43 has been fixed at 63 lb. per imperial bushel. The standard last season was 64 lb.

The Minister for Commerce has announced that butter production in Australia has reached record proportions and that large stocks are in reserve.

The Australian Food Council, with a view to stimulating vegetable production, has decided to (1) increase production of root crops to a point at which the residue can be stored to meet between-season demand, (2) to increase the canning programme for essential vegetables and (3) to step-up production of perishable leafy vegetables to the point of minor gluts, if necessary.

Under a recently gazetted Order, the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner has fixed retail margins of profit on apples and pears. The retail margin on the sale of small quantities will not exceed 50% on cost, with a maximum permissible margin of 10/- per bushel. On half-bushel lots the maximum margin is 33-1/3% and on full bushel lots 25%.

National Security Regulations constituting Commonwealth Meat Industry Commission disallowed by Senate. Reported Federal Government considering steps to overcome resultant position.

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subscribed to the pooling system. On November 18, 1933, an arrangement was made with the State Government through which money was made available by the Board's bankers, under guarantee from the Government, to meet stabilisation commitments. Under the guarantee the Board undertook to repay, over a period of five years, the total amount so advanced - namely, £44,741.17.7. When compulsory pooling was once more established, the Board honoured this obligation, and at the conclusion of the 1937-38 period the sum of £29,036.15.0 had been repaid. During the 1937-38 Pool period, however, due mainly to heavy commitments in connection with the purchase of the present Board property, the Board saw difficulty in meeting these heavy commitments, and at the same time effecting satisfactory market stabilisation, and representations were then made to the Government for an extension of time in which to pay the balance of this guaranteed overdraft, which arrangement was agreed to. It should be remembered that the indebtedness mentioned was incurred during the period November, 1933, to August, 1934, when the Board, at the request of the State Government, stabilised the local market until the necessary amendment to the Marketing Act was passed. The overdraft in no way concerned the Pool which operated from June to November, 1933, on a voluntary basis, and which finished with a distributable surplus of £3,093.8.8, which was returned to producers. Of the guaranteed overdraft only £3,145.2.7 now remains to be repaid.

General.

While many reasons have been suggested for the decline in production toward the latter portion of the Pool year, the fact is that there were many contributing factors, not the least of which is that following Japan's entry into the war the question of evacuating stock from coastal districts was discussed at some length by a Stock Evacuation Committee set up by the Government. Since most of the Board's original area fell within the category of a possible invasion zone, it is not surprising that the poultry production within this area was reduced.

The Board realised at an early date that the industry and its marketing organisation would suffer severely if no action was taken to rationalise the call-up of both egg producers and key men in the marketing organisation; and the matter of obtaining exemption from military service for all producers farming a flock of more than 600 layers was vigorously presented both through the Egg Supervision Committee and direct to the Man Power Authorities, with the result that poultry-farming was declared a protected industry and the staff of the Board reserved. The result of this decision has been that producers have been enabled to continue production, and the reservation on the marketing side ensured that the distribution of the product was carried out satisfactorily, although it does not entirely eliminate enlistments and call-ups from the staff.

After the announcement by the Imperial Government in April, 1941, that shipping difficulties precluded any further

/shipments .....

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EGG MARKETING BOARD FOR THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES - 1941-42 POOL YEAR -

Following are extracts from the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Egg Marketing Board for the State of New South Wales:-

Historical.

The Board presents the audited accounts for the 1941-42 Pool period of 52 weeks' duration, terminating on May 31, 1942. This, the fourteenth annual report of the Board, is actually the first report issued which covers operations over the whole of the State. All previous reports were in respect of the Board's original area, which, up to November 3, 1941, comprised the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the Shires of Nattai and Wollondilly. The industry has cause for gratification in that the marketing organisation created by itself has maintained such steady progress in spite of the dislocation of business resulting from the spread of war to the Pacific.

Following the ballot of producers taken on August 27,1940, on the question of extending the jurisdiction of the Board to cover the marketing of all eggs produced in this State (a ballot which resulted in 525 votes being recorded for both the negative and affirmative), a further ballot was taken on September 10, 1941, and resulted in 887 votes being recorded in the affirmative and 528 in the negative. Consequent upon the successful outcome of the poll the Board took all necessary steps to implement the industry's decision, and as from November 3, 1941, assumed control of the whole of the marketing of country egg production, with the exception of certain distant country districts, which, in view of negligible egg production, were exempted.

For the benefit of those producers in the newly-added areas a brief resume of the history of the industry's marketing organisation is included in this report.

Established in 1928, the first Pool commenced operations on May 27, 1929. Thereafter compulsory pooling operated until April, 1933, when the now historic decision given by the High Court in the Queensland Peanut Board case caused a temporary suspension of the compulsory Pool until necessary amending legislation could be enacted, and in the meantime a voluntary Pool operated.

When the amending legislation was passed - on August 4, 1934 - compulsory pooling was re-established, and has continued until the present time.

