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A national advisory committee is to be established by the Secretary to consult with him, to make recommendations regarding research and service work, and to assist in obtaining the co-operation of producers, farm organizations, industry groups, and governmental bodies. The committee, broadly representative of all farm segments, must meet at least once each year, and an executive committee, once each quarter.

Funds were not appropriated by the 79th Congress, so new research under this legislation cannot begin until there is opportunity for the appropriation of the funds authorized. The Act authorizes the following new amounts for the current fiscal year:—

	\$
Marketing research and service	2,500,000
Utilization research	3,000,000
Co-operative research with State Experiment Stations and other agencies	1,500,000
Payments to State Experiment Stations	2,500,000

These authorizations are doubled for the fiscal year 1948. The term 'agricultural products' is defined to include processed and manufactured products of all commodities raised or produced on farms."

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

July, 1947.

SHEEP.

Market Lightly Supplied.

The market was lightly supplied during the period, yardings amounting to 225,474 head, including 120,577 lambs and suckers. This number represented a decline of 16,000 on the previous month's aggregate and also was substantially below the offering of 279,987 head for the corresponding month last year. A feature of the pennings was the preponderance of lambs over grown sheep, supplies of mutton being influenced by the incidence of shearing in many parts of the State.

Trade Sheep Well Represented.

The number of sheep available was relatively light, a total of 104,879 head being available, representing a decline of 10,000 head on the June pennings. For the most part medium to good useful light trade wethers and ewes, dressed up to 46 lb., were well represented, and although woolly descriptions comprised a good proportion of the supply, increased numbers of good to prime sheep off shears were noticed. Some very nice quality drafts of heavy sheep (dressing over 46 lb.) were included, but generally the offering of this class of sheep was fairly light.

Good Inquiry for Mutton.

Owing to the shortage of sheep generally a good inquiry prevailed throughout the period and, while some fluctuations in realisations occurred, average values compared favourably with those obtained during the previous month. At the opening sales an advance of up to 2s. per head was apparent, followed by a further increase of from 1s. to 2s. The following auctions were marked by a fall in values ranging from 1s. to 2s. per head, but rates at subsequent sales advanced, increases of from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per head being evident. Prices eased for shorn descriptions towards the end of the period, but realisations for other classes generally ruled firm. Some exceptionally good prices were obtained, prime heavy wethers selling to 65s. each, while sales were also effected at from 50s. to 60s. per head. Good useful light trade wethers were obtained at from 34s. to 46s. each. Heavy wethers made to 8¼d. per lb. and light to 8½d. Ewes were disposed of at prices as high as 57s. each, the shortage of wethers promoting a particularly keen inquiry. Heavy ewes cost up to 6½d. and light grades 6¾d. per lb. Reference to the accompanying schedule, however, indicates the range in prices of good to prime mutton over the period.

Good Representation of Heavy Lambs.

Lambs were in much better supply than grown sheep, although actual yardings were about 6,000 head less than those of the previous month. Good to prime heavy lambs (dressing over 36 lb.) made a particularly good showing, some exceptionally nice quality drafts being included. Good useful light trade sorts (dressing up to 36 lb.), comprised a very fair proportion of the pennings, while fair numbers of medium light trade quality were noticed. Several drafts of suckers were offered, quality and finish being good.

Values of Lambs Irregular.

A strong demand ruled for lambs but values showed some irregularity, although average realisations compared favourably with those of the previous month. Rates advanced during the early part of the period, increases of from 1s. to 3s. per head being evident; but later, demand was not so strong and a cheaper market ruled, a decline of from 1s. to 2s. per head taking place. Much freer competition prevailed subsequently, and the cost of heavy lambs increased by from 3s. to 4s. and light grades 2s. to 3s. each. Although the price of light descriptions was fairly well maintained until the end of the period, heavy sorts showed a fall of 1s. per head. Nevertheless, both heavy and light lambs cost more at the closing auctions than at the opening sales. Good quality lambs on many occasions made from 50s. to 55s. per head, while quite a few sales were effected at prices ranging from 45s. to 50s. Good light lambs ranged in value from 36s. to 46s. per head, the rates for other classes being relatively lower. On a per lb. basis, heavy lambs cost up to 11¼d. and light 12d. per lb. The full range of prices of the dressed carcase are shown on the accompanying schedule.

Hoggets met with a good demand and, while at times prices were variable for the most part, they were at about the previous month's average, best quality consignments making to 55s. each, while up to 9¼d. per lb. was obtained.

Sheep—July, 1947.

