SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY
September, 1946.

SHEEP.

Smaller Numbers Yarded.
The number of sheep and lambs yarded showed a further reduction, pennings for the period totalling 261,335 head representing a decline of 30,000 head on the previous month's aggregate. During the corresponding month of 1945, 269,357 head were available. The adverse seasonal conditions experienced and the fact that shearing was proceeding were factors contributing to the falling-off in supplies.

Trade Sheep Numerous.
The offering of sheep was smaller, 121,049 head being submitted, or about 20,000 less than the previous month's aggregate. Plain to medium quality wethers and ewes were not so numerous, and good useful trade descriptions generally made an improved showing. Only moderate numbers of good to prime heavy wethers were available but, on occasions, good heavy ewes were well represented. Very few woolly descriptions were included, sheep off shears forming the greater part of the pennings.

Higher Prices Rule.
The average cost of mutton was higher during September, a particularly strong demand prevailing on most occasions. At early sales rates advanced and an improvement of up to 1s. per head was evident. The market remained fairly steady over the greater part of the month, although at times, an irregular and easier tendency was apparent. Towards the end of the period, however, values showed a further increase of from 2s. to 3s. per head and, at closing, high prices were obtained, particularly for good-quality mutton. For the most part good heavy wethers made from 6d. to 6½d. per lb., and at times 7d., with extra heavy sorts occasionally selling for 5½d. to 5½d. per lb. Good light wethers were worth from 6d. to 7d. per lb. generally, but at times reached 7½d. per lb. Some drafts, however, were secured for 5½d. per lb.

Early in the period good heavy ewes were disposed of at 4½d. to 5½d., and light 5d. to 5½d. per lb. Later, however, the shortage of wethers stimulated demand for ewes, and both heavy and light grades were worth from 5½d. to 6d. per lb. At times prime heavy wethers made to 53s. and heavy ewes to 42s. each, with many drafts of wethers selling at from 40s. to 50s. per head. Good quality shorn sheep made from 24s. to 35s. per head.

Suckers Well Represented.
Although the numbers of suckers and lambs penned were lighter, and showed a decline of about 14,000 head on last month's total, suckers comprised the bulk of the 140,306 head offered. The general quality of the yardings was better, fewer plain light suckers being included. Good useful light trade descriptions from 26 lb. to 34 lb. dressed were numerous, but the supply of the heavier grades was only moderate. On occasions, however, prime heavy descriptions made a satisfactory showing.
Keen Inquiry for all Classes.

A keen inquiry was evident for all classes of lambs and suckers, and at the opening sales most lines offering were up to 1s. per head dearer. Later, values eased, and then remained fairly steady until about mid September. Subsequently, however, realisations improved, the increase ranging from 1s. to 2s. per head, good to prime descriptions meeting a very strong demand, while the average carcase cost at the closing sale was a little higher than that ruling early in the month. Good heavy lambs and suckers mostly sold at from 8½d. to 10½d. per lb., but on occasions were worth from 10½d. to 11d. Light grades generally were disposed of at from 9½d. to 10½d. per lb., while in many instances operators paid from 11d. to 11½d. per lb. for prime grades.

Hoggets were scarce and when offering realised from 7½d. to 8½d. per lb. Good quality lambs and suckers made from 32s. to 45s. per head with some outstanding quality heavy lots selling at from 50s. to 55s. each.

CATTLE.

September, 1946.

Smaller Numbers Available.

Yardings during September showed a substantial decrease, the number available being 17,146 head, including 2,608 auctioned in the store section.

The general quality of the offerings reflected the adverse seasonal conditions being experienced over the greater portion of the State. Prime stock was lightly supplied and fair to good trade animals comprised the bulk of the pennings.

Strong Demand for Bullocks.

Bullocks were in fairly light supply and consisted chiefly of light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard, with a small proportion of prime animals at times.

Values at the beginning of September were slightly in advance of those ruling at the end of August, and remained at that level for the first half of the month. Rates then showed a substantial increase on each succeeding sale day, and at the close of the month had reached the high level of 60s. to 72s. per 100 lb.

Steers Dearer.