During the operations of the voluntary Pool the cost of market stabilisation was borne by those producers who voluntarily

/subscribed .....

shipments of eggs in shell to the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth Government co-operated with the Board in carrying out egg-drying tests at the Raymond Terrace Co-operative Dairy Co. Ltd. These tests, pioneered by the Board, and carried out on the Board's formulae, formed the basis of the drying arrangements which were adopted by the Commonwealth Government throughout Australia. To its other ventures the Board added the drying of whole egg for local consumption. All other eggs dried in Australia by arrangement with the Commonwealth Government were produced for sale outside New South Wales. The venture proved even more successful than had been anticipated and the advertising campaign entered upon resulted in a public demand greater eventually than the volume of powder available. The product was marketed in ½ lb. and 7 lb. containers and 1 lb. glass jars, and the excellence of the product was commended by both domestic consumers and manufacturing interests.

In view of the success of the dried whole egg on the local market, the Board decided to investigate the possibility of supplying the New Zealand market, and in February, 1942, the Board's Chairman visited the Dominion and opened negotiations with the New Zealand Government. These negotiations were successfully finalised and shipments of powder, pulp and egg albumen have since been made with the approval of the Commonwealth Government.

An important feature of the year's operations resulted from the successful outcome of the outer area poll when the Board entered into an arrangement with the four main distributing houses, when it was agreed that discounts to agents would be subject to certain terms and conditions. These were (a) that the agents would be agents of the Board and as such would handle eggs purchased through the Board only; (b) that the agents would not place any eggs in cold storage; (c) that the agents would not deal in Interstate eggs; (d) that the Board would discontinue the payment of discounts to purchasers other than its authorised agents, with the exception of certain Government contracts. For the distribution service the agents received a discount of 5 per cent. in the metropolitan districts and 4 per cent. in country districts. This agreement has been honoured by all parties and has proved eminently satisfactory.

As previously announced, the Board, during the year, commenced the installation of Wyland Grading Machines from U.S.A. Considerable difficulty was experienced in finalising the purchase of the machines, as the dollar exchange regulations prevented their importation, but following radio telephone negotiations with the United States arrangements were eventually made for the importation of the segregating devices which could not be made in Australia and the manufacture of the balance of the machines in Sydney. These machines have proved invaluable in overcoming the difficulties of maintaining an adequate staff and will, in the future, result in a considerable saving in costs. Inquiries have been received from other Australian States and also New Zealand for this type of grading machine, but as the Board has not yet been able to obtain

/more....

more than a portion of its own full requirements, because of priority work carried out by the manufacturer, so far the Board has not been able to supply grading machines to other inquirers.

Production.

In previous Pools it has been a comparatively simple matter to draw comparisons between the production of the Pool under review and that of previous years, but the fact that the Board assumed control of egg marketing throughout the State as from November 3, 1941, makes strict comparison impracticable Nevertheless, the figures submitted with relation to production are of definite interest and value.

Total production recorded for the Pool is as under:-

Floor Receivals	1941-42	Increase on 1940-41
	Dozens	Dozens
Sydney	17,979,061	2,438,673
Newcastle	3,538,913	1,213,546
Country Depots	5,363,874	3,899,123
	26,881,848	7,551,342
Producer Agents' Sales	11,653,189	1,923,898
Total:	38,535,037	9,475,240

This increase was not steady throughout the year and the total would have been considerably greater had it not been for a decline in the metropolitan area in the second part of the Pool year for reasons already mentioned.

Percentage increases over the figures of the previous Pool show a total increase of 32.60 per cent. Floor receivals increased by 39.07 per cent and producer agents' sales by 19.68 per cent.

The following figures of production controlled by the Board are of considerable interest:-

	Recorded Production (thousand dozen)	Increase on 1938-39	Increase Percentage.	Percentage of increase handled by Board.	Percentage of increase sold by Producer Agents.
1938-39	20,427	-	-	-	-
1939-40	23,452	3,025	14.81%	42.12%	57.88%
1940-41	29,060	8,633	42.26%	68.07%	31.93%
1941-42	38,535	18,108	88.65%	74.15%	25.85%

Prices.

Prices for the greater part of the year were generally lower than those of the preceding Pool. The Pool year actually commenced with a new-laid surplus, and this, taken in conjunction with the fact that heavy cold storage stocks were then still unsold, complicated marketing conditions. The increase in production added materially to the surplus already existing, and in order to cope with the financial position thus created, and to avoid collapse in the market, the Board was forced as from December 12th onwards to increase the rate of Pool deduction by 1d per dozen, thus making the total contribution to Pool funds 2d per dozen until the end of the Pool year.

Strenuous efforts were made to bring the factors influencing the returns to the industry under the notice of the Commonwealth Government, and success was eventually achieved in this direction, but not before a large number of individual farmers had found it impossible to continue in production.

Income and Expenditure.

The income of the Board is set out hereunder:-

		£ s. d.
Pool deduction -		
Consignors	...	149,453.14. 3
Producer Agents	...	69,586. 3. 5
		219,039.17. 8
Commission	...	103,510. 9. 5
		322,550. 7. 1
Discounts and Sundry Income	...	743.11. 7
		£323,293.18. 8

(Other income, such as "Depot charges for freight on surpluses" and "commission on sales of eggs and pulp on account of the Commonwealth Government", have been excluded as being refundable expenses and not bona fide income).

The expenditure is summarised under the following main headings:-

		£ s. d.
Board Administration expenses (including cost of Producer Agency System)	....	12,098.10.10
Stabilisation cost and expenses	....	116,359. 9. 0
Standard Case System Costs and Sundry Pool expenses	....	32,461. 1. 1

/Floor....