Date of Sale.	Number Yarded.	Lambs.		Hoggets	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Light.	Heavy.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
July 3	33,501	8½-9¾	9¾-11¼	7¾-8¾	5¾-7¼	6-7½	5¼-6	5½-6¼
„ 7	20,830	9-10¼	10¼-11½	8½-9¼	6½-8	6½-8¼	5¾-6½	6-6¾
„ 10	25,345	8¾-10	10-11	8¼-8¾	6¼-7½	6½-7¾	5½-6¼	5¾-6½
„ 14	24,728	8¾-10¼	10¼-11¼	8¼-9	6½-7½	6¾-7¾	5¾-6¼	5¾-6½
„ 17	25,712	9½-11¼	10¾-11¾	8½-9¼	7-8½	7¼-8¼	6-6½	6-6¾
„ 21	23,376	9¼-11	10¾-12	8¼-9¼	6¾-8¼	7¼-8½	6-6½	6-6¾
„ 24	21,999	9-11	10¾-12	8¼-9¼	6¾-8	7-8¼	6-6½	6-6¾
„ 28	23,438	9-11	10¾-12	8¼-9	6¾-8	7-8¼	6-6½	6-6¾
„ 31	26,545	9-10¾	10¾-11¾	8¼-9	6½-7¾	7-8	5¾-6¼	5¾-6½

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

Supplies Increase.

Increased numbers were available during the month, a total of 19,269 head being yarded during the nine sales held. Of this number, 3,105 head was submitted at auction in the store section.

Grown stock made an improved showing, good heavy descriptions being more in evidence than for some months. The standard of quality was also an improvement, fair trade stock being in shorter supply.

A fairly strong demand was evident at all sales for all classes of cattle and values generally showed little material change during the month, although slight variations were noticeable at times. The price trend will be more apparent from the schedule appended.

Bullocks in Heavier Supply.

A greater proportion of bullocks was available than of late, and was made up mainly of light and medium weight lines of good trade standard, and included a small proportion of prime and heavy sorts. Heavy classes, however, could be quoted on only two occasions, only odd lots being noticeable at other sales.

Opening sales were at a slightly lower rate than that ruling at the end of June, and on 14th July showed a small increase to 55s. to 62s. Values then remained at that level until the closing auctions, when quotations were 51s. to 58s. for medium and 53s. to 60s. per 100 lb. for lightweight bullocks. This small depreciation in values was no doubt caused by the good showing of heavy cows on that date.

Steers Well in Evidence.

Steers made up a good proportion of each offering, and comprised mostly light and medium weight lots of fair to good trade standard, prime and weighty lines being available in small quantities only.

Values showed little material change during the month. Rates at the beginning of August were slightly lower than those ruling at the close of the previous month, but increased on 14th July to 55s. to 63s. Strong demand raised prices to 64s. on 21st idem., after which date a slightly easier tendency reduced them to 53s. to 62s. per 100 lb. at closing auctions.

Improved Showing of Cows.

Cows made an improved showing, light and medium weight descriptions of fair to good trade standard comprising a large proportion of the offering of this class. Heavy grades were available in greater numbers than for some time, particularly on the last sale day of July, and no doubt were the cause of the slightly easier tendency noticed for bullocks on that day.

Opening sales were at slightly lower rates than those operating at the end of June. These values were maintained until 14th July, when a small increase was recorded at 47s. to 52s. for heavy and 48s. to 54s. for light cows. Prices remained at this level until the last sale day, when heavy descriptions appreciated to 53s. per 100 lb.

Heavy Heifers Scarce.

Heifers were fairly well supplied at most auctions, although smaller numbers were available at the last two sales for the month. Heavy descriptions were scarce at all yardings, which were composed chiefly of light and medium weights of good trade standard, and included a small proportion of prime lots.

As with most other classes of cattle, values at opening were at a slightly lower level than those ruling at the close of the previous month. On 14th July, rates increased to 50s. to 58s. per 100 lb., and generally remained firm at that figure for the balance of the month.

Vealers Well Supplied.

Supplies of vealers were well maintained, and consisted mainly of light and medium weight lots of good to prime quality. Only a small proportion of heavy descriptions was available at all sales.

July's opening valuations were at a slightly lower level than those ruling at the end of June. Prices appreciated a little on 14th July, and showed a sharp increase to 62s. to 69s. for light vealers of calf house size on 17th idem., when beef slaughtermen ceased work. Rates then showed a gradual recession to 60s. to 66s. per 100 lb. at final disposals.

Cattle. July, 1947.

Values shown in shillings per 100 lb.:—Based on selling price per head of live beast and estimated dressed weight of carcase.

Date.	No. Yarded	Bullocks.			Steers.	Cows.		Heifers.	Vealers.
		Heavy over 775 lb.	Med. 675-775 lb.	Light 575-675 lb.	All Wts.	Heavy over 575 lb.	Light 400-575 lb.	All Wts.	All Weights Approx. 200-400 lb.
1947.									
June 30	2,045	...	53-60	54-61	54-62	45-51	47-54	50-56	58-67
July 3	2,711	50-57	50-59	51-60	52-61	44-50	46-52	48-54	57-64
7	1,753	...	50-59	51-60	51-61	44-50	46-52	48-54	57-64
10	2,636	...	50-59	51-60	51-61	44-50	46-52	48-54	57-64
14	1,311	...	55-61	55-62	55-63	47-52	48-54	50-58	60-66
17	1,807	...	55-61	55-62	55-63	47-52	48-54	50-58	62-69
21	2,030	...	55-61	55-62	55-64	47-53	48-54	50-58	62-69
24	2,369	...	55-61	55-62	55-63	46-52	48-54	50-58	60-68
28	1,949	50-55	54-60	55-62	55-63	46-52	48-54	50-58	60-68
31	2,704	...	51-58	53-60	53-62	45-53	48-54	50-58	60-66

D. MCGREGOR.

PIGS.