Supplies of steers were well maintained, most grades of weight and quality being included, although light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard comprised a large proportion of the offering. Prime and weighty steers were more in evidence towards the end of the month.

Early rates showed a small increase on those prevailing at the close of the previous month and advanced steadily for most of the period. A very substantial increase was noted during the final sales, and all grades of weight of good to prime steers ranged in value from 60s. to 72s. per 100 lb.
Improved Supplies of Cows.

Cows made an improved showing when compared with August. Light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard comprised a substantial portion of those available, but at times there was a sprinkling of prime heavy animals.

Weighty cows met with a strong demand, no doubt due to the shortage of bullocks, whilst the high prices ruling for steers caused other grades to be keenly sought. Values were firm for the first part of the month, but increased each sale day and at closing realisations were from 50s. to 55s. for heavy cows and 50s. to 60s. per 100 lb. for light descriptions.

Heifers in Demand.

The slightly increased proportion of heifers offered met with very strong demand, due, in all probability, to the enhanced rates realised for steers. Fair to good trade lots of mostly light and medium weights made up the bulk of the yarding, and prime stock was rather scarce.

Values at early sales were firm at August closing rates. Prices then showed a marked increase and 60s. to 70s. per 100 lb. was realised at the end of September.

Prime Vealers Scarce.

Very limited supplies of prime heavy animals were available, but light and medium weight drafts of fair to good trade standard were well represented.

Early rates showed some improvement on those ruling at the end of August, and a steady but progressive increase was noted subsequently, values at the close of the month being 70s. to 80s. per 100 lb.

PIGS.

Heavier Supplies Available.

The lifting of the restrictions on the sale of pork tended materially to improve the supply position, as the numbers yarded, totalling 8,350 head, including 4,704 head received by rail, showed an increase of 1,288 head on the previous month's penning. During the corresponding period last year, 7,727 head were offered.

High Prices for Baconers.

Baconers made a very satisfactory showing throughout the month both as to numbers and quality. All weights were available with good trade heavy to extra heavy grades comprising a fairly large proportion of the consignments. The supply of light to medium weight pigs was only moderate. A particularly keen inquiry was evident for all descriptions, operators no doubt envisaging a shortage of this class of pig in the future owing to the effects of the release of pork for civilian consumption. Opening sales were marked by an increase in realisations for all classes, while under the stimulus of strong competition, values at subsequent auctions progressively advanced, and at closing, rates were substantially higher than those prevailing at the close of the
previous month, reaching 12d. per lb. for light weights, 11½d. for medium to heavy grades and to 11d. per lb. for the extra heavy class of baconer, representing approximately 1d. to 1½d. per lb. improvement on the best prices obtained during August. Many lines offering made over £7. 10s. per head, with some sales being effected at £8 18s. 6d.

**Good Demand for Backfatters.**

The offering of backfatters was only moderate although good light to medium grades were well represented. On occasions, prime heavy descriptions were submitted but the supply of this class of pig was, for the most part, light. A strong request was evident for all lines available and rates at early sales were well maintained. The reduced numbers yarded stimulated demand and rates advanced, the market being particularly strong and dearer at closing. At opening sales operators paid to 7½d. per lb. for both heavy and light grades, but at the closing auctions values had improved to 8½d per lb. for light and 8d. per lb. for heavy, while amongst the best prices realised was £17 18s. per head. Sales were frequently effected at rates exceeding £14 per head.

**Keen Request for Porkers.**

The retail sale of pork now being permitted, resulted in a much heavier showing of porkers throughout the yardings and a falling off in the pennings of suitable stores. The general standard of quality available was good but supplies as yet were not sufficient to meet all requirements, and a particularly strong demand prevailed. A dearer market ruled at the opening sales, but at the following auctions prices were a little easier. Later, however, values improved, and at closing were higher than the best of those obtained during the previous month. Up to 14½d. per lb. was paid for light porkers, 13½d. for medium weight and to 13½d. for heavy, while good heavy porkers sold to £4 19s. 6d. per head.

Suitable store pigs sold very well throughout at prices on many occasions comparable with those obtained for porkers.

G. Coleman and D. McGregor.