Floor running and sales service exps.	£142,485.14. 1	
Less:		
Commission earned on Commonwealth stocks sold	5,207. 7. 6	
		137,278. 6. 7
		£298,197. 7. 6

The normal activities of the organisation therefore resulted as follows:-

Income	£323,293.18. 8
Expenditure	298,197. 7. 6
Gross surplus on Pool operations ..	£25,096.11. 2

Commitments:

	£ s. d.
1933-34 Pool Deficit ..	3,140. 0. 0
1933-34 Pool Deficit Interest ..	221. 5. 9
1940-41 Pool Deficit ..	10,285. 1. 0
Wattle Crescent Building Fund charge	1,931. 4. 3
Tamworth Building Fund charge ..	2,500. 0. 0
	£18,077.11. 0
Nett Surplus on Pool operations ..	£7,019. 0. 2

The revenue of the Board increased by 61 per cent. over that of 1940-41 and 81 per cent. of the increase resulted from increased Pool deductions occasioned by (a) an increase, not only in production, but in the area controlled, and (b) an increase in the rate of Pool deduction.

----oooOooo----

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

IMPROVED VALUES FOR LAMB AND MUTTON BUT PORK CHEAPER. BEEF SUPPLIES MAINTAINED.

Small increase in consignments of sheep and lambs.

The number of sheep and lambs yarded showed a slight increase on the previous month's total, the actual yardings being 336,347 head.

Medium quality sheep numerous.

A fairly large percentage of the supplies of grown sheep comprised medium trade quality wethers and ewes. Prime heavy sheep, particularly wethers, continued in relatively short supply, but those offering included some exceptionally good drafts. Light wethers and ewes were well supplied but generally lacked quality.

Irregular market for sheep.

Quite an amount of fluctuation in values was noticeable, particularly early in the month, although over the closing stages of the period a much steadier tone was evident. At opening sales, rates for practically all classes of sheep, excepting very plain grades, advanced by from 2/- to 3/- per head, but at the following auction the rise was practically lost. During the second week good sheep were again 1/- dearer but on the two following sale days lower values ruled, the general decline approximating 2/- per head. Over the closing stages of the month's operations, values did not vary to any marked extent.

Some actual sales are indicated hereunder:-

First Week

Good trade	45 lb.	wethers	(skin 5/-)	made	19/10	each	or	4d	per lb.
" "	44 lb.	ewes	(" 4/6)	"	19/1	"	"	4d	" "

Second Week

Good heavy	48 lb.	wethers	(skin 3/6)	made	17/9	each	or	3½d	per lb.
" trade	46 lb.	"	(" 3/6)	"	17/11	"	"	3⅝d	" "
" "	42 lb.	ewes	(" 3/-)	"	15/4	"	"	3½d	" "

Third Week

Good trade	40 lb.	wethers	(skin 4/-)	made	15/10	each	or	3½d	per lb.
" "	46 lb.	ewes	(" 3/6)	"	16/1	"	"	3¼d	" "

Fourth Week

Good trade	46 lb.	wethers	(skin 6/6)	made	18/11	each	or	3¼d	per lb.
" "	44 lb.	ewes	(" 4/6)	"	15/8	"	"	3d	" "

/Increase.....

Increase in cost of mutton.

Good light trade wethers and ewes made to 4d per lb. during January as compared with 3¾d and 3½d per lb., respectively, during December. For the most part, however, light wethers were worth from 3d to 3¾d and ewes 2¾d to 3½d per lb. Heavy ewe mutton, generally, realised 2½d to 3d per lb. and light 2¾d to 3½d per lb. Some outstanding lines of prime heavy crossbred wethers sold to 26/- per head, while quite a few sales of good quality heavy wethers were recorded at from 21/- to 24/-. Generally, however, good quality wethers sold at from 14/- to 20/- per head, according to weight and skin value. Ewes for the most part sold at from 10/- to 17/- for the better grades, while in some instances up to 21/- per head was obtained.

Lighter yardings of lambs.

Supplies of lambs and suckers were considerably lighter. A total of 163,776 head was auctioned or about 14,000 less than in December. Generally, medium quality lots predominated, only a relatively small proportion of prime grades being included, operators often experiencing difficulty in securing sufficient good quality lines to satisfy their needs. On a number of occasions, however, some exceptionally good quality suckers were available.

Improved realisations for lambs.

At opening auctions, under strong competition, rates for practically all grades of suckers and lambs advanced by from 1/6 to 2/- per head, but at the following sales prices declined by 1/- to 1/6, although in the case of prime light suckers rates were not so adversely affected. Subsequently, values improved, the fall in prices being virtually recovered and the market closing strong. Some of the sales noted throughout the period are shown hereunder:-

First Week

Prime light	30 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/-)	made	23/1	each	or 8d	per lb.
Good heavy	37 lb.	"	(" 3/9)	"	25/8	"	" 7d	" "

Second Week

Good light	29 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/-)	made	21/6	each	or 7¾d	per lb.
" heavy	44 lb.	lambs	(" 2/6)	"	24/2	"	" 6d	" "

Third Week

Good trade	34 lb.	suckers	(skin 2/6)	made	22/1	each	or 7d	per lb.
" heavy	38 lb.	"	(" 4/6)	"	25/8	"	" 6½d	" "

Fourth Week

Good trade	34 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/9)	made	26/-	each	or 7¾d	per lb.
" heavy	44 lb.	lambs	(" 5/-)	"	22/4	"	" 6d	" "

/Lamb .....