Heavier Pennings.

A considerable improvement occurred in the number of pigs available, aggregate pennings showing an increase of approximately 1,750 head on last month's total offerings. During the period 7,181 head were auctioned, near country and metropolitan piggeries accounting for a little more than half of the receivals, consignments by rail from country districts totalling 3,052 head. Yardings for the same month last year amounted to 7,189.

Prices for Baconers Improve.

The supply of baconers was well maintained, but generally was insufficient to meet full trade requirements. Quality of the pigs on offer was variable, although fairly large numbers of good trade descriptions were yarded. All weight grades were submitted, light to medium weights comprising a fairly large proportion of the supply, while moderate offerings of heavy to extra heavy sorts were also made. Rates were somewhat irregular, being firm at early sales for heavy grades with other classes a little dearer. Later, however, prices eased for all grades, but by the end of the month the market had recovered, and values showed an advance of from 5s. to 10s. per head. Light weight baconers sold from £4 9s. 6d. per head and at times reached to the vicinity of £6 per head, equivalent to 12¼d. per lb. Medium and heavy weight grades made to 12d. per lb. and extra heavy grades to 11¾d. per lb., while on a per head basis up to £9 11s. 6d. was realised. Variations in rates over the period are indicated in the attached schedule.

Backfatters Dearer.

Only moderate numbers of backfatters were penned, but quality chiefly was fairly good. Light to medium weight descriptions of good trade quality comprised a fairly large proportion of those on offer, prime heavy lines generally being fairly scarce. A good inquiry prevailed and rates mostly were higher than those ruling during June.

Prices reached to £15 6s. od. per head with light-weights estimated to dress between 250 lb. and 350 lb. costing from 7¼d. to 9¼d. per lb., and heavier sorts estimated to weigh over 350 lb. dressed, making from 6¾d. to 9d. per lb.

Porkers in Short Supply.

Porkers were in short supply and inquiry was keen throughout. Values were fully maintained and showed some improvement on the previous month's average, closing rates being higher than those ruling at the early auctions. Extra light porkers sold to 64s. 6d. per head or 15½d. per lb., light made to 71s. 6d. or 14½d. per lb.; medium weights realised up to 93s. 6d. or 14d. per lb., while heavy grades were worth up to 99s. 6d. per head or on a basis of dressed weight 13¾d. per lb.

Only relatively small numbers of good useful store pigs were yarded and, owing to the strong demand ruling, prices were higher for all suitable lines.

Pigs.

Date of Sale—1947.	1st July.	8th July.	15th July.	22nd July.	29th July.
No. Yarded Each Sale.	1,150	1,420	1,700	1,176	1,735
<i>Estimated prices per lb. for :—</i>					
Porkers 35-50 lb. Extra					
light	11¼-13¼	12-14	12-14	12¾-15¼	12½-15½
50-60 „ Light ...	11¾-13¼	12-14	12-14	12¾-14½	12½-14½
60-70 „ Medium...	11¾-13¼	12-14	12-13¾	12¾-14	12½-14
70-80 „ Medium...	11¼-12¾	12-13½	12-13¾	12¾-14	12½-14
80-90 „ Heavy ...	11¼-12¾	12-13	12-13	12¾-13½	12½-13¾
Intermediates 90-100 lb. ...	10¾-12	11¼-12	11¼-12	11¾-12¼	12-12½
Baconers 100-110 lb. Light	10½-11½	10¾-11¾	10½-11½	11-12	11¼-12¼
110-120 „ Light	10½-11½	10¾-11½	10½-11½	11-11¾	11-12
120-130 „ Medium	10½-11¼	10½-11¼	10½-11¼	11-11¾	11-12
130-160 „ Heavy	10¼-11¼	10¼-11	10¼-11	10¾-11¾	10¾-12
160-180 „ Extra					
Heavy	10¼-11¼	10-11	10-11	10¾-11¾	10¾-11¾
180-200 „ Extra					
Heavy	9¾-11	9¾-10¾	9¾-10¾	10½-11¼	10½-11½
200-240 „ Extra					
Heavy	8¾-9¾	8¾-9½	8¾-9½	9-9¾	9¼-9¾
Backfatters 250-350 lb. ...	7¼-9	7¼-9	7¼-9	7¼-9	7¼-9¼
350 lb. and over	6¾-8¾	6¾-8¾	6½-8¾	7-9	7-9

G. COLEMAN.