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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**June, 1948.****SHEEP.****Yardings Appreciably Lighter.**

An appreciable falling off in supplies occurred over the period when, on the seven sales conducted, supplies amounted to 117,122 head or an average offering on each sale day of 16,732 head. During the previous month, 150,377 head was available and for the same period in 1947 pennings were substantially higher at 211,077 head. Little material improvement in supplies was expected for at least a couple of months when it was anticipated that new season's sucker lambs would be coming forward in fairly large numbers.

Trade Sheep Well Represented.

Pennings of wethers and ewes totalled 44,041 head compared with 69,036 last month. Medium to good useful light trade sheep, more particularly wethers, were well represented. Ewes, however, were scarce. Quite a few drafts of plain light sorts were also noticed. Some consignments of good prime heavy sheep were included but generally this class was comparatively scarce. At times, however, particularly good quality lots were offered, in excellent condition and carrying very heavy fleeces.

Rates Advance Sharply.

Rates for practically all classes of sheep showed a strong upward trend, the shortage of supplies creating a particularly active demand, prices reaching the highest level for very many years. Generally they were appreciably higher than those prevailing during May. At the opening sales values advanced, an increase of up to 2s. per head being evident. Demand continued to improve and at the following auctions a further increase of from 2s. to 4s. per head occurred. Although at times some irregularity was apparent, the market remained fairly stable until the sale held on the 24th, when an increase of from 2s. to 3s. per head took place. At the concluding sales realisations again advanced by up to 2s. per head, the cost of mutton being the highest at this stage for the period reviewed. A consignment of good quality big-framed wethers sold at 112s. per head, which was considered to be the highest price paid at Homebush for quite a number of years. Other drafts were disposed of at from 92s. to 99s. each, while prices generally ranged from 60s. to 90s. for good quality lots, other classes selling at relatively lower levels. The best price obtained during May was 86s. per head. Although operators paid from 8¼d. to 9¾d. and 8¾d. to 10¼d. per lb. for heavy and light wether mutton respectively last month, the cost during June advanced, heavy wethers being worth from 8¾d. to 11¾d. and light 9¼d. to 12½d. per lb. Ewes also participated in the generally increased prices and made up to 79s. per head with quite a few sales being effected at from 72s. to 76s. each. Mostly, however, good quality ewes were obtained at from 44s. to 70s. per head, according to weight and skin values. Best price secured during May was

65s. per head. Heavy ewes which were worth from 7d. to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. last month advanced to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. during June. Comparable figures for light ewe mutton were 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 11d. during May and June respectively. The accompanying schedule indicates the trend in prices of mutton over the period.

Heavy Lambs in Fairly Good Supply.

Although the pennings of 73,081 head of lambs showed a reduction on the previous month's aggregate, heavy grades continued to be in fairly good supply, but good to prime quality light descriptions were somewhat scarce. Medium to good useful light trade sorts, however, were fairly well represented throughout.

Prices Again Improve.

All classes of lambs met with a particularly keen inquiry and rates showed a further advance on the previous month's high levels. During the early part of June a very firm to slightly dearer market ruled which was followed by a sharp rise of from 2s. to 4s. per head about the middle of the month. Prices, however, did not hold and a decline of from 2s. to 5s. per head occurred on the 21st June, the decrease being mostly apparent on the heavy descriptions. Before the end of the month, demand again was stronger and a further advance of from 3s. to 6s. per head took place and values were at their highest for the period. Some prime heavy lambs made to 76s. per head, while many drafts offered realised from 70s. to 75s. each. Generally good to prime light to heavy sorts sold at from 55s. to 68s., other grades being relatively lower. The best price obtained during May was 66s. per head. The cost per lb. of heavy lamb ranged from 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., while light grades were worth from 14d. to 17d. during the period reviewed. Heavy and light sorts cost up to 14d. per lb. and 16d. per lb. respectively in May. Hoggets were comparatively scarce throughout and, when available, prices ranged from 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. Variations in the price per lb. over the period are given on the attached schedule.

Sheep and Lambs—Good to Prime Quality.

Prices shown in pence per lb.:—Based on Selling price per head of live animal (skin values excluded) and estimated dressed weight of carcase.

Date of Sale.	No. Yarded.	Suckers and Lambs.		Hoggets.	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
1948.		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
June ... 3	22,562	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ... 7	14,725	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 -11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10
" ... 10	18,090	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14	14 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ... 14				Public Holiday—No Sales held.				
" ... 17	12,414	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 -11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ... 21	16,288	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12	9 -11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ... 24	15,050	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 -12	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ... 28	17,993	13 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17	12 -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 -11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

Reduced Numbers.

Sales were conducted on only seven days during June compared with eight in May. The number yarded was 14,965, including 1,988 store cattle, and was less than the total for the previous month by approximately 2,400 head.