Lamb costs increase.

The price of prime light suckers was consistently high throughout the period; up to 8d per lb. was obtained, this price representing an increase of ½d per lb. on the peak rate of December. Generally, however, prime light suckers were worth from 6½d to 7½d per lb. and heavy from 6¼d to 7d. Old lambs sold at lower levels, heavy grades realising from 5½d to 6½d and light 6½d to 7d per lb. Plain and medium grades of lambs and suckers were obtained at relatively lower prices. Hoggets sold exceptionally well owing to comparatively light supplies and cost from 4½d to 5½d per lb., according to weight and quality.

Some of the best lambs and suckers offering were disposed of at 30/- per head, while other outstanding lines made from 26/- to 28/- each. Mostly, however, prices for good to prime grades ranged from 20/- to 25/-, while other classes were obtainable at 14/- to 18/- per head.

The general quality of lambs and suckers has fallen away somewhat while in a number of instances drafts were noticed which were affected with grass seeds, with the result that somewhat lower prices were obtained.

Cattle supplies maintained.

Cattle supplies during January, 1943, were well maintained, an aggregate of 16,385 head being yarded compared with 16,273 the previous month. Only 1,270 head were sold in the store section.

Prime stock in short supply.

A large proportion of the truckings again comprised lightweight stock of medium to fair trade quality only. Heavy beasts were relatively scarce.

Pastoral conditions continued to be very satisfactory, feed in most instances being abundant. Towards the close of the month high temperatures prevailed generally and pastures were reported to be drying off rapidly. In view of the improved feed position during the last few months a larger proportion of prime beasts was expected. It is possible, however, that some producers are regarding Homebush as a residue market; that is, disposing of their best stock privately and consigning the culls for public auction.

Strong demand for bullocks.

Supplies of bullocks were limited on most sale days, while heavy weights were noticed in odd lots only. While light bullocks greatly predominated, medium weights made a fair showing on several occasions. Generally, quality ranged from good trade to prime. Demand early in the period was very keen and by the

/second....

second week values had advanced by from 10/- to 20/- per head, quotations being as follows:- Heavy 42/- to 47/-, Medium weight 48/- to 51/-; Light 50/- to 53/- per 100 lb. Subsequently, however, values receded to the steady level of the previous month, i.e., medium weight 45/- to 48/-, light 47/- to 50/- per 100 lb.

Fair trade light steers plentiful.

Steers were in plentiful supply throughout but quality generally was only fair. A substantial proportion of the offerings was of a lightweight description with prime sorts in this grade scarce. From a quality standpoint medium to heavy weights made a much better showing, many prime drafts being noticed. The market was at its highest level early when prime lightweights realised to 56/- per 100 lb. Quotations for the greater part of the period were steady at from 47/- to 54/- per 100 lb.

Variable truckings of cows.

Consignments of cows were most variable, both as to quality and numbers arriving. On some occasions good trade beasts were fairly plentiful whereas at other times consignments were limited and quality sorts very scarce. Demand was strong and early in the period light cows made to 46/- per 100 lb. Some recession occurred later and by the final sale quotations were:- Heavy 36/- to 41/-; light 38/- to 43/- per 100 lb.

Prime light heifers in demand.

Consignments of heifers, also, were uneven, good trade animals being in very limited supply on occasions. Generally prime lightweights were most sought after and brought the highest price per 100 lb. Demand, however, was poor for any which were inclined to be over-fat. Prime lightweights sold to 55/- per 100 lb. during the first week but quotations later for good to prime sorts, covering all grades of weight, were 45/- to 51/- per 100 lb.

Irregular market for vealers.

Moderate numbers of vealers came to hand during the greater part of the month and quality, for the most part, was fairly good. On the final sale day quality was the poorest seen for some time. The market for vealers was very irregular and in contrast to that for other classes of beef. Early in the month prime beasts sold to as high as 70/- per 100 lb. but later dropped to 60/-. Closing quotations were 53/- to 63/- per 100 lb.

Reduced pig supplies.

Due principally to the restrictions on the movement of pigs within the County of Cumberland, owing to the outbreak of Swine Fever, supplies during January, 1943, were well below normal.

/Consignments....

Consignments submitted at auction totalled 3 925 head of which 2,618 were received by rail. Numbers sold direct to operators within the Abattoir area were relatively heavy, aggregating 1,956 head.

.....By the third week in January 37 outbreaks of Swine Fever had occurred, 36 within the County of Cumberland and one near Camden. All pigs on these properties, totalling 8,257, were destroyed. The movement of pig meat out of the County of Cumberland is prohibited.

Further setback to industry.

The industry received a further and unexpected setback during the period when prices fell to the lowest level for some considerable time. The publicity given to Swine Fever had a psychological effect on the consuming public and operators had great difficulty in disposing of their slaughtered stock, which, of course, was not affected by the disease. In any case, humans are not affected by Swine Fever.

As most of the pigs came from country centres and there was a general absence of animals in store condition, the quality of the yardings was very satisfactory. It may be mentioned that during the period of quarantine pigs may not be sold at Homebush, except for immediate slaughter.

Porker values drop considerably.

Porkers were well represented throughout the period with medium and heavy weight quality predominating. As already indicated, quality generally was fairly good. The market on the opening sale day was unexpectedly dearer, values advancing by about 4/- per head. On this occasion light porkers dressing 60 lb. sold to 57/6 per head and heavy (90 lb.) to 75/6. The following market was weaker and by the third week the full effect of the reduced demand for pig meat had become apparent. Prices declined, in many instances, to disastrous levels for the producers and selling rates presented little uniformity. Best quotations for light and heavy porkers were 45/6 and 59/6 per head, respectively. Many prime porkers, however, were sold at prices well below these levels. Competition was keener at the closing sale and the market for porkers improved considerably.

Lighter bacon supplies.

Consignments of baconers were irregular but supplies on the whole were fairly light, especially heavy descriptions. However, quite a number of prime, extra heavy sorts from the Bathurst district were noticed on two sale days. Some of the pennings were in an over-fat condition and thus failed to command good prices. Baconers met a very strong demand at opening and values advanced by from 10/- to 15/- per head, "heavies" selling to £6.1.6 per head, while light baconers were quoted to 10¼d per lb. Baconers also

/suffered....

suffered later in the month as the result of the weaker demand and on the third day some sales were effected at rates equivalent to as low as 6¾d per lb. On the other hand baconers sold during the early part of the auctions made to 9¼d per lb. A recovery was noted on the final sale day.

Market mostly steady for backfatters.

On most sale days backfatters were in limited supply but quality was fairly good. Lightweights greatly predominated. The market for the most part was fairly good, quotations ranging to 7¼d per lb. On the third week, however, values receded sharply and good pigs brought as low as 3d per lb.

G.C. & J.W.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Supplies of most lines of fruit were only moderate to light. With a good demand, ruling price levels, with few exceptions, were well above average.

Apples sell well.

The market for apples was firm owing to the small supplies forward. Coloured dessert lines of good trade sizes met a ready sale and the price realised for Carringtons was stated to be a record, up to 45/- per bushel being obtained. The principal trade lines were Gravenstein, McIntosh Red and William's Favourite, although there was a number of lesser known varieties on offer, including some from South Australia. Apart from very small-sized fruit, realisations generally were higher than those for the same period last season. Good demand ruled for "cookers" and rates paid for coastal fruit should prove remunerative to orchardists in that producing area. Most of the coastal crop was harvested prior to the close of the month and as only small quantities were arriving from other districts the market was expected to firm.

Pear supplies increase - prices ease.

Only small consignments of Clapp's Favourite pears came to hand from local sources and the earliest receivals sold up to 25/- per bushel, but values were not maintained, owing to the receipt of Victorian supplies. Demand was limited, as only a small percentage of retailers was prepared to stock this variety. Early receivals of local and Victorian Williams pears met a slow request owing to the immature condition of the bulk of supplies, but inquiry improved immediately the fruit commenced to show colour. Victorian consignments were fairly heavy late in January but the

/quantities....

quantities arriving from local orchards were comparatively light. Closing rates for both local and Victorian lots ranged to 18/- per case; earlier, some well-coloured lines brought to 20/-

Oranges scarce and dear.

Owing to the small quantities of Valencia oranges reaching the market late in December, the ceiling rate of 26/6d was increased to 31/6d per bushel on 1st January. There was a slackening in request towards the middle of the month and rates for coastal fruit were easier, but prior to the close, supplies fell off rapidly and little difficulty was experienced in disposing of selected sizes at 31/6d. Generally good inquiry prevailed for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area fruit and apart from very large sizes the majority of packs realised top prices.

Choice stone fruits sell well.

The season for cherries finished about mid-January. Request was very good at times and high prices were realised, peak levels being reached on 7th and 8th January, when choice St. Margaret's sold up to 18/- per quarter-case.

The peach market was variable and prices fluctuated to some extent. Coastal fruit constituted the main supply until towards the close of the month when Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and other inland district consignments commenced to arrive. The condition of many coastal packs was unsatisfactory owing to fly damage and losses were occasioned, noticeably in supplies coming forward late in January. Rates generally were maintained at fairly high levels until inland consignments were available, when there was a decided downward trend. Some Victorian fruit was available at times but the quantities were lighter than is usual.

Request for plums was satisfactory, noticeably for Angelinas, and choice, large fruit of other varieties. Supplies were only moderate but there was an improvement late in the month when inland fruit began to arrive in larger quantities.

Nectarines were lightly stocked early in January and choice lots brought up to 20/- per half-case. Later this fruit was more plentiful and values were lower, best packs rarely exceeding 16/-.

Only small lots of apricots were available, although some Tasmanian fruit was included. The quality showed considerable variation, but any choice lots commanded relatively high prices.

Rates for pineapples easier.

The major proportion of the pineapples offering during the first week of January was from Southern Queensland and the high

/rates.....

rates ruling at opening could not be maintained owing to a restricted inquiry. The receipt of over 6,000 cases during the following week further depressed the market and a sharp fall in prices followed, Southern packs selling at from 10/- to 16/- and Northern from 14/- to 20/- per case; a few specials of both lines were higher. The supply was heavier during the period 14th to 20th January, approximately 8,200 cases coming to hand, and values showed a further decline of from 1/- to 2/- on the top levels. During the balance of the month the market showed only slight fluctuations.

Banana quality affected by heat.