Some outstanding quality yardings were in evidence for the first half of the month but for the last three sale days the standard was not maintained, increased numbers of plainer descriptions being noticed. Good quality grown stock were particularly well supplied up to the 21st of the month but from that date onwards were in relatively short supply.

Most Classes Dearer.

The absence of Melbourne competition which had stimulated values during the previous month was reflected in the reduced rates realised on the opening sale day. These rates, however, were generally maintained and in most instances improved prior to the 24th of the month when prices for all stock showed an appreciable increase.

An analysis of daily quotes discloses that all classes were dearer than in May, with the exception of bullocks, values for which showed little comparative change. Prices ruling during the month are shown on the attached schedule.

Good Quality Bullocks Numerous.

Quality of the bullocks on offer was consistently good and, up to the 21st of the month, they were in plentiful supply. At subsequent sales, however, fewer numbers were available.

Rates for bullocks showed little material change until the dear market on the 24th of the month when values improved by up to £1 per head. Price realisations for May and June, based on a comparison of daily quotes for both months, were approximately the same.

Steers Well Supplied.

Steers made up a large proportion of the month's offerings and all grades of weight and quality were well represented. At opening steer beef was quoted at 59s. to 65s. per 100 lb., but each succeeding sale day saw an improvement in values until the 24th of the month when rates were as high as 64s. to 72s. per 100 lb. Closing quotations were from 61s. to 70s. An analysis of daily quotes reveals that steers averaged approximately 15s. per head more in June than in May.

Quality of Cows Variable.

Cows were well supplied but quality was not always satisfactory, plain dairy breeds being numerous in some of the yardings. However, many good drafts were also on offer. Demand for cows was strong throughout and rates at closing were better than those realised at the beginning of the month. Based on daily quotations, it was estimated that light and heavy descriptions were respectively 10s. and 20s. per head dearer in June than in May.

Heifers in Short Supply.

Heifers, apart from those categorised as vealers and yearlings, were in short supply. Good to prime lightweights comprised the majority available, weighty sorts being very scarce. The trend in values for this class of beef was similar to that of steers. Heifers were approximately 20s. per head dearer on the closing market than at opening, and generally averaged 15s. per head more than during the previous month.

Vealers Numerous.

Vealers were well represented in most yardings, although prime lines were relatively scarce. Useful quality light and medium weights made up the largest proportion of the pennings. Values for vealers also showed an improvement over the previous month's realisations. The average quote for the seven sale days was 74s. to 81s. per 100 lb. compared with 72s. to 79s. for May. As with all other cattle the best market was that of the 24th of the month when vealers realised to 84s. per 100 lb.

Cattle.

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.	Medium, 675-775 lb.	Light, 575-675 lb.	All Weights.	Heavy, Over 575 lb.	Light, 400-575 lb.	All Weights.	All Weights Approx. 200-400 lb.	
1948.										
May	31	2,066	59-63	61-66	61-67	62-69	49-58	49-58	63-68	74-81
June	3	2,652	56-62	56-62	59-65	48-57	48-57	60-65	74-80
"	7	2,519	55-58	56-62	56-62	58-65	48-57	48-57	60-65	72-78
"	10	2,051	54-58	56-62	57-64	59-67	48-57	48-57	60-67	74-81
"	17	2,680	55-58	57-62	59-64	60-67	48-56	49-57	60-67	75-81
"	21	1,552	56-58	58-63	59-63	60-68	49-56	49-57	60-67	74-81
"	24	1,648	58-60	59-65	61-66	64-72	52-58	52-59	64-72	76-84
"	28	1,863	57-60	58-65	61-66	61-70	52-58	52-58	65-70	74-80

P. F. SEXTON.

PIGS.**Improvement in Supplies.**

An improvement occurred in the overall supplies during the period when a total of 7,914 head of pigs was available. This represented an increase of approximately 2,700 on the previous month's aggregate. About half of the pigs submitted were received from near country and metropolitan piggeries by road transport, rail arrivals accounting for 3,965 head. During June last year, pigs offered amounted to 5,419.

Baconers Numerous.

Baconers for the most part were well represented and the quality generally was good. A substantial proportion of the yarding comprised light to heavy weight grades with moderate