The market for bananas was steady early in January, but with the receipt of heavier consignments in the second and third weeks of the month, which included much fruit damaged by heat, values fell sharply. Fairly large quantities of heat-damaged fruit had to be sold at low rates and some lots were unsaleable. Opening prices for trade lines were 16/- to 28/-, but at closing the general range was 12/- to 20/- per case.

Miscellaneous fruits.

Light supplies of the following lines were on offer:- Muscatel grapes, cantaloupes from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, and water melons; generally high prices were obtained. Consignments of all lines were increasing towards the close of the month and values were easing.

Large quantities of peas on offer.

Heavy supplies of peas were received, mainly from northern and western districts of the State. The quantities on offer daily mostly exceeded 2,000 bags and on one occasion the total approximated 3,000 bags. Despite the large offerings values did not fall to very low levels. Demand was somewhat limited at times and the market weak but choicest lines rarely sold below 8/- per bushel, while up to 14/- per bushel was obtained on some days. Very hot weather late in the month was responsible for a slackening in request but as cannery buyers purchased large quantities at 4/- per bushel, agents were not faced with the difficulty of disposing of heavy carryovers of peas that discoloured quickly under the conditions prevailing.

Low grade beans over-supplied.

The market for beans was depressed owing to the large quantities of medium to poor quality that reached the selling floors. Demand for low grade lots was restricted; in many instances no offers were forthcoming and these beans often became a total loss. The dry and hot weather was responsible for the generally poor quality, choice descriptions becoming scarcer as the month progressed. Values for the most part were low, although fair prices were obtained for the small percentage of choice included in consignments.

/Rates....

Rates for tomatoes ease.

The very hot weather experienced during the Christmas holidays caused a considerable amount of breakdown in stocks of tomatoes held on floors during that period. Although opening rates on the 1st January ranged to 25/- per half-case the effect of the large quantities of heat-damaged lines on hand caused values to recede to much lower levels; with the clearance of heat-affected supplies the market soon recovered. Prices were maintained at fairly high levels until towards the close of the month when heavy supplies from local sources brought about a sharp fall in values. Small consignments were received from Southern Queensland, but the greater proportion of supplies reaching the market was from within the County of Cumberland and other coastal districts.

Demand for cabbages falls off.

Generally supplies of cabbages were light although at times the quantities on offer were more than sufficient to meet the demand and some lines had to be carried over, particularly low grade "heads". Realisations were very satisfactory early but values were irregular subsequently owing chiefly to the large quantities of peas and beans available, while another factor which restricted inquiry was the hot weather. Rates ranged to 20/- per dozen but for the most part values were around the 12/- to 14/- mark for choice "heads".

Other vegetables.

More bunched carrots were forward but the supplies were insufficient to meet the demand. Loose lots were in short supply.

Lettuce were plentiful early in the month and rates were low. With a marked falling-off in supplies later and a good inquiry ruling on most days values improved.

R.M.

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MEAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, Mr. Scully, announced recently the personnel of the State meat advisory committee appointed in each State. Members of the New South Wales committee are:- Messrs. J.L. Shute, deputy controller of meat supplies, chairman; H. Woolfe, retailers; N.V. Bush, wholesalers; C.W. Hodgson, exporters; Brig. T.A.J. Playfair, M.C., canners; W.R. Cosgrove, stock and station agents; R.J. Cartledge, meat works; G.R.V. Williams, pig producers; F.J. Graham and G.W.Gordon, beef producers; H.S. Henley, M.L.C., and C.M. Williams, mutton and lamb; J. Merrett, public utilities; Max Henry, State Department of Agriculture; S. Ware, meat employees; and J.M. Davidson, Commonwealth veterinary officer.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Lighter supplies of local potatoes - prices firmer.

Supplies of local new Factors during January amounted to approximately 38,058 bags, equal to about half last month's offerin Quality generally was satisfactory and some very good lines from th Dorrigo district were noticed. During the first week of January £2.0.0 to £7.0.0 was realised at auction according to the quality of the tubers. Later the market firmed and from £6.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton was paid.

Only 1,854 bags were on offer at Darling Harbour compared with 3,370 during December. Only limited quantities were sold, the balance mainly being withheld for repicking. The best lines cleared at £9.0.0 and fair average quality lots, which comprised the bulk o the offerings, at £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals in Sussex Street totalled 697 bags from the Northern Rivers. Quality generally was only fair; the few choice lots available sold at £9.0.0 and the balance at £6.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Heavier consignments of Interstate potatoes.

Tasmanian growers forwarded larger consignments of Bismarcks and other varieties during January, the total being 20,199 bags. Quality generally was good and sales were effected at £9.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton.

Receivals at Darling Harbour amounted to 34 trucks. Quality was variable and sales were reported at £9.0.0 for choice and £8.0.0 per ton for fair average quality lines.

There were no interstate arrivals at Alexandria during January.

Exceptionally light supplies of swedes.

At Alexandria, only 20 bags of swedes were received and consignments from Tasmania comprised 288 bags; no prices were disclosed. At Darling Harbour 130 bags received from the Oberon district realised £15.0.0 per ton.

Good supplies of pumpkins.

Arrivals of pumpkins from Queensland at Alexandria amounted to 35 trucks and 119 bags. Opening sales were at £10.0.0 to £16.0.0, but later rates were considerably lower at £4.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. About 16 trucks from local centres were available at Alexandria. Early sales were at £13.0.0 to £15.0.0 but

/subsequently.

subsequently the market was lower at £4.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast amounted to about 1,060 bags. The bulk sold at £9.0.0 per ton but £4.10.0 to £5.0.0 per ton was the ruling rate at closing. Consignments received at Darling Harbour from Queensland amounted to about 4½ trucks; these were disposed of early in January at prices ranging between £8.0.0 and £16.0.0 but later £8.0.0 to £10.0.0 per ton was accepted.

Consignments of onions decline.

Supplies of onions at Alexandria from Queensland were very light, only 477 bags arriving. Sales of brown took place at £16.0.0 to £18.0.0 and white at £15.0.0 to £21.0.0. Sales by auction were:- Inferior, white and brown £5.0.0 to £7.10.0; good brown £10.0.0 to £14.0.0 per ton. Supplies from Victoria aggregated 4,457 bags, brown selling at £17.0.0 to £18.2.6 and white to £21.0.0 per ton. Consignments from local centres comprised 1,808 bags, which sold as follows:- Brown £12.0.0 to £18.0.0, white £15.0.0 to £21.0.0, inferior £6.0.0 per ton.

At Darling Harbour 3 trucks of locally grown onions were received but no price was disclosed. Two trucks from Victoria sold at £18.0.0. One truck and 100 bags from Queensland sold to the same rate.

Oaten chaff in reduced supply.

Supplies of oaten chaff comprised 158 trucks. There was a fairly good demand but despite reduced supplies prices showed practically no alteration. Quality lines were very scarce. Sales were made as follows:- Medium £5.5.0 to £6.0.0, good sound £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0. A few special and choice lines made £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton.

Oaten chaff also scarcer.

Supplies of wheaten chaff amounted to only 26 trucks as against 43 trucks in the previous month. Very few quality lines were available and values were mostly easier as follows:- Medium £5.0.0 to £5.15.0, good sound £5.10.0 to £6.10.0. A few lines of prime and choice brought £6.10.0 to £7.15.0 per ton.

Heavy arrivals of lucerne chaff - rates decline.

Consignments of lucerne chaff increased considerably, 76 trucks being available. Values were firm early but owing to continued heavy supplies agents had to accept the following lower rates:- Good £5.10.0, good sound £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0, choice £8.5.0 to £8.10.0 with a few lines at £8.15.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. One truck brought £6.0.0 at auction.

/Increased....

Increased supplies of lucerne hay.

Arrivals from the Maitland district consisted of 45 trucks. Prices for inferior and medium ranged from £2.0.0 to £3.15.0 per ton, whilst new soft green sold at £4.0.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. Arrivals from other centres were very heavy, 111 trucks being on offer. There was little change in values which were as follows:- Good medium £4.10.0 to £5.10.0, good sound £6.0.0 to £7.10.0, prime £7.0.0 to £8.10.0, choice £8.10.0 with a few to £9.10.0 per ton.

Oaten straw heavily supplied.

Straw from local centres was very plentiful consisting of 52 trucks. Prices were lower as follows:- Inferior £4.0.0, medium £4.15.0, prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton.

Lighter consignments of local maize.

Arrivals of maize from local centres declined considerably and sales were effected at higher rates, 8/3 per bushel being secured for yellow. At auction, 89 bags of inferior yellow brought 6/3 per bushel. Queensland consignments increased to 2,291 bags of yellow and 111 bags of red. Sales of yellow maize were mostly by auction at prices ranging between 5/2 and 8/2 per bushel. Red was disposed of at 6/6 per bushel. Fifty bags of yellow maize from the North Coast were disposed of in Sussex Street at 6/- per bushel

Wheat consignments heavier.

Thirty-five trucks of wheat were on offer at Alexandria. Five trucks of seed wheat sold at 3/9 per bushel. A considerable portion of the balance was sold at auction. F.A.Q. brought 3/4½d to 3/6½d, inferior and damaged 2/6 to 3/2½d and "pick-ups" at 2/- to 2/2 per bushel.

Oat consignments smaller.

Only 41 trucks were received during the month as compared with 91 in December. The bulk was consigned to private agents, prices not being disclosed. However, 7 trucks offered at auction realised 2/4 to 3/1 per bushel and one truck of seed 3/9d per bushel.

C.F.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JANUARY, 1943, AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES AT 31st AUGUST, 1939.

The following tables gives particulars of the range of prices in Sydney as collected and recorded by the State Marketing Bureau in respect of various commodities for the period indicated:-

Commodity	January, 1943 From	January, 1943 To	31st August, 1939
Wheat: Home consumption -			
Bulk - per bushel	3/11¼d (unchanged)		2/4d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	"	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - per ton	£6.0.0		£4.5.0
Pollard - per ton	£6.0.0		£4.5.0
Eggs (Hen) - per dozen	1/9d	2/-	1/-
Butter (Choice) per cwt.	169/4d (unchanged)		161/2d
Cheese:			
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d		11d
Large - " "	1/-		10½d
Special Brands	1/1d	1/3½d	1/2d

	January, 1943 From	January, 1943 To	29th August, 1939 From	29th August, 1939 To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales) Good to prime per head:				
Porkers -				
Extra light	25/6	49/6	31/6	40/6
Light	33/6	57/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	34/6	72/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	50/6	75/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.10.6	£6.1.6	60/6	75/6
	(Extra heavy to £6.18.6)			
Backfatters	£4.10.0	£11.16.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

Note: The pig sales nearest to the 31st August, 1939, were those held on 29th August, 1939.