numbers of extra heavy descriptions also available. The market was somewhat variable throughout but the average cost of bacon showed an increase on that of the previous month. The opening sales were marked by an upward trend in prices, and values advanced by from 5s. to 10s. per head, with prime extra heavy grades showing a further improvement. At the following auctions most baconers continued to realise practically unchanged values but some extra heavy grades were a little cheaper. Demand was not so strong at the sale conducted on the 15th June and while the cost of light bacon did not alter to any material extent other classes showed a decline of from 5s. to 10s. per head. Towards the end of the month some improvement was evident in values of the extra heavy class of baconers, while at the final auctions a very firm to dearer market generally ruled for all classes. Over the period light weight baconers were worth from 12d. to 14d. per lb. compared with 10½d. to 13d. in May and sold from £5 4s. 6d. per head. Medium weights estimated to dress from 120 lb. to 130 lb. made from 12d. to 13½d. per lb. as against 10½d. to 12¾d. last month. In the heavy weight grades (130 to 160 lb.) the cost of the carcass ranged from 11½d. to 13¼d. per lb., representing an increase of from ¾d. to 1d. per lb. on the previous month's levels. Prices for the extra heavy grades also were higher, pigs estimated to dress from 160 to 180 lb. realising 11½d. to 13d., 180 to 200 lb. 10¾d. to 12½d. and 200 to 240 lb. 9¼d. to 11¾d. per lb. Rates for all classes were highest at the closing auctions, while on a per head basis the best price obtained was £10 18s. 6d., the highest recorded during May being £10 5s. 6d. Variations in the cost of the carcass over the period are shown on the accompanying schedule.

High Prices for Backfatters.

Some sales of backfatters were effected at very high levels which have not been equalled for many years. Supplies for the most part were only moderate and quality showed a fairly wide variation. Nevertheless, some very nice quality lines of prime heavy descriptions were included. At the commencement of the period inquiry was keen and values advanced, many lots being from 5s. to 10s. dearer with odd sales showing a further improvement. Subsequently, rates displayed some irregularity and although the cost of the carcass did not vary to any appreciable extent closing values were a little higher than those prevailing early in the month. The lighter class of backfatter estimated to dress from 250 to 350 lb. was worth from 7d. to 9d. per lb., the cost last month being from 5¾d. to 8¾d. Heavier weights estimated to dress over 350 lb. made from 6¾d. to 9d. per lb. Comparable rates for May were 5½d. to 7¾d. The very high level of £23 os. 6d. was reached, but for the most part realisations ranged from £7 14s. 6d. to £16 8s. 6d. per head.

Porkers Meet With Keen Inquiry.

Porkers were fairly well represented, and while all grades of weight were submitted quality chiefly was good trade, with fair numbers of prime heavyweights also available. Values showed some fluctuation over the period but the average cost was higher

than for the previous month. At the opening sales values for all classes advanced, the improvement generally being from 5s. to 10s. per head. Following sales were marked by a firm to very firm tendency but at times values showed a small decline. On a per head basis extra lightweights sold at from 37s. 6d. to 65s. 6d. or 12¾d. to 16d. per lb. Lightweights made from 55s. 6d. to 79s. 6d. and were worth from 12½d. to 15¾d. per lb. Medium weights realised from 64s. 6d. to 95s. 6d., costing from 12d. to 15d. per lb. Heavyweights were disposed at from 85s. 6d. to 110s. 6d. each or from 12d. to 14¾d. per lb. During May the highest price paid for porkers was 99s. 6d. per head. The supply of suitable store pigs was only moderate and met with a good demand, prices generally being at higher levels. The following schedule shows the prices ruling per lb. on each of the sales conducted during the month.

Pigs—Good to Prime Quality.

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

Date of Sale, 1948	1 June.	8 June.	15 June.	22 June.	29 June.
No. Yarded each Sale	1,472	1,550	1,386	1,553	1,953
Estimated prices per lb. for—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—					
35-50 lb. Extra Light	12½-15½	13 -15½	13 -16	12½-15	13 -15
50-60 lb. Light	12½-15½	13 -15½	13 -15½	12½-15	13 -15
60-70 lb. Medium	12½-14½	13 -14½	13 -14½	12½-14½	13 -15
70-80 lb. Medium	12½-14½	13 -14½	13 -14½	12 -14	12 -15
80-90 lb. Heavy	12½-14½	13 -14½	13 -14½	12 -13½	12 -14
Intermediates—					
90-100 lb.	12½-13½	12½-13½	12½-13½	12 -13½	12 -14
Baconers—					
100-110 lb. Light	12½-13½	12½-13½	12½-13½	12 -13½	12½-14
110-120 lb. Light	12 -13½	12½-13½	12½-13½	12 -13½	12½-13½
120-130 lb. Medium	12 -13	12½-13	12 -12½	12 -12½	12 -13½
130-160 lb. Heavy	12 -12½	12 -13	11½-12½	11½-12½	12 -13½
160-180 lb. Extra Heavy	11½-12½	11½-12½	11½-12	11½-12	11½-13
180-200 lb. Extra Heavy	11½-12	11½-12½	11 -12	10½-12½	11½-12½
200-240 lb. Extra Heavy	9½-11½	9½-11½	9½-11	9½-11½	10 -11½
Backfatters—					
250-350 lb.	7 - 8½	7 - 9	7½- 8½	7½- 9	7½- 8½
350 lb. and over	6½- 8½	7 - 8½	7 - 8½	7½- 8½	7½- 9

G. COLEMAN.