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RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES BY LAND AND SEA - DECEMBER, 1942.

F R U I T.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Melons crates	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	14,443	5,773	12,602*	984ø	11,928	45,730
Victoria	1	79	7,184	-	2,822	10,086
Tasmania	-	-	4,715	-	-	4,715
Sth. Aust.	-	-	1,297	-	-	1,297
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	14,444	5,852	25,798	984	14,750	61,828

Note: * Also 8 sacks Passionfruit
ø " 8¼ tons Melons loose.

V E G E T A B L E S.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	361	13,572	14	27,915	2,109	7,010	50,981
Victoria	2,468	1,102	-	-	-	622	4,192
Tasmania	5,012	-	54	-	-	20	5,086
Sth. Aust.	1,560	99	-	-	-	976	2,635
West Aust.	4,285	-	-	-	-	-	4,285
TOTALS	13,686	14,773	68	27,915	2,109	8,628	67,179

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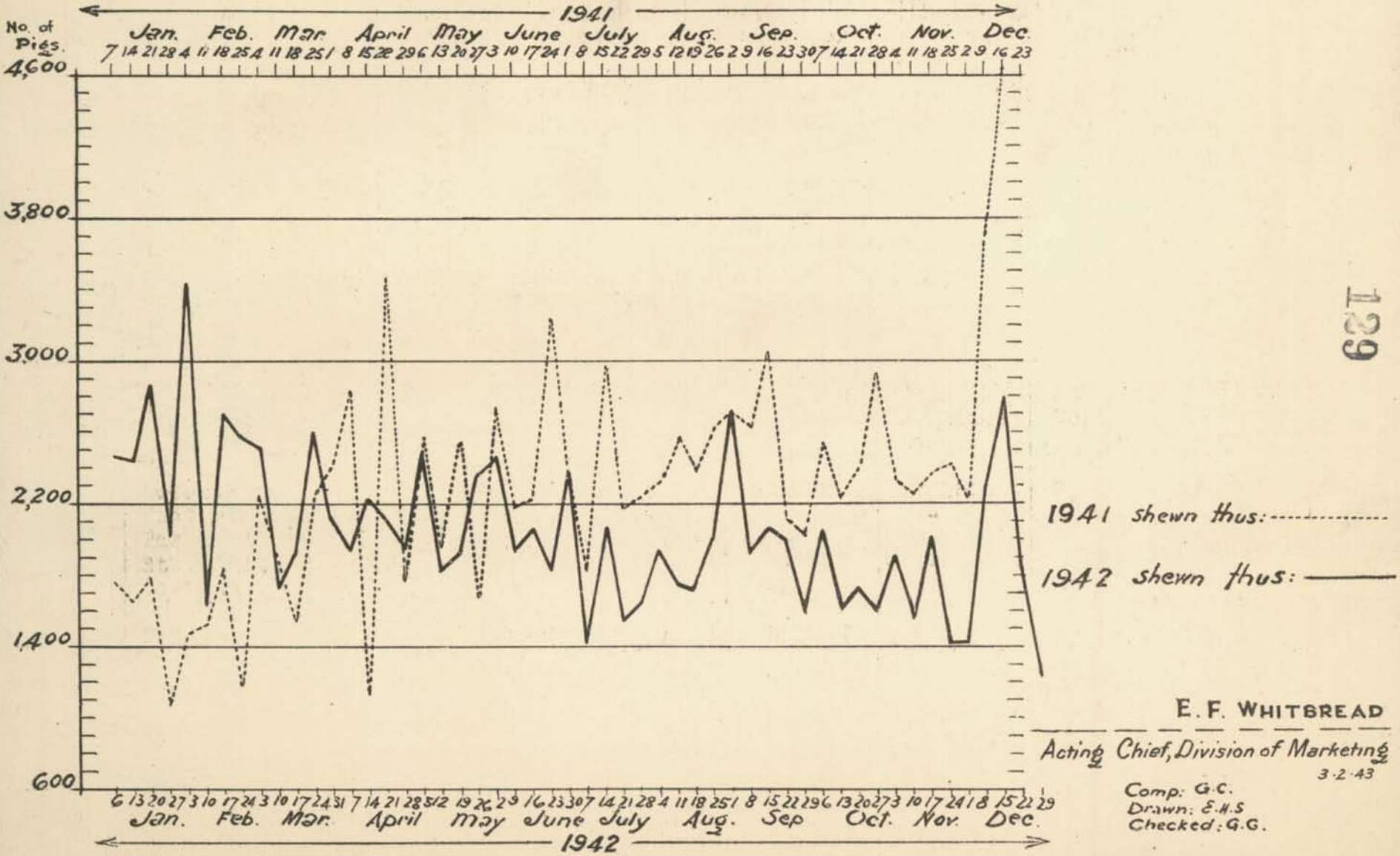
PIGS

COMPARISON OF WEEKLY YARDINGS AT HOMEBUSH ABATTOIR PIG SALEYARDS 1941 AND 1942



E. F. WHITBREAD

Acting Chief, Division of Marketing

3-2-43

Comp: G.C.
Drawn: E.H.S
Checked: G.G.